

year a struggle among the political retainers of the Government for this prize, deemed by them their property, most perplexing to the holder of the patronage; and the decision in which, by the conflicting currents of importunity, he has at last been landed, is not so bad as others to which he might have come. But, we repeat, this is not Civil Service Reform. Nor is it Civil Service Reform when, on the other side of the line, President Garfield removes one Chief of the New York Custom House and appoints another on political grounds. The President's intentions are excellent, but Party is too strong for him, and the Reformers who are disappointed by his action will in time be led to discern the real seat of the evil, and learn that they must probe deeper to effect a cure.

—Among the mysteries of our time may be reckoned the Pacific Railway Commission. With what object it was appointed we have never been able to divine. The Grit hypothesis is that it was devised by the jealousy of Sir John Macdonald for the purpose of ruining Sir Charles Tupper. No treachery can, of course, be too dark for the Author of Evil; but there is a limit to the simplicity of his supposed victim. It occurred to us that the object might be, by revealing the hideous details of government contracts to provide an argument in favour of transferring the undertaking to a Company; but this solution we discarded as too refined. The most natural supposition appears to be that the Commission originated with Sir Charles Tupper, and was by him intended to drag to light the bad things which had been done under Mr. Mackenzie, and thus to furnish, in case of need, the means of proving that the kettle was no whiter than the pot. If it was so, the petard, while it perhaps has blown up the enemy, has not left the engineer unscathed. Bad things occurred under both Administrations; but the two jobbers who preëminently deserve to stand in the dock, as it happens, are partisans of Sir Charles Tupper. The Commissioners appear to have done their duty; yet the cost to