

meant to have the two officers come from two different states and so far this has been done; but it does not say that, and herein lies the opportunity of a strict constructionist to make trouble. The disposition to observe the meaning of a statute or merely its naked provisions, is often governed by the point as to which is most likely to be beneficial to the person interested; but when it is a matter affecting the people of the nation in general, a great political party incidentally and a conspicuous citizen particularly, doubtless the Supreme Court of the United States, sitting as a court of equity, will be called upon to either affirm the literal construction of the Constitution or fill up the gap which the framers made regarding what they designed to say.

GRATITUDE IS DUE.

There is an item in the dispatches today to the effect that Chicago bankers have presented a gold medal with a diamond in the center to the Coffeyville, Kansas, liveryman whose handiness with the Winchester rifle during the late raid of the Dalton gang made several of those worthies bite the dust. The incident is not without appropriateness; banks and bankers were the especial and favorite prey of the notorious outlaws who have been so suddenly sent to their long account. Of the sections of the country infested by them it can be truly said that no bank was safe from their visitation, nor was any life or number of lives so sacred in their sight as to cause them to shrink from killing, if that were the only alternative method of escape.

Hence while there is considerable basis of sense and logic in the action of the Chicago bankers, there is still more in that of the Texas Bankers' Association which has recently called for contributions from its members for the aid of the families of those citizens of Coffeyville, who, voluntarily giving themselves up to the task of wiping out the desperadoes, were themselves slain in the encounter. The *American Banker*, too, a journal whose field is expressed by its title, has taken up the good cause, and has headed a subscription list. It would appear that those who are permitted to breathe easier, both as regards their lives and their ducats, since the affray spoken of, ought not to be backward in coming forward with a substantial expression of gratitude to those whose bravery on the occasion resulted in leaving several widows and orphans in the Kansas community.

BIG MONEY FOR TROTTERS.

A man more interested in the subject of horse flesh than any other, perhaps, is Robert Bonner, once editor and proprietor of the *New York Ledger*. He has a magnificent stable of his own, to which he now and then makes a valuable contribution, his acquisitiveness in this direction being insatiable and in others considerable, so that he has the means as well as the disposition to possess new horses. About a year ago Mr. Bonner offered to give \$5000 to the

owner of any horse that would reduce the world's trotting record to 2:05. This would apparently give the owner of "Nancy Hanke" a windfall; but it seems that it is otherwise, for the former has written to the *New York World* explaining that his offer was explicitly restricted to records made on the grand circuit tracks from Hartford to Cleveland, which would include Rochester and Buffalo, and that, as only the old regulation sulkies were in use when his offer was made, ball-bearing axles and pneumatic tires do not count. These new devices, he points out, have revolutionized all harness records and made horses apparently from four to six seconds faster than they were when hitched to the ordinary sulky such as was in use up to a few months ago. Mr. Bonner's offer has a year yet to run, and those who desire to compete for the prize might as well understand the conditions suggested above. The recent innovations do have a very helping effect on trotters, and the gentleman decides—somewhat technically it would seem—that the horse as he is, not as human ingenuity can make him, is what is to determine the case.

GIVE US A CHANCE.

If the NEWS were "in politics" we could have any amount of fun with those of our cotemporaries who are tearing their hair over this, that and the other newspaper article or advertisement, pamphlet, speech, conversation or "influence," put forth or invoked by the different political parties in this part of the world to secure votes on the 8th of next month. With some of our own correspondents, too, — those who express their wonder that we "don't" say something about the respective pamphlets, speeches, etc., above referred to—we could have entered into a merry argument almost every day during the month past. For, to a person not entirely given over to partisanship, it is as plain as daylight that the whole question of criticism or approbation depends solely upon the point of view; and though one calls certain methods of an opponent unfair, illegitimate and even contemptible, similar methods employed by himself or his friends are deemed by him perfectly honest, judicious and regular. This could be pointed out so easily from the abundance of evidence at hand that, as stated above, it could be made an amusing—nay, even an exhilarating occupation.

But the NEWS, as it has repeatedly declared, is not in politics, save as a neutral, independent journal that will not shut its eyes to wrongdoing in any party, nor depart from a straight course to promote the advancement of the principles or the candidates of either. Hence it denies itself the pleasure which cotemporaries and correspondents so frequently offer it, lest to some sensitive observer it might seem to lean a little to one side or the other. With this much of explanation may we not now venture to take a step further?

If so, we should be tempted to say that some of the proceedings, as well as some of the comments, that have been conspicuous during this cam-

paign are such as cannot be defended by either party or be approved by honorable men anywhere. Neither side can claim a monopoly of decency, and, we regret to say, every extravagance of statement or injustice of interpretation on the part of one side has been met by similar weapons coupled with even greater recklessness on the part of the other. Party feeling has been permitted to run altogether too high; and the flippant and disrespectful use of honored names, by organs and orators on both sides of the controversy, has been such as to give pain to the calmer and better balanced class of the community. We believe the resort to such tactics has weakened the cause of those who employed them. No one who exercises thought and reason has been misled by them, and no one should be. A welcome change, during the remaining ten days of the campaign, would be a recurrence to the dignified, gentlemanly, argumentative discussion of the issues for which the various candidates stand.

NO DALLYING.

The sensational news conveyed to the people of Salt Lake City by last evening's NEWS, to the effect that a plan was maturing by which a corporation of moneyed men was to attempt the purchase and control of the municipal water-works system, has already caused just what it was intended to cause—an awakening of the public to the fact that their servants in office must on the one hand be closely watched where they are inclined to recklessness, and on the other hand resolutely sustained when they are opposed to dangers threatening the general weal. Nothing is so fatal to the efficiency and integrity of public officials as the apathy and indifference of their constituents; nothing is so potent in bringing out their qualities of administration and statesmanship as well-meant criticism of and thorough acquaintance with the plans and policies coming before them for consideration. As to motives that may be hidden or programmes that may be arranged in secret places, there is no reason or justification for such things, and they are to be soundly condemned. To the people who put men in office it is an insult for such men to say "You may not be trusted with full knowledge of our official movements;" and there can be scarcely an exception to the good old rule that whatever scheme would be spoiled through the public's becoming aware of it, ought to be spoiled anyway—it is not good.

Having given the public due notice of what is in contemplation, the NEWS will be content if the warning is accepted in the spirit in which it was tendered. As to the results of any such negotiations as are said to be imminent we have no doubts. The good sense of the Mayor and City Council will surely be equal to the task of resisting a proposition so monstrous; and the good sense of the community will supply whatever of hearty backing and stern determination that may be necessary. No amount of specious argument can overturn the