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THE PRESIDENTIAL QUESTION.

The great political struggle, for which the several parties contending for power have been preparing for a long time, was, so far as the people could do it, consummated yesterday in each of the thirty three States, forming the great American Union. In some of the States, the contest was unquestionably, as a matter of course, more fierce than in others; but, if the great political gatherings; the amount of money that has been expended; the violent speeches that have been made; the amount of powder, pitch, turpentine, tar and other resinous, inflammable and combustible substances that has been burned to give light to the politically benighted and to celebrate events that have transpired—saying nothing about the time that has been spent in those performances, have been true indexes to the real feelings of the people, there was nothing wanting to make the 6th day of November, 1860, sufficiently exciting, in the most obscure place in the country, to be remembered, at least, during the next four years, by those participating in its performances.

The struggle for supremacy, so far as the action of the people can constitutionally effect it, being over, the anxiety to ascertain who, if any, has been victorious will be intense till after the result shall have been made known from Maine to Texas, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific shores. Never before, since the United States became a nation, have such efforts been made to accomplish political ends, as there have been this year; and while the people remain uninformed as to the result of the balloting on yesterday, there will be much uneasiness existing, especially in the minds of those who have been most active and interested in the Presidential election from the commencement of the campaign to its close.

The only candidate for the highest office in the gift of the people that had any chance, judging from what has transpired since the commencement of the current year, of securing an election by the vote of the sovereign people, was Mr. Lincoln, the Republican nominee and, if he has been defeated, the choice between the three candidates having the highest number of votes given by the electors chosen by the popular vote, will devolve upon the House of Representatives of the present Congress, voting by States—a majority of States and not of votes, being necessary to a choice. It is well known that in that body neither of the contending factions has a majority either of members or of States; and, in the event that the electors fail in making choice of a Chief Magistrate, and the election goes to the House, the result there will be attended with great uncertainty, more than has existed in relation to a choice by the people; but one thing is certain, no choice will be made by the House of Representatives, if the election shall devolve upon them, and each member shall strictly adhere to his political tenets, and no bargain nor sale be effected by and between some of the parties of which that body is composed.

That the Republican members of the thirty-sixth Congress will yield an inch, if the election shall go to the House, no one can suppose from their course heretofore; and it will take much persuasion and maneuvering to cause the other factions to coalesce and elect either Douglas, Breckenridge or Bell, should they be of the number constitutionally eligible to the office, unless a material change in their political views take place before the successful balloting shall transpire. Such being the facts, it is but reasonable to conclude that, if there has been no choice made by the people, the Presidential problem is yet far from being solved, and greater exertions will probably be made to accomplish the purposes of political aspirants before the Fourth of March next than have heretofore been heard of or recorded in the history of our glorious Republic.

If a Vice President shall not be chosen by the electors, the Senate will choose that officer from the two persons having the highest number of votes, as in that event two only will be constitutionally eligible to hold that responsible office. As the Breckenridge wing of the Democracy have a majority of Senators in the present Congress, in the event that the choosing of the Vice President shall devolve upon that body, and General Lane shall be one of the two receiving the highest number of votes in the electoral college, he will of course be selected for the office (a majority of Senators and not of States, in such cases, being necessary to a choice) and then, if there shall have been no President elected by the electors nor by the House of Representatives before the Fourth day of March next, he will be the President, the same as in the case of the death or other constitutional disability of the Chief Magistrate.

The result of the election on yesterday, so far as may be may necessary to determine who has come off first best in the quadrangular fight, will doubtless be received here by the pony express in the course of eight or ten days at furthest; but we presume that there is and will be less anxiety in relation to what has or may hereafter transpire in the premises in this, than in any other Territory or portion of the Union, as the favors expected, if any, from the successful party are few indeed.

If, however, in the course of human events, any good shall result to the citizens of this isolated and neglected Territory from the mighty struggle, which is shaking the foundations of the Government; or if the party that may sway the scepter for the next four years, after the present administration shall be numbered among the things that were, shall be favorably disposed towards those who have adhered to the principles of the Constitution thro' all the persecutions they have suffered, and shall bestow any favors upon, or do anything for the protection or benefit of the citizens of Utah, in common with those of other Territories, such favors will of course be thankfully received; though not even that which of right should be extended to them, as citizens of the United States, may be expected to be servilely petitioned or prayed for by those who, from the force of circumstances, have measurably learned how to provide for and take care of themselves.

