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A JUDICIOUS amendment has been adopted, by the House of Representatives, to the legislative, executive, and judicial appropriation bill, forbidding payment of contestants in contested election cases. If contesting candidates understand that they have to pay their own expenses in the contest, they will not be so likely to engage in the same without good and sufficient reasons on which to base their claim to a seat in Congress.

THE Monthly Report of the Department of Agriculture for November and December states that the average corn yield, as reported by correspondents, stands highest in Iowa, 40.8 bushels per acre, Illinois being 39.6, Indiana 39.8, and Ohio 39.5. The average of the States of the 40th parallel is within a fraction of 40 bushels, Pennsylvania and Nebraska being 39, and New Jersey 39.5. Massachusetts and Rhode Island give 31 bushels, Connecticut 32.2, Maine 36.1, New Hampshire 38.2, New York 37.5, Texas, the highest in the South, 28.5, Arkansas 24.3, Tennessee 24, Mississippi 17.5, Georgia 13, Florida 9.6.

The highest wheat returns are Minnesota, California, and Texas, the lowest South Carolina, the range being from 6.4 to 18.7 per acre.

The yield of rye is lowest in South Carolina, 6.2, and highest in California, 28.1.

Of oats, the highest is 40 for Nebraska, the lowest 8 for South Carolina.

Of barley, Kansas gives 28.2, West Virginia 11.5.

Of potatoes, Minnesota, Texas, Oregon, Connecticut, Vermont, Massachusetts and North Carolina give averages above 100 bushels per acre.

Hay ranges from 0.7 of a ton in Maryland to 1.45 tons in Illinois.

Corn runs in price from 18 cents per bushel in Nebraska and Iowa to 95 cents in New Hampshire, and \$1.20 in Florida.

Wheat runs from 74 cents in Oregon to \$1.95 in Massachusetts.

The corn crop will probably reach 1,100,000,000 bushels for the year, of larger intrinsic value in proportion to quantity than usual, the quality being above average. The returns of "product compared with last year," taking into consideration both the area and the rate of yield per acre, average above 100 in all but seven States.

The cotton yield is below the average. Total production, nearly 3,450,000 commercial bales, with 1,000,000 bales unpicked.

Potatoe returns give a decrease of 5 per cent. from the product of last year, amounting to 6,000,000 bushels.

Hay gives a small increase over the crop of last year. Aggregate yield 24,000,000 tons.

The report also contains Extracts from Correspondence, Jute-culture in the United States, Cotton-raising in California, Florida as a Home for Emigrants, Agricultural Statistics of Ireland, Entomological Record, Chemical Memoranda, Botanical Notes, Microscopic Investigations, Facts from Various Sources, and Marked Prices of Products.

OUR telegraphic dispatches to-day contain tidings of the death of Charles Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, ex-Emperor of France, who departed this life at a ½ to 11 this morning at his residence, at Chislehurst, Kent, England. For many years past the deceased had been troubled with diseases of the kidneys and kindred parts, of a more or less complicated and severe character, and a few days ago two lithotomic operations were performed upon him. His condition subsequently was considered very hopeful, and there seemed to be a good prospect that he would speedily recover. Unfavorable symptoms however supervened about two days ago, but still his death was not anticipated,

and the announcement of that event this morning is said to have caused a profound sensation. But there can be no doubt that Louis Napoleon has really gone the way of all flesh, and like the greatest or the meanest that ever lived or died, graced or disgraced this world of ours, his mortal remains are now only fit for food for worms.

The career of this man has been one of the most eventful that it is possible to imagine. He has been both the football of fate and the pet child of fortune; a libertine and thorough man of the world, and the favorite son of the church; the leader of gasconade revolutionary attempts, an exile in foreign lands, a man of letters, an adventurer; at times almost homeless, friendless and penniless; in the same year a special policeman in a foreign land, and a successful candidate for the National Legislature in his own; subsequently elected President of the French Republic by an enormous majority of the votes of his countrymen, and finally by the same power clothed with the imperial purple and declared Emperor of France. The prestige of the name he bore had no doubt a good deal to do with the great and good fortune of his latter years, but in the mental constitution of such a man there must have been a peculiar combination of elements.

The following is a very brief sketch of the eventful life of the deceased Emperor. The son of Joseph, fourth brother of Napoleon First, and Hortense de Beauharnais, daughter of Empress Josephine, first wife of Napoleon Bonaparte, he was born in Paris on the 20th of April, 1808, at a period when his great uncle was at the zenith of his fame and grandeur. With the downfall of the Napoleonic dynasty after Waterloo, the family of young Louis went to Germany and subsequently to Switzerland, where they lived for a number of years.

