

undue pressure against Clements in order to justify the reprieve. The Crown cannot predetermine the effect of the testimony they propose to adduce; they cannot forecast the nature of the defence, or sway the minds of the jury. The only question to be decided is, whether the case in hand, including Davis's confession, is *prima facie* strong enough to warrant the Grand jury in returning a true bill.

The November elections in the United States have, on the whole, been favourable to the Republicans; but an examination of the returns tends to show that they have achieved no marked success. In the State of New York, for example, the party expected to carry all before them; indeed it was at first supposed that they had done so. It turns out, however, that Bigelow, the Democratic nominee for Secretary of State defeated Frederick Seward, son of Mr. Lincoln's Cabinet Minister, by between fifteen and sixteen thousand, the other State officers being also selected from the same side. It is true that the Republicans have secured a majority of ten in each branch of the Legislature; that Governor Tilden's majority has not been repeated on this occasion. This, however, is a bye-election in which the full party strength has not been brought out, and in addition to that, the Democrats have been divided into two camps, with two "tickets," in New York City, where the party generally obtains its majorities. The anti-Tammany candidates were supported by the Republicans and the result was a triumph over "Boss" Kelly, especially in the re-election of Recorder Hackett and District Attorney Phelps, both of whom, upright and efficient officers though they were, the Tammany chief desired to supplant by creatures of his own. A repetition of the Tweed regime is thus rendered impossible for the time. In Pennsylvania, the Republican Governor has been re-elected, but by a reduced majority. Had it not been for the inflation agitation unwisely raised and defeated in Ohio, it is not unlikely that the Democrats would have carried the day. Governor Gaston, who managed to carry Massachusetts two years ago in the Democratic interest, was defeated by the Republican (Rice), who was only returned by a plurality of five thousand, there being four candidates in the field. In New Jersey, the Republi-

can majority fell from thirteen thousand in 1874 to about two thousand this year, but the election was not one in which parties took a deep interest. It may be remarked that in this little State, the Roman Catholic hierarchy made strenuous exertions to get a slice of the Common School Fund, but completely failed. It is stated that not a tithe of the Roman Catholic vote was polled in favour of the sacerdotal measure. In the other States, Southern and Western, there is no material change in the attitude of parties. As the net result, the death of the inflation and repudiation parties may be considered probable, and the extinction of General Butler as a politician tolerably certain.

The death of Vice-President Wilson does not call for any special remark. As the second officer of the American Executive and a possible President, however, he claims a brief notice. Mr. Wilson was one of those ardent and energetic men who have so often risen to positions of eminence in America, under some disadvantages, social and educational. His early occupation was that of a shoemaker—a craft which has given to the United States more than one eminent name. The story of his life, until he obtained some reputation as an abolitionist and Republican speaker and as the colleague of Charles Sumner, is the ordinary story of a "self-made" man. The dominant party are much indebted to him for the persistent zeal he displayed in its cause, at the time when the slave-holding interest was sustained by at least four-fifths of the American people. The war, which made and unmade military reputations, threw mere civilians somewhat in the background. Mr. Wilson, however, although he never succeeded in obtaining the first place, survived the war-fever, and retained to the last the confidence of his party. As presiding officer in the Senate, he comported himself with dignity and credit. During the "third term" controversy he took strong ground against the re-election of General Grant, and although he disavowed any ambition in that direction his letters were generally regarded as bids for a Presidential nomination. The Vice-Presidency will remain vacant, there being no constitutional provision for an *ad interim* election; but the Chairman elected by the Senate would, in the event of the President's demise, succeed him and fill the chief executive office for the balance of the term.