

The Americans, however, have this advantage, that, like a private individual, they can change their agents when they become intolerable. Under other forms of government, the agents defy their employers, and claim an hereditary right to govern.

This hereditary right is part and parcel of slavery. It presupposes that mankind are heritable property, mere goods and chattels, like sheep and oxen, to be governed for the benefit of their masters, and as they are heritable, so are they transferable from one ruler to another. The doctrine of perpetual allegiance is from the same source. It supposes the sovereign lord (or slave-owner) has a right or property in the person of his subject, which no act of the latter can render void.

It is true there is now and then a fracas in the legislative chambers, but I do not remember anything worse in America, than the attack on Mr. Gladstone at the Carlton Club, as described in the newspapers. The slave-owners, it must be confessed, are a lawless set (these descendants of the fine old English gentleman), haughty and fiery, being brought up from childhood to brook no control of their will. It is said that they send duellists to Congress, especially to maintain their interests by intimidation.

With respect to more serious disturbances, America has fared rather better than her parent since the separation. In a period of seventy-eight years (1776 to 1854) she has had no civil war. England, from the period of the Revolution to the present (1688-1854), or during 166 years, has had four rebellions (1715-1798), and one of these ending in a separation. This is about