When twenty-two years of age he sought, but was refused, permission to return to France. He and his elder brother, Napoleon, took a prominent part in the revolutionary movement in the papal domains, in 1831; but this being suppressed by the interference of France and Austria the brothers were banished from Italy. The deceased ex-Emperor endeavored to enter the French army, but this was also refused, and he made his home in England, famous, among other things, for being the asylum of princes and kings out of employment, and political refugees generally.

The death of his cousin, the Duke of Reichstadt, son of Napoleon First, which took place in 1832, seems to have been a turning point in the career of Prince Louis, for by a law passed during the reign of his uncle, the succession was placed in the line of his fourth brother Louis, instead of his elder brother Joseph, and the death of the young gentleman above mentioned, also of Louis' elder brother, made him heir of his uncle, provided the French nation were disposed to have anything more to do with that dynasty.

The mind of Louis, after the death of his cousin, became filled with ambitious dreams, and these were soon embodied in several works, in which the policy of Napoleon First was developed, and earnestly recommended to the people of France. The publication of these works was followed by his first revolutionary attempt, which took place at Strasbourg in 1836. He had made overtures to some of the officers of the garrison there, and filled with foolish ambition and the inexperience of youth, he proclaimed a revolution. Some soldiers of a few regiments cried "Vive Napoleon," but the troops generally disregarded him and his pretensions, and failure and capture were the result. He was tried for this and banished, and for a year after was a resident of the United States. The following year he returned to Switzerland, recalled by the death sickness of his mother, arriving in time to see her die.

His past experience had not made him a wiser man, and he very soon made efforts to justify his conduct at Strasbourg, which gave umbrage to the Government of Louis Philippe, and while negotiations were pending between France and Switzerland for the extradition of the ambitious prince, the latter left for England. He remained there until 1840, when, accompanied by about fifty persons, he departed for France on another Quixotic filibustering expedition. He landed at Boulogne, and marching to the barracks, called upon its inmates to join him in an attempt to overthrow the government and to re-establish the Napoleonic dynasty. He was only laughed at for his folly, and a

few shots being fired, he sought safety on a hill in the vicinity. Arrest and a trial for treason followed, resulting in him being sentenced to imprisonment for life in the fortress of Ham. There he remained six years, when, assisted by his physician, he escaped dressed as a workman, and again sought shelter in England. During his stay there, it has been said that he was often in straits for money, and sometimes could hardly obtain the necessities of life; and once, during a Chartist demonstration, the emperor in embryo, and thousands of others, were sworn in as special constables to help to keep the peace, in case those enthusiasts should break it.

He staid in London until 1848, when revolution in Paris overturned the government of Louis Philippe, and a republic was proclaimed. Louis Napoleon declared himself a candidate for the National Assembly, and was returned from four departments. In the election for President of the Republic, which took place shortly after, he was elected by a large majority.

His ambitious dreams, which never ceased, seemed now to be in a fair way to be realized; and once installed as Chief of the Republic, he ceased not his efforts, until he attained the imperial purple. The means by which he accomplished this was worthy only of a king, and if no other wrong had ever been committed by him, it alone was sufficient to blacken his name through all time. The *coup d'etat* of 1851 was a dark day in French history. Sworn to administer the laws, Louis Napoleon violated his trust, and because the National Assembly refused to be his tools in furthering his ambitious designs, he having concocted his measures secretly, on the night of the 2nd of December, 1851, declared Paris in a state of siege, seized those members of the Assembly most strongly opposed to his designs, and had the streets lined with soldiers, who shot down all who showed sympathy with the representatives of the people.

This was followed by the proclamation of universal suffrage, and an election for President, to hold office for ten years was ordered. This resulted in another triumph for the crafty Louis. In the fall of 1852 a *plebiscite*, or vote of the entire French people, was taken to decide the question whether the Napoleonic dynasty should or should not be restored in France. The vote was in favor of the restoration, and Napoleon was crowned Emperor.

Whatever may be thought of the method he adopted to secure supreme power, it is clear that for years he seemed to rule France wisely and well. The French people are proverbially restless, and their history for the past century shows that they are satisfied with no form of government for any great length of time. But under Napoleon Third, security, order and prosperity seemed to have gained a firm foothold in that country. It is true that once in a while, its sagacious ruler would have to undertake some warlike scheme to gratify the national taste, and perhaps to divert the attention of the people from real causes of discontent. The Crimean and Mexican wars are examples of this kind.

