

manœuvre pitched at Chicago ; and no doubt it was a very blessed Sabbath eve in the Holy City. Before this number of the WEEK appears, unless the struggle is very obstinate, the Republican nomination for the Presidency will have been decided. What most interests a political observer is the fissiparous condition of the Republican party, which on the last occasion was split into two portions, and is now split into three. The two portions before were the Machinists, or the Stalwarts, as they delighted to call themselves, and the Reformers, nicknamed by the Stalwarts Half-Breeds. Now we have besides the Machinists, whose candidate is Blaine, and the Reformers, whose candidate is Edmunds, a section which may be called that of the Commercial Conservatives, which supports Arthur on account of the generally Conservative character of his administration, caring little, so long as he keeps things in Wall Street right, for the fact, which still deeply impresses the minds of the people, that he was made President by the pistol of Guiteau. While the contest for the nomination is going on, the three factions vilify each other and each other's candidates in public, just as fiercely as the two great parties presently will in the actual election ; they behave, in fact, as bodies mutually hostile in every respect. But the party candidate once nominated, they will all combine again to support him, whoever he may be, against the candidate of the other party. Reformers who have been denouncing Blaine as a scoundrel will, if he gets the nomination, wheel into line and support him, as a point of party honour, against any man however good, who may be nominated by the Democrats. This, in its way, is a high triumph of the party principle ; but it cannot last. It is not likely to last very much beyond this election. Besides the other disintegrating agencies, the Tariff question is beginning to split both the parties across. The Democrats are apparently waiting for the decision of the Republicans. Of their own decision nothing is known. There seems to be a disposition among them to disinter Mr. Tilden. There is a disposition to do everything but to bring forward Bayard, the best man they have, and to stand upon their one sound and hopeful issue, that of Tariff Reform.

In the division on the Vote of Censure the ship of the Gladstone Government was struck by a heavy wave, but it righted ; and the division on the Irish Franchise must have had a very redeeming effect. To call the division on the Vote of Censure a moral defeat, as the *London Times* did, was absurd. There could be no moral significance in that which was the mere result of a most immoral trick played by the Parnellites, who let it be supposed that they were going to support the Government till they had lulled the misgivings of such malcontent Liberals as would have voted with the Government rather than let it fall, and then filed into the Lobby with the Tories, at the same time belying their own recorded convictions with regard to the Egyptian war. It would be well if the policy of the ministry were as certainly wise as its position is now, apparently, secure. Abstention from any interference in Egypt, unless the Suez Canal was in actual danger, would have been an intelligible course ; and those who, like Mr. Bright, steadfastly adhered to it would have much to say for themselves, if it were possible that England should ultimately leave the key of India to the ordinary chances of revolution or conquest. But England has interfered, and she has now Egypt on her hands. The native Government is a total wreck, and while England hesitates, and all the powers are giving themselves up to their jealousy of her, or of each other, Egyptian society is sinking into anarchy and ruin. An onlooker can hardly help thinking that, having gone so far, it would be wisdom to go boldly on, to terminate the uncertainty and the confusion which it breeds, by openly assuming the Protectorate, say for a period of ten years, and to explain to France, with all possible courtesy, the absolute necessity of the step. The chances are ten to one that France, though she might grumble, would do nothing worse ; she has the renewal of war with Germany before her, and she would scarcely care to provide her destined adversary with the greatest maritime power as an ally. But onlookers are not responsible, nor have they all the diplomatic facts before them. It has been often and truly said that one bad general is better than two good ones. The weakest counsels of any Government not absolutely imbecile are sure to be stronger than those of a Babel of wrangling factions, discordant journals, and tumultuous public meetings, with the sinister influence of stockbrokers working secretly below.

