

and that the result of the election was as much due to Stalwart as to Independent votes. If this is true party must indeed be breaking up in the United States, and the problem of finding a basis for elective government without it must be on the eve of presenting itself in a practical form. Unless some extraordinary error, such as a recognition of Confederate claims, is committed by the new possessors of power, it seems hardly possible that the divisions among the Republicans should be healed. The Independents are very indignant at the narrowness of their quondam associates in shutting the door against their return. Considering that they have been pouring hot shot into the party for six months, that they have ruined its chosen leader, hurled it from the power which it had held for twenty-four years, stripped it of an enormous mass of patronage, and deprived many thousands of its most active members of their bread, their indignation seems to betray a singular simplicity of mind. They set out with the assumption that the characters and motives of Mr. Blaine and his friends were low; and now they expect of the same men a chivalrous forgetfulness of that which, in the eyes of place-hunting politicians, must be the most inexpiable of all injuries. The Prohibition Vote has greatly increased since the last election, though it is still but a fraction of the national vote. The Republicans, at whose expense the gain was chiefly made, are naturally incensed with the uncompromising devotees of Temperance, and one or two Prohibitionist ministers seem to have had a narrow escape of being mobbed. It must be allowed that any citizen deserves reprobation who so far gives way to fanaticism as to vote for the champion of a crotchet, disregarding the general qualifications of candidates and the broad interests of the country. People who do this always defend themselves on the ground that the crotchet is a matter of principle, on which conscience forbids them to give way; as though the same character did not equally attach to every matter affecting the welfare of the nation. The Greenback, or People's Party, headed by a social revolutionist, whose enormous wealth is generally believed to have been amassed at the people's expense, seems to have rather declined in strength; whence it may be inferred that the desire of public plunder, whether in the guise of swindling dealings with the currency, or in any other guise, has not gained ground. The Female Candidate received no support, and she must have had bitter enemies among her own sex, since no man would have thought of charging her with banging her hair in her second widowhood. Her position as agent for two thousand of the State leeches, styled pensioners, was the point in her character on which the male traducer would have been apt to fix.

It seems that we have been partly misinformed as to the commutation of Mrs. Boutet's sentence, and that at all events the responsibility for a relaxation of the law does not rest upon the Department of Justice at Ottawa. The Attorney-General of Quebec it was who interposed to stay the execution, having been induced to interfere by a representation that a juror had been drunk on the night of the trial. The man was in his place next morning, and there appears to have been no reason to doubt that he was capable of doing his duty. If he was not capable of doing his duty the conviction was bad altogether, and Mrs. Boutet ought no more to have been imprisoned on his verdict than to have been hanged. The sentimental opponents of capital punishment, if they cannot avail themselves of the plea of insanity, which in this case would have been desperate, always vamp up some story that may throw doubt upon the verdict; they never avow their real motive. What their real motive is, appears from the fact that they never interfere in any case, however pitiable, where the penalty is not capital. But it was thought that the woman having before her reprieve undergone the moral pains of death, it would be cruel to inflict them a second time; and therefore her sentence was commuted to imprisonment. Such is the account of the matter now received from a trustworthy source. That a miscarriage of justice has taken place cannot be denied. The murder was most deliberate and most treacherous; it was perpetrated under the guise of hospitality, nor was there any extenuating circumstance. It is an awful thing to put a man or woman to death; and full allowance ought to be made for an intense and even a nervous sense of responsibility on the part of those in whom the dread power is vested. But the question of capital punishment has been debated and decided. Communities which had abolished the penalty, find themselves constrained to restore it. Proof, whether drawn from reason or experience, of the possibility of dispensing with it will always be welcome to humanity; but at present we are glad to be assured that the Minister of Justice is not disposed to allow sickly or rebellious sentimentality to interfere with the execution of the law.

