

tion. When these facts are made known to them, and their intelligence and justice appealed to, we need have no fear of the result; their loyalty to the flag and country will never again be questioned. By longer adhering to the Liberal party we are giving the Democrats an open field; and when the former party is disrupted, which it surely must be, we will be found with the bag to hold, the game having long since been captured. If the Liberals of Salt Lake county wish to retain their Liberal organization, I have nothing to say. They are strong enough to hold their own, and can elect their own representatives to the Legislature; but we who number only fifty in Millard county can only stand and look on at the turmoil of political strife, without daring to take action with them. We can, I feel confident, carry Millard county for that glorious old Republican party. We can place a man in the Legislature that will be an honor to us, that will represent a principle, who will be honest and aggressive for our best interests, who will not be subservient to the wishes of the majority, but who though he stands alone will stand fearlessly for the right for loyalty, and for the best interests of his constituents. For these and other reasons equally pertinent, I could not longer affiliate with, or enter the late convention of the Liberal party, and I feel confident that you and the Liberals of Millard county will, when you weigh the great issue at stake at the coming election, agree with me, and henceforth throw our influence, and lend our voice and pen, and give our votes for the success of that loyal party that never yet had a traitor in its ranks, that have ever stood for American interests and American industries, for American men and women and their prosperity, and for the honor of that splendid emblem of our country in every clime—Our Flag.

Yours truly,

CHARLES CRANE.

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE.

A CORRESPONDENT in the north sends the following communication:

"Our civil government class of the Y. M. M. I. A. would like some explanation of the past and present rule or custom of the Electoral College in the election of the President of the United States."

"What has caused the change in their way of voting? In early times each elector voted. Now it seems that the State votes and takes away the right of the minority to their vote."

"An explanation through the DESERET NEWS would help our class and perhaps others."

The rule or custom of the Electoral College is established by the Constitution and is set forth in the Twelfth amendment, which we here produce for the benefit of persons in remote places who have not the document at hand:

"The electors shall meet in their respective States and vote by ballot for President and Vice-president, one of whom, at least, shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves; they shall name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-President, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice-President, and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate; the president of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of

Representatives, open all the certificates, and the votes shall then be counted; the person having the greatest number of votes for president shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed; and if no person have such majority, then from the persons having the highest numbers, not exceeding three on the list of those voted for as President, the House of Representatives shall choose immediately, by ballot, the President. But in choosing the President the votes shall be taken by States, the representation from each State having one vote; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the States, and a majority of all the States shall be necessary to a choice. And if the House of Representatives shall not choose a President whenever the right of choice shall devolve upon them, before the fourth day of March next following, then the Vice President shall act as President, as in the case of the death or other constitutional disability of the President. The person having the greatest number of votes as Vice President shall be the Vice President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed; and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers on the list the Senate shall choose the Vice President; a quorum for this purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice. But no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice President of the United States."

President Harrison in his message last December to the present Congress said:

"The method of appointment by the States of electors of President and Vice-President has recently attracted renewed interest by reason of a departure by the State of Michigan from the method which had become uniform in all the States. Prior to 1832 various methods had been used by the different States and even by the same State. In some the choice was made by the Legislature; in others electors were chosen by districts, but more generally by the voters of the whole State upon a general ticket. The movement toward the adoption of the last-named method had an early beginning and went steadily forward among the States, until 1832 there remained but a single State, South Carolina, that had not adopted it. That State, until the civil war, continued to choose its electors by a vote of the Legislature, but after the war changed its method and conformed to the practice of the other States. For nearly 60 years all the States save one have appointed their electors by a popular vote upon the general ticket, and for nearly 30 years this method was universal."

In article I of the Constitution of the United States provision is made for Presidential electors in the following words: "Each State shall appoint, in such manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a number of Electors, equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress; but no Senator or Representative, or person holding an office of trust or profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector."

From this it will be observed that the question of Presidential electors is entirely a State affair. However, there is another clause in the Constitution which says:

"The Congress may determine the time of choosing the electors, and the day on which they shall give their

votes; which day shall be the same throughout the United States."

But this merely gives Congress the authority to determine the time, and had no reference to the manner of procedure.

In the first Presidential election eleven States participated. The number of electors was fifty-six. Washington received the votes of the entire college for President, John Adams received thirty-four for Vice-President, which elected him. At the second election Washington was unanimously elected President, and John Adams received seventy-seven of the one hundred and thirty-two electoral votes, fifteen States having participated. At the third election, in 1796, there were four candidates, Adams, Jefferson, Pinckney and Burr. Sixteen States participated. Adams received seventy-one electoral votes and Jefferson sixty-eight. They held opposite views in politics, but as the Constitution then stood they were elected President and Vice-President, respectively.

In 1800 party lines began to be drawn. A caucus was held in Philadelphia at which Jefferson and Burr were nominated by anti-Federalists. The Federalists nominated Adams and Pinckney. Jefferson and Burr received each seventy-three electoral votes, Adams sixty-four and Pinckney sixty-three. The constitution provided for the person having the greatest number of electoral votes to be President. Burr availed himself of the opportunity to gratify his inordinate ambition, though it was distinctly understood that his place in the race was for vice-President. The election was thrown into the House, and Jefferson elected. This led to the 12th amendment which defines distinctly the methods to be adopted, and guards against complications of the Jefferson-Burr kind.

The plan of choosing electors on a general State ticket in force by many States, seemed to grow in favor. The complications in 1825 which threw the election into the House, and again in 1828 which caused great dissatisfaction, led to the general adoption of the plan, except in South Carolina. After the war this State fell into line, and it was not until 1890 that a departure from the rule occurred, when Michigan adopted the District plan of choosing electors. Each Congressional district elects one member, and the State is divided into two districts for Senatorial electors. As to which plan is the better, comes within the realms of debate. In the February Forum is an article on this question by Mr. Phelps, ex-Minister to Great Britain, more or less favoring the Michigan idea. In the same Forum, or in a succeeding number is an article by Ex-Senator Edmunds opposing the Michigan scheme. By reading both articles our correspondent will get a fair idea of both sides.

THE "TRIBUNE" RECANTS.

THE long pending libel suit of Attorney Jesse B. Barton against the Salt Lake Tribune appears to have been withdrawn. By stipulation and agreement of the plaintiff the case was dismissed on Saturday without costs. The explanation to this was afforded in the columns of the Tribune on Sunday.