

"What stands in the way, says the pioneer, must be swept out of it; no matter whether it be the moral or the civil law, a public authority, or a rival in business. 'The strong business man' has no use for scruples. Public or social considerations do not appeal to him. Or, if they do present themselves, he satisfies himself with the belief that from activities so strenuous and remarkable as his, good must result to the community. If he break the law, that is the fault of the law for being stupid and obstructive; if he break individuals, that is their fault for being weak. *Væ victis!* Never has that principle, or rather instinct, ruled more paramount than it does in America.

"The pioneer has no object save to get rich; the government of pioneers has no object save to develop the country quickly. To this object everything is sacrificed, including the interests of future generations. All new countries have taken the most obvious and easy course. They have given away for nothing, or for a song, the whole of their natural resources to anybody who will undertake to exploit them.

"With all her natural resources distributed among individuals or corporations, and with the tide of immigration unchecked, she begins to feel the first stress of the situation of which the tension in Europe has already become almost intolerable. It is the situation which cannot fail to result from the system of private property and inheritance established throughout the western world. Opportunities diminish, classes segregate. There arises a caste of wage-earners never to be anything but wage-earners, a caste of property-owners, handing on their property to their descendants; and substantially, after all deductions have been made for exaggeration and simplification, a division of society into capitalists and proletariat. American society is beginning to crystallise out into the forms of European society. For, once more, America is nothing new; she is a repetition of the old on a larger scale.

"Whether it will assert itself successfully is another matter. At present, as is notorious, American politics are