

From an article which appeared in the "North American Review," one would imagine that this idolatry of Americanisms had turned the heads of some of the American writers; the writer of the article in question evidently suffers from the mania of national greatness. The article is headed, "America, Mistress of the Seas," and amongst other demands which the writer makes are these: that America should build a navy almost equal to the combined navies of the world, and then extend the Monroe doctrine to China. He goes on to state, amongst other remarkable things, that the average Yankee is from two to five times as vigorous as the average European, that the average Chinaman in industrial capacity is next to the Yankee, from which we must gather that the Britisher is inferior to the Chow, and that the French and German are nowhere in comparison. The whole article attempts to prove that the Americans, physically, intellectually and spiritually are a race of giants.

Now, after having had a surfeit of articles such as those to which I have referred, one is driven to the conclusion that something upon the fallacies of Americanisms would prove acceptable reading, and restore to the Britisher some of the confidence he seems to have lost. I cannot admire a nation of mere copyists, and sincerely hope we shall never develop into mere imitators of the Americans. May our journalists, for instance, never copy some of the freaks of American journalism. At the outbreak of the present war in the Far East the "New York Journal" manufactured special type, and placed upon its front page in twelve-inch letters the words, "War has begun." Alongside this the cabled items were printed in almost microscopic type, the whole page presenting a most ridiculous appearance. In reading a news item in many of the American journals, you find yourself moving from the item on the first page to its continuation upon the fourth

column of the third page, the news and advertisements being intermingled in a most labyrinthine manner.

That America is not the perfect place some would have us to believe it to be, we can easily understand, when we contemplate the threatening attitude of the trust movement. The craze for trusts has spread so rapidly that now there are trusts for every industry from biscuits and chewing gum to the great railway lines. These trusts are of an anti-social and monopolistic character, crushing the small business man in a most uncompromising manner. In Britain and the Colonies Parliament has power to nationalise telegraphs, telephones and railways at her discretion, but not so in the United States, there the trusts and the financiers govern all with an iron hand.

Politics are manipulated by a ring of financiers; Church and State are subordinate powers; the supremacy of heart over intellect may be questioned, but the supremacy of wealth over everything else is unquestionable. The financial kings with their millions of almighty dollars reign supreme, whilst amongst the people a perfect delirium rages, everywhere there is an unscrupulous striving after fame, power and wealth. The rottenness and corruption of American political life is almost proverbial, and the recent success of Tammanyism in New York has proved that in politics the average American is both a sentimentalist and a coward. Tammanyism has secured its recent victory by an appeal to the meanness, cupidity and insensate folly of the voters.

The condition of the labour question in the United States is anything but desirable, in fact for seven months past as at the present time certain parts of Colorado have been in a state of insurrection and rebellion as the result of a strike. On December 4th, 1903, Governor Peabody, by virtue of authority vested in him, proclaimed the