

was well known to the head of his party when he twice tried to get him made Deputy Speaker and when he was on the point of making him a Senator. Mr. Rykert's plea to his constituents was that though he was infamous others were infamous also; and his plea unhappily was true. We now know our own condition, and if we have any sense of public morality or regard for national honour left in us, now it will be shown. Soon the demoralization will be past cure.

We have had a lesson on the blessings of government by faction as well as on those of government by corruption. Bad as the conduct of the party which re-elected Mr. Rykert has been, the conduct of its rival has been little better. Had the local leaders of the Liberals possessed a particle of patriotism, they would have refrained for this turn from nominating a candidate and allowed the Conservatives, to whom the seat belonged, the chance of purging their own honour and that of the country. But when did faction care for the honour of the country or for anything but its own selfish ends? Government by party, we are told, is the best and not only the best but the only possible system, though its logical outcome is the re-election of Mr. Charles Rykert; while the most upright and the ablest of men, if he were not the slave of a party and cared only for the good of the whole people, would not poll twenty votes in any constituency in Canada. Other reflections crowd on our minds. Is this, the sceptic will ask, the outcome of our monarchical forms and our orders of knighthood, which are supposed to do so much for the elevation of our political character above that of our democratic neighbours? Is this the outcome of all the churches and all the apparatus of religion with which we suppose Lincoln is as well provided as other counties? What could Yankees or heathens do worse?

Not only is Mr. Rykert re-elected, but he goes off with seventy-four thousand dollars obtained out of the public property by "discreditable, corrupt and scandalous means." Once more we say, let us have a law, with adequate penalties against political corruption, or let us open the prison doors of