

letter the ridicule which a foreign diplomatist cast upon our statesmen, whose achievements puzzled him. He could not sufficiently admire our generosity. Over and over again we have been overreached by the Americans, and have sacrificed immense tracts of valuable country, but we reward our statesmen for their blundering. The following article may supply a key to unlock the mystery. It was easy to be generous when it was only Colonists who suffered. Without any voice in Parliament, or a representative in the Colonial Office, which is merely a useful training-school for young statesmen, where they can try their "prentice hand" occasionally on Colonial subjects, *experimentum in corpore vili*, we have no power even to complain with any chance of being heard. The Government is not likely to entertain any criticism on its own policy, and if a protest is sent to a member of the Opposition, he is apt to be too much engrossed by local and party questions to be able to think of the interests of remote portions of the empire, and in all probability he has not the leisure to read the letter. When Colonial subjects are intruded upon Parliament, a significant remedy is sometimes resorted to. The *Times* of the 27th April says, "Mr. R. Fowler had risen to call attention to the affairs of South Africa, when the House was counted out at 25 minutes past 8 o'clock."

Need we be surprised at this? An Australian or Canadian Legislature, if it were invited to master that interesting subject, the sewerage and the smells of London, that so often very properly engrosses the attention of Parliament, might be tempted to imitate the example set by it on Friday last, and might escape the ordeal by being counted out. "Inertness," it is said, "is generally conscious incapacity." It is possible that Parliament is beginning to find out at last, what Colonists have long since learned to their cost, that the House of Commons is neither able nor willing to legislate for an Empire. Something formed on a far wider basis will be needed to satisfy the aspirations and the wants of the widespread English race, and to stay the progress of dismemberment. Elected by the people of the United Kingdom, instead of an