

mentary government dates back to less than half a century ago, and was won only after years of contest with the present state. Since the British system has been introduced into the provinces of the dominion there has been practically no friction between the different branches of government, but the wheels of the political machinery have run with ease and safety.

Under the American Constitution the executive and legislative authorities may be constantly at variance and there is little possibility on all occasions of that harmonious legislative action which is necessary to effective legislation. Dr. Stevens while regarding the presidency "as one of the most valuable creations of the constitution" admits there are undoubted evils in the American system, not the least being the "detriment to the public interests" through this very conflict. The president may strongly recommend certain changes in the tariff, or in other matters of large public import, but unless there is in the houses a decided majority of the same political opinions as his own there is little prospect of his recommendations being carried out. Indeed, even if there is such a majority it is quite possible that his views are not in entire accord with all sections of his party, and the leading men of that party in congress may be themselves looking to the presidential succession, and may not be prepared to strengthen the position of the present incumbent of the executive chair. The nominal cabinet can and does give information to congress and its committees on matters relating to its respective departments, but it is powerless to initiate or promote important legislation directly, and if it succeeds in having bills passed it is only through the agency of, and after many interviews with the chairmen of the committees having control of such matters. If congress wishes information from day to day on public matters, it can only obtain it by the inconvenient method of communicating by messages with the departments. No minister is present to answer some interesting question on which the public wishes to receive immediate information, or to state the views of the administration on some matter of public policy. There is no leader present to whom the whole party looks for guidance in the conduct of public affairs. The president, it is true, is elected by the Republican or Democratic party, as the case may be, but the moment he becomes the executive he is practically powerless to promote effectively, through the instrumentality of ministers who speak his opinions authoritatively on the floor of congress, the views of the people who elected him. His messages are generally so many words, forgotten too often, as soon as they have been read. His influence constitutionally is negative—the veto—not the all-important one of initiating and directing legislation like a premier in Canada. The committees of congress which are the governing bodies may stifle the most useful legislation, while the house itself is able, through its too rigid rules, only to give a modicum of time to the consideration of public measures, except they happen to be money or revenue bills. The speaker himself is the leader of his party so far as he has influence on the composition of the committees, but he cannot directly initiate or control legislation. Under these circumstances it is easy to understand that when the executive is not immediately responsible for legislation, and there is no section or committee of the house bound to

initiate or direct it, it must be too often ill digested, defective in essential respects and ill-adapted to the public necessities. On this point a judicious writer\* says: "This absence of responsibility to public legislation, and the promotion of such legislation exclusively by individual action, have created a degree of mischief quite beyond computation." And again: "There is not a state in the Union in which the complaint is not well grounded that the laws passed by the legislative bodies are slipshod in expression, are inharmonious in their nature, are not subjected to proper revision before their passage, are hurriedly passed, and impose upon the governors of states a duty not intended originally to be exercised by them, that of using the veto power in lieu of a board of revision for the legislative body; and so bad is the gubernatorial office organized for any such purpose that the best-intended governor is compelled to permit annually a vast body of legislation to be put upon the statute book which is either unnecessary, in conflict with laws not intended to be interfered with, or passed for some sinister and personal ends."

I have dwelt at some length on this question of the Cabinet and the irresponsibility of the Executive, as it is especially important to Canadians to study the development of the institutions of the United States, with the view of taking advantage of their useful experiences, and avoiding the defects that have grown up under their system. All institutions are more or less on trial in a country like Canada, which is working out great problems of political science under decided advantages, since the ground is relatively new, and the people have before them all the experiences of the world, especially of England and the United States, in whose systems Canadians have naturally the deepest interest. The history of responsible government in Canada affords another illustration of a truth which stands out clear in the history of nations, that those constitutions which are of a flexible character, and the natural growth of the experiences of centuries, and which have been created by the necessities and the conditions of the times, possess the elements of real stability, and best insure the prosperity of a people. In the meantime, while the United States are working out many difficult problems for themselves, Canadians find satisfaction in knowing that responsible government provides all the machinery necessary to give expansion to their national energies, mature efficient legislation, and keep the administration of public affairs in unison with public opinion.

