

Progressists, with the object of forming a new party which will not be trammelled in any way by conservatism. Politically, matters are not improving. There is too much excitement; too many leaders striving for power, and willing to keep things as they are, or make them worse, if so be, that they may have a better chance for the position they covet. It is satisfactory to know that General Prim is rigid in enforcing the law that no soldier shall, in any way, belong to any political association, or take an active part in political affairs.

In England, the Queen's health is still a matter of great concern. She has been ill, and is not much improved. There is great sympathy felt for her, as it is understood that she suffers much. It is doubtful if she will ever be able to take the part in the affairs of State which she has done for many years; one thing is sure, that as long as she lives she will be a blessing to the nation over which she reigns.

Some time ago the Bi-hop of Winchester and the Archbishop of York appeared on Sabbath in one of the Parish Churches in the North of Scotland, and conducted service according to the usage and practice of Presbyterianism. Their doing so has given great offence to the High Church party in England. Editorials and public letters have been written, in this way ventilating public and private opinion on the subject; one thing is sure, that while we as Presbyterians have charity to allow Episcopalian clergymen into our pulpits, they will not allow us occupy theirs.

In the United States there has been great excitement over discovered frauds on public funds. Cries of being robbed have come from New York, Pennsylvania, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Louisiana, Kansas and Nebraska. At first we were inclined to suppose that the accounts given were greatly exaggerated. Investigation, however, has rather confirmed them. The impression is becoming stronger that these States have been plundered to an enormous extent. The management of Civil affairs would seem to have fallen into the hands of rich corporations composed of the most unscrupulous and cunning knaves in their respective States. Among all these there have been no frauds equal to that of the "Tammany Ring" in New York. This ring is composed of very able men. They hold the highest and most responsible offices in the city, and taking advantage of this position and influence, have stolen millions from the City Treasury for their own personal aggrandizement. There is, we believe, very little of such corruption in Europe. In France, Spain and Italy, there may be cases occasionally when public funds are taken

for private interests. In Britain and Prussia, such a thing is almost unknown. In these countries, men hold public offices for honour, and not for the purpose of fraud and speculation. It is sad to find so much corruption among public men in the Republic of the United States. It does not bid well for her future history to find in New York, the greatest City in the Union, her ablest and wealthiest men—the men who control, to a large extent, the State affairs of the Republic, turning out to be public swindlers and secret robbers. The country is great, but it must be remembered that its population is made up largely of the lowest and worst classes of society from almost every civilized nation in the world. From these reports which have been raised, and which have, to a certain extent, been confirmed, it is to be feared that they are able to control public affairs to such an extent that the better portion of society will be plundered and robbed, and that they will not be aware of it till it is too late, when nothing can be done but hold public meetings and denounce those who have in this way enriched themselves. Let us, not only in our small city corporations, but in the offices in connection with the Dominion government, hope to have, in the highest positions of trust, men of good character—men who have public confidence, and to whom the general interests of the country is dearer than private gain.

There have been great fires in the Western States, with great loss of property and life. Greatest among these was the fire in Chicago. This city was one of the finest in America, and had a growth unequalled, I believe, in the history of the world. For beautiful streets, splendid buildings, shaded parks and avenues, it is said not to have been surpassed by any of her rival cities in the West. In one account which I have seen of this city, it is stated, "that there must have been at least a couple of square miles compactly covered by noble and attractive structures of marble, iron, and light-colored free-stone. These buildings were four or five stories high, very ornate in style, but, at the same time, very substantial looking. This part of Chicago was wholly given up to business and commerce. Beyond this locality, stretching for miles in three directions, were the commoner parts of the city, consisting of streets lined with brick or wooden houses, two or three stories high." This city had a population of three hundred thousand. It was on the night of the 7th ult. that the fire originated. On the following evening it broke out with renewed vigour, and continued for three days uncontrolled. During this time one-third of the whole city