

much lost, and without which it is powerless, is one for gradually changing its constitution, and transforming it into a House composed practically of life members. \* \* \* These, then, are the three measures which suggest themselves as being calculated to stay the growing weakness and incompetence of our governing institutions, and to give to the British Empire such fresh energy as would enable it, beyond all question, to hold its own against any hostile power or combination of powers that might choose to attack it, besides enabling it to deal satisfactorily with the innumerable and complicated problems that our society offers. \* \* \* Unless some similar, if not necessarily identical, scheme be carried out within the next few years, it is to be feared that the ever-changing course of events may sweep away the opportunity for ever. The Colonies may break away from England: the House of Lords may become utterly powerless; and even the House of Commons may become hopelessly discredited in the eyes of the nation. Should such be the case, the days of England's prosperity, and even of her independence, are numbered, and her fate will be that of other nations which, obstinately closing their eyes to the signs of the times until it is too late, have been overwhelmed and swallowed up in the great catastrophes they were unable then to avert."

Whether such a scheme be practicable we do not know. Certainly it would be unwise to allow the various portions of such an Empire as that of Great Britain to drift asunder without an endeavour to bind them together. We are ready to give most earnest attention to any feasible scheme by which Great Britain should become one, and by which, it might be, Ireland would become reconciled to the Empire. With Local Parliaments for England, Ireland, Scotland, Canada, Australia, etc., and a super-imperial Parliament, drawn according to population from all parts of the Empire, Ireland might be induced to renounce all rebellious feeling, and each portion of the Empire would become a source of power.

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THE conviction of Boss Tweed and his associates is an event of great importance, showing that honesty is, after all, the best policy; that money may be purchased too dear, and that, though the mills of the gods grind slowly, they grind surely; that dishonesty walks in a lane which has no passage at the end, or a very high stile over which the passage is dangerous, and from which the fall is deadly. We have no desire to insult fallen greatness, but we like to see the fall of dishonesty that others may be taught not to offend—especially of that dishonesty which lords it over honest worth, and rejoices in the great harvests of crime.