The credit has been claimed for the Church of England of unique liberality in finding room within her pale for more than one school of

religious thought. Perhaps the scoffer might reply that hitherto the different schools have been included rather as gladiators within the same arena than as brethren in the same home. Puseyites have haled Gorhamites to the Judge, Gorhamites have haled Puseyites, Gorhamites and Puseyites combined have haled Latitudinarians. There has also been a large secession to Rome, and a certain amount of secession in other directions. But Church Congresses have now softened antagonism, and the deepening shadow of a great danger gathering from without has somewhat hushed the fray within. Division into parties or schools, however, far from being the happy or unhappy distinction of any church in particular is the common characteristic of them all. The only one, at least, which can pretend to be undivided is the Roman Catholic, which is enabled by its sacerdotal and sacramental constitution to maintain an iron unity of doctrine; the practical consequence of which is that instead of having some internal troubles, and occasionally losing an extreme sceptic, it loses its people to Atheism by masses and by nations. With a more elastic creed and a less unbending discipline Frenchmen might possibly be still Christians. Of the Protestant churches the one at present most disturbed by the progress of religious thought appears to be the Presbyterian, the constitution of which, though precisely the inverse of that of the Church of Rome, has in its relation to liberty of thought been attended with a certain measure of the same effects. Instead of being priest-ridden, Presbyterian Scotland has been laity-ridden. Under an ecclesiastical democracy, doctrine has been in the keeping of the people who, though as a nation to a wonderful extent educated, were not learned, or capable of keeping pace with theological inquiry, while they clung, with a patriotic as well as a religious tenacity, to the articles of the Calvinistic faith for which their fathers had fought and bled. Hence arose an orthodoxy almost as uncompromising as that of Rome. The clergy themselves have, till comparatively recent times, been rather preachers than theologians. Now however learning makes progress; the spirit of inquiry is abroad; Scottish divines play their part with the theologians of other churches in the Second Reformation, and the enlightened Liberalism of Professor Robertson Smith comes into collision with the stalwart orthodoxy of the Covenant. It is in the Free Church, as might have been expected, that orthodoxy with enthusiasm has its chosen seat; in the Established Church, with less enthusiasm and more of learning, there is also more of toleration: United Presbyterianism, an older secession somewhat mellowed by time, holds a middle place between the two. On æsthetic questions, such as church music, and with regard to the use of liturgies, the Established Church has greatly receded from the bare simplicity of austerer days. Respect is due, on political as well as on religious grounds, to the representatives of the Convention; but it is clear that the shadow will not go back on the dial; that inquiry cannot be stayed; that Liberalism can be weeded out only by weeding out intellect and learning; that mere dogma and emotion without a rational basis cannot retain a permanent hold upon the mind of an educated people, and that the choice must ultimately lie between comprehension and dissolution.

THE Imperial Federationists and the glorifiers of colonial dependencies have at least produced one effect by their eloquence: they have kindled the jealousy of other nations, and inspired them with a passion for rivalling England in the race of Colonial Empire. Bismarck for some time was wise enough to renounce distant aggrandizement and adhere to the policy of concentrated force. Colonial dependencies, he used to say, would be to Germany what a fur cloak was to a Polish magnate who had no shirt. But now he appears to be suddenly seized with the desire of occupying territory in Africa. He wants we are told to find an outlet for the surplus population which gathers on the not very fertile soil of Germany, and by its penury breeds Socialism. He has already an outlet in the United States, and if he could only see it, the German vote there, though not under his flag, is really a stronger card in his hand than any nursling colony could be. At the time of the war with France the American Germans, even the refugees of 1848, displayed the most passionate sympathy with the Father Land, and their influence in American Councils will always be exerted in its favour. When a maritime war comes, Bismarck will see what it is to have to detach a large force for the defence of dependencies in Africa. However, he seems bent on his object, and rather unpleasant relations between him and England are the consequence. The German press, too, has been growing very rude to England. But the danger in this quarter, if there is any danger at all, is trifling compared with that which arises from the buccaneering ambition of France, who has also, in spite of her costly experience in Algeria, been attacked with the fever of colonial aggrandizement, and at the same time with a violent access of her hereditary Anglophobia. To the German who has soundly chastised her, France looks up