

at first controverted, but finally accepted, and which one by one were embodied in the British constitution, the most noble Code of political wisdom that ever was devised by man, for the government of man."

Again: "In all the tribes which invaded the Roman Empire, the Angles in Great Britain, the Franks in Gaul, the Goths in Spain, and the Lombards in Italy, among all these tribes there was very little government, but there was some rude system of representation to transact the business of the community. In every Country in Europe, save England, this system of representation was gradually done away with, was set aside by the ruler, but in England, the first crude system of representation grew and developed in power and in influence, until it became the Parliament,—the Parliament of England, the pride of all British subjects in all parts of the world, and alike the envy and the aim of all friends of freedom, law and order all the world over."

Sir Wilfrid felt bound to say "in truth and in justice to history, that the merit of first checking the ambition of the Sovereign, the merit of first planting the seed of constitutional government does not belong to the class which we call 'the people,' but it belongs to the Barons, to the Lords, to the aristocracy of Britain." * * "all honour" he said "to the aristocracy of England." History, "does not record a class which has done better service for the State, and which can boast of more illustrious fame." Happy England, if the nobles of the 20th century, faithful to the traditions of the past, in the new principles and new conditions which come up, will stand as their forefathers in the vanguard of freedom and reform." * * "Now in Great Britain, the right to vote is given to every respectable wage earner, and that country has come to the day of democracy. Happy England, if her democracy remember that moderation in triumph, is the keynote to stability and progress, and that what has made England what she is today, is not revolution, but evolution and reform. The British constitution is the result of a process of evolution, the application of a few leading principles, supplemented by maxims, rules and precedents—too long to enumerate, which have grown with the ages, determined one at a time, and all tending towards one single object, the government of the people by the people themselves."