

the necessity of conventions for the election of candidates has kept a party alive after it has ceased to represent any principles whatever. The modern American party without a principle is like a centipede without a head, which continues to march until destroyed by some external force"(x). And on this point it is worth noting that Canadians probably owe the fact that they are not dominated by the political machine to anything like the same extent as their neighbours very largely to this that their chief magistrate being appointed by the Crown, they escape the necessity of periodical presidential elections.

But it may be said, if the evils which have developed themselves in the Constitution of the United States are so great, the Constitution will doubtless be amended. The requirements of Art. 5 of the Constitution, however, under which alone any amendment can be made, are such that it is apparent, as Mr. Woodrow Wilson says, that "no impulse short of the impulse of self-preservation, no force less than the force of revolution, can nowadays be expected to move the cumbrous machinery of formal amendment of the Constitution of the United States"(y). And so long as a people, of energetic political talents and a keen instinct for progressive development, "adhere to the forms of a written Constitution, so long as the machinery of Government supplied by it is the only machinery which the legal and moral sense of such a people permits it to use, its political development must be in many directions narrowly restricted because of an insuperable lack of open or adequate channels"(z). And as to responsible government, I may mention that in one of his Essays on Government, Mr. Lowell shews conclusively that a responsible ministry cannot be engrafted into American institutions without entirely changing their nature and destroying their most treasured features.

"The fact is," wrote Lord Elgin, the Governor-General of Canada, to Lord Grey in 1850, "the American system is our old

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(x) Government and Parties in Continental Europe, Vol. 2, pp. 320-1.

(y) Congressional Government, p. 242.

(z) Ibid., p. 312.