

We have not gone far ; but already we are troubled. It is not news to us that feudalism, a system useful in its time, has left behind it in England certain elements which are not in place, and which do positive harm in a modern community. But what are these elements, how do they do harm, and how may they be eliminated ? Mr. Wells's diagnosis seems to us to be wrong in almost every particular ; we look at one another and listen with growing dismay for the prescription to follow. And here a complete surprise awaits us. We expect the magic word " America," and we hear it more than once, but we find to our astonishment that on the whole the practitioner does not consider " Americanisation " to be indicated. He has evidently a weakness for this injection, but has discovered that it is itself a disease and not a remedy. What then does he recommend ? Something so unexpected, so far from our idea of Mr. Wells, so unSea-lady-like, that we hear it with a catch in our breath ; we are to undergo a doctrinaire treatment, a drastic course of legislation and constitution-mongering.

First, we are to clean our slate. Away go kings and aristocrats—we are not told how. Affairs are to be " in the hands of the very best men." And how are these to be obtained ? Not of course on any hereditary principle, nor by election at the poll. These are the methods which have given us the article we know so well and are so dissatisfied with. Are we then to spin a coin ? Well, not exactly ; but as near as may be. We are to choose a jury, by lot, and our jury will choose our member for us. The advantages of this system will be obvious at a glance. Candidates will have no expenses ; they need no longer be limited to two, three or four ; every one may stand. The jury, placed " in comfortable quarters," will " hear the addresses " of the candidates, put to them any questions they choose " to elucidate their intentions or their antecedents," and summarily dismiss any " cranks or half-witted candidates " and all " merely symbolical persons." Their deliberations will be " frank and conversational to a degree impossible under any other conditions," and will do away with