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## THE LESSON OF THE ELECTION.

It is hard to see how tidal waves, or landslides, or cyclones, or volcanic or whatever other force we may be given to language and unexplained political disjunction, can ever become very popular with even the party that momentarily profits from them; much less with the party whose disaster they compass. A year ago, not only our own nation but the civilized world witnessed one of the most stupendous political victories that ever attended a party; the Republicans, who during more than thirty years had been in control of at least one branch of the government, being routed all along the line—horse, foot and dragoons. Today the victors of a twelvemonth since are rubbing the sore places in their own anatomy and hotly asking what it is that has smitten them. The Democrats too at every point, but only in states that had come to be considered doubtful, but in New York where they were thought to be firmly intrenched, and even in rock-ribbed New Jersey; while their arch-opponent, William McKinley, swept into office with the greatest majority ever given a governor in Ohio since the war.

If the result had fall was so astounding surprise, the course this fall, making all allowance for the being so "off year," are scarcely less so. Yet a cursory review of the present situation shows nothing that need cause excessive excitement to the winners or especial heart-heaviness to the defeated. After all, the best or worst that can be said is that this is merely the sin of last year's flood. Local causes affected the result in some places, and general hard times—the punishment for which is always visited by the electorate upon the party in power—contributed their quota to the upheaval everywhere.

As to the Democrats having been tried in power and found wanting—such talk is to say the least, premature. It cannot be denied that they have been found wanting in carrying out the western idea as to silver; but the Republicans have made no record in that matter that they can boast of, either. On other national questions, notably tariff reform, the voters at last year have as yet done nothing—they have had no opportunity. To say that the uncertainty as to what they might do has caused their prompt defeat, may not be without truth as a statement, but it is without force as an argument. The people who put them in power last year must surely have expected uncertainty—so radical a change could not fail to have that effect. But it is hardly fair to the intelligence of the voters to say that they have so quickly repented of their verdict, and are all converted back again, before the system for which they rolled up great majorities a twelvemonth since has had a trial.

The News accordingly thinks that, disappointing as is the result this year to the one party, it is not any more so, if indeed as much, to the one party as to the other party. It may be that the voters are doing more thinking, or it may be less pronounced, they are doing less. Certainly the pendulum which swung to the extreme in one direction, has now swung nearly as far toward the extreme in the other. For a few things developed by the last election all will be truly thankful—how rife is our state, and some of the other states, had a democratic authority, personal popularity would a factor in a candidate's success, and principle is going to be rather more advanced than party allegiance. All these are good things. They are suggestive of sober reflection on the part of political leaders in both sections. They are a warning that neither party can be expected to be indefinitely entrusted with the government of the Republic, and it assures no change may long be delayed and unfortunate, but possibly not more than was necessary, should come to shake those who, because they happen to be in power, think they are indispensable.

## FREE TRADE AS AN ARGUMENT.

The expression, "free trade, free silver, free Chicago, free Hawaii and free everything," was that heard the darkest "Western Republican" in an earlier moment, the time of the Future." The free-trade of thought which it assumes as a right of every soul, and which its title emphasizes, it is apparently willing to accord to others, in the respect differing materially from many that call themselves liberal, but whose idea is that others are only entitled to the thought which they think as their office would have them think. Without at all assuming the views or principles of the periodical, however, we can cheerfully give it the more praise and to proof text. It is deserved, we note that the issue of Nov. 1, contains a note, quite at variance of period more than a column in length, about the so-long "Are Mormons Republicans?" Prof. W. H. Appleby, of Logan, Utah, is the writer. After stating that the Chicago Imperial upon revolution, and declaring in a few bold strokes the history of Utah, starts up to the Dominion the young gentile from the hillside, he concludes:

> The Mormons are not Republicans of the gold, silver, Chicago, free private school by the Mormon and the Mormons. I have seen among them many manifestations of divine power. Their system has spread to half one million, mostly from the working classes, for they become in many instances prosperous wherever the principles of the Gospel of Christ are followed. [illegible] Free trade, free silver, free Chicago, free Hawaii, free everything, free Mormons, free Republicans, free Democrats, free Populists, free everything, free everything, free everything.

The Mormons are in possession of all the gold, silver, Chicago, free private school by the Mormon and the Mormons. I have seen among them many manifestations of divine power. Their system has spread to half one million, mostly from the working classes, for they become in many instances prosperous wherever the principles of the Gospel of Christ are followed. [illegible] Free trade, free silver, free Chicago, free Hawaii