Meeting of the Legislature.

On Monday next at twelve o'clock M. according to the proclamation of the Governor, the extra session of the Legislature will convene at the Social Hall in this City to perform certain specified duties, considered necessary to be attended to immediately, and before the term fixed by law, for the commencement of the annual session.

If the Court House could have been finished in time, the County Court for Great Salt Lake County had intended to have offered the use of it for the holding of the extra and also the regular session of the Legislative Assembly, but in consequence of the scarcity of lime suitable for finishing some of the rooms that would be needed for the accommodation of the two branches, for committee rooms, etc. that are yet in an unfinished state, the house cannot be got in readiness by the 12th inst., tho' in all probability, by the time of the meeting of the regular session on December 10th, all things will be in readiness, and the Legislature can have the use of the two halls, and as many rooms as may be needed for its accommodation, if acceptable. All things considered, it would be much more comfortable and convenient for legislative purposes than the Social Hall.

Result of the Special Election.

The election in this county, on Monday last, attracted but little attention, and there were but few votes cast, evidencing too much apathy on the part of the people in relation to such matters.

Mr. Woodruff had no opposition in this county; but it is reported, we know not with how much truth, that in Tooele an opposition candidate was run, and if so Mr. Woodruff may have been defeated.

We do not know how to account for the apathetic feeling that exists in Great Salt Lake County in regard to elections, as few of those having the right of franchise seldom exercise that privilege by going to the polls and voting for those they prefer for official stations within their gift.

LATE EASTERN NEWS.

The Eastern Mail was ready for delivery early on Saturday morning last, having arrived some time in the night previous. By it our usual number of exchanges were received, with dates from New York and other eastern cities to October 13th.

The news of the Republican victories in Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania is fully confirmed. The result, it is said, had a most disheartening and crushing effect upon the Administration, and, it is reported, that the reign of "elongated faces" in Washington was fairly inaugurated. Much excitement prevailed there the day after the elections, and the business of the departments was interrupted and in some cases suspended. Several rows at the hotels at the evening had a tendency to increase the panic.

The election in Nebraska on the 9th of October is reported to have resulted in the election of Daily to Congress, by a majority of about 500 over Moreton. Eight Republican and five Democratic councilmen were elected. The House of Representatives is also reported to be overwhelmingly Republican.

It was generally conceded that the election in Florida had resulted in the success of the Breckenridge candidates for Governor and member of Congress. Milton's majority for Governor was over 1000, and Hilton for Congress received about the same number of votes.

Governor Willard, of Indiana, died at St. Paul, Minnesota, on the 4th of October. His body was taken to Indianapolis and displayed in state; thence to New Albany for interment.

Lady Franklin arrived at Philadelphia on the 8th, and was stopping at the Gerard house.

Captain Reynolds, Tenth Infantry, who has been examining the Wind river country the past summer, reported on his arrival at Omaha, N. T., the last of September, that he had discovered a pass in about latitude 46°, which was 2,500 feet lower than any heretofore discovered on the line of the Rocky Mountains. He probably wishes to immortalize his name by giving it to the pass, known (like some others that have recently been discovered) to the mountaineers for half a century or more. Since Fremont seems to care but little about the appellation, Capt. Reynolds may possibly hereafter be called "The pathfinder."

There were two horse thieves hung at Fort Smith, Ark., Oct. 4th. A man named Martin H. Gilliam, alias William Owen, who had been arrested some weeks before, and an effort made to hang him, but jumping away from the rope, was shot, receiving a severe wound. Subsequently, as soon as his wound would permit, he was taken to the county jail, whence he escaped; stole another horse; was retaken and led to a tree with the rope round his neck; confessed his guilt; asked forgiveness; prayed; warned those present and was hung.

About the time the citizens had finished the job of hanging Gilliam, a Choctaw half breed, named Shoat, was brought into town, charged with a similar offence. He was tried on the street; confessed that he had stolen, and was soon hanging by the side of his brother thief. Their bodies were left hanging on the tree over night as a terror to the numerous horse thieves that were prowling about in that vicinity to the great annoyance of the people.

