

bring nearer to a balance those who advocate open wide-spread legislation, and take cognisance of their general interests, to weigh down the monopolists whose actions are selfish and exclusive. Does the present Legislature meet the requirements of the times?

Is there any thing unconstitutional in these demands? It has been recently asked—What is the British Constitution? The reply is popular and correct: "It is not a thing meant entirely for the Crown. The Crown has its limits by act of Parliament and by custom. Nor is it intended merely for an hereditary Peerage. The House of Lords has its prerogatives and its privileges well defined. The Constitution does not confine itself to caring for the Monarch on the throne or for the Peer in his gilded chamber." The Constitution regards the House of Commons, or with us the Legislative Assembly, as the house of the people; and it professes to take within its pale all these populations and these interests, and give them as complete a shelter, and as complete a voice as is given to the Queen or the Peerage. In a word, what is wanted, is a Legislative Assembly in Vancouver's Island, elected by as many of the people as shall give a fair expression of the people's wishes, and vindicate their rights. A renowned statesman and poet in speaking of the guardian power and supremacy of Constitutional Law, in the British dominions, expresses himself in the following glowing terms:

"Her glorious fabric England rears,
On Law's fixed base alone;

Law's guardian pow'r while each reveres,
England! thy people's freedom fears

No danger from the throne,
For there, before almighty Law,

High birth, high place, with pious awe,
In reverend homage bend:

There's man's free spirit, unconstrained,
Exults, in man's best rights maintained,—

Rights, which by ancient valor gain'd
From age to age descend.

Britons, by no base fear dismay'd,
May power's worst acts arraign

Does tyrant force their rights invade?
They call on Law's impartial aid,

Nor call that aid in vain.

Hence, of her sacred Charter proud
With every earthly good endow'd,

O'er subject seas unfurl'd
Britannia waves her standard wide."

Seven members constitute the Legislative Assembly at present. The Hudson's Bay Company engross five out of that number. Might not other parties now be found more capable of expressing the opinions of the residents, and improving the condition of the colony. It has been observed that hitherto the community has been satisfied with the