

of individual Writs of Summons to the Peers. Since 1625 the withholding of writs has been abandoned. But, since this power still exists, why, ask this Review, should not the King refuse Writs of Summons to those who have consistently refused to attend in the past; or whose attendance has not been regular? Thus, reformation would be secured by a process of elimination.

The January number of the *Atlantic Monthly* has also a contribution on the House of Lords. The writer claims that the weakness of this body lies in its hereditary principle. He calls the "gilded chamber a gilded desert." To cure our admiration for it we should go and see it in session. However, he urges that the few who do the work of this august body are exceptionally brilliant men. At present there are at least two hundred and fifty of its members qualified to take their places on any governing board in the world. When measures are introduced, however, in any way affecting the position of the aristocracy, new forces appear in such force as to swamp the competent element. He points to the fact, also, that the Conservative party owing to the open sympathy existing between it and the House of Lords plays the political game with loaded dice, and that when it is in power there is practically but one chamber. The hostility of the Radicals to any reformation in the Upper House in lieu of abolition, arises from their knowledge that any reformation will strengthen rather than weaken it.

*Round the World*, Vol. VII., published by Benziger Bros., New York. \$1.00.

The seventh volume of this interesting series is as good, if not better, than its predecessors. As usual, the articles treat of history, geography, commerce, manufactures, and the history of cities, etc. As can be judged, they are sufficiently varied to catch the attention of the young. They are written with the purpose of instructing youth, and of encouraging further reading upon the subjects treated, and we feel certain that this object will be fully attained. The volume is illustrated with one hundred clear, distinct and well-chosen prints.

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### Among the Magazines.

Says the *Scientific American*, under the heading, "Canada and the Quebec Bridge": "Architectural and engineering works are in no small degree an expression of the character of the people by whom they were built. By such standards we are