

the State, and does not touch on any doctrinal points, his work came strictly within the objects of the Financial Reform Association, and might be distributed advantageously amongst its members.

During the last two sessions of Parliament, various petitions from the Council have been presented to the House of Commons. Amongst them were two on the subject of a permanent Finance Committee: one praying that ministers of the crown may have, *ex-officio*, access to both Houses of Parliament, for the purpose of explaining their measures and policy, without votes in the House of Commons; one against the Appellate Jurisdiction Bill; and one against the improvident purchase, without any parliamentary authority, of hereditary pensions for which no public service was ever rendered. The Council also protested, through their President, against another most unwarrantable job, said to have been in contemplation, viz., the granting of a perpetual dowry of £70,000 per annum to the Princess Royal on her nuptials, with the probable successor to the Prussian Throne. The fact that scarcely a word was said either against the pension or the dowry, until the Council protested against them both, may be mentioned as an additional proof of the utility of a body like the Financial Reform Association, ever watchful over national interests, looking to measures, not to men, having no personal ends to serve, and seeking the public good alone.

Another example to the like effect may be cited in the address of the Council to the people of the United States of America, which elicited so gratifying a response from the mayor and citizens of Philadelphia, and was cordially welcomed by the most influential portion of the American press; and yet another in the fact that, but for this Association, Liverpool would have been wholly unrepresented in the congress of free traders recently held at Brussels. In the first instance, this Association had no inconsiderable share in convincing the respective governments that on such grounds as their diplomatic squabbles presented, two nations so united by ties of blood, language, and mutual interests, would not fight. In the second, the effects on the minds of continental free traders and protectionists which must have been produced by the non-representation of Liverpool on such an occasion were avoided. One of its Vice-Presidents, Mr. Francis Boulton, most handsomely volunteered to act as the