

Edward. The article closes with this paragraph:

The picked voices which go to California include fifty trebles, forty altos, forty tenors and forty-five basses. All the voices are young and fresh, comprising the choice of the choir, which is itself the pick of all Salt Lake. The programs will be made up of characteristic selections from the Mormon Church music, of selections from standard operas, oratorios, glees and madrigals. The choir's repertory includes thirty oratorios and operas complete, and it has an immense musical library with a wide range of miscellaneous compositions. Over 200 Salt Lake people will go to California with the choir, taking a solid special train of Pullman cars through the whole trip. It is altogether probable that Governor Wells, the first Governor of the new State, who is a member of the choir, will accompany them on the journey.

THE PRESIDENCY.

The New York World has made a poll of every state in the Union as to the preferences of Republicans for the Presidential nomination, the result being that ex-Governor McKinley is so far ahead that he can safely be regarded as the winner. While it is strictly in line with that paper's well known enterprise in the matter of forecasting important occurrences, it would seem to be this time more nearly a superfluous performance than usual, since those who have watched the political drift so far must have observed that it had set in strongly toward the Buckeye statesman; and if the states yet to hold conventions keep up the proportion in his favor so far maintained, his nomination without resorting to the formality of a ballot can only be averted by something at present wholly unlooked for. It is therefore, as safe as anything in politics can be to begin writing it "Candidate McKinley," with a strong probability of the prefix later on becoming more potential.

So far the Vice Presidential nomination has received but little consideration with either of the parties. Governor Bradley of Kentucky, by reason of his unprecedented feat of winning that state into the Republican column, was mentioned in such connection, but his friends at once put a quietus upon the movement by demanding that their man go to the head of the procession or nowhere. It is, we should judge, most likely to be nowhere, not only because of the ultimatum spoken of, but for the further reason that with McKinley at the fore front the lieutenantancy is not likely to go either to the South or West but to the East. Ohio borders on the one and until recent years was reckoned as one of the West. The eastern part of the country, containing so much of population and wealth, and which has furnished so many candidates in the years past, will undoubtedly receive recognition if equipoise for the ticket is considered. Reed of Maine could have it, but the chances are strongly that he would rather remain Speaker of the House, or even be a plain member thereof, than be shelved in any such manner; besides, having been so prominently named in connection with the first place and being so strongly supported for it, he would most likely not care to be raised up only to be knocked down.

There is more uncertainty regarding the Democratic nomination than at any previous time on the eve of the battle. Excepting the President himself there is no one who seems to loom in the slightest degree. If things go on as at present the chances are that the balloting in convention will be prolonged beyond precedent. Senator Hill, of New York, half a dozen of the Southern senators, Ambassador Bayard, ex-Congressman Morrison, Governor Matthews, of Indiana, and a few others have been mentioned incidentally, but that is all. The choice may be either or neither of these. As to the third party, the uncertainty is even more pronounced, and there is a growing probability of a fourth if not a fifth organization, each with a reasonably strong following, in the field. Utah participates in the election this year for the first time. We hope she will do herself full credit in her choice.

PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS.

It may sound unprofessional and be deemed violative of that part of the code accepted by many journalists which requires that newspaper men stand together; but nevertheless the NEWS declares the opinion that the bill now before the Legislature providing that newspaper writers shall not be compelled to disclose the source of their information is at the present time needless and at some future time might become a mischievous bit of law. It is class legislation of an odious kind, and one can easily conceive of a thousand ways in which it could be used to defeat the ends of justice. On general principles we hold to the idea that a matter which is of sufficient importance and interest to be published, ought to be of such a character that the facts as to its source can, if necessary, be published also. One effect of the law making such a communication "privileged" would be to cause gossip and seekers after personal satisfaction to ventilate their scandals and their grievances under the name of any paper whose editor might be persuaded into publishing them. For one, the NEWS does not care to invite any such information; and it is always willing to forego a racy piece of gossip which must be received "in strict confidence, you know," rather than to publish it upon the mere say-so of any person who is too timid to share with us the responsibility of its publication.

There are, of course, cases where it would not only be unfair, but perhaps even dishonest, to tell where and how certain items of news were obtained. These are exceptional, however; and inasmuch as the matter is after all one of conscience on the part of the witness, we incline to the opinion that it is far safer to leave the matter as it is than to issue such an invitation to greater evils as this bill would appear to convey. The NEWS has never seen the time when it did not know how to take care of its informants, nor has it ever failed to do so, without the law proposed to Senator Miller. We expect to be able to continue that course, let the risks be what they may; and this, too, without any such fence or shelter, with all its

possibilities for injury, as this bill would seem to give.

THE ABYSSINIA EXPEDITION.

One thing at present seems plain in the European situation, and that is that the war in Abyssinia in reality is a struggle between England and Russia for supremacy in eastern Africa on the shores of the Red Sea. It was Great Britain that encouraged Italy to undertake the expedition for which the country was so ill prepared and which ended in the greatest disaster to a European army on record in modern times, the desire of the English government being to have a kind of buffer state established in those regions under the protection of a friendly government. The plan was too apparent to Russian statesmanship, and its failure is said to be due to Russian officers, arms and ammunition. A British expedition to Soudan is to be the next move on the chess board, and this is looked upon as an indication that England has at last joined the Dreikund against Russia and France. Further developments are watched with a great deal of interest.

Abyssinia is the ancient Ethiopia. The country has about four and a half million inhabitants. It is mountainous and in some parts inaccessible to an invading army. The title of the ruler is Negus Negest which means king of kings. Theodor I, who ruled Abyssinia from 1855 to 1888, was conquered by the English, but four years later Johannes ascended the throne. He was successful against an Egyptian army and also against the Italians, but he fell in a battle with dervishes in 1889. The present ruler, Menelik II, placed himself under the protectorate of Italy and to commence with, the relations between the two countries were friendly. Italy, however, commenced to lay plans for the extension of her African colonies at the expense of Abyssinia, and this led to the war that now has resulted in the massacre of the Italian troops and the fall of the Crispi cabinet. Menelik is described as a powerful personality and a capable ruler.

His proclamation to his people when the war with Italy had been decided on was in the following vein:

Listen to what I tell you! Let every enemy of our faith and our people be stricken deaf, as also the enemies of Menelik, the ruler, and all who do not worship the Virgin Mary. Hitherto the Lord has preserved our Ethiopia. He has given us to conquer our enemies and establish the country of our fathers. By the grace of God I have governed until now, and I am not depressed at the thought of the drawing near of death, for we all must die. But to this day God never has permitted me to sink into the dust, and he will certainly keep me in the future. An enemy has come from beyond the sea. He has entered our borders and is now seeking to destroy our faith and our country. A long time I have spoken and negotiated, in order to spare our country, which has been visited by many disasters lately. But the enemy is advancing. He threatens our country and our people. This is sufficient. With the aid of the triune God I hope to defend the country of our fathers and drive back the intruding stranger, who refuses to listen to what I tell him. Everybody