

Ames or his associates, the public have no more guarantee against fraud in the one case than in the other. The retiring Vice-President and Vice-President elect had an escutcheon as stainless, to say the least, as that of any of our public men, and so had Senator Patterson and the rest, yet the former fell into the snare, and is it to be supposed that the latter can be relied upon to resist a similar temptation? The only safeguard appears to be the existence of an independent and fearless press, untrammelled by party ties and obligations. It remains to be seen whether we possess any such; the prevailing tone of American journals shows, conclusively, that reform is as much needed in the United States in this as in any other direction.

The most startling of recent European events is the abdication of the King of Spain. Amadeus accepted the throne with reluctance. He endeavored to discharge the duties pertaining to his situation with courage and integrity, and in doing so displayed no small amount of statesmanlike ability. But his efforts were not seconded by the Spaniards themselves, whose long subjection to despotism has rendered them utterly unfit for constitutional rule. Had General Prim, who was mainly instrumental in bringing Amadeus into Spain, been permitted to carry out the work he intended, the result might have been different. Though he had, doubtless, his own ends to serve, Prim was unquestionably a statesman and a patriot; and while his assassination deprived the country all too soon of his services, he unfortunately left no successor worthy of assuming the mantle which fell from his shoulders. The first Cabinet of the young King was displaced within a few months, and crisis after crisis has followed with great rapidity, there being no fewer than six ministerial reconstructions within the last two years. The melancholy example of Spain is only another illustration of the futility of transplanting political institutions from the soil whence they originally sprung in the hope that they will flourish as exotics elsewhere. Responsible government as known in England, does well enough in England, where it has been gradually developed with the advance of the nation in civilization. It has failed both in France and Spain, partly because the statesmen who had it in charge were nothing but intriguing demagogues, but mainly because the long continuance of the protective system of government has left the masses in both countries in a state of almost infantile imbecility, in so far, at least, as political experience and wisdom are concerned. What the future of Spain will be it would be rash to predict. Castellar and his Republican friends have now control, and, as a matter of course, have declared a Republic. Probably this was the wisest course under the circumstances, and, doubtless, very many of the moderate Monarchists who supported the late