J. G. BOURINOT.

### WAR.

I stood within the temple-arch of Time;  
Beneath its airy dome and walls sublime,  
Where stretched in gloom the fretted vaults,  
With laurel crowned and royal emblems hung,  
The long, long line of Earth's unfading great,  
Her kings, her warriors, in martial state,  
And every conqueror upon his throne,  
With grisly hands and ghostly eyes of stone;  
And, like a curtain downward from the height,  
Were dropped in sombre folds the shades of night.

I heard a hundred organs deep'ning blow  
In a vast solemn harmony and slow,  
Until the awful heart of Death awoke  
And thundered back a music wild, that broke  
In frightened echoes down the pillared wall,

\* Simon Sterne in the American Cyclopædia of Political Science under head of "Legislation," p. 754.

With hollow voice and strains antiphonal.  
And then the shadowed temple floors along  
Out swept beneath the dome a 'wondering  
throng;

And all the silent monuments were given  
A touch of life from out the wind of heaven.  
And the full tread of armies clanging fell  
In mighty rhythm with the music's swell,  
Till light sank streaming from the mist above,—  
And over Death was flung the veil of love.  
Then in my heart a mystic whisper stole,  
From out the glory and the martial roll,  
"So, even now before thine eyes appears  
The phantom vista of Earth's ended years!"

Above the heroes in their sculptured stone,  
I saw, in op'ning light, a blood-red throne,  
At whose rich steps their faces all were bent,  
With humble looks and aspect suppliant.  
Upon it sat a figure from whose eyes  
There burst such flames of fury, as uprise  
When burns a city 'neath the midnight skies:  
And on his brow flashed bright a diadem,  
And o'er his breast spread many a scarlet gem.  
Within his mighty hand all reeking stood  
A spear yet warm and bright with human  
blood,

And a wild awful light swept o'er his face  
To watch the dripping currents fill the place,—  
The ghastly grin that murdering demons wear,  
When quivering crouched within their horrid  
lair.

Against his gleaming throne in piles were laid  
The meep-mouthed gun, and sabre's glittering  
blade,

While, caught upon the panoply before,  
Shone out, more bright than all, the symbol  
"War."

"Behold!" a voice beside me whispered, "See  
How War is king of all our history;  
And all the great of every age and land  
Are only minions 'neath his sov'reign hand;—  
For at a nod the trembling nations fall,  
Or tramp to death at his imperious call;  
And ever since this darkling world began  
Has placed his spell upon the heart of man."

Again I turned, but on the throne of War  
There sat a maiden, lovelier by far  
Than e'er a mortal heart had dreamed upon,—  
And War with his wild horrors all were gone.  
The light of heaven's morning, sweet and fair,  
Gleamed on her brow and thro' her golden hair;  
And from her face there shone that starry  
sweet,

When wandering angel-dreams in rapture meet;  
While round her throne the tinkling breezes  
played,

And caught the wand'ring echoes, as they  
strayed

With breath of freedom down the glad retreat,  
Till Joy sat captive at her snowy feet.

And, scarce in silence did the soft winds cease,  
When down the deep I heard the whisper,

"Peace,—  
Angel enchantress, strifeless thou hast won?  
On earth forever, War's wild rule is done!"

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### ART NOTES.

Three paintings by Whistler, owned by Alexander Reid, of Glasgow, are at the Fine Arts Museum at Boston. One is the "Lady in a Fur Jacket," valued by its owner at \$15,000.

Relic hunters have at last taken into consideration the wreck of the World's Fair, and are now paying roundly for objects modeled in stuff taken from the principal buildings. The angels on the woman's building are said to be in so much demand that they will fetch high prices when taken down.

The Artist-Artisan Institute of New York closed its schools for the season on Friday, June 14th. The re-opening in October is to be marked by certain radical improvements, for which Mr. John Ward Stinson has been working these many years. The trustees have promised him looms and