

Parliament must represent towns and counties, not human beings. But no one seeks to annihilate towns and counties. Towns and counties, it may be presumed, are represented when the human beings who inhabit them are represented."

In the management of our Banks and Joint Stock Companies we *weigh* the votes as well as count them ; but when it comes to managing a nation the whole thing becomes a matter of arithmetic and Geography. In the nature of things, what more reasonable than *Some* modification ~~and~~ of the geographical basis that would permit representation of the Universities and even classes of men? The idea is as old as the representation of the Universities and the established Church in Britain. In fine, under our system does a member of Parliament represent anyone but himself and the organized Machine called party which elects him? It is idle to pretend that, in a close constituency (which is the common one) the representative of the majority does not sit in Parliament by the grace of the purchasable element. If anyone doubt it let the skeptic consult the volume of election cases in the law reports of the country and the recent proceedings of parliamentary committees. A leaven of what may be shortly called institutional and class representation would at least tend to mitigate this preposterous travesty of representative government, while it could be reasonably expected to stem the tide of degeneracy in the character of the people's delegates.

Froude, in his favorite attitude of remonstrance, complains that while the doers of things are the silent men who are not found spouting upon platforms, we have decided that orators are the fittest people to rule over us. "The constituencies choose their members according to the fluency of their tongues. Can he make a speech? is the one test of competency for a legislator, and the most persuasive *five* of the whole we make prime minister. We admire the man for his gifts, and we accept what he says for the manner in which it is uttered. He may contradict to-day what he asserted yesterday. No matter. He can persuade others wherever he is persuaded himself. And such is the nature of him that he can convince himself of anything which it is his interest to believe. These are the persons who are now regraded as our wisest."

Many valuable men could be induced to sit in Parliament who would not submit to be dragged there at the wheel of the party machine through the mire of a popular election, while too often the doors of our non-elective legislative chambers are shut against such men because, forsooth, they have not duly rendered the qualifying *quid pro quo* of party service and allegiance. As Mill in his chapter already quoted says: "Political life is indeed in America a most valuable school, but it is a school from which the ablest teachers are excluded the first minds in the country being as effectually shut out from the national representation, and from public functions