

Thursday, April 12, 1872.

## Political Corruption.

From A SERMON IN THE PAULY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, CINCINNATI, BY REV. DR. H. A. FIELD.

None of us can lay claim to infallibility in reading the signs of the times; but we must be blind, indeed, not to see that which calls for serious apprehension. There are men who are not over fond of their associations, and who are never more at home than when in a saloon or beer-garden. They are men who are not nominated for nomination secured by fraud and corruption. Men are nominated for legislative and municipal offices who are recognized in sympathy with their general aims. Things have come to such a pass that many places that politicians of the lawless class have everything their own way. Ministers are warned against wearing their black coats by having anything to do with politics. Christians are admonished to keep out of these "dirty waters," and to devote themselves to their appropriate work in the church and the Sabbath school. The motto, "All is well in politics," is the motto of men and men who are so old-fashioned as to propose to keep a good conscience while voting an incumbency and a nuisance.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

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It shall not act the part of an alarmist this evening, but shall endeavor to use words of truth and soberness to direct your attention to some matters that will affect the welfare of our country and of all parties. Let us notice first—The character of the men who bear a large, not to say a controlling, influence in the political affairs of our nation.

The man who is the author of our government is not the most seems to me to be not only reasonable and consistent, but almost perfect. Government is a divine institution, ordained of God for the benefit of the people of his own kind. The principles of government go forth with regard to the people of government; but they lay down principles which promote personal freedom and the greatest good to the greatest number.

All men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, was in the gospel long before it was put in the Declaration of Independence.

Our tendency is that the wisest and best man will be sought out by the people, and selected to administer the affairs of the nation. A very wise and sagacious of intellects and virtues would seem to be needed to secure this result. We might learn wisdom in this matter from the instincts of animals. A drove of wild horses, in pursuit of the animals of the best metal and strength in the front, and in this regard they are no wiser than sheep or the ass of the desert, or the stork in the heavens. But the political affairs of our nation are so wretchedly managed that one is tempted to exclaim:

"Oh, judgment, that art set to punish beasts, And men have lost their reason."

Who of us will claim that our best men are not up to the general work of making and executing our laws? Examining the characters of office-holders, from Aldermen to United States Senators, and how many of them are men in whom the people can confide, we find that they feel genuine respect.

Our first trouble in this matter lies in the fact, first, that large numbers of the voters of our country are mentally and morally unfit to exercise the elective franchise. To a few of our politicians seems to be a lack of knowledge on this subject of the law of God. They speak and write as if voting was a sovereign remedy for the ills of the body politic.

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