very few houses that survived. It astonishes most readers to be told that the great majority of peerages have been created since the accession of George III.; 137 peers have been created by Queen Victoria herself. Mr. D'Israeli, afterward Earl of Beaconsfield and Prime Minister of England, was once so ill-advised as to ask O'Connell in the House of Commons who he was that he should have so much to say about the making of English laws. O'Connell's answer was, "that his ancestors were making British history when the D'Israelis were in all probability gathering old clothes on the Continent."

Nevertheless, the majority of thinking men in England are fully aware that the House of Lords cannot stand much longer on its present foundation. "Absenteeism on the part of the many, and loss or lack of character on the part of the few, are the stains which have so far been traced on the escutcheon of the House of Lords." It is not fair to judge of the whole body by such outcasts from society as the disreputable Duke of Marlborough, who recently honored this country with a visit, or the equally notorious Earl of Lonsdale, the descendant of the "wicked Earl," the oppressor of the poet Wordsworth's family, who was also recently rambling about this country in very disreputable company; or of the Marquis of Aylesbury, recently turned out of the English Clubs for cheating on the turf; or of the most noble, the Duke of Hamilton and Brandon, Marquis of Hamilton, Douglas and Clydesdale, Earl of Angus, Arran and Lanark, Baron Hamilton Abernethy Aven Polmont Machanshire and Innerdale, Baron of Jedburgh Forest and premier Peer in the Peerage of Scotland, and Baron Dutton, County Chester, in that of Great Britain. Of this much-betitled Peer, the following account is given in a recent newspaper: "His mother was a daughter of the Grand Duke of Baden, and a cousin of Napoleon III., and his grace is one of the lowest fellows in the kingdom. He sold the great collection of works of art that he inherited in order to pay for his debaucheries; he converted the halls of his ancestral palace literally into a dog-kennel; he is a noted pugilist, and gets up fights in which he himself contends with professional boxers before companies composed of aristocratic and unaristocratic sportsmen." That exemplary Christian, the Earl of Lonsdale, has more than twenty church livings in his gift. The Duke of Sutherland brought to America a woman, not his wife, and introduced her at respectable houses. It is to be hoped that before he left our shores, this impudent aristocratic blackguard made acquaintance with the toe of some respectable American boot.

It would be wrong to judge of the whole English peerage by such disreputable specimens; but, as Mr. Curzon remarks, a disreputable member of the House of Commons reflects disgrace only on the constituency that elected him, while a disreputable peer is a standing disgrace to his order. It is clear that the present state of things cannot, for many reasons, much longer continue. But John Bull is not a man like his French neighbor, to pull down his political house when he gets discontented with it. He carefully preserves it, but he adds a new wing here and a new story there, and so adapts it to the new wants of the new times. Hence no country in Europe has had such a steady, continuous, and peaceful political development. It is safe to say that the House of Lords will not be abolished, and even that the hereditary principle will not be wholly done away with. But it is equally safe to predict that within no very long time the House of Lords will be reformed into a more efficient working second chamber. At present, as some one has recently pointed out, inasmuch as three constitutes a quorum, it might conceivably happen that the exemplary noblemen described above might represent the upper chamber in passing an Act of Parliament for the government of the British Empire. The following is an extract from a speech of Lord Rosebery's: "I remember since I have been a member of this House, of a noble Lord addressing a quorum of your Lordships, consisting of the noble and learned Lord on the woolsack, and the minister who had to answer him, for four mortal hours by the clock,—when this vast hall in which we are seated contained only these three individuals." Lord Ellenborough: "I beg the noble Earl's pardon. Part of the time I was present." The Earl of Rosebery: "The noble Lord's attendance, I understand, was only partial, and not for the whole time; so I may say three and one-half persons were present. Striking an average, I think that will be a satisfactory figure." Imagine a quorum of three and one-half legislating in the United States Senate.

It is always interesting to compare Englishmen's estimate of their own form of government with their estimate of ours. The great jurist whom England