

act was the result of a deliberate conspiracy. But strong political passions had been created by an obstinate faction fight, carried on at Albany, and with that passion Guiteau was carried away as with a whirlwind. This is the true philosophy of the assassination. The fierce combatants at Albany, had no idea that the outburst of vehement excitement in which they indulged would, by the force of contagion, produce the deplorable episode of which the nation has just witnessed the end.

That Vice-President Arthur should have engaged in that discreditable faction-fight against his chief and against the chief of the nation, was cause of profound regret. Against both Arthur and Conkling the tide of public indignation rose high, and not without cause. But unseemly as was the position taken up by Mr. Arthur, it is not necessarily proof of the possession of a bad heart. Arthur erred, and erred grievously, though an excess of virtue: a determination to stand by his friend Conkling. But in doing so, he subordinated public duty to private feeling, the greater to the lesser, and showed that he momentarily forgot the first duty of the statesman. For this error it now becomes him to make the best atonement he can. The nation, judging from outside appearances, would not willingly tolerate Roscoe Conkling as the chief adviser of the new President. To make this change would be to effect, by an act of executive absolutism, a political revolution, without any corresponding change in the feelings and opinions of the nation. And that act of absolutism would have been rendered possible by the assassination of President Garfield. There will be every disposition to give the new President the measure of confidence which his policy, as manifested in cabinet arrangements, will merit.

The abuse of patronage under political Bosses, is not likely to be much longer tolerated. With this corrupting system Conkling, its greatest living representative, will probably go down. The late contest at Albany turned entirely upon the question whether the President or the Bosses should distribute the patronage of the government. Conkling and Arthur were beaten, and it will be well for them, as well as all concerned, if they accept that judgment as final.

The assassination of Garfield shows that no amount of liberty, expressed in the form of government, and no personal qualities, however estimable, can secure the head of a nation against the danger it has revealed. European reactionists delight in reminding us that five Presidents of American Republics have been assassinated, within a few years. The Czar-killers are the lineal political descendants of the Greeks and others by

whom tyrannicide was practised and defended. There have been periods when the doctrine of tyrannicide was clearly set forth and openly defended. The Nihilists, without forgetting this doctrine, are more intent on practicing it than on attempting its justification, by argument. In the American Republics, the assassination of Presidents is sometimes ranked with tyrannicide. But in nearly every case, faction is the real motor. Even Guiteau's act is traceable to that source.

Arthur has now a chance to make his mark on the annals of his country. Let him set his face against the Bosses, and as far as in him lies endeavor to deliver the Civil Service from the dangers to which the Bosses have exposed it. All he has to do is to adhere to the programme he laid down during the Presidential election. But will Mr. Conkling be willing to give up the hope of playing the part of Boss? And if not, will Arthur resolve to take his own course, in spite of Conkling? This, it seems to us, is his true course, whether he have the courage to take it or not.

THE MONTREAL EXHIBITION.

The Quebec Provincial Exhibition, now being held in Montreal, bids fair to satisfy the expectations formed of it. The weather has been most favorable; the building accommodation has been increased and improved; and really creditable and liberal efforts have been put forth to make the affair a success. On Thursday of last week there were 4,000 people admitted, on Friday 10,000, and on several days this week from 25,000 to 30,000. The civic holiday during the Fair, and the various attractions, besides those natural to the city, provided for citizens and visitors by the Citizens' Committee (to the fund for which over \$11,000 has been contributed by public subscription) have attracted many sight-seers from a distance.

The display of animals, as may be expected, is large and important, Montreal being the largest horse market in Canada, and such well-known cattle breeders as those of Compton, Lachine and Rougemont being pretty close at hand. It is the testimony of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province that the live stock and agricultural display exceeds that of the State of Illinois, which His Honor has just attended. In horses the show is said to be up to former years, while in cattle all previous exhibitions are outdone. The array of dairy products is one of the largest, and the Montreal press does not hesitate to claim it as the best ever seen at one time and place in Canada. The

competition of creameries and cheese factories of other provinces, and from across the United States boundary, made this an especially interesting department. It will have been a revelation to many to find the Province of Quebec so well provided as this Fair has proved it to be, with both cheese and butter factories. Too much attention cannot well be given to rendering this class of our products of the high quality demanded for successful export. The culture of the sugar beet, a subject of much importance to our sister province, has received due consideration at the hands of the Exhibition Committee.

Manufactures of iron and steel are very well represented; agricultural implements are in great force, but, as was also noticeable at the late Fair in this city, a falling off is plain in Machinery Hall. The reason for this, already given, must console the loyal Montrealer who reflects that it is the demand for the products of her lathes and forges which prevents many samples being exposed for show. The competition in woollens, as is usual, is keen, and the display such as must surprise not only strangers, ignorant of the extent of our domestic industries, but many Canadians who are not prepared to find so great variety and excellence. In cottons the exhibit made is interesting, showing as it does, that we are extending the list of our manufactures of these goods.

OUR TELEGRAPH SYSTEM.

The task of consolidating the lines of three companies which together possessed 35,000 miles of wire, and served the cities, towns and villages of Canada by means of 2,300 offices, is not a slight one, nor is it to be accomplished without some delay, and we venture to think, dissatisfaction. In a business where the opposition was so keen as that between the Dominion and Montreal companies, there were sure to arise conditions which, while highly pleasing to certain localities, were yet abnormal. To place what were hitherto favored competing points upon a business-like and paying basis, is to attempt a somewhat ticklish process. To select from some thousands of employees, those which the amalgamation must render it necessary to dismiss, is as unpleasant as it is sure to be unpopular with the few. It was to be expected, although the announcing of the appointment was delayed, that Mr. Harvey P. Dwight would be the Managing Director of the Canadian Telegraphic system. No other person in the Dominion had the combination of qualities which marks out that gentleman for the place. For over thirty years Mr. Dwight has been