

which we are confirmed by all that occurs either in the European Legislatures or in those of the British Colonies. The House of Lords is the chamber of a territorial aristocracy, as it is now showing in a signal manner; it represents and guards certain interests, distinct from those of the great body of the nation. In countries where there is no territorial aristocracy there are no real materials for an Upper Chamber. Sometimes, as in Victoria, a senate becomes the organ of a special interest, and is rendered noxious as well as odious thereby. Whatever of high character and mature wisdom a nation possesses ought, if possible, to be sent to the assembly in which supreme power, under the elective system, must centre, there to control and guide the real councils of the nation. In Victoria, and wherever the Senate has become the organ of a special interest, the results have been collisions and dead-locks; elsewhere the Senate has been a nullity, or, rather, it has done mischief by concealing the want of a real Conservative element in the Constitution; nowhere has it fulfilled its ideal function as a body of mature wisdom regulating and tempering legislation. In Canada it has rendered no service at all commensurate to its cost; it is filled with superannuated partisans, and is hardly anything more than an addition to the bribery fund of party. Very little would be lost by simple abolition. But, if we could have our way, the abolition would be accompanied with a general revision of the Constitution, of which the Senate is a part, with a view to actually supplying those securities for deliberate legislation which the Senate is vainly supposed to afford. We would have both the mode of election to the House of Commons and the mode of doing business there so regulated as to make that House itself, if possible, a Senate, in the best sense of the term. We would introduce regular election of the Executive Council by the Legislature instead of putting up the great offices of State as the prizes of a faction fight which turns a deliberative assembly into a cockpit. We would try at the same time to take the elections out of the hands of the wire-pullers, and restore them immediately or mediately to