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QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

Some readers of the News are engaged in a controversy regarding the questions herein contained and desire us to answer them. As they are often asked and correct answers would be information of a general nature, we cheerfully comply:

1.—Is a child born abroad of American parents eligible to the presidency of the United States?

2.—Is a child born of English parents on American soil an American citizen without taking out papers?

3.—Can a naturalized citizen become Vice President?

To the first query we reply—Yes, unless the parents have permanently removed from this country or become naturalized by some other. It was not always this way, the doctrine of "once a citizen always a subject" being upheld; but with our liberal naturalization laws such a doctrine becomes a piece of national stultification and the citizen can now expatriate himself and adopt a new allegiance at his pleasure, in which case his offspring in foreign lands would not belong to this country. In the case of United States ministers or other agents abroad, although they reside there during their terms of office, such residence is only temporary and for the purpose of their government; they are constructively, however, always on American soil and their children lose no right or privilege because of birth under such circumstances. Being therefore "natural born citizens," such children if otherwise qualified by sex, years, etc., would be eligible to the presidency.

("All citizens heretofore born or hereafter born out of the limits and jurisdiction of the United States whose fathers were or may be at their birth citizens thereof, are declared to be citizens thereof."—Revised Statutes, sec. 1893.)

2.—Yes, if he remains here voluntarily and makes this country his home continuously till arrival at majority. He would thus become a citizen primarily by the highest title—that of birth—and subsequently by the law that we respect more than any mere enactment—his own choice. This has no reference to children of foreign ministers or agents.

3.—No. The Constitution provides that no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall become Vice President.

Something has been said about the Constitution settling everything, but this is absurd, for in many cases—naturalization particularly—it delegates to Congress the power to regulate the subject, which it and the courts jointly have been doing for a century

or more. Also has there been allusion to the case of the late President Arthur and ex-Governor Boyd of Nebraska; a question was raised as to the former's eligibility because of a groundless rumor that he was born just outside of Vermont, on the Canadian side of the line, and as to the latter, because of his father's naturalization not having been complete before he arrived at legal maturity. The talk in both cases was the merest speculation, caused in one case by misunderstanding, and in the other by misconstruction; Arthur's father never lived in Canada and Boyd's became a citizen of the United States through being a citizen of Nebraska when it was admitted into the Union—a time when naturally young Boyd must have been very young indeed, as he is only middle-aged now.

AN EMPEROR AS A FARMER.

The emperor of China every year ploughs a little piece of ground and puts grain in it, presumably to encourage his subjects to industry and, as it were, sanctify the work of agriculture to them. Of the ceremony as performed this year a foreign exchange gives an interesting description. On the day set apart for the work the emperor left his palace at 4 o'clock in the morning, accompanied by his suite. On the road he halted by an altar erected to the honor of the god of agriculture. After prayer and offerings of sacrifices, breakfast was partaken of and the procession moved on. At 6 o'clock the field was reached. This was surrounded with poles on which hung a multitude of flags of many colors. Four pavilions had been erected, one on each corner of the field. In the middle were a number of court officials, all in gala uniforms and holding flags in their hands. Grey-haired farmers with agricultural tools formed lines between which the emperor "worked." A yellow cow was hitched to the plow. Two princesses led the animal and other imperial olive-branches held the rural implement in position. The piece of ground which the emperor thus prepared was about fifty feet by seventy and he went over it about sixteen times. Having finished the plowing he took a bag of grain which he handed to the master of ceremonies, who put it in the ground. Then the princesses each put grain in a piece of ground and the ministers and other dignitaries followed their example.

The harvest of the field thus honored was formerly always given to the supreme deity in the Chinese pantheon, but in later years the celestials have shown a marked neglect in paying their god this little attention. The spirit of irreligion is evidently extending beyond the boundaries of western civilization. The ceremony lasted till nine o'clock in the evening, when the Mongolian majesty returned to his palace.

LAST THURSDAY, Boston merchants paid a premium as high as forty-four dollars a thousand on currency. Yet no one has had the temerity to say that the greenback is worth that much more than the gold!

A WORTHY ACT.

An incident that is worthy of commendation and we trust will be extensively emulated, is brought to the attention of the News. It seems that recently a taxpayer whose property or a portion thereof abuts East Temple street made complaint before the board of equalization that he had been assessed too high, and on a full hearing of the facts the board made a material reduction in the figure. The owner of the property adjoining was equally entitled to the board's curtailment but he had made no application to that end; whereupon Assessor Lynch, without waiting to be appealed to, suggested the abatement himself, thus placing the two owners on an equality. He deemed the reduction in the first instance too great, but since the board ordered it, he insisted that in order to be consistent the second must be treated accordingly.

If all officeholders would be as discerning, impartial and just in the discharge of their duties as was Mr. Lynch in the case spoken of, what a difference the face of the body politic would soon wear! There is so much of a disposition to carry out the injunction of Cornelius Vanderbilt and ignore and condemn the public, that the public in turn are disposed to be at times unduly watchful and censorious; but let them once understand that they are to have fair treatment whether they attend to every detail of a transaction or not, and confidence, respect and (perhaps) a condition of mutual admiration may follow. Anyway, let all others who have not done so give it a trial and those who have kept at it, and see what the result will be; it can do no harm and may result in a great deal, of good. Meantime, score one for Assessor Lynch!

A KINGDOM FOR A HORSE.

A week ago this evening a passenger arrived in New York per steamship Massachusetts that excited as much attention from certain classes, and evidently quite as much from the press, as the veriest nob or nabob that Gotham ever had the ecstasy to greet. This passenger was none other than the stallion Ormonde, probably the greatest and certainly the most expensive horse in the world. A pen picture of the famous animal presents him as bay in color, without a mark save a diminutive white patch which the saddle covers; girth of about seven feet; a measurement of eight and a half inches below the knee; an age of ten years, and a race record of nineteen starts and not a single defeat. He was bred by the Duke of Westminster at Eaton, Chester, England, and is from a strain of equine champions the purest and most famous in the world. His sire was the sensational Bend Or, his granddaddy the mighty Doncaster—Derby winners both, and famed wherever beauty, speed and endurance in horses are admired. Doncaster's cross with Rouge Rose, a Thoroughbred mare, five years older, produced Bend Or in 1877, and the mating of the latter with Lily Agnes, a bay daugh-