

occasionally to reconsider its purposes. It would also require elections of members of the House for a long term, and the vesting in the government the power of dissolution and appeal to the people.

A discussion of the comparative advantages of this system and our own is a tempting subject, to which a larger space than can be given to this Report might profitably be devoted. We do not believe that such a form of government would have been practicable during the early period of our history. Nor do we believe that it would be practicable now. It would certainly be rendered very difficult by the great number of important questions which present themselves for solution almost at the same time in the United States, and which will increase with us with the increase of our population and wealth and the variety of our interests. Suppose one party to-day could carry a majority of the House of Representatives on the question of control of national elections, or on the tariff, or the national banking system, or subsidies for foreign commerce, or the question of silver coinage, or the expenditures for rivers and harbors, or reciprocity with Canada, or with South America, and the other party could carry a majority on the rest of these questions or some of them. The Congress which has just adjourned was the first for sixteen years where the Executive and both Houses of Congress were in the power of the same party. It dealt with more than twenty great subjects, the fate of any one of which would have overthrown or established an administration in England. Must we have a new national election every three weeks, whenever one or the other of them had been brought to a vote? We should have, also, if this were attempted, to change the constitutional term of office of the Representative. With all the power and greatness of England, she has as compact a population as one of our great States. Canada has but five millions of inhabitants. Although her territory is nearly as large as ours, her population is much less widely scattered.