

Africa influence was formerly not without its value, but at present both in the East and West African protectorates, which are under the Colonial Office, and in Egypt and the British Soudan, candidates are selected wholly upon their merits. The danger of parliamentary interference lies rather in well-meant but ignorant attempts to protect the natives, due to that form of philanthropy which is so common in England, and which leads us to attempt to reform the evils of every country but our own. This spirit was seen in its most virulent form in the influence of the missionary societies which had their centre at Exeter Hall in London, and which frequently forced the hand of the British government. It was at its height some 70 years ago when one of the chief speakers at such missionary societies, Lord Glenelg, was also the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and did enormous harm by espousing the cause of the South African natives against the opinions of every colonist and every British official on the spot, in deference to the views of a few sincere but foolish missionaries. This spirit, now rather philanthropic than religious, is still strong, and its existence, both in and out of Parliament, constitutes one of the gravest dangers to our Indian Empire. The easy goodwill to native races shown by the interference of ignorant members of Parliament with the work of experts, is one of the greatest dangers against which the true friend of the coloured races must guard.

So far in Great Britain this danger has in the case of India been avoided. The salary of the Secretary of State for India is paid out of the revenues of India, and though the Indian budget is regularly submitted to the House of Commons, it does not need to be approved. It is introduced only at the end of the session, when all the members are weary and anxious to get away, and even if a vote is carried by the House of Commons it has no binding force upon the government. "An illustration of the small authority of Parliament in Indian matters may be found in the fact that in 1891 (April 10) the House of Commons carried against the ministers a motion condemning the opium revenue; and in 1893 (June 2) a resolution that the examinations for the Indian Civil Service ought to be held in India, as well as in England, was carried in the same way; yet on each occasion the government, after studying the subject, came to the conclusion that the opinion of the House had been wrong, and did not carry it into effect. Such a condition of things is highly fortunate, for there is probably no body of men less fitted to rule a