

of public right. Many of the members, no doubt, are excellent and distinguished men, worthy in every respect to take part in the councils of the nation, but they have morally no better claim, individually or collectively, to legislative power or to an absolute veto on the will of the nation, than any one you meet upon the street; and it is the latent consciousness of this fact, both on their part and on the part of the nation, that renders them practically cyphers and "registrars of the decrees of the Commons," whose decrees might be registered just as well by a clerk at five hundred dollars a year. Representation and responsibility are the principles of our Government, as they are those of common sense and justice. A Senator, though said to represent a Province, really represents nobody except the Minister who appoints him, and when that Minister is gone, nobody at all; he is wholly irresponsible, and cannot in any way be called to account by the people for his votes or even for the grossest neglect of duty. There have been instances of Senators who drew their pay and hardly ever appeared in the Chamber. Yet, if the Senate should think fit to veto the most deliberate decision of the whole country, the country would be powerless; nor is it possible to effect any reform in the body without its own consent, which would very likely be withheld. The power reserved to the Crown of appointing in extremity half a dozen extra Senators for the special purpose of turning the scale and bringing the Senate into harmony with the Commons might prove wholly inadequate, to say nothing of the strange character of a provision which implies a pledge on the part of a new member of a legislature that he will vote in a certain way. Such an alienation to an irresponsible conclave of the national privilege of self-government by a party of gentlemen holding their sittings in a distant capital, however excellent the intention of those gentlemen may have been, was a public wrong. The chief author, if the common belief is true, was a politician who, having been one of the most violent of demagogues in his early days, his hot fit over, and his personal object gained, became, as violent demagogues have often become, estranged at heart from