

versed freely with persons in the better walks of life, in the United States, and particularly those who have visited England, and there seen the workings of constitutional monarchy, must be satisfied that there is a wide-spread dissatisfaction prevailing among that class of Americans, who perceive that a mere popular government has neither the stability nor security for life, person or property, which exists under the better regulated government of Great Britain.

Lord Brougham, a short time since, expressed his surprise, that so many Americans, with whom he had an opportunity of conversing, had expressed themselves in a similar manner; of the correctness of which statements some doubts were expressed by the press of the country. The cause of this credulity is obvious, as individuals have to be very careful how and where they make such disclosures; still I have been surprised at the freedom with which gentlemen will converse on the subject with a foreigner, whom they may casually meet with on board a steamer, and when alone in a hotel. The people, they observe, are too democratic.

The members who composed the Convention of the Confederacy, which assembled in 1787, committed, it is to be feared an irretrievable error, when they rejected the proposition of Mr. Hamilton, that the President and Members of the Senate should be elected for life; the effect of which would have been, to have given stability to the Union, and insured the efficient exercise of power by the Executive. It would also have been equally conducive to the tranquillity and happiness of the country, had the suggestion of Mr. Jefferson prevailed, to make all the territory free soil, and expressly limiting slavery to the States in which it at that time existed; by which a source of increasing discord would have been promptly dealt with, and Congress would not have been compelled to pass laws embracing what are called the "Compromise measures;" one of which makes it optional with any State that may hereafter enter the Union, to introduce slavery or not; and another authorises the officers of the General Government to apprehend, and requires the citizens everywhere at the North, to aid and assist them in apprehending, slaves who may have escaped from their masters.

But even were the choice of President left entirely to the people, and it were possible to remove from their minds all extraneous influences, it becomes a question whether, after all, they would select the best candidate, as the masses in the United States are not distinguished from those of every other country for the possession of information, as to the requisite qualifications for a ruler; and would be just as likely to make a wrong selection as a right one. Public opinion was more concentrated upon General Taylor, who had sur-

rounded himself with a halo of military renown, than it had been upon any one individual since the days of Washington; and yet, although he was an excellent man in private life, and a brave soldier, he chose the worst cabinet, probably, that the country has ever known; and, after a short time, sank under the cares, annoyances, and responsibilities of an office, to the duties of which he was a stranger, and which he was utterly powerless to control.

Nor, with reference to the choice of State Governors, do the people of the United States possess any advantage over those of the Provinces. Having occupied a rather prominent position in three of the Colonies, I have had ample opportunities for forming a correct judgment upon the subject; and, with very rare exception, have found those who have been appointed to administer the government where I resided, to be men who understood the interests of the communities over which they presided,—whose minds were free from local prejudices,—who could be actuated by no sinister motives, who could have no selfish purpose to accomplish; and who being selected from the higher walks of life, and most of them distinguished for their military services, were guided by a high sense of honour; and would, had they been properly supported by those whose duty it was, have introduced improvements, the beneficial effects of which would have been felt, long after they had ceased to govern,—or perhaps to exist. Sir James Kempt, when in Nova Scotia, used to console himself under the disappointments he experienced in this way, by saying that he could only recommend what he considered desirable measures; and as he would not have to spend the remainder of his life in the Province, he felt less regret at their rejection.

A good deal has been said about what is popularly considered the exorbitant salaries that are paid the Colonial Governors, which were fixed at the time the Provinces deliberately agreed to defray the civil expenses of the Government, in return for the surrender of the Crown lands, which, particularly in Canada, have been an abundant source of revenue; and which, after all, are not extravagant, when we consider the dignity of the office,—the position its incumbents occupy, and which they must retain in society,—the hospitalities they are called upon profusely to extend, and the numerous applications that are continually and successfully made for their aid in the promotion of objects of charity, benevolence, or usefulness.

As for the election of Governors, what I have to say on that subject must be reserved for my next communication, lest the length of this paper might weary the patience of those who shall peruse it; and more especially, as I do not wish to remain "sleepless myself to give my readers sleep."