

manual labour, civilization and progress could exist. On the whole it is wonderful how little mischief millionaires have as yet done. A distinction must be drawn between fortunes which like that of Mr. Brassey are made by taking a small percentage on a number of beneficent enterprises, and fortunes made like that of the Rothschilds by manipulating the circulating medium, or, like the vast Astor hoard, to which notice was called the other day, out of toll paid by industry to a race of land-owning drones. If the newspapers told the truth, an Astor lady once went to a Presidential reception with so many diamonds on her that a detective was required to guard them. Schemes for enabling the thriftless to rob the thrifty, which are now so rife, would do harm not only to the thrifty but in the end to the thriftless themselves, who after wasting the substance of the thrifty would be more thriftless than ever. But there is no reason why legislators should not do what they can to discourage immoderate accumulation. The British Parliament passed the Thelusson Act with that object. There could be no objection to a graduated succession duty.

—The Church of the Past, though in its despair it may dally with revolution, still shows itself on practical occasions the Church of the Past. The Archbishop of Paris denounces cremation as unspiritual and anti-Christian. With all due respect for His Grace we prefer the opinion of the late Bishop of Manchester, Dr. Fraser, who was spiritual enough though not superstitious or fantastic, and who told his diocese that it mattered not in a Christian point of view how we disposed of the dead body. The unspiritual view of the matter surely is that which ties the spirit to the cast-off clay by treating the clay as though it were still dignified by the presence of the spirit. In spite of all denunciation, and of the most deeply rooted of all prejudices, cremation gains ground. The next generation may witness the adoption of a cleaner and safer mode of disposing of the dead than the protraction of decay by coffin