

“ My soul aches

To know, when two authorities are up,
Neither supreme, how soon confusion
May enter 'twixt the gap of both, and take
The one by the other.”

There are now eighty thousand minor offices filled by party patronage in the United States. While the principle, that to political victors belong political spoils, governs our politics, eighty thousand men will be turned out of office, and eighty thousand put in, with every change of the national administration. You know that Washington turned out but eight men, Adams only four, Jefferson thirty-nine, but not one of them for political reasons, Madison nine, Munroe five, and the younger Adams only two, but Jackson six hundred and ninety. Our population, as a whole, is doubling every thirty years. Soon we shall have two hundred thousand or three hundred thousand to be turned out or put in whenever a President is elected. *Will the republic bear that strain?* You will not, you say, vote for Washington's and Jefferson's rule,— to appoint the able, promote the worthy, and never remove the worthy for merely partisan reasons. You fear that there might grow up, under such a practice, an aristocracy of office-holders. It does not seem to occur to the astute opponents of civil-service reform that such an aristocracy, as it would not be turned out or put in by party patronage, and not be changed with the administrations, would serve both political parties, and so be no aristocracy at all.

Let the nation adhere for a century longer to