

But the single cell is yet undefeated. In the human frame, especially in the female, it leaps upon the organ that has completed its function, destroys its essential structure, and reduces all to the primitive type. The process goes by the name of cancer. Democracy is merely a name for a similar process which strives to destroy the organs and organization of society, which strives to reduce races, nations, and families to an unorganized congeries of individual units.

Democracy is not a form of government. It is a condition out of which some form of government may eventually arise. The man in his cave was the original democrat. Through slow and painful ages he developed a kind of system, striving upwards towards a civilization, resisting as well as he could the unceasing efforts of democrats, liberals, radicals, anarchists, nihilists, to draw him back into his solitary and savage lair. When democracy has accomplished its perfect work we shall begin again the slow and painful Sisyphus task, in which, as in former times, soldiers, brigands, thieves, politicians, saints, and kings will play their part after their kind. In the process we shall again pass through another slow age of darkness. Democracy is merely a vain regret for a past and fabled age of perfection which never had any real existence.

The thing we now name democracy exists at all just because it is living on the past, the United States upon its Constitution, and we upon our Monarchy. The kingship has virtue only as part of the system out of which it arose. When the system fails the king falls, and with him perishes the whole fabric of politics and of society. Few women have any direct interest in politics. All women have a vital interest in society, and the aggregate of society is civilization. Men revert to the cave with incredible ease. For four years millions of men lived in holes in the ground with the utmost of comfort so long as their few primitive wants were supplied. Whilst women were absent the soldiers were not conscious of any lack. The rise from savagery is always governed by the needs of the woman, and the beauty of civilization was created for her display. The woman is innately conservative,