

certain, and out of these neither can safely dispense with New York, whose thirty-six electoral votes will, if things come anywhere near adhering to the normal, determine the contest; but they are, we think, more nearly indispensable to the Democrats than to the Republicans; because Wisconsin was strongly Republican in 1888 and is more likely to go that way now than the other, while Michigan's vote will surely be divided, the President getting the majority of it. With the Empire state the *sine qua non*, a study of how it has gone heretofore and what the present indications on both sides are, is interesting at this time.

New York City and its immediate surroundings are the Democratic Gibraltar, the majority being seldom less than 60,000 and running up to fifty per cent. greater and more. This year the registration is largely increased, the gain presumably with the Democrats, ratably. Republican estimates figure the city majority for their opponents down to 45,000 and the latter place it at 75,000 which would leave the Republicans with about 80,000 to overcome with their vote above the Harlem river in the former case and fully 90,000 in the latter; 35,000 and upward is claimed, the Democrats reducing this in their estimates forty to fifty per cent., so that the claims run from about 15,000 to 25,000 for Harrison in the whole state and 25,000 to 60,000 for Cleveland. As this is somewhat unsatisfactory, we might as well leave the lower part of the state and see how things look above the river. The following tables show the registration in the cities last year (when Flower, Democrat, was elected governor by nearly 48,000 majority) and error for this year, each party with its majorities then, being placed by its side.

|               | Rep. b. | Dem.    |
|---------------|---------|---------|
| Registration  | 1891.   | 1891.   |
| Republican    | 189,214 | 189,214 |
| Albany        | 3,849   | 3,849   |
| Auburn        | 9,044   | 9,044   |
| Binghamton    | 3,283   | 3,283   |
| Cornell       | 4,298   | 4,298   |
| Glensville    | 3,476   | 3,476   |
| Ithaca        | 3,345   | 3,345   |
| Jamestown     | 4,156   | 4,156   |
| Middletown    | 5,859   | 5,859   |
| Newburg       | 1,974   | 1,974   |
| Owego         | 5,661   | 5,661   |
| Poughkeepsie  | 31,692  | 31,692  |
| Rochester     | 4,092   | 4,092   |
| Saratoga      | 23,114  | 23,114  |
| Syracuse      | 106,481 | 106,481 |
| Total         | 189,214 | 189,214 |
| Registration  | 1891.   | 1891.   |
| Democratic    | 23,014  | 23,014  |
| Albany        | 56,498  | 56,498  |
| Buffalo       | 4,739   | 4,739   |
| Cohoes        | 2,381   | 2,381   |
| Dunkirk       | 7,051   | 7,051   |
| Elmira        | 3,299   | 3,299   |
| Hornellsville | 5,493   | 5,493   |
| Kingston      | 5,076   | 5,076   |
| Oswego        | 3,445   | 3,445   |
| Rome          | 5,607   | 5,607   |
| Schenectady   | 14,072  | 14,072  |
| Troy          | 11,472  | 11,472  |
| Utica         | 4,297   | 4,297   |
| Watertown     | 130,512 | 130,512 |
| Total         | 130,512 | 130,512 |

This gives the Democrats a slight advantage if percentages hold good; but it is noticeable that there is a falling off in the state as compared with the vote of four years ago, the deficit being from 25,000 to 40,000; this shows a condition of apathy which may be favorable to either or neither, the reader will have to take his choice.

Following are the figures for the last two Presidential elections:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 1881. Blaine above the Harlem, 100,915 ;   |  |
| Cleveland, 338,718.                        |  |
| 1884. Blaine below the Harlem, 161,090 ;   |  |
| Cleveland, 224,330.                        |  |
| 1888. Harrison above the Harlem, 451,044 ; |  |
| Cleveland, 365,645.                        |  |
| 1892. Harrison below the Harlem, 197,715 ; |  |
| Cleveland, 270,112.                        |  |

The following figures as to the registration and Democratic gains in New York city will be of assistance:

|           | Regis-<br>tration. | Gain in<br>4 years. | Per ct.<br>gain. | Dem. plu-<br>rality. |
|-----------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1880..... | 302,402            | 27,000              | 14               | 41,285               |
| 1884..... | 240,906            | 38,430              | 17               | 48,084               |
| 1888..... | 266,542            | 45,636              | 16               | 55,813               |
| 1892..... | 269,830            | 23,288              | 8                | .....                |

The reader is now in possession of all the beforehand facts and figures of any consequence which he can well obtain and can form as close an estimate of the results as though he were on the ground—much better perhaps. All the apparent certainties on either side should be added together and of the sum totals the lesser subtracted from the greater; then by treating the elements of doubt in the same manner and comparing all the results, a conclusion can easily be reached—which the people may smash to smithereens with their blanket ballots on the morrow. They may, however, ratify it; there is no harm in trying.