But this experiment was attempted once too often for him, the last time—with Prussia, proving his ruin, and covering him with greater defeat, disgrace and humiliation than perhaps any ruler ever experienced before. Disgusted with the impotence of his generals, and the slaughter and capture of their men, the French people deposed their emperor, who sought safety in ignominious flight, and remained in exile until his death.

Whatever may be thought about him and his administration, none can deny that he was an able and in many respects sagacious ruler, and one of the most extraordinary men of modern times.

THE proposition to consider the matter of increasing President Grant's salary from \$25,000 to \$50,000 annually was evidently not favorably received in the House of Representatives yesterday, for although the chair overruled the appeal to a point of order in regard to the propriety of allowing it to come up just then, the House, by a decided majority, supported the appeal by voting against the adverse ruling of the chairman. This can not be considered very affectionate action towards the measure. Perhaps many of the members can not see sufficient reason why the increase should be made now, when prices are fifty per cent lower than they were in the time of Lincoln's and Johnson's presidency.

THE conviction of Stokes of murder in the first degree for the killing of Fisk and the sentence of the prisoner to death, very likely came as a surprise upon the New Yorkers and the public generally, and probably resulted in consequence of the prominence given recently by the press to the fact that high crimes have been committed with impunity so frequently in that and other cities of late. The favor allowed to be shown to murderers in prison for their crimes, by their friends, is conspicuous, and unfavorable comments are made upon it as indicating unpromising leniency toward the perpetrators of high crimes. As an instance, the N. Y. correspondent of the Cincinnati *Commercial* says that though Geo. Francis Train is testing the regular prison fare at the Tombs, murderers are found by visitors to be continually becoming more luxurious. The cells of Stokes, Scannel and Sharkey are handsomely carpeted and papered, and provided with rugs. Stokes has a French set of furniture, dressing-case, library, and a canary bird. Scannel and Sharkey also have libraries and rich furniture. All smoke the best cigars, and converse all day long, through the gratings, with their visitors. King's and Foster's rooms are not so imposing as the other saloons, though they have carpet and library. Simmons is having a Tombs parlor fitted up which will eclipse all others in luxury. The meals of this elite of murderers are supplied by the choicest caterers in the neighborhood.

This is carrying sympathy for murder a long way, and can hardly be considered in any other light than that of manifesting a most vitiated and depraved public taste, for if it were not largely possessed by the public the public would manifest its disapproval of it in such a manner that the custom, which it has become, would soon be frowned down.

ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS advises young lawyers to have nothing to do with a case unless they are on the right side. This is good advice, and if young lawyers and old lawyers too would take it and make it their rule of practice, the author could cheerfully be forgiven for employing a six column double leaded paragraph to convey the advice. As stated, however, the lawyers would be sure to quibble about it, and some of them would conclude that the right side was the side that brought them the most money. Unfortunately, lawyers, any more than other people, seldom see the desirableness of always choosing to be on the side of right, because litigation is their bread and cheese, and it is not right but wrong that produces litigation. So long as they flourish and live upon the crimes and quarrels of their neighbors, there is small chance of lawyers practically adopting the sentiment that it is better to be right than to be president. On the contrary they will be more likely to show, by their actions, that they would rather have a big fee or a fat case than be right. To these remarks the legal fraternity will take no exceptions, nor against them raise any demurrer, because "these things are so."

AN era of investigations, it is called just now, referring to Congress and the investigating committee appointed and talked of. The Credit Mobilier, the Louisiana imbroglio, the Arkansas troubles, the Indian business in different agencies and many other things are or may be under investigation, or in a fair way for it, before Congress shall end its present session. Of course it is possible that somebody may be found guilty, but it is also probable that nobody will. It was very refreshing to read the statement of Schuyler Colfax before the Credit Mobilier investigating committee, and to learn therefrom that although our respected Vice-President agreed to take 20 shares and that he paid Oakes Ames \$500 for the same, yet he (Colfax) never received any dividends nor offer of any thereon, but when he heard intimations of litigation in connexion with the business he imperatively withdrew and gave up his shares, as he never was in court, as plaintiff or defendant, in all his life. Neither did he regain his invested \$500, so that instead of his receiving any benefit from the Credit Mobilier, he actually lost half a thousand by it.

In all these and similar investigations, congressional or judicial, the difficulty is to put the questions so as to make them exactly fit the case. With an air of injured innocence, like that assumed by some of the Corinneites in that little matter of cattle-stealing, de persons thus investigated regard and