

of its return to power, by the success or failure of its efforts to keep its members on the straight and narrow path, and to conceal any momentary lapses from it. The organization is responsible; the leaders are responsible, and as their reputations are as important to them as a woman's, they must see to it that no spot is so remarkable as to attract notice. West Elgin was a severe blow to Mr. Ross, counteracted it is true by South Ontario, though the effect of the latter was weakened by the leaderless condition of the Conservative party. There was no one to take the blame. The warding off of dire punishment for the double shuffle was attributable, as the manœuvre itself was attributed, to the cleverness of Sir John Macdonald, which his successors are not expected to be able to imitate, but the Pacific Scandal very seriously injured the party, although, under Sir John's able management, it recovered much more quickly than it would otherwise have done. These are merely instances of occurrences common enough in the United States, but against which, or, at all events, against the exposure of which—ultimately the same thing—the strong influence of party organization with responsible leaders is constantly working in Canada.

Had we the social system of England, the tone of our politics would be as high as it is in the Old Country. Were we to exchange our form of government for that of the States, politics would be as dirty a game here as it is there. We should, I think, thank God that, though we cannot imitate England, even if we would, we can at least avoid, and seem for the present at all events to have escaped, sinking ourselves into the Great American Republic.

