

all that is most corrupt, indecent, violent, and vile. It is needless to say that the House of Representatives is the offspring of direct, the Senate of indirect, election.

The question respecting the appointment of the Executive is, in effect, the question of party government. Shall the offices of state be the prizes of a perpetual faction-fight, or shall the Legislature fill them by a process of regular election for such terms and with such a scheme of rotation as may secure a sufficient harmony of opinion and action between the two powers? Our own conviction on this subject has been sufficiently, and perhaps more than sufficiently, laid before our readers. But we are not, nor have we ever been, sanguine enough to hope that the system of organized faction which has become so rooted by habit that people believe it to be the only system possible, will be discarded till the cup of bitter experience has been more deeply drained. The question is not confined to Canada: it concerns all nations in which the elective system prevails; it is the great political question of our time. In the country from which our own institutions are derived a rebel faction is at this very moment preparing, and apparently with too much hope of success, to take advantage of the desperate rivalry between the two great parties for the purpose of wrecking the Legislature and breaking up the Commonwealth. In the neighbouring Republic, party brought on a tremendous civil war, and there is hardly a Government in Europe which stands secure on its foundations, because all of them are based upon a faction and not upon the nation.

Canada has obtained legislative and commercial independence: she has obtained a large measure of judicial independence, and she is aspiring to diplomatic independence. In time she will also become sensible that to make her in the full sense a nation she must have her Fountain of Honour in herself. She is at present governed largely by men whose great prize is not anything which she has to bestow, but a decoration received from a hand on the other side of the Atlantic, and awarded not for services to her but for making her serve a distant interest. Ecclesiastical statesmen in the Middle Ages were never thoroughly patriotic, because they always looked for their highest reward to Rome. Of the ambition