

It may be said that it is unpractical to raise these questions, and to talk of changes which nobody is prepared to make. But it is not unpractical in a writer, though it may be in a politician. Statesmen are prepared by such discussions for the opportunity of useful change when it comes, and in the meantime knowing the real root of the evil, they are saved from wasting their labour on misdirected or inadequate reforms.

—Just fears are excited by the amount of money expended in the Presidential Election. The *New York World* too truly says that the revelations of electoral corruption in England might be fully matched in the United States. The sum collected from office-holders was in itself enormous, and though a good deal is spent in torch-light processions and other excitements, much must also be spent in corruption. Where money reigns the rich are masters. Suppose the Vanderbilts and Astors should take it into their heads to turn their money into power, might they not in the end play in the United States the same game which the great commercial house of the Medici played at Florence? When you speak of the political danger which attends these vast accumulations of wealth, the answer of optimists is that in the last resort the people have the taxing power in their hands, and that the millionaires, aware of this fact, have always been careful to keep themselves politically in the back ground. Hitherto, no doubt, such has been the case, but will it continue to be so when the millionaires find that by buying the elections they can secretly filch the taxing power, and all other power, away from the people? The peril is increased by the growing connection of the American plutocracy with the aristocracies of Europe. If the Europeanized millionaires had their way the life of democracy would not be very long.

—In spite of the good temper and address of the British Foreign Minister, the Fisheries Question remains in a somewhat angry state, and threatens us with quarrels in the future. The