

This is so evident that a writer of mark on female suffrage doubts whether it is worth the while of the women to strive for parliamentary representation when the authority of Parliament is so clearly on the wane. The tendency of war to exalt the executive at the expense of the representative will not be denied. The War of Secession made the President for the time almost a dictator, though Lincoln's character was a perfect security against usurpation.

War, and everything that excites the passion for war, favours political reaction by turning the thoughts of the people away from internal improvement and reform.

The British polity is founded on traditional attachment to a constitution handed down, with successive developments, from the Middle Ages. The American polity is founded on allegiance to principles such as are set forth in the Declaration of Independence. If allegiance to these great principles is renounced, as by the forcible assumption of dominion over other communities or races it must be, the moral foundations of the Republic will be shaken, and the sentiment which in American hearts has taken the place of European loyalty, will lose its sustaining power.

A subtle influence had already been at work to undermine the originality and independence of American character, aims, and institutions. The United States, after all, are colonies thrown off from an adult civilization. The general verdict of history is that greatness comes, not from colonies so thrown off, but from the wild-stock which has the germ of independent life in itself. The Greater Greece was much the lesser in anything but bulk. Little, except of a material kind, has hitherto come of the colonies thrown off from adult civilizations in later days, such as those of Spain, Portugal, Holland, or France. They have lacked the germ of original and independent life. The American colon-