

of the initiative, may become nearly as independent of popular will, and indulge themselves in almost as great abuses, as a dynasty. It is true, the suffrage belongs to the people; but the suffrage practically reduces itself, as we all know, to the privilege of choosing between two candidates named by the politicians. That change of the Constitution should be easy is not to be desired; but the legal power is indispensable. At present, supposing the Senate to resist reform, there is no legal mode of overcoming its resistance; the only remedy would be revolution.

The choice of Ottawa as the capital, embodied in the Constitution, is now by almost every one, except the Ottawa hotel-keepers, admitted to have been a blunder. All the three reasons for it, military security, fear of jealousies between the great cities, and dread of mob ascendancy, were alike futile. Every political assembly requires, to keep it in tone, the tempering influences of general society, a critical strangers' gallery, and daily intercourse with representatives of various interests and callings. The British House of Commons would not be what it is if it sat at Inverness. Still less can our Canadian legislators afford to be shut up in a political cockpit with their fellow-combatants and the Lobby. The Supreme Court would perhaps show more life and win more homage if it were stimulated by the applause and censure of a powerful bar, with the echoes of society beyond. But this error has been embodied in stone at a cost of millions. If the centre of the Confederation should hereafter be greatly displaced, the question may become practical. But if it is to wait till British Columbia has become an integral part of Canada, it is adjourned to a distant day.

The payment of Ministers of the Crown is hardly a question to be dealt with in a revision of the Constitution; but it is an important question and one with which the country will have to deal. The salaries are now far too low, considering the position which a Minister has to maintain and the vastly increased cost of living. The Prime Minister of Canada is not better paid than a County Court Judge in England. Few of our public men have fortunes of their own, and when we think of the temptations that beset them and the atmosphere of party morality which they