

complained of. This led to congressional investigation and an appropriation of several thousand dollars to buy reindeer in Siberia for use in Alaska.

The animals can be bought in Siberia for \$5 apiece. The government agent there is a Mr. Bruce. He purchased a lot of the animals and shipped them to San Francisco, where they are now, awaiting transportation to Alaska. On the ocean voyage, as the vessel bore into a warm climate, the reindeer became affected by the heat, and several of them died. Since landing, another has succumbed to climatic influences, so that of the shipment there are now but six remaining. It is believed that on reaching the cold region they will thrive as in their native country.

As to future shipments, Mr. Bruce is now endeavoring to get permission from the authorities at Washington to send the animals direct from Siberia to Alaska. It is to be hoped that this consent will be given, as it will afford a better opportunity to show whether the Siberian reindeer will flourish on Alaskan soil, or rather snow and ice. Their use, if the experiment is successful, will greatly facilitate travel. Fastened to a sled by a harness which consists of a band over the shoulders and between the legs, and guided by reins to the horns, the reindeer covers the distance over snow and ice-clad roads as rapidly as a good horse on an open highway.

POINTS FROM THE ELECTION.

The most moderate thing that can be said, expressive of the late election throughout the East, is that the Democrats are surprised.

In New York, politics have suffered a practical revolution. The legislature is now firmly Republican in both houses. Maynard, the Democratic candidate for the court of appeals, was defeated by Bartlett with a majority almost equal to that of Cleveland in 1882. The estimate before us is 165,000. This astonishing vote is undoubtedly a revolt against the corrupt machine gang through which David B. Hill has for years virtually appropriated the state to his and his friends' uses.

In Ohio the surprise is not in McKinley's election, but in the immense increase of his majority over that of his former election. He has won by almost 100,000.

Iowa has gone Republican all over, Jackson defeating Boies with a majority of 20,000, or more. The legislature remains Republican as before.

Massachusetts before the election was in a situation similar to Iowa. It had a strong Republican legislature coupled with a Democratic governor elected on personal popularity. It has bolted personal considerations and elected Greenhalge over John E. Russell with a majority of 30,000 or more.

In Illinois the conflict centered upon Judge Gary's nomination to the state judiciary. He was fought by such Democratic prodigies as Governor Altgeld on his anti-anarchist record. His majority was not so large as some others but it was sufficient.

Returns from other states in which elections were held are about of the same general character, except in

Kentucky and Maryland and Virginia which are as positively Democratic as Pennsylvania is Republican.

All sorts of partisan causes have been evolved to explain the result, among which the tariff and silver questions have been most prominent. The most reasonable cause, as we believe, is hard times. A hungry man out of a job is inclined to hold the political party in power, whichever one it is, responsible for his uncomfortable condition, and so votes for the man with the promises, and against the man who made the same promises on a similar occasion a year before. And so the election machinery takes another turn!

NOTICES FOR PUBLICATION.

The NEWS has on one or two recent occasions received for publication announcements that have appeared to us injudicious and improper for newspaper circulation. We have not been able to see that any particular good would be accomplished by giving the publicity requested. On the contrary, we have imagined that it might be of serious injury, though, of course nothing of that kind could have been intended.

By way of answering the queries of the correspondents who have had such requests uncomplished with, and with a view to supplying a rule for the government of such matters in the future, let us cite a case, and suggest the procedure that would have been appropriate.

The clerk of a quorum of Seventies forwarded to this office, and requested the publication of, a notice to the effect that a certain member of the quorum had been disfellowshipped. Whom could this fact affect, besides the man himself and the quorum to which he belonged, or at most the ward in which he lived? Where was any reason for spreading the news broadcast? If so, it was not given. The penalty of disfellowship in itself would indicate merely a temporary punishment; a suspension, in other words, which through repentance and the taking of certain steps could be and would be relieved. The party so treated was in a position to be labored with, prayed with, exhorted and charitably encouraged, and irrevocably cut as it and turned over to the buffetings of Satan. The case seemed to us to be one where the only persons who needed to be informed of the circumstance at that stage of its progress were the members of the quorum; and if they had been in attendance at their meetings they would have known it already. We declined to publish the notice as requested.

So, also, to a certain extent, with excommunications—where the extreme step has been taken and where it has been necessary actually to administer this extreme penalty. We are averse to publishing, and have perhaps given offense by refusing to publish, many occurrences of the kind upon the mere request of the clerk who reported and kept a record of the proceedings. The spirit of the Gospel is forbearance and charity with the erring, not needless humiliation. Where persons have been merely neglectful, or indifferent, and have thus gone astray, it would easily be possible that

hasty and inconsiderate action in advertising their fall might on further inquiry bear the appearance of persecution, at least of unnecessary harshness, and thus interpose a barrier in the way of reclaiming the wayward ones. Patience, calm deliberation and a free exercise of charity are never out of place on occasions of this character.

At the same time, there are instances where excommunications, and perhaps even withdrawals of fellowship, should be made known to the whole Church, that the flock may be warned against wolves, and put on their guard against impostors. In such cases the NEWS, as the organ of the Church, is the proper medium through which the announcement should be made. Under such circumstances this paper will be quite ready to do its duty. But there is an order in this, as in all Church proceedings, that should be observed.

If the authorities of a quorum of Seventies think it necessary that one of their number should be advertised in this way, it is only respectful, nay, it is absolutely necessary, that they lay the matter before the presiding authorities of all the Seventies, who, in turn would consult, in a matter of so much importance, the Presidency of the Church. In a case of excommunication from a ward or branch of the Church, the Presidency of the Stake should of course be respected in their office, and they in turn should submit the matter of publication to those over them, the Presidency of the Church. It would be as improper for the NEWS to accept a notice of this kind upon the request of a quorum clerk, as it would be for a Bishop to go around his Stake Presidency and apply himself directly to the higher authorities. In adhering to the regular order there can be no confusion, and no misplacing of responsibility.

These suggestions are well-meant, and we hope they will be received in the spirit that has prompted them.

THE DUTCH AS DIPLOMATISTS.

The selection of James J. Van Alen of Newport as ambassador to Italy—his diplomatic ability and experience having consisted in giving a check for \$50,000 to the Democratic campaign fund last fall—has been commented upon in these columns. The strictures made on that appointment will also be appropriate for that of James Roosevelt-Roosevelt as secretary of the American legation at London. Mr. Roosevelt's sole qualification, so far as known, was also the giving of a check to Mr. Cleveland's campaign fund—\$10,000 was the figure we believe. The young nabob has been confirmed all right, and if he hasn't already gone to his new station he doubtless will soon do so—all of which is his business and none of ours.

But there is a point in this affair that will bear a moment's scrutiny. Van Alen is a son-in-law of the Astors, an associate by marriage with all the millions of dollars controlled by that old New Amsterdam family. Roosevelt (if the reader desires accuracy he should pronounce the name twice in rapid succession) is also a son-in-law of the same illustrious house. The selection of two such specimens by Mr.