The original preface was written at the flood tide of the civil rights revolution, just before President Lyndon B. Johnson delivered his address before Congress in behalf of voting rights. The President told that joint session of Congress that there were times when "history and fate meet at a single time in a single place to shape a turning point in man's unending search for freedom." March of 1965 was such a time, and Selma was such a place. Mr. Johnson seized the opportunity and pressed Congress to "see to it that all Americans have the right to vote." The result was the Civil Rights Act of 1965.

Slowly but surely the right to vote was enforced and exercised. The southern Negro electorate has increased by almost a million within four years, while fifty-one per cent of blacks voted in 1968. Thirty blacks now sit in the state houses of the former Confederacy. Only three southern states, Alabama, Arkansas, and South Carolina, are left without black legislators. There are roughly 370 Negroes serving in local office throughout the South. In the nation at large there has been substantial political progress as well, despite formidable setbacks. Negro mayors in Cleveland and Washington suggest the trend of the times. The gains over the decade are clear. In 1960 there were only six Negro state senators throughout the nation. Today there are 31. There were in the same year only 30 Negro state representatives; now there are 123. Negroes have sat at the Cabinet table, the Supreme Court bench, and behind a Senate desk. The "fruits of freedom," then, are real as we celebrate the one hundredth birthday of the Fifteenth Amendment.

Much has been done, but much more remains to be done. The power of the ballot is relevant to real need, whether it be Mississipi blacks who want fair treatment from a sheriff or Harlem blacks who want decent housing. But the vote alone cannot bring about paradise, and the democratic process will only help when it is first mastered. Activism or slogans that aim at or result in dis-
order, division, or distraction will not help. Government today by pious platitude and penny pinching will not help either. But reconciliation of community and restoration of coalition will. The unfinished business of this country for the rest of this century remains the rebuilding of our cities and the achieving of real equality. The ballot remains one of the indispensable means.

Two omissions went unobserved when the book was prepared for publication. Alexander Bickel's brilliant account of the framing of the Fourteenth Amendment, published in the *Harvard Law Review* in November, 1955, and the fascinating history by La Wanda and John H. Cox, *Politics, Principle, and Prejudice, 1865–1866*, were not cited. Since I checked the proofs in Rome, I can only hold myself accountable for the oversight and the Italians for the distraction.

The publication schedule for this book in 1965 provided the opportunity to make a bit of history as well, for timing and luck enabled me to meet in southern Spain an Amsterdamer named Coby Deurloo, now my wife.

WILLIAM GILLETTE

Rutgers University
April 29, 1969