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**NATIONAL REPUBLICAN TICKET.**  
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**BENJAMIN HARRISON,**  
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OF NEW YORK.  
FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS,  
**ROBERT M'LEAN, WM. KAPUS**  
**C. W. FULTON.**

**WHAT IS ELECTRICITY?**

Modern art and science gives universal use to what is termed electricity, and yet we are totally unable to positively say what electricity is. At the close of an able address at Bath, England, Mr. W. H. Preece, after summarizing all the great achievements in the electrical domain, said: "It seems incredible that, having utilized this great power of nature to such a wide and general extent, we should be still in a state of mental fog as to the answer to be given to the simple question, What is electricity? The engineer and the physicist are completely at variance on this point. The engineer regards electricity, like heat, light, and sound, as a definite form of energy, something that he can generate and destroy, something that he can play with and utilize, something that he can measure and apply. The physicist—at least some physicists, for it is difficult to find any two physicists that completely agree with each other—regard electricity as a peculiar form of matter permeating all space as well as all substances, together with the luminiferous ether which it permeates like a jelly or a sponge. Conductors, according to this theory, are holes or pipes in this jelly, and electrical generators are pumps that transfer this hypothetical matter from one place to another. Other physicists, following Edlund, regard the ether and electricity as identical, and some, the disciples of Helmholtz, consider it as an integral constituent of nature, each molecule of matter having its own definite charge, which determines its attraction and its repulsion. All attempts to revive the Franklinian, or material, theory of electricity have, however, to be so loaded with assumptions and so weighted with contradictions that they completely fail to remove electricity from the region of the mysterious. It is already extremely difficult to conceive the existence of the ether itself as an infinitely thin, highly elastic medium filling all space, employed only as the vehicle of those undulatory motions that give us light and radiant heat. The material theory of electricity requires us to add to this another incomprehensible medium embedded or entangled in this ether, which is not only a medium for

motion, but which is itself moved. The practical man, with his eye and his mind trained by the stern realities of daily experience, on a scale vast compared with that of the little world of the laboratory, revolts from such wild hypotheses, such unnecessary and inconceivable conceptions, such a travesty of the beautiful simplicity of nature. He has a clear conception of electricity as something which has a distinct objective existence, which he can manufacture and sell, and something which the unphilosophic and ordinary member of society, can buy and use. The physicist asserts dogmatically: 'Electricity may possibly be a form of matter—it is not a form of energy.' The engineer says distinctly: 'Electricity is a form of energy—it is not a form of matter; it obeys the two great developments of the present generation—the mechanical theory of heat and the doctrine of conservation of energy.' And still the discussion and difference of opinion goes on without any solution to the question.

The removal of Capt. N. S. Pierce, C. P. Holloway, G. N. Fawcett and W. W. Wetzeler from their places as postal railway clerks, simply because they were republicans and G. A. R. men, which fact was brought to light in Portland last Saturday, shows the hollow mockery of the claims of civil service reform made by Mr. Cleveland's administration, and also the fact that offensive partisanship means simply and only being a republican. It also shows exactly the feeling of the administration for old soldiers, and the hypocrisy of the claims that the welfare of soldiers was looked after in the least by the present administration. Each one of the removed postal clerks were old soldiers and efficient clerks.

MAJ. POWELL, of the United States engineer corps, favors the plan of building immense reservoirs in the mountain regions of the head waters of the large streams to store the surplus waters, prevent the damaging annual overflow and save the water for the dry season. It is said that a portion of the \$100,000 appropriated by the government to experiment upon the matter will be expended at El Paso, New Mexico, in constructing an immense dam on the head waters of the Rio Grande.

The democratic press have been claiming that Illinois was going Democratic at the approaching election. The facts of the case are that a thorough and systematic canvass has been made in that state which has developed the fact that the state is republican by an increased plurality over four years ago, and will have 30,000 to 35,000 majority for Harrison.

Facts and theories are often totally at variance. The democratic politicians are very anxiously theorizing that Oregon farmers are unmercifully taxed because there is a tariff on lumber, while the facts of the case are that Oregon farmers never paid a cent of tax in that direction for they do not use imported lumber; but they are directly interested in the development of the home lumber interest, and in keeping the money paid for lumber at home.

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