

United States, the parvenu and the politician, the government official and contractor, are at once the dupes and the knaves of the nation, whilst the toilers who are making the country great, remain industrious and comparatively pure. The peccadilloes of men in station attract attention from the world, and are naturally made the subjects of moralizing homily, whilst the virtues of the unobtrusive classes below them are passed unheeded by. Fortunes gained by shoddy contracts, gold speculations, or any of the other numerous short-cuts to wealth have, no doubt, excited envy and emulation. The unscrupulous classes, when suddenly possessed of means are vain and fond of meretricious show, and those who are climbing the social ladder behind them are not slow to imitate, being unscrupulous as themselves. But he must be a superficial critic of the nation as a whole, who sees nothing there "from the crown of the head to the sole of the foot, but wounds and bruises and putrifying sores." It is even now, in the midst of the scandals and partly by their agency, undergoing salutary discipline. The great body of the American people have the desire to lead back their country into the old paths, and they will not fail to manifest that desire so soon as they are conscious of their power and resolute in exerting it.

Moreover, the sins of politicians and their allies are not the legitimate results of the governmental theory, but merely of the excrescences which have been allowed to encumber it. Of these the party system, with its intricate machinery, is by far the worst. From the ward committee up to the national convention, the whole system is a putrid mass of intrigue and corruption, and so long as it endures, the vast majority of the people will lie perfectly helpless at the feet of huckstering politicians. If it were required to devise a scheme by which the people might be beguiled into the belief that they were self-governed, whilst they were really the slaves of a party oligarchy, a better could not be found than that which obtains in the United States. Both parties, hostile to each other in every other particular, agree in enslaving and robbing the people. From time to time, efforts have been made to break the yoke, and in 1872 they had some promise of success, and might have succeeded but for the unfortunate nomination made at Cincinnati. At the present time there are far

stronger reasons for party recalcitrance. The second term of General Grant has been worse than the first, and although he has cleared his own skirts, the awkward fact remains, that he has been a bosom friend and often a relative of the worst enemies of their country. Mr. Clymar, and the Democrats generally, enjoy the advantage, and are profiting by it. They have had no power since 1861 at Washington until now, save during the shady Presidency of Andrew Johnston; but their proclivities may be easily measured without going further than the city of New York. Both parties, that is those who direct and manipulate the parties, are hopelessly discredited, and nothing remains but a determined and uncompromising war upon both of them. An effort is now being made in New York, and we wish we could hope that it may prove successful, to break loose from the fetters which weigh so heavily upon the nation. The names of William Cullen Bryant, Carl Schurz, Horace White, and Governor Bullock, are a guarantee for the honesty and earnestness of the movement. The "platform" is a simple one, for it consist of only three planks, of which the first two have reference to "the wide-spread corruption" and "the grave economical questions" which affect the credit of the country. The third recognises the danger, of which even Canadians have, as yet, only a faint impression, "that an inordinate party spirit may, through the organized action of a comparatively small number of men who live by politics, succeed in overruling the most patriotic impulses of the people, and in monopolizing political power for selfish ends." This is the real danger in all free countries—in Canada as well as the United States—and the sooner a people rends the bonds of cliqueism, with its machinery of caucus, convention, and cabal, the better for itself. The Centennial year may have memories in store for the American Republic, more glorious than the glittering pageant of Philadelphia; and if the honesty and probity of the nation succeeds in making itself permanently dominant at Washington, the year 1876 will be a landmark in its history.

There appear to have been only two matters of the first interest to Englishmen during the month, the Royal Titles Bill and the imposition of an additional penny in the pound to the Income tax. It is unnecessary