

EDITORIAL NOTES.

It has been asserted that every odious epithet has been applied to Col. Ingersoll except that of being a fool. But now he has to bear up, as well as his delicate constitution will admit, under the latter imputation. The Rev. J. B. Brady, an eminent Boston divine, recently took Ingersoll for a text. Hear him:

"Ingersoll is a brilliant but heartless fool. Esthetic in taste, ornate in rhetoric, eloquent in speech, but yet a fool."

Wonder what kind of an audience he preached to. The colonel can now claim one ahead of the late Ben. Butler. The latter was heard to remark that he had "been called liar, thief, butcher, murderer, etc, etc, etc, but did n't remember of ever having been called a d—d fool."

CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW, THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE U- NITED STATES.

Chauncey Depew has a head for business. None will deny that. He has evidently got an eye on the presidential chair. Furthermore he knows just what road to take to get there—the one that leads by the Catholic church. The Catholic power in America is gaining every day. The Catholic vote is virtually wielded by one man—the Pope. The wily Chauncey has studied the situation and knows the proper move to make. He hobnobs with Cardinal Gibbons and Archbishop Corrigan, the two most influential Catholic dignitaries in the United States, adroitly gives them the impressions that he is the biggest Injun in America and that he has a decided leaning towards the Catholic faith. He secures from these holy men letters of introduction to the Pope. These letters hint that the bearer should be the next president. Of course His Catholic Highness is mightily tickled at having this direct opportunity to obtain a more firm grip on our government and loses no time in giving the "eminent American," the

blessed privilege and pleasure of meekly dropping on his knees and kissing the corns off the Pope's holy toe.

Weaver is n't in it. Harrison had better keep on giving law lectures for a living; Pennoyer will have to fall back on his sawmill and every other would be **candidate** for the presidency might as well give up the race. Chauncey is ahead.

THE INITIATIVE AND REFEREN- DUM.

In our humble opinion the adoption of the "direct legislation" mode of making laws is the one thing needful to do.

So long as the present opportunities for corruption exist there can be little hope of having an honest state government. The temptations is too great. One must have unbounded faith in a fellow mortal—or even in himself—to believe that he could successfully resist the manifold temptation of every kind and from every source that are likely to be brought to bear upon him when sent as an agent or representative, with full powers to make laws for the people. No doubt there are some that can do this, but, judging from the comic-opera farces that take place at our state capital once in two years under the name of making laws, and the conduct of many, if not most, of our public officials, we are led to believe that most men are not built that way. The "spirit is willing but the flesh is weak." Better remove the temptation. The Initiative and Referendum would, in a great measure, accomplish this object. In Switzerland it is a success and constantly growing in favor. If it succeeds there under all the difficulties presented by the fact that several different languages are spoken there is no reason why it should not succeed in any state in the Union. It need not be complicated, cumbersome nor expensive.

Under its operation the people will have ample opportunity to inform themselves regarding the nature of every bill that comes before them. They can vote intelligently and for their own interests.

There will be no lobbying through laws that will benefit the few as against the