

controlled by wealth, more completely, perhaps, than those of any other country, even of England. The 'corporations' make it a main part of their business to capture Congress, the Legislatures, the courts and the city governments; and they are eminently successful. The smallest country town has its 'boss', in the employ of the railway; the Public Service Corporations control the cities; and the protected interests dominate the Senate. Business governs America; and business does not include labour. In no civilized country is labour-legislation so undeveloped as in the States; in none is capital so uncontrolled; in none is justice so openly prostituted to wealth. America is the paradise of plutocracy; for the rich there enjoy not only a real power but a social prestige such as can hardly have been accorded to them even in the worst days of the Roman Empire.

"America, it would seem, stands at the parting of the ways. Either she may develop on democratic lines, or she may fossilise in the form of her present Plutocracy, and realise that new feudalism of industry which was dreamt of by Saint Simon, by Comte, and by Carlyle. It is an error to think of America as democratic; her Democracy is all on the surface. England is now far more democratic than the United States."

SECTION II. From a shanty of a railway station in the Rockies, 8,000 feet above the sea, our observer obtained the following view:

"I knocked, and knocked again, in vain; and it was a quarter of an hour before the door was opened by a thin, yellow-faced youth chewing gum, who looked at me without a sign of recognition or a nod of greeting. I have learnt by this time that absence of manners in an American is intended to signify not surliness but independence, so I asked to be allowed to enter. He admitted me, and resumed his operations. I listened to the clicking, while the sleet fell faster and the evening began to close in. What messages were they, I wondered, that were passing across the mountains. I connected them, oddly enough, with the corner