

The Earl of Derby, when he made a defence of the British House of Peers, at Liverpool, did not undertake to show that the hereditary principle, in virtue of which nine-tenths of the members of that House take their seats, was a wise one, but he brought forward an instance of a non-hereditary member (Lord St. Leonards), an admirable instance no doubt, but the effect of choice, which is so far analogous to the principle of democracy, that it allows the claims of personal merit. Whereas, the point which it was desirable to clear up was, whether the hereditary principle is the best that could be devised, for ensuring a supply of able legislators. This, however, any one can do for himself by comparing the non-hereditary with the hereditary members of the present House of Lords, or by going a little back into history, and comparing the founder of the family, the first non-hereditary member, with his descendants. It is not necessary to mention any names. They must occur to every one.

Political economy would dictate that the best method of obtaining a supply would be to leave the market open to competition, instead of giving it into the hands of an hereditary close corporation.

The composition of the Senate, as might be expected, is excellent. Of 56 members that were sitting in it, during my stay at Washington, 43 belonged to the category of "my learned friends,"—and it is to the predominance of this sect that the good working of the American constitution may be attributed. If wrongs and grievances are somewhat to "my learned friend's" taste, assault and battery are not at all so, and by his superior powers of eloquence he takes care to impress