

themselves, or at least free from any such predominance as will cause standing jealousies and breed chronic cabal. It will be for the Australians to say whether their group satisfies these conditions. Furthermore, the Australians, supposing them satisfied of the advantages of federating at all, will find it necessary to form a more distinct notion of the Federal system than did our framers, who proclaim their desire to be guided by the principles of the British Constitution. The British Constitution is not Federal, and furnishes no principles by which Federal relations can be settled, or the problems of Federal Government can be resolved. There are features also in the Canadian Constitution which were not the offspring of choice but of necessity, imposed by the centrifugal tendency of Quebec. There are other topics, such as the regulation of Federal expenditure on public works, with a view to prevent the use of such undertakings as political bribes, which will engage the attention of the Australians if they take our first hint, of the usefulness of which we feel assured.

—In the coming Session of the Dominion Parliament, the Franchise Bill is to be pushed. The question which it raises is momentous. The Electorate is now the sovereign power, what is called the Government being merely its creature and its organ: a fact which ought to be ever present to our minds, though it is apt to be veiled from sight by the constitutional drapery transmitted from a previous state of things in which the sovereign power was the Crown. If in the Electorate ignorance and passion predominate, the government must be bad; there is nothing to redeem or to restrain it. Yet of all the legislation respecting the suffrage, on both sides of the Atlantic, how little can be said to have been determined by deliberate forecast of the effect which the change was likely to produce on the character of government! Demagogism, party tactics, or revolutionary sentiment have for the most part been allowed to prevail. The Reform of the British Parliament in 1832 was necessary and beneficent: it overthrew the corrupt oligarchy which had entrenched itself in the Rotten Boroughs, restored the national