

gentleman from Halifax, who smiles at me and shakes his head, himself spoke with laudation of the body which sits in this House.

HON. MR. POWER—Certainly.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—So it appears to me that the antidote was furnished almost as quickly as the poison was administered, because if we succeed by our present method, or by any other method, in filling this House with a body of men whose opponents cannot see any ground upon which to find fault with them, we have discovered, I think, a fairly good mode of selecting its members. However, I think we can go a little further than that. I propose to take up the proposition which my hon. friend makes, and look at it with a view to see how far it would suit our circumstances in this country. My hon. friend suggests that we should adopt the mode which is said to be adopted in the United States—to elect the Senators by the several Provinces. He does not, I observe, propose to assimilate the elective body in numbers, or in its proportions in the different states, therein differing from the system adopted in the United States, where, as has been already remarked, the great State of New York only represents the same influence in the Senate of the United States, as the small State of Rhode Island. I do not understand him to advocate that principle, but he proposed that our Senators shall be elected by the Provinces, as he thinks they are elected by the States, instead of being appointed by the Crown or selected by the Parliament of Canada, which is practically the mode by which the members of this House are chosen. Now, in reality, the body which constitutes the Senate of the United States is elected by the people. The nomination of the Senators is taken into consideration in the caucus, and voted on at the election, virtually as much as any member of the legislative body. If any hon. gentleman desires to have that statement verified, he will find it in Brice's recent book, which is, I think, the latest and best of the commentaries on the constitution of the United States, and it is the work of one who is a great admirer of the United States. I shall not trouble the House with reading it, but the conclusion he comes to, and which is undoubtedly the right conclusion, is that these Senators are

elected in the United States by the indirect vote of the people—that is to say, when the members are elected the Senators are practically elected also. They are considered in the election. Those who are returned are pledged to vote for the appointment of named Senators of their own party, and the moment the election is over the Senators are as fully chosen and as certain to be appointed, as if the vote of the legislature with regard to them had passed.

HON. MR. DEVER—So are we, when our Government is sustained at the polls.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—My hon. friend, I think, does not seize the distinction, for, when this Parliament which supports this Government was elected, a good many of the hon. gentlemen having seats in this House, were not thought of as Senators. They were the choice of the representatives of the people, made by the Government who are the executive of the people, after the Government had been constituted, and had been a long time in power; while the distinction I make is that at the very moment of time that the members of the House of Representatives were elected in the United States, that very moment of time the Senators of the United States were practically elected.

HON. MR. POWER—I think the hon. gentleman is pressing that point too far; I do not think that is the uniform practice in the United States at all.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—My hon. friend compels me to read, to show what Mr. Brice says on the subject, and I am prepared to pin my faith to Mr. Brice:—

"The method of choosing the Senate by indirect election has excited the admiration of foreign critics, * * * Meantime it is worth observing that the election of Senators has in substance almost ceased to be indirect. They are still nominally chosen, as under the letter of the constitution they must be chosen, by the State Legislatures. The State Legislature means, of course, the party for the time dominant, which holds a party meeting (caucus) and decides on the candidate, who is thereupon elected, the party going solid for whomsoever the majority has approved. —Now the determination of the caucus has almost always been arranged beforehand by the party managers—Sometimes when a vacancy in a Senatorship approaches, the aspirants for it put themselves before the people of the State. Their names are discussed at the State party convention, held for the nomination of party candidates for State offices; and a vote in that convention decides who shall be the party nominee for the Senatorship * * * *"

The choice of Senators by the State Legislatures is supposed to have proved a better means, than direct