

THE PRESIDENTIAL CHANGES.

DOUBTFUL STATES BOTHERING POLITICAL PROPHETS.

Various Combinations by Which Either Cleveland or Harrison May Win. The Odds, However, in Favor of the Democrat.

The Presidential campaign enters upon its closing stage with a larger number of "doubtful" States to bother the political prophets than they have had in similar contests for many years.

Table with columns for State and Votes. Includes entries for Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, etc.

SURELY REPUBLICAN.

Table with columns for State and Votes. Includes entries for California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, etc.

DOUBTFUL.

Table with columns for State and Votes. Includes entries for Connecticut, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Montana, Nevada, etc.

TO elect their candidates we find the following:

Table with columns for State and Votes. Includes entries for Sure Democratic States, New York, Indiana or Massachusetts, etc.

All these combinations are made on a basis of only four Democratic electoral votes in Michigan, the number which the Republicans concede.

Table with columns for State and Votes. Includes entries for Sure Republican States, New York, Massachusetts or Indiana, Wisconsin, etc.

It will be observed that victory for either party will be comparatively easy with the thirty-six votes of New York, and more or less difficult with those votes.

A Bedside Prayer.

These beautiful lines were found among the papers of one whose years were spent in loving devotion to his Master's cause.

WILL IT FILL THE BILL? A Short Prohibition Bill Proposed by Representative Bleese.

During the recent campaign the county candidates for legislative honors discussed somewhat the question of prohibition, but all were pledged to abide the result of the prohibition box.

A large majority of the votes cast in this separate box were for prohibition. The question will come up before the next Legislature.

The action of the Legislature on this question will be watched with interest. Hon. Cole L. Bleese has prepared a bill which he says he will introduce at the beginning of the session.

Why not raise a large wheat crop in this section next year? The Spartan gives some good advice in the following paragraph:

Raise Wheat.

Let every farmer, tenants included, endeavor to raise wheat enough for home use. There is no reason why it should not be done.

SCOTT'S HEROINE.

FACTS ABOUT THE ORIGINAL OF THE NOVELIST'S REBECCA.

She was a Resident of Philadelphia and Was the Dearest Friend of Washington Irving's Only Love—How Sir Walter Scott Held Her.

Of all the women Sir Walter Scott has drawn Rebecca and Rowena are the best known and best beloved. The tender strength of the one, the tender sweetness of the other, the romantic story through which they move and the perfection of the contrast between them—

Scott and Irving met for the first time in 1817, when Irving was in London. He was introduced to Irving by the Rev. Mr. Campbell.

Scott composed this story during moments of intense physical pain, yet at times he became so interested in the character of Rebecca, for he even adopted her name, that he rose from his couch and walked up and down the room while he dictated the story to his amanuensis.

For Girls Who Don't Enjoy Reading the Bible.

Bishop Brooks' Sermons. Bishop Phillips Brooks devotes hardly more time to the composition of his sermons than did the late Henry Ward Beecher.

THE TOAD AND ITS JEWEL.

Interesting Superstitions About a Very Harmless Little Animal.

Many remarkable legends and folkloric stories cluster around the natural history of the common garden toad. All early writers on the characteristic habits of this harmless little creature make it a point to never allude to it without interjecting a few cautionary notes on its "extremely venomous bite," or the awful effects of "inhaling the direful creature's breath."

The belief in the "toadstone" was not only current in England and the other countries of Great Britain, but was known to learned men as one of the popular fallacies of all Europe.

The Jaques de Mahan collection of oddities at Rouen has a tray containing a dozen or fifteen of these so-called "toadstones." But, as hinted above, the British belief was that the "toadstone" was to be found only in the head of the warty little animal.

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Why the Lecture Was a Failure.

One winter Nye was at Jefferson City, and as the legislature was in session a number of newspaper men of the state were there.

PRETTY AND SHE KNEW IT.

A Figure in a Shop Window Made the Old Man Think of Other Days.

"Well, I'm gosh darned, Mr. Andy, do you jest come along, Jesse, an you been in the city forty years?"

"Jesse, Jesse, do come away," she urged. "Why, everybody's a-sighting of ye."

"All right, Mr. Andy, all right," said the old man meekly and with a sigh, as he dragged his feet heavily.

The greatest day's run of an ocean steamship was about 515 miles. The steamer in question was 563 feet long and had previously been known to make 508 miles per day for three days in succession.

As Author's Feelings.

The author of "The Turkish Spy" tells us he would rather meet a lion face to face than feel a spider crawling over him in the dark.

The Picture Illusion.

A correspondent writes: "Almost every careful observer of pictures must have noticed how the eyes of portraits appear to follow one all over the room. Can you account for this?"

The illusion referred to has been explained thus: Suppose a portrait with its face and its eyes directed straight in front, so as to look at the spectator.

In portraits the apparent motion of the head is generally rendered indistinct by the canvas being imperfectly stretched, as the slightest concavity or convexity slightly deforms the face when the obliquity is considerable.

The historian Xenophon relates that when Cyrus, the founder of the Persian empire, had taken captive a young prince of Armenia, together with his beautiful and blooming wife, of whom he was remarkably fond, they were brought before the tribunal of Cyrus to receive their sentence.

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How One Painter Was Starred.

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Smartness and Dullness.

Carlyle's "Reminiscences" are smart, though the great gaps in them almost overshadow their smartness.

Mr. Carlyle's letters are smart, very smart, though extremely fascinating in their way—indeed, we do not wonder, when we notice the predominating though subtle egotism in both Carlyle and his wife, that there was not a little of jarring between natures so much alike in the one characteristic which needs supplementing and abhors rivalry.

Mr. Disraeli was smart, and it is his youth oppressively smart. When he took Gibraltar by storm by changing his look at the evening gun, he was smartness in excess; but if we were compelled to choose between smartness in excess and Sunday school teacherism in excess, we are disposed to think that of the two great evils we should choose the latter.

Humorous, if a trifle unkind, was the orator, who, when describing the inordinate love of praise which characterized an opponent, said: "He is so fond of being praised that I don't believe he would be content to give up the ghost if it were but to look up and read the stonemason's puff on his tombstone."

Corsecan bandits have friends in every village, who supply them with what they want, and those who have only taken a life or two out of revenge are not regarded as criminals.

The Meanest Man on Record.

There is a business man over at Lagrange who is meaner than the man who crossed his bees with lightning bugs so they would work at night.