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IN ADVANCE.

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## PRESIDENT HARRISON.

It is to the credit of the American people, and particularly that portion which belongs to the party victorious in the late election, that amid the wild rejoicings and the racy enthusiasm over their triumph they have with almost entire unanimity accorded President Harrison respectful and friendly treatment. There have been a few instances—we have heard of one or two in Utah—where speakers at jollification meetings have undertaken to allude sneeringly to the chief magistrate, but in every case so far as reported such allusions have been received with cold displeasure by the audience, and the ill-mannered orators have met the silent but none the less effective rebuke that they merited. No matter how widely at variance with some ideas of policy and government he may be, the fact remains that he has occupied during nearly four years, and still occupies, the highest office within the gift of man; a distinction and an honor that, apart from any characteristics of his own, will not be denied to him by any save those destitute of taste and breeding.

But President Harrison has other claims upon the consideration of his fellow citizens than those which merely rest upon his occupancy of the White House. According to his lights he has performed his duty faithfully and in the main acceptably. He has brought to his high office sincerity and integrity. In himself or in his administration there has not been found a taint of scandal. Affairs have been managed with cleanliness and patriotism. Mistakes he may have made, and some of his acts have not escaped sharp criticism; but he has given proof of a sincere devotion to Americanism and a strong desire to promote the national weal. In his home life there has been a sweetness and a simplicity that has warmed the popular heart, and in his recent bereavement he has shown the world how to be manly in the deepest sorrow. Political enemies admit that his course has been singularly upright and conservative, and none can point to a crisis which found him inadequate.

It would therefore seem that in these days of his domestic bereavement and political disappointment he deserves from others besides Republicans a generous feeling and a hearty display of sympathy, esteem and respect.

## A NEEDED AMENDMENT.

All the voting done in New York on Tuesday last was not for Presidential electors or state officers by any means.

A consequential feature of the balloting was the determination by such means whether or not the constitution of the commonwealth should be amended; so it was in California and we believe one or two other states. In the first named the amendment voted on was probably adopted, and it would be a good thing if it could be made universal because, as it seems, some method for determining contested election cases other than by mere partisanship is one of the crying needs of the times. The text of the amendment is as follows:

The election return and qualifications of any member of either house of the legislature when disputed or contested shall be determined by the courts in such manner as the legislature shall prescribe, and such determination, when made, shall be conclusive upon the legislature. Either house of the legislature may expel any of its members for misconduct, but every person who receives a certificate of election as a member of either house, according to law, shall be entitled to a seat therein unless expelled for misconduct or ousted pursuant to a judgment in a court of competent jurisdiction.

This is declared to be a consequence of the late struggle over contested election cases in the New York legislature and in some cases reached the courts after the members of that body had acted upon it, each of course in accordance with his political predilection; whether they or any of them took the circumstances of the cases or the justice of the situation into account, it is not for us to say, partly because we don't know and partly because it is not material; the principle itself is wrong and, as such, ought to be abolished.

It is declared by a cotemporary that the "growth of contests and the scandals of seating and unseating candidates with little regard to the actual vote cast and at the will of a party majority are far worse than the gerrymander. In state after state members fairly elected have been denied the right to seats or ousted from them after taking possession, and this has always happened for some partisan purpose. In the House of Representatives at Washington the decision of contested cases has long come to be recognized as something disgraceful to us as a nation and most injurious to us politically. It is now admitted everywhere by reasonable people, solicitous for fairness in politics and decency in the strife of parties, that these contests should be referred to the courts. The transfer of this prerogative from legislative bodies and the creation or designation of tribunals for the purpose ought to be ordered in every state."

Few there be who can dispute the conclusions arrived at, even if they are in a position to deny the statements contained. The matter is generally made worse by the practice in vogue of paying the contestant, whether successful or not, and so with the contestee. Being in no danger of losing anything in a financial way the unprincipled candidate with just a shadow of justification can bring a contest for the place to which the people did not elect him, and if his party happens to be in power the chances largely favor his success; indeed, it is almost unanimously the case that this has been the result. But supposing this should not happen through its being

too glaring for even his partisans, or the other party being in power, the unsuccessful applicant is generally sent away with no cause for comment on the ingratitude of republics; his wounded feelings are assuaged with a check representing his expenses and a good deal more.

## MARLBOROUGH'S DEATH.

The dispatch which came over the wires on Wednesday last announcing the death of the Duke of Marlborough arrived at a time when the whole country was upside down, so to speak, and we of Utah were sympathetically in the same condition. Under such circumstances no demise of a lesser personage in point of prominence than the Queen herself, the Prince of Wales or possibly the prime minister would have received much attention on this side of the Atlantic, albeit the duke stands nearer to us (by marriage) than most of the British nobility.

Marlborough was several degrees from being a man of rectitude or even common morality. His repeated dissensions and almost continuous debauchery lost him the recognition at court to which his rank entitled him, and which he enjoyed until Victoria and even Albert Edward were compelled to "cut" him. He was drowned in debt and his residence, Blenheim palace, would have gone out of his hands at public sale but for the English law of entail, which holds it in the family. It was going to rack and ruin, and would doubtless by this time have been unfit for occupancy had he not made an arrangement with an insatiable American woman and several times millionaire, Mrs. Hamersley, of New York, to supply the needed funds in consideration of his bestowing upon her the title of duchess; of course marriage was an indispensable incident to this affair, but only an incident most likely. "Society" was surprised and the "Four Hundred" had an abundance of enjoyable gossip on hand when the news of the hasty nuptials was sprung upon the country four years ago last June. The marriage was performed by Mayer Hewett, the bride immediately began preparations for her journey to England, while the bridegroom got scandalously drunk as usual and remained so till the next morning. The new wife, as a first investment, spent \$750,000 upon the palace and thus rescued it from impending ruin, and it is probable that since that time she has disbursed as much more in the same way, to say nothing of what supporting such an establishment, its lord and master and herself properly have cost her. All this comes to an end now, for the duke's eldest son by his former marriage (his first wife is not dead but divorced) succeeds to the estate by the implacable decree of English heredity. So that Mrs. Hamersley (that was) has perhaps paid a million dollars a year for the privilege of supporting a foreign family's name and keeping its possessions from the worms and moths, and now it all goes from her to that family without remedy.

The duke was the eighth in order who has held the title he bore. He was middle-aged and not bad looking; he leaves a daughter and three sons, all by