

tion from England as the readier and better way of bringing about the desired political change. How would this affect us?

With separation from England, we have two possible modes of government presenting themselves—Annexation and Independence.

Putting aside for the nonce, all feelings of loyalty and sentiment, would Annexation to the United States give us a better and more stable form of government than Federal Union with England? At the very outset, the government of the United States is less democratic than that under which we live. There the ministry is less amenable to the will of the people than with us. There the heads of the various departments, having no seats in Congress, are not liable personally to be called upon to explain to Congress, and through it to the people, the design of their official acts. A President might select as one of his Cabinet a man who was objectionable to the people, and they would have no opportunity of vetoing that selection as we have, in an analogous instance, in the excellent provision of causing a minister to stand for re-election by his constituency before being confirmed in office. The Government of the United States is essentially the government of an oligarchy rather than the government of the people.

Even at the present time we see, in both Congress and the Senate, that the democratic party are in the majority; while the President and ministry are of the republican party. In other words, that the country is governed by the party of the minority: the government of the day is not the expression of the voice of the majority of the people. Such an anomaly would be utterly impossible under the political system of England. There the Government must always be supported by a majority of the people; and no Sovereign could carry on the government for a day, if opposed by a majority of the representatives of the people.

Again we are familiar with the difficulties that occur in the election of the President; how this election is controlled and affected by a thousand corrupt influences; how the malpractices of various returning boards are the subject of wearisome and expensive law suits; how the President thus elected is rather the representative of the superior sharpness and unscrupulousness of 'the party,' than of the voice of the majority of the people. And the muddy waves of one Presidential election have scarcely subsided, before the time arrives for another troubling of the political waters. The system of the annual election of judges, sheriffs, and other important officials, is such also as cannot commend itself to our views; it opens the door wide to corruption, and acts as a stimulus to the maladministration of justice. Many men in the United States acknowledge and deplore these defects; while they confess themselves unable to remove them. Is there anything in this, that we should prefer it to the purer and freer government under the crown of England? The United States as a nation possesses many grand qualities; but it cannot be maintained that their form of government is as good as that which we enjoy.

What would we gain under the trade aspect of the case might also be asked? The high tariff would cut us off from the cheap manufactures of England; while by far the greater part of our farm produce would not be increased at all in value. We would have to pay more for what we used, and get the same for what we sold. This would help to increase the wealth of a few manufacturers, but the great mass of the people would be poorer.

Again, would we be better if Independent? In this condition we might hope to be numbered among the fifth-rate powers of the earth, constantly overshadowed by our mightier neighbour. If our annexation were an object to the United States Government, this country would be the theatre of