

Much that interested me most deeply must be withheld in order to avoid unjustifiable personalities. I trust that none of my Transatlantic friends will think that this cord of reserve has been left too slack. To eliminate all personal detail is to eliminate all interest in such slight sketches as these. Again I trust, that having made my most sincere and spontaneous appreciation of America so evident in these preliminary remarks, my friends here will excuse me if they cannot always agree with my observations or conclusions and will at least believe that I have never written of them in any but the most kind and grateful spirit.

To write upon this or any other subject, as if one's judgment were final, is one extreme; to write nothing but fulsome and monotonous flattery is the other; but to do the latter seems to me to be about as reasonable as to attempt to make a sketch, leaving out all the shadows.