It is announced that Mr. Parnell is calling upon the clergy in Ireland to aid him in a plan for promoting what, in the ever-growing vocabulary of political jargon, is called "migrating," that is, transferring the surplus population from the congested districts to other parts of Ireland. "Migration" is intended as an antidote to emigration, which, by carrying off the suffering people to happier homes in other countries would at once thin

the ranks of disaffection and diminish the priests' revenues at home. That unoccupied, or imperfectly occupied, land of good quality, and sufficient in extent for this scheme can be found seems in the last degree improbable. But if it can, no permanent cure will be effected unless the habits of the people can be changed. To prosper, they must learn to rely for the improvement of their condition, not on political mendicancy, but on industry, and they must be provided with a religion which will teach them thrift and providence instead of practically fostering the opposite tendencies. Yet the migration movement is, at all events, significant as an undesigned testimony, on the part of the political revolutionists, to the fact that the real root of the evil is not political but economical. An unthrifty population multiplies with reckless rapidity on a soil which will not yield them a decent subsistence, or supply them with the means of civilized life. This is the source of suffering, compared with which the political grievances are a flea-bite, while the historical wrongs are a mere dirge of the past. If Quebec were an island, and all the French Catholics who now seek bread in the States were pent up in its niggard confines, we should soon have an Ireland here ; and Canadian statesmen, Mr. Blake among the rest, would be accused by French Catholic agitators of "tossing puling infants on the points of bayonets," "torturing venerable priests," and "organizing famines to sweep off the people when they had failed to exterminate with the sword." Give the people whom Mr. Parnell is proposing to "migrate" an Irish Republic to-morrow, with the dynamiters at its head. Next day it would be a political Bedlam, which would very soon be turned into a slaughter house, while two blades of grass would not be made by it to grow where one had grown before.

AGAIN the Irish Dynamiters have been at work, and it has been shown that though naturally enough there were some false alarms there was also real ground for fear. Had the Nelson column fallen across the wide and crowded thoroughfare in front of it, scores of men, women, and children would probably have been killed or wounded. Indiscriminate assassination is, in the most literal sense, fiendish ; it belongs to a different category of crime from murders which are committed under the human, though evil, influence of gain or revenge ; and its appearance shows to a self-complacent civilization what abysses of moral barbarism still lurk beneath the polished surface. The real authors of these crimes are such journalists as the editor of the *Irish World*, and such agitators as Messrs. Parnell, Healy, and Sexton, who daily address to savage natures the incendiary appeals of which the crimes are the natural results. It is highly probable that Mr. Parnell himself thinks dynamite impolitic ; but he draws his supplies from it, and therefore neither he nor any one of his party has ever made a serious effort to put it down. The United States are now the only country, monarchist or republican, in which these outrages on humanity can be publicly organized, and collections can be openly taken up to defray the expense of their commission. Whether the conduct of American journals which support the refusal of redress and answer complaints with mockery is determined by spite against England, or by fear of the Irish vote, the motive is equally deserving of respect. Dynamite has up to this time had a great advantage in its attacks on civilization because the hands of the savage were free while those of civilization were morally tied. But this will not last for ever. Civilization, goaded beyond the possibility of endurance, will cast off restraint ; and we may then see a measure of repression applied to the Irish in Great Britain as rigorous as that which was applied to them when they rose in support of Slavery at New York. At last it will appear that those who advocated a firm attitude and prompt repression of murder and outrage at the beginning were the truest friends of Ireland as well as of humanity.

It seems likely that this community will have in the coming years rather a violent fit of horse-racing. Distinguished patronage, ever dazzling, will apparently be added to the ordinary attractions of the game. If we may judge by the appearance at the Woodbine races the other day, the Canadian Turf has not yet formed for itself such a train of blacklegging, rowdyism, and general blackguardism as that which now graces by its presence every English race-course. Still, the gambling-table was there, and sharpers' tricks were evidently practised. Feeble warnings against running into the patent snare were addressed by sporting papers to gambling idiocy, as though gambling idiocy could listen to the counsels of good sense. If blacklegging does ever get the upper hand in a community like ours, it will get the upper hand with a vengeance ; for we have no social magnates like those who, even in the moral decadence of the British Turf, still rule through the English Jockey Club, and make its voice, in some degree, that of honour. That the leaders of Canadian Society are among the company on the race-course is a belief which