

Current Topics and Events.

A BLUSH OF SHAME.

It was with a blush of patriotic shame that we read in the daily papers, while on the Pacific coast, the telegraphic despatches announcing the scandalous exposures of fraud and corruption in high places in Canada, and the sneering editorial criticisms thereon by unfriendly American editors. We can no longer point the finger of scorn at the corrupt politicians of New York and Washington, since we have at home examples of malversation of office akin in kind, if not in degree, with the corruptions of Tammany Hall and the Boss Tweed ring. It is an omen of ill augury for our country that such things are possible among us. Neither of the political camps into which the Dominion is divided can afford to hurl accusations at the other, for representatives of each party are among the guilty culprits, whom all honest men must condemn. These detected frauds are but an illustration of the eagerness with which men pursue the venal Horatian maxim to "acquire riches; honestly, if they can; if not, acquire them anyway."

But we must not despair of the country. The very recoil against these hidden works of darkness, dragged to the light of day, is a wholesome moral symptom. There are yet many—we believe the majority, of the men in place and power of both parties—who would scorn such ill-gotten gains. The sneering dictum of Walpole, that "every man has his price," we believe was never less true than now. We have patriots and statesmen as incorruptible as Hampden and Russell; men who would not sell their honour, no, not for the world; but we need to set before the young men of the country a nobler ideal than that of making haste to be rich; an ideal of those brave old Roman days of which Macaulay says:

"Then none were for a party;
Then all were for the State;

Then the great man helped the poor,
And the poor man loved the great;
Then lands were fairly portioned;
Then spoils were fairly sold;
The Romans were like brothers
In the brave days of old."

POLITICS AS RELIGION.

One cause for the moral deterioration in the political world we judge to be the wide divorce which has taken place between political and moral duties. Many men, whose word is as good as their bond in social and commercial life, seem to become the veriest tricksters where the interests of their political party are concerned. It would seem as if, in their judgment, the sphere of politics were outside the range of the moral law. We need to have embodied in our national life more of the grand old conception of the Hebrew prophets and the English Puritans—that the kingdom of God is among men, that the Almighty is the true head of the nation, and that every man should be His faithful soldier and servant in things secular as well as in things sacred; or rather, that there is no distinction between these two, that *all* duties are sacred, and that we live, as the grand old Puritan poet expresses it, "Ever as in the great Taskmaster's eye."

This idea is finely brought out by Mr. Stead in the following utterances in a recent number of the *Review of Reviews*: "If we bear this in mind, no election would ever come round, whether to town councils or boards of guardians or anything else, but if we are to play our part as citizens as Christ would have us, we should try to secure that no one should be elected who had not a human heart in him, and that he had something of a soul over and above the more necessary care for the rates. Work this idea out, and I think you will find that voting and canvassing become religious exercises. What a revelation it made me of the divine character of this life when I saw that