

CHAPTER XIV.

THE STATE, A HUMAN INSTITUTION—LIMITED.

A jug will only hold so much water, and not a drop more. And jugs are not peculiar in having a limited capacity. Everything human is so constituted. The old Arabs used to say: "It was the last straw that broke the camel's back." And so convinced are we of the truth of the saying that, having seen few camels and probably none with broken backs, we continue it. A better phrase for modern times would probably be: There is a last man who cannot be crowded into a street car. It illustrates the point.

States are human institutions, and naturally subject to human limitations. Each State must have a head; under democratic government, call him premier, call him president, he is still a man, neither omnipotent nor omnipresent. Therefore, a State like everything in this world, can do so much work, and not a bit more. If something new is crowded on to the State already working to its full capacity, something old must be crowded out.