

What chance, we may well ask, would a Lord Shaftesbury or a Plimsoll, or even a Gladstone, or any of the great reformers and philanthropists, whose names lend lustre to the records of the Parliament of Great Britain, have had under such a system as that prevailing in Congress? It is highly probable that they would have effected nothing, even if they had ever reached Congress at all, which is very doubtful; but fortunately they had to do with a Parliament where there is no such practice of referring different classes of business to special committees, but where every subject of importance is fully and freely debated in committee of the whole House. The House of Commons, it is true, has its committees, even its standing committees, but they are of the old-fashioned sort, which merely investigate and report, not of the new American type, which originate and conduct legislation. Nor are they appointed by the Speaker. They are chosen with care by a committee of selection, composed of members of both parties. But the lobbyist, the intriguer, and the wielder of improper influences have every facility afforded them in the American system of small committees, conducting their proceedings with closed doors. And that Americans themselves