

was as much superior to the House of Lords as Congress was inferior to the House of Commons. If the great historian were alive now, he would have to give a different verdict. For, at any rate, the House of Lords has never been even suspected of boodling or condoning it in any of its members. But when one Senator confesses that he had "inadvertently" ordered his broker to buy stock in the Sugar Trust, while the duty was pending, and others let it be known that the Trust must be satisfied, and the representatives of other interests insisted on their pound of flesh, and when—in conference with the popular house—the representatives of the Senate took the position that they had come, not to confer or to compromise, much less to yield, and that the question was simply between their Bill or no tariff legislation at all, what can be said for the Senate? No despot would ever have attempted, against the expressed will of the people, what the Senators have done. The House of Lords dare not touch a money bill. They accepted, last Session, Sir William Vernon Harcourt's Budget, though it was ostentatiously and almost insolently directed against themselves. But in the States, a handful of millionaires or the lacqueys of millionaires laugh at the people and at their own party platform, clap on new taxes and enrich themselves or the rings they represent with the spoils. Strange to say, there is scarcely a murmur of popular discontent. Murmurs might be interpreted as meaning that the Constitution of the United States is not perfect, and it is safer to rail at the Almighty than at the Constitution. It is impossible not to admire this sturdy faith. Our neighbours come of a good stock. The old English tenacity, the *nolumus leges Angliæ mutare*, is evidently in them. They are likely to accomplish something great in the world. At any rate, a high authority has said that a nation, without deeply rooted Conservative instincts, cannot accomplish anything.

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THE President was too strong for the rings on the Silver question, but they had their revenge when it came to the tariff. His own action helped them, though he meant far otherwise. Long before this, he must have felt that his letter to Mr. Willson was a mistake. It should not have been written, unless he had made up his mind to veto, in case the Senate insisted on the Gorman Bill. That letter put him in the power of the Senators whom he had previously angered, and it misled people who believed that he was a man whom party necessities could not bend, a man who would not change if once the word went forth from his lips. Perhaps his success with the Silver Bill, and the universal approval which greeted his letter to Governor Altgeld and his proclamation in sending the troops to Chicago, made him fancy that a strong letter would stiffen his party in Congress and evoke a national sentiment so universal as to make the Senators quail. But the circumstances were different and circumstances alter cases. The majority of the Republican Senators were with him in the fight for honest money. Well they might, for the strength of their party is in States which do not produce silver and