

committees, and came down on them unmercifully, and "schemes of internal improvement came altogether to a stand-still when faced by President Jackson's imperious disfavour." Nothing will give us a clearer idea of the difference between the American and Canadian systems than the simple fact that, in Canada, all this dangerous patronage is controlled by the one secret Committee, which also possesses executive and legislative power, and which has no veto to fear! If Americans, instead of splitting up their Committee of Commerce into two committees, had handed over to it the entire government of the country, they would have hit off a very close approximation to the Canadian system!

Many readers of Mr. Wilson's able work, who start with a conviction that the American constitution requires remodelling, will be very apt to lay it down with a sensation very similar to that of the gentleman who was a good Christian until he had the misfortune to read "Paley's Evidences." They will see that, in its practical working, it has not, after all, wandered so far away from the "literary theory"—that it is still the tap-root, although subject to modification. And this because it was from the first a good, honest, solid piece of work, founded upon first principles, whereas the British constitution is largely "literary theory," founded upon precedents through which the powerful demagogue can run his pen. The whole question is really one of first principles, and if it is possible to lay down axioms in politics, it must surely be true that the power which makes the laws should not also be entrusted with their execution. That American politicians should find the shackles placed upon them by the constitution somewhat irksome, and that they should be anxious to shake them off, is what might be expected; but it by no means follows that the public would be benefited by the change.

Mr. Wilson's views may be epitomized as follows:—The constitution in its actual working is at variance with the "literary theory." The Legislature has encroached on the Executive, and Congress is really supreme. The government has become a government by 48 "little legislatures"—the Standing Committees. The President delegates his power to the Secretaries, who constitute the true Executive, but who are practically the servants of the Standing Committees. And yet not altogether so. "The