

LECTURE No. 2.

Friday, January 26th, 1906.

THE CONSTITUENTS OF THE EMPIRE.

*(A Study of the Self Governing Colonies).*

A general view of the mechanism of the present colonial system. British aversion to deliberate political construction. Present system largely empirical. It offers a graded series of stages of colonial growth. Main divisions (1) The Crown Colonies. (2) The Colonies partially self governing. (3) The self governing colonies. Imitation of the British system by the United States in erecting the governments of Porto Rico and the Philippines. Relation of the self governing colonies to the Crown. The judicial Committee of the Privy Council. The special political problems of the greater colonies. Canada and the United States. Political and Commercial Relations. Reciprocity and Annexation. General discredit of Annexation to-day. Favourable moment thus offered for revising inter-imperial relations. Australia and New Zealand. Radical Democracy and the Labor Movement. Dangers of Economic Isolation. South Africa and the Race Problem. Solution of all special problems facilitated by a closer union of the Empire.