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The Coming Presidential Election.

BY WM. LLOYD GARRISON.

The Democratic party is in a state of utter bewilderment as to its possibilities with reference to the coming Presidential election, whether in the matter of political success or mischievous plotting to divide the Republican ranks. Its Southern wing is an anti-national and seditious in spirit as ever, though ready to cooperate with the Northern wing in any device that may possibly effect the overthrow of a hated loyal administration. The main point of union between them is, at all events, to prevent the re-nomination of President Grant; but if that cannot be done, then to defeat his election if possible by inducing certain disaffected Republicans to bring into the field against him, Mr. Chase, Mr. Trumbull, Mr. Sumner, or some other prominent member of the dominant party, by the reading assunder of which there is the only chance of success. This is high praise for the President that he has administered the affairs of the country as to make himself more distasteful to the rebel and negro-hating elements, North and South, than any Republican yet artfully suggested as a rival candidate. This fact is immensely in his favor, and it is of far-reaching significance. Whatever may have been his mistakes or short-comings, the recent State elections prove that his general policy has been in accordance with the views of an overwhelming popular majority; and so acceptable, indeed, as to make it questionable with leading Democrats, whether it will not be extreme for the Democratic party to attempt any distinct organized resistance at the next Presidential campaign. Of the twenty-two States that have made their annual trial of political strength, fifteen are Republican and seven Democratic; the former casting one hundred and seventy-one electoral votes, the latter fifty-one, including New Hampshire and New Jersey, which in all probability will change sides next year, thus reducing the number to thir-

ty-nine. No such cheering results could have been obtained, if our national affair had not been satisfactorily managed, as a whole; and it probably means that the people are resolved to extend to President Grant a second term in office. For any Republicans, therefore, to conspire against him cannot bring victory to their standard, and can only end in subserving the factious purposes of that party whose triumph is to be dreaded by every friend of freedom and humanity. "Take any shape but that."

It is idle to say that there are scores of men in the Republican ranks who are better fitted for the Presidency than the present incumbent. No doubt there are hundreds who place this modest estimate upon themselves. But if anyone asserts that there is a single other who, put in nomination instead of Grant, would poll as large a popular vote, and so insure the continued ascendancy of Republican rule, let him marshal and present his facts, if he can sustain his declaration. Peradventure, in this or that locality, some one might obtain even a larger support; but surveying the whole country, and reckoning up the sum total of public sentiment, what other man, however gifted or meritorious, can reasonably hope to receive so large a portion of the suffrages of the American people as President Grant?

The newspapers of the country are the most reliable exponents of public sentiment. Of course, all those of a Democratic stripe are bitterly opposed to Grant's re-election. Of the great multitude of Republican journals, can half a dozen be named that are openly arrayed against him, or in favor of trying another candidate? It is true that the New York Tribune is unconcerned to his being ran, and that paper has a very extensive circulation; but so long as its editor is more than willing to be the President's successor, his opinions on this subject are liable to the suspicion of personal bias.

I write as a disinterested looker-on—not as a partizan of the administration; and far be it from me to say that it has committed no errors, nor laid itself open to rebuke in regard to some appointments, and to grave criticism respecting some of its measures. Indeed, I have more than once taken occasion to testify strongly against the extraordinary course President Grant has pursued touching the annexation of San Domingo, and, as I think, the unwarrantable use he has made of the navy to consummate his scheme. Doubtless, he deems himself fully justified in what he has done; doubtless, he considers the acquisition to be desired on national grounds. But, certainly, the general feeling is that nothing could be more ill-judged or more uncalculated for; so clearly is this perceived by the President himself that in exact accordance with the avowed made in his inaugural message, he shows his readiness to comply with the will of the people, in any case. Accordingly, in his recent annual message to Congress there is not a line nor a syllable in reference to his favorite project.

