**Noticeable Articles.**

To students of political science—and every young American should be a student of political science—the political affairs of Great Britain grow every day more interesting. As the Irish question fades into the background—and it certainly is doing so, through the complete triumph of the Unionist party—great questions involving fundamental principles of political reform for the whole kingdom come to the front, which deserve the most careful study. The local government bill now before Parliament involves nothing less than a peaceful revolution of the English political system, and is a long step toward its assimilation to our own. And along with this great measure comes a cry from every quarter for a reform of the House of Lords, and its reorganization into an efficient second chamber. This cry comes not merely from such noisy radicals as Labouchère, who made a motion the other day in the House of Commons for its abolition, but from serious political thinkers and statesmen of all parties, conservative as well as liberal. In the House of Lords itself, Lord Rosebery, one of the ablest and most promising of the younger peers, makes vigorous speeches in favor of the reform of the body to which he himself belongs; so the other day, at a public meeting, did Sir M. Hicks-Beach, a member of the Conservative Cabinet itself. In the *National Review* for March there is a very able and interesting paper on the subject by the Hon. George N. Curzon, M.P. It is a pity that this vigorous young conservative review is not made more accessible in this country by its reproduction along with the *Fortnightly*, the *Contemporary*, and the *Nineteenth Century*, for it is fully equal in ability to any of them, and to the student of the great questions of the day, all these journals are quite essential. "I am one of those," says Mr. Curzon, writing as a conservative, "who believe that the reform of the House of Lords is impatiently expected, and may, if much longer delayed, be imperatively demanded by the people; who hold that this expectation is a just and reasonable one, and that, as it would be wise statesmanship to anticipate, so it would be stupid folly to provoke the demand; who are of opinion that considerable reform in the upper House is not merely desirable, but it is also necessary for the continued equilibrium of the state; and who further contend that such a reform may be accomplished at the present, or at an early juncture, with the greatest advantage; that it should emanate from the Conservative party, and not from their antagonists, whose interests, as well as their prejudices, point in the opposite direction, and that no class is more deeply concerned in its success, or should co-operate more earnestly in its promotion, than the peers themselves and the aristocratic order at large."

He then goes on to point out that it is by mere historical accident that the English second chamber has come to be based almost entirely upon the hereditary principle, and that ably defending the importance and value of the House of Lords even as it is now organized, he goes on to point out unsparingly the defects that flow from the exclusive predominance of this principle. "I do not believe," he says, "that any other fortuitous collection of five hundred individuals in the world—men chosen by no test, but bequeathed, so to speak, by a legacy of nature—would present an average of intellectual capacity so uniformly high." He goes on to show how many of them, like the present Prime Minister, the Earl of Salisbury, received their political training by brilliant service in the House of Commons before they came to their titles, and how many more received their titles for the same sort of service. "At this moment, of the 529 lay peers, . . . considerably more than one third have been members of the House of Commons; 157 have served in the army and navy. Of existing heirs to peerages, as many as 61 are now or have been members of the House of Commons; 42 of these sit in the present House."

It is a very common mistake to suppose that the present House of Lords are the direct descendants of the old feudal nobility. The old feudal nobility were wiped out by the Wars of the Roses. The Duke of Norfolk is the representative of one of the