

the measures that are in the end passed being little better than patchwork, utterly unsystematic and inconsistent in their different parts. It is this growing evil that gives some apparent basis of truth to such statements as that of Carlyle that 'England and America are going to mere wind and tongue;' and that frequently uttered by men of very different political views that 'Parliamentary government is on its trial.' Now, if no remedy could be found for the state of things complained of, these utterances would be justly entitled to some consideration, and there would be serious grounds of alarm for the future of England; since the most dangerous state for a country to be in is that in which the machine of government is constantly growing more inefficient, while the problems to be dealt with are constantly growing more complex and difficult. But there seems to be a simple remedy for the evil, and one that requires no radical alteration to be made in the English Constitution, but only such a moderate change as is strictly in accordance with the past history and growth of that Constitution. The House of Commons, as now constituted, is far too unwieldy and miscellaneous a body to deal satisfactorily with any difficult question of legislation, even if strictly under the control of the Ministry; while the frequent changes which the latter undergoes are a fatal impediment to a consistent policy and systematic course of legislative improvement. As a consequence of this, nearly all the changes in our laws and in our foreign and Colonial policy have been the result of popular clamour, and not owing to a conviction of the necessity for the changes in our Legislature.

"The proposed remedy is, that the House of Commons should be divided into a number of permanent committees, each of which would have to deal with a particular class of subjects, and would therefore be composed of such members of the House as are most fitted to deal with those subjects. For example, there would be a committee of foreign affairs composed of such members of the House as had given special attention to that subject, a finance committee composed of the most eminent financiers and political economists in the House, and committees similarly constituted for dealing with military, naval, colonial, ecclesiastical affairs, crime, public works, law amendments; in short, there would be a committee for every important class of subjects. * * *

"The third measure which appears necessary to complete the renovation of the English Government is one for a reform of the House of Lords. It must be clear to everyone who has watched the recent course of events, that this body has been losing influence in the country at a rate which should alarm those who believe that a second Chamber, if properly constituted, has important functions to fulfil. The only measure that seems likely to restore it to anything approaching to its former influence, by giving it that estimation in the public opinion which it has of late years so