There had been some hostile demonstrations in Florida, indicative of the existence of a bad state of things in some portions of that State. On the 25th of September, according to the *Marianna Patriot*, a party in Calhoun county, styling themselves Regulators, killed two or three men and wounded others, some mortally. Gen. Anderson had ordered out his brigade to bring the Regulators to terms and quell the disturbances, the county having been declared in a state of insurrectionary war by the Hon. J. S. Finley, judge of the Western Judiciary Circuit of the State. It was believed that persons from other States, were engaged in the commission of open hostilities against that State, and in violation of the laws of the United States. Later accounts state that the people of Gadsden, Liberty, Jackson and Washington counties were organizing a force to operate against the desperadoes.

An extensive machine shop with an adjoining establishment in South Boston, was destroyed by fire, Oct. 6th. Loss, \$200,000, and 200 operatives thrown out of employ.

The Western Transportation Company's propeller, Mount Vernon, with a cargo of

20,000 bushels of corn and 500 bbls of flour, exploded her boiler near Point au Pelee and instantly killed three men, and slightly injuring several others. The vessel sunk immediately, and with her cargo was a total loss.

A severe storm raged in New Orleans and vicinity on the 4th of October—the most destructive that had been experienced for years. The total loss by the storm in that city was estimated at \$150,000. The back portion of the city was entirely submerged.

Eleven miles of the Jackson railroad were washed away, and a large number of houses on the route carried off by the flood. Several lives were lost. The damage on the river was very heavy. Many steam-boats were blown ashore, and a number of others sunk. Some thirty-five or forty sugar houses were blown down, and the crops greatly injured.

At Baton Rouge twenty-one coal boats were swamped, and four steam-boats sunk. A storm raged in the southern part of Georgia, and in portions of Florida the same day.

On the 5th of October an up freight train ran into an up passenger train on the Weldon road at Everettsville, North Carolina. The baggage master was killed and the conductor Mr. Laspeyre, had a leg broken and is not expected to recover.

A destructive fire occurred in St. Louis, Oct. 10th, in Allen's Iron Works, in the south part of the city. It was caused by the furnace wall giving way. Loss, \$25,000 to \$30,000. Nearly two hundred laborers were thrown out of employment. The same day there was a large fire at Troy, N. Y. Loss, \$60,000.

The New Orleans *Picayune* of the 2d reports the explosion of the steamer Bayou City—running regularly between Galveston and Houston—near Lynchburg, with a fearful loss of life. The total number killed and wounded was unknown. Those known to be killed principally belonging to the boat, and negroes. There was a large list of passengers. As far as known, the explosion was caused by incrustation, by salt water, on the boilers.

The Secretary of the Interior had decided not to remove the thirty clerks in the Land office. Work is to be furnished them to the detriment of about one hundred ladies who work out of the office. The Secretary remarked jocularly recently that he would not remove the clerks, as Lincoln would do that, fast and soon enough, as reported.

It was said that whatever conclusion the department may arrive at regarding the proposed change of mail service from St. Joseph, it will in no wise effect the Pony Express.

The Secretary of the Interior had refused the application of the western settlers and buyers to extend the time fixed for the Minnesota land sales, and expressed his opinion that actual settlers now on land need have no fear of a subsequent warrant claiming titles within the specified time allowed for payment for their land.

The Postmaster General has issued an order of which the following is a copy:

"Whereas, by the act of the 3d of March, 1855, the postage upon all letters, except such as are entitled to pass free between places in the United States, is required to be prepaid; and whereas the department, through courtesy, has hitherto, at considerable labor and expense, notified the parties addressed in all instances in which the writers failed to prepay, that their letters would be forwarded on receiving the postage due thereon; and whereas, instead of diminishing, the number of such letters continues to increase, thus showing the omission to prepay is intentional; it is therefore ordered that, from and after the first day of November, 1860, all such unpaid letters be sent to the Dead Letter office, to be disposed of in like manner as other dead letters."

The latest accounts from New Mexico state that the preparations for a campaign against the Indians had not intimidated them. A party of them went into Fort Fauntleroy a short time ago and ran off eighty head of cattle belonging to D. E. Connolly. The volunteers for the war against the Navajoes had marched for the place of rendezvous.

Advices from Texas state that the Indian depredations in that State had not ceased, and that Gen. Houston had ordered a company of sixty mounted riflemen to the frontier.

At latest dates from Mexico the Liberals were successful and hopeful of taking the capital. Miramon was still in the capital with 11,000 men. The Liberals still occupied Queretaro as their headquarters.

The whole subject of the condemnation of the bark Maria Concepcion had been referred to Madrid.

The Spanish minister had advised a conciliation of the Juarez government.