

ment than the mere "nack" of making a "noise in the world," come to be regarded as of prodigious importance and are severally assigned by the less intelligent masses the much coveted distinction of party or sectional leadership. These men, with a few honorable exceptions, represent the *tit-bits* Fate casts into the scale in order to adjust the equilibrium in social and political affairs, and at certain critical junctures, are thus enabled to count as the celebrated "straw" that breaks the camel's back, or as the fraction of a grain over that sunders the most ponderous cables of steel, and in a heroic worship that ignores minor and extraneous causes they get the exclusive credit for marvellous potency and even superhuman ability. Some of these have attained distinction, but failed as "Reformers," and it may not be altogether an absurd conceit to regard such as human prodigies who, coming into the world seemingly centuries before their allotted time, meander about the earth in intellectual abstraction and ideal isolation. They are remarkable cases of prolepsis and their principal difficulty seems to be to bridge over the, to them, unnatural space intervening between the time when they were and when they ought to have been born.

In the conflict of opinion to which reference has been made, it is observable that our highest authorities and most venerable counsellors exhibit the largest share of uncompromising hostility and unyielding intolerance. The struggle never ceases, although it is variable, and presents the more remarkable phases we term peace and war—nevertheless, the strife goes on, the only material