

Nor can the Prime Ministers who have successively exercised the power of nomination be justly blamed for the result. Expectations that "the Crown" would fill the Senate with men of a different class from those who composed the Lower House—men superior in any mental or social qualifications, less involved in the faction fight, better fitted to represent commercial interests or scientific professions—were foredoomed to inevitable disappointment. "The Crown" is the Prime Minister; and no Prime Minister who was at the head of a party could help doing what the Prime Ministers on both sides have done—bestowing the nominations as rewards for party services and making the Senate, what it is, a political infirmary. Under the party system, whatever patronage is put into the hands of Government is sure to fall into the general bribery fund by which a party government is sustained. In England a peerage is now and then given for military or naval services, seldom for public services of any other kind, and an extra law lord has sometimes been created when the House, as a Court of Law, has been in absolute need of reinforcement. Otherwise, the only road to a peerage is through landed wealth and a long course of steady voting for the leader of a party.

Before we debate the question, how the Senate ought to be constituted, we must sacrifice on the altar of truth by frankly declaring our disbelief in Senates altogether. The illustrious Council from which the name is derived was not an Upper House but the government of the Roman Republic, having the executive practically under its control and the initiative of legislation in its hands. The American Senate is a special representation of the Federal as distinguished from the popular principle, in a country where, be it observed, foreign relations being in the hands of the national government, there are real federal functions to be discharged. But the other modern Senates are intended imitations of the House of Lords, and, one and all, begotten of the same illusion. The House of Lords is not a Senate, it is an old Feudal Estate, embodying not a political cast of mind different from that embodied in the House