

# THE CATHOLIC SHIELD.

A MONTHLY CHRONICLE AND GENERAL REVIEW.

*"Scuto circumdabit te veritas ejus."*

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## PUBLISHER'S NOTICE.

The following gentlemen are authorized to receive subscriptions for the CATHOLIC SHIELD:—

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"CATHOLIC SHIELD,"

OTTAWA, ONT.

## EVENTS OF THE MONTH.

"It is wonderful," said Mr. Goldwin Smith in the May number of *Hystander*, "that the people of the United States do not some times lose all patience with Congress, that they do not go with clubs and beat it back into the path of its duty to a too long suffering people." So too thought Charles Guiteau, "lawyer, politician, and theologian," and "Stalwart of the Stalwarts." The people's grievances were his grievances, and his reverses in office-hunting were the people's wrongs. Finding the people as a body slow to move in the direction suggested by Professor Smith, and not deeming himself adequate to the task of clubbing Congress single-handed, he procured an English "bull-dog" pistol and shot the President, on the eve of the national holiday. "The death of Garfield," he

declared, "was a sad necessity, to unite the Republican party and save the country." But Garfield refused to die so tragically, and the chances are that he will survive to see his successor formally inaugurated; we had almost witten—to see his would-be murderer hanged, but the extreme penalty of the law in the United States for an unsuccessful attempt on human life—even the life of the Chief Magistrate—is only eight years imprisonment. Short though the term is, close confinement, bread and water, and hard work for it, will do more than his party could ever do to convince him that the world outside the prison bars is not so very much out of joint after all.

With one voice the press pronounces Guiteau's crime an outcome of the "Spoils" system, or greed for office, which is the main-spring of politics in the United States, as it is here in Canada. A loud cry goes out over the land for reform, for pure and patriotic administration of the affairs of State. But men do not gather figs from thistles or grapes from thorns, and so long as we ignore God in temporals we cannot hope to reap any crop but frauds, scandals, assassinations, and like abominations, the fruits of political atheism. Bishop Gilmour's pastoral address on this subject, which we reprint, is the most thoughtful and hopeful utterance evoked by the late attempt on the President's life.

The ball which pierced the President's side split the "Stalwart" faction at Albany, and carried political death to Ulysses A. Grant, until lately a Dictator whose mandates it was treason to disobey. The election of Miller to succeed Platt, and of Lapham to fill the seat in the Senate lately occupied by Conkling, relegates the "Third Term" Pretender into private life for an indefinite term. His fall has not been less rapid than his ascent.

More than one Canadian journal, registering the candid confession of the American press of all shades of opinion that it was the "Spoils" system did the foul deed of July 2nd, made loud boast that our politicians were not like those Republicans—sinners. It was the song of the Pharisee. Office-hunters, "wire-pullers," and "carpet-baggers" are as common, and as useful for mischief, in Canada as in the States.