

room for 250, but the house in general well-filled. At present, owing to an unusual demand for seamen, they do not stop above a day or two.

My stay in this country has also enabled me to explain a difficulty in the question of alms-giving. For when you meet with abstract political economists, they are apt to tell you, that the giving alms is hurtful, as it teaches people not to rely upon their own resources, but to seek aid from others. Yet here the charitable provisions for the poor, which prevail to so great an extent, do not appear to have checked in any way the industry and self-reliance of the people. A man has some sense of shame aroused in him at receiving from another, if that other be his equal; but change the circumstances, make that other his superior, a great personage, and all reluctance to receive is taken away.

I heard here a remark I have often heard made in England, namely, that office spoils a man; that they get such exaggerated ideas of their own importance after a short period, that they are only fit to be turned out. It is not, then, true that the people are fickle, but that office-holders grow vain and conceited.

New York is not only the largest city of the Union, but the most wealthy. In the first of these respects it is nearly equalled by Philadelphia, the population of this latter being somewhat over 400,000, and of the former 500,000; but in the second item, that of wealth, and wealth concentrated in a few hands, it stands alone. It is to be regretted there should be seen in such a country as this a participation of the follies of the Old World. The press, however, remarks