## ONE OFFICEHOLDER WHO WILL STAY

Matters affecting the President or the Presidency of the United States have a peculiar interest on a day like this, when twelve millions of freemen are going through the solemn, majestic and world-attracting performance of making their choice as to the head of the nation. Here in the vales of the mountains where we are not buttressed by state lines and where the domain is under the exclusive control of the government at Washington, we can only participate in spirit, but most of us take as keen an interest in the result as though each was armed with a ballot which would be cast for Presidential electors and counted the same as where sovereignty prevails.

Whatever may have been the choice of the people today, he will not be confronted at the beginning of his term nor perhaps at any time during it with the annoying newness of anything in, around or pertaining to the White House. Both of the principal candidates, one of whom must inevitably be chosen, have served a term there and know how it is for themselves; otherwise, notwithstanding that both are pretty well posted on general topics, we question if there are not some customs and conditions prevailing at the Executive Mansion that would seem quite useless if not annoying as well. One of the practices prevalent there is a relic of the early days, before we had the glare of the electric light, the clangor and rush of the locomotive, or the annihilation of time and space by the telegraph; it is maintained in all its primitive features for the simple reason that it is the only link in the shape of a domestic custom which binds this age with that of Washington and Jefferson, and it has thus become somewhat enshrined in the minds of those who live near the national headquarters; certainly, while utterly useless, it has been ex-

empted from abolishment, while other things co-natal with it have passed away long ago.

The custom spoken of is the lighting of some large lanterns which stand out from the large white pillars of the front portico of the White House. When these were a light which lightened, "a many years ago," they were doubtless looked upon as indispensable adjuncts to the grand establishment over whose portals they held nocturnal sway; but improved methods, not only in oil, which itself is beginning to have a back-number flavor, but in gas and electricity, have imparted to the "lanterns dimly burning" a sort of sickly glare which makes them as lacking in the matter of ornamentation as of use. It is to be hoped that the progress which has come upon the land to stay may continue free from the hand of the vandal, at least so far as this picturesque relic is concerned.

Those who pass by the President's home at nightfall, if they look through the high iron railings which enclose the front lawn, may see an aged man coming deliberately along the flagged walk from the greenhouse, carrying a long stout ladder; this he places against the iron supports of the lanterns, to one of which he mounts and then, going into his pocket, produces a match, strikes it, lights the candle in its tin socket, comes down and repeats the performance until all the lamps are lit. We suspect the old man is himself a "relic of bygone days," that he has followed his present job since he was a young man—probably in James K. Polk's day—and that he does nothing else around the place. No matter what his politics, we guarantee he will never be disturbed nor his place otherwise filled until he is called to join those who once looked upon his duties at the White House not as a purely perfunctory performance but as a matter of some considerable consequence. Long may he stay!

## BUSINESS ON THE RAILS.

One ray of comfort to Colonel Elliot F. Shepard agent his proposed one dollar railroad ride to the World's Fair, is found in the statement put out that the railroad industry just now is a most flourishing one in all respects. Statistics, it is claimed, show that the general business in this country is not only prosperous but gives promise of even better things; it is shown that transportation of passengers was never in better form, and that the Wagner and Pullman systems of sleeping accommodations are well nigh perfect. It is held, however, that the buffet service is only conditionally good; when there is not much travel a good "square meal" is laid before the passenger for the trifling consideration of one dollar, but this gratifying condition is negated by the accompanying statement that the dining cars are nearly always crowded to the point of suffocation, leaving us to conclude that the fare and treatment are bad in an inverse ratio. Added to this is the annoying assurance that these cars are always poorly ventilated, a condition of things which, it would seem, is so easily