On the whole, as pertaining to the best interests of the country, and especially to the preservation of peace at home and abroad, I think it may be fairly claimed that no administration has excelled his own since the days of Washington. Toward our hunted and perishing Indian tribes how humane and praiseworthy is the policy he is endeavoring to enforce! It will ever redound to his credit, though it has made him many enemies, particularly among those who are anxious to exterminate the race for malignant and selfish ends. But it has also made him many friends whose approval any man may covet.

In a peaceful and equitable adjustment of the grave difficulties existing between England and the United States, by the approval of a Commission of International Arbitration, what civilian in the Presidential office could have shown more interest or acted with more alacrity? As charity covereth a multitude of sins, so this honorable method of avoiding a bloody, devastating and fruitless war, and setting an example to be imitated by all the nations of the earth, will constitute the crowning glory of his administration—as the Emancipation Act did that of Abraham Lincoln—covering many defects and blunders. It is an event to call forth anew the song of the angels as sung at the advent of the Prince of Peace. And how easily it might have been baffled on his part!—as assuredly it would have been, had an ambitious military spirit inflamed him to measure weapons with a powerful foe. Aside from the question of San Domingo, no one in the high position he occupies has ever shown less desire for military display, less indifference to military glory, or a more

earnest desire to avoid as far as practicable, all occasion for bloody quarrel, than President Grant. His wishes and aims have been eminently peaceful throughout; and where force has been resorted to, it has been for protection and defense, as in case of the red men of the West, and the freedmen of the South.

It may suit the taste of the degenerate grandson of the revered John Quincy Adams to proclaim that he regards the present Administration "as a national calamity, because it is mean in character, sordid in tone, and ignorant corrupt and arbitrary; because it is doing more to permanently disunite the States than the government of Jefferson ever did; and because its chief conceives that there is no means for a free government by a military force." It may gratify his personal self-importance oracularly to predict that "four years more of such education, family patronage and martial law will so blind the keen sensibilities of popular liberty that our inalienable rights will remain a fixture." It may please him to pander to the worst passions of an ignorant rabble, to exclaim: "Nothing, then, remains but a civil war or submission to the usurper; and it is difficult to decide which alternative will inflict the more irreparable injury upon the habits of free governments." But there are few specimens of arrogant demagogism, and can disgrace only him who indulges in such utterances. The popular verdict has already been registered at the polls in regard to all such imputations, and it is one of honorable acquittal, abiding consequences, and high commendation.

Whatever private griefs or public regrets Mr. Trumbull, or Mr. Sumner, or any other Republican Senator may have respecting certain features of the Presidential policy—and they are to be respected for any honest and manly criticism they may make respecting it—it is not really conceivable that either of these will allow himself to be made a catspaw in furtherance of the machinations of the wily leaders of a party rendered desperate by the political signs of the times. To learn from the enemy is true wisdom; what they counsel is the true wisdom; what they counsel to possess must not be conceded.

The latest device is to insist only upon one term in the Presidential office, in order to put a stop to political corruption and official bribery! This has a virtuous aspect; but it means nothing more than turning out Grant, leaving his successful rival and the party electing him to find plenty of reasons hereafter why a second term is eminently desirable. A disinterested proposition to amend the Constitution of the United States, so as to allow no one to occupy the Presidential chair more than four years, will deserve grave consideration; but it is to be questioned whether the American people will ever so tie their hands and stultify their judgments as to make it unconstitutional for them to choose the one they deem the best to fill the highest office in their gift. Is it not a reflection alike upon their patriotism to say that they may not be trusted to elect as often as they will, whosoever they will to act as their Chief Magistrate? If he abuses his trust, or proves himself unqualified for the station, the remedy is in their hands. This freedom they have enjoyed and exercised—satisfactory to themselves at least, from the formation of the Federal Government till now, and it is hardly to be presumed that they will consent to any abridgment of it. Unquestionably they will easily detect the present "one term" outcry as a mere dodge to meet a faction exigency.

