

Of London in 1778. *‘Wisdom forms empires, but folly dissolves them; and a great capital, that dictates to the rest of the community, is always the last to perceive the decays of the whole, because it takes its own greatness for health.’*

Horace Walpole, 31 May 1778.

‘No Empire has ever persisted when the people at its centre forgot how to till the land.’

Mr Lansbury quoted in *Observer*, 12 April 1925.

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