

should be discriminated from pauper labor.

It seemed to me an appeal to our people to consider the question of readjusting our legislation upon absolutely fair non-partisan lines might find some effective response. Many partisans have had occasion to say that laws and election methods designed to give unfair advantages to the party making them would sometime be used to perpetuate in power a faction or party against the will of the people.

Of this we seem to have an illustration in the recent state election in Alabama. There was no Republican ticket in the field. The contest was between white Democrats. The Kolb party say they were refused the representation guaranteed by law upon the election boards and when the courts by mandamus attempted to right this wrong an appeal that could not be heard until after the election made it ineffectual. Ballot-boxes were thrown out for alleged irregularities or destroyed and it is asserted on behalf of at least of the white voters of Alabama, that the officers to whom certificates have been given were not honestly elected. There is no security for personal or political rights. The power of States over the question of qualification of electors is simply to protect them against the dangers of an ignorant or depraved suffrage. We demand that every man found to be qualified under law shall be protected.

The considerate attention of the farmers of the whole country is invited to the work done through the State and agricultural departments in

THE INTEREST OF AGRICULTURE.

Our pork products were for ten years not only excluded by the great continental nations of Europe but their value discredited by the reasons given for this exclusion. All previous efforts to secure the removal of these restrictions failed, but the wise legislation of the Fifty-first Congress, providing for the inspection and official certification of our meats and giving the President power to forbid the introduction into this country of selected products of such countries as shall continue to refuse our inspected meat, enabled us to open all the markets of Europe to our products. The result has been not only to sustain prices by providing a new market for our supplies, but to add fifty cents per 100 pounds to the market value of inspected meats. Under the reciprocity agreement special favors were secured for agricultural products and our exports of such products have been greatly increased with sure prospect of further and rapid increase. The agricultural department has maintained in Europe an agent whose special duty is to introduce the various preparations of corn as articles of food, and the work has been very successful. The department also sent skilled veterinarians to Liverpool to examine in connection with British veterinarians, live cattle from the United States landed at that port; and the result in connection with sanitary methods adopted at home, has been that we hear no more about cattle being infected with pneumonia. A judicious system of quarantine lines prevented infection of northern cattle with Texas fever.

THE GENERAL CONDITION of our country is one of great pros-

perity. The Blessing of God has rested upon our fields and upon our people. The annual average of our foreign commerce has increased more than \$4,000,000 over the average of the preceding ten years and more than \$40,000,000 over 1890. Last year, unaffected by the new tariff, our exports in 1892 exceeded those of 1890 by more than \$170,000,000 and the annual average for ten years by \$265,000,000. Our exports of breadstuffs increased over those of 1890 more than \$144,000,000; of provisions, \$4,000,000 and of manufactures over \$8,000,000. Of merchandise the balance of trade in our favor in 1892 is \$201,944,842. No other nation can match the commercial progress which those figures disclose. Our compassion may well go out to those whose party necessities and habits compel them to declare our people oppressed and our trade restricted by protective tariff.

It is not possible for me to allude in the briefest way to many of the topics presented. The resolutions adopted by the convention upon those that have not been discussed before publicly, they have expressed my views. A change in the personnel of the national administration is comparatively of little moment, if those exercising public functions are able, honest, diligent and faithful. Others possessing all these qualities may be found to take their places, but changes in laws, in administrative policies, are of great moment. When public affairs have been given direction and business adjusted itself to those lines, any sudden change involves stoppage and new business adjustments. The Democratic party offers a programme of demolition of the protective policy, to which all business, even that of importer, is now adjusted. Reciprocity policy, new merchant marine, all demolished—not gradually taken down, but blown up. To this programme of destruction it has added one constructive feature—the re-establishment of State banks. The policy of the Republican party on the other hand desired a policy, safe, progressive, and development of new features, new markets and new ships. It will subject business to no perilous change, but offers attractive opportunities for expansion upon party lines. Very respectfully yours,

BENJAMIN HARRISON.

JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER.

ONE by one drop off, the famed American sons of song. Hawthorn and Bryant, Emerson and Longfellow, Lowell and Whitman are gone, and the latest to follow in the wake of the illustrious departed is John Greenleaf Whittier, at the ripe old age of 85. Peacefully he passed away at 4:30 o'clock yesterday morning at the home of Dr. Cartland in Hampton Falls, N. H., a place about six miles from Amesbury.

Mr. Whittier was born in 1807 at the little hamlet of Haverhill in Massachusetts. He came of an honest Quaker family. During the years of his boyhood he worked on his father's farm. He was frail and delicate, so much so that a good Quaker doctor said to him one day, "Greenleaf, thee must take care of thy health." And his companions

and kinsfolk predicted confidently that he would never pass the forties. But he agreeably disappointed them and entered well into the eighties. At an early age he manifested a disposition to write verses. While hoeing in the fields he strung together a little poem, and afterwards placed it on a vagrant scrap of paper. His sister found it, took it to Mr. Garrison's paper, and it was published. That gentleman soon discovered the author, and that the little poem had some merit in it, and encouraged him to study.

Whittier while a boy learned the trade of shoemaking, and by this earned money sufficient to maintain him for six months at Haverhill academy. He then taught school for a season or two. He was an industrious student and writer, but his labors brought him no rich rewards for a long time. He was closely identified with the abolition movement of the antebellum period, both as a writer and an editor. But it appears that he did not wholly endorse the war at first, and at its close was in favor of making the most liberal terms possible with the South.

Among his best known fugitive pieces is "Floyd Ireson." He wrote quite a number of poems of local interest in New England, and it was from these in connection with the simplicity, honesty, integrity and innocence of his life that he gained his popularity. Of course his earlier efforts were sneered at by a great many, and while some heavy critics pronounced them doggerel, others equally prominent sustained them as gems of innate genius.

The work which first brought him fair remuneration was his "Snow-bound." For this the publishers paid him 25 cents royalty on every copy sold. From it several thousand dollars were realized. Worth in our day is measured mainly by money, and when it became known that Whittier made a small fortune by his verses he became the fashion. After this he received high prices for his poems, and often refused to accept the sums offered on the ground that his efforts were not worth the money. He received \$1000 for one poem of ninety-six lines from the New York *Ledger*. This is entitled "The Captain's Well." It was the last of any length which he wrote, and has a local interest. It is founded on a historic fact of a rather romantically tragic character.

Mr. Whittier can hardly be classed as a great poet. But his simple ballads and graceful lyrics will hold a place for a long time in the literature of the American people. In this age of wealth-hunting and profit seeking his simple life affords an instructive and edifying lesson for those who would place materialism before spirituality and intellect.

THE Springfield (Mass.) *Republican* will soon have a Hoe press that will print, cut, paste, fold and deliver as one sheet 12,000, ten, twelve, fourteen or sixteen page papers per hour. It will be fed by two rolls of paper unwinding automatically, side by side. The *Republican* was sixty-eight years old on the 8th inst. It is one of the oldest and best conducted papers of New England.