An ingenious Georgian has invented a patent "rail-splitter," by which an immense pine log can be riven in a very brief time. A small iron cylinder, or tube, about a half inch in diameter and six inches in length, in two equal segments fitting closely together, is inserted into an office made with a common auger in the center of the fallen log. This is filled with powder by means of a slender tube surmounted with a funnel, the charge amounting to an ordinary musket load. A fuse is then attached and fired, and the toughest log is split like an acorn. The Georgians regard it as a grand labor-saving machine in these days when the laboring classes of the South have their time almost wholly engrossed by politics.

Two late disbursing officers at Washington, have just been sentenced for defalcations: Kendig, of the Patent Office, to a fine of \$14,000 and two years imprisonment; Marden, of the Treasurer's office, to \$22,000 fine and a years imprisonment. The fine in each case is the amount embezzled.

The Dutchman's Remedy.

The following good story is taken from the *Farmer* of the 23 inst.

"The family of a good, honest Dutchman out west having frequent occasion to employ the services of a neighboring physician, the head of the family became quite familiar with the form of writing prescriptions. The doctor was one of those mixtures of the farmer, stock-raiser and doctor, often preaching on Sunday, that we frequently find in the remote rural districts of the Western States; but who paid but little attention to his stock, which told against his pecuniary interests, while the herds of the Dutchman being well fed and well housed was in very fine condition. The doctor was not slow to observe the difference, and suggested to the farmer that he thought something was the matter with his cattle, and requested him to ride over and tell him what to do for them. The farmer named a day when he would make the visit, and when the day came he was promptly on hand. It so happened that the doctor was away. The Dutchman, however, examined the stock very carefully, and then looked in all directions for suitable shelter and feed without finding either. He came to the conclusion, that hunger and cold, with lack of care, were the only diseases the cattle were suffering from, and he entered the office of the doctor and wrote the following prescription—

"Take a good shelterum, q. s.
Chopped feedum, q. s.
Pure waterum, q. s.
Apply Chopped feedum in form of poultice to various members of stomach and renew twice a day."
This prescription worked wonders. It greatly pleased the kind hearted doctor, restored the stock to good condition, and paid a large share of the bill which had been incurred in doctoring the equally good-natured and witty Dutchman's family."

A THOUSAND DOLLARS SAVED.—It was observed of a certain covetous man, that he never invited any one to dine with him.

"I'll lay a wager," said a wag, "I get an invitation from him."
The wager was accepted, and the wag went the next day to the rich man's house, about the time he was to dine and told the servant he must speak to his master immediately, for he could save him a thousand dollars.

"Sir," said the servant to his master, "here is a man in a great hurry to speak to you. He says he can save you a thousand dollars."
"Out come the master."
"What is that, sir? You can save me a thousand dollars?"
"Yes, sir, I can; but I see you are at dinner. I will go away and call again."

"O, pray, sir, come in and take dinner with me."
"I shall be troublesome."
"Not at all!"

The invitation was accepted. As soon as dinner was over, and the family had retired—"Well," said the man of the house, "now to your business. Pray let me know how I am to save a thousand dollars."

"Well, I hear you have a daughter to dispose of in marriage?"
"I have, sir."
"And you intend to part on her with ten thousand dollars?"
"I do, sir."
"Why, then, let me have her, and I will take her with nine thousand."
Sequel—Dives rises in a passion—and—the wag retired as hastily as decorum would permit.

A GREAT INVENTION.—Immediately after the declaration of war against Prussia proposals were made to the Emperor Napoleon, by an inventor, for "annihilating" the Prussians on moderate terms. An immense net of fine wire, "capable of enveloping an entire army corps," with solid cannon balls attached to the corners to keep it steady, was to have been fired at the foe from a monster mortar provided for that purpose. The wire-net would according to the intentions of the inventor, have fallen on the body of troops marked out for destruction or capture; when, seeing the enemy entangled in its meshes, the French would have nothing to do but march up to them and disarm them, or in case of resistance put them to death. The rejection of this new military machine was attributed by the inventor to "treachery" on the part of the chiefs who declined to employ it.

A schoolboy has written a composition on the horse, in which he says it is an animal having four legs, "one at each corner."

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