

Machine is tenacious of life and has elected a Senator for New York, though it can hardly recover the blow which it received at Chicago. Our sympathy is, of course, with the Independents; but we believe, that, as they go on, they will become aware that, the breaking of a single Machine will not do their work. Nothing will do their work but the abolition of party government. Party, as long as it prevails, will make Machines. In that respect the Machinists have a case. They say, in effect, party is faction, and faction, talk as finely as you will, cannot get along without patronage, or a bribery fund of some kind to buy support when there is no exciting question before the country, wirepullers to manage the organization, and a system of discipline for the coercion of mutinous opinion. They have on their side the verdict of universal experience, which no good resolutions can annul. If all the members of a party were active, the result might be different; but the mass are necessarily passive; the few act, engross the management, select the candidates, and become a Machine. No process of nature is more certain. So the Reformers will have to gird their loins a little higher.

—We wish we could think there was a strong popular movement in favour of Civil Service Reform. We fear that there is not. The people have taken it into their heads that a body of permanent office-holders would be an "aristocracy." This, of course, is nonsense. Where the government is despotic and bureaucratic, as it was in France under the Empire, and as it is in Russia, the officials are pretty sure to form a caste and to become insolent and tyrannical, because they feel that the Government is identified with them and that whatever they do they are sure of its support. Under the Empire, the French officials knew that their acts could not even be called in question before a court of law without the permission of their employers. But in the United States the Government is elective; it would have no conceivable inducement to support a local official in misconduct of any kind; probably it would be only