

elevate public opinion even if they were to obtain its heed.* * * "Why is it," he asks, "that many intelligent and patriotic people throughout this country, from Virginia to California—people who beyond all question, love their State and the Union more than they love their cousins over the sea—subscribe for the London papers in order to devour the Parliamentary debates, and yet would never think of troubling themselves to make tedious progress through a single copy of the Congressional Record? Is it because they are captivated by the old-world dignity of royal England, with its nobility and its Court pageantry, or because of a vulgar desire to appear better versed than their neighbours in foreign affairs, and to affect familiarity with British statesmen? No, of course not. It is because the Parliamentary debates are interesting and ours are not. * * Every important discussion in the British House of Commons is an arraignment of the ministry by the opposition—an arraignment of the majority by the minority; and every vote is a party defeat or a party triumph. The whole conduct of the Government turns upon what is said in the Commons, because the revela-

*Congressional Government, pp. 83, 85.