

cans of that state resorted to chance with the opposition unrepresented to declare a candidate of their party for the legislature elected; his election means the election of a United States senator of the same political faith and thereby, it may be, the continued minority of the Democrats in the upper house of Congress. While the contest over that solitary legislator was going on, Governor Humphrey of Kansas sent a missive to U. S. Judge Foster regarding the matter and apparently requesting his influence, to which the following reply was made:

Dear Governor:—I have been standing up for Kansas to the best of my ability, but when it comes to stealing members of the legislature and presidential electors from a political opponent you must excuse me if I sit down. Sincerely yours, C. G. FOSTER.

This prompts a cotemporary to suggest that "if there were more of these laconic letters flying around among the politicians they might exert a wholesome tonic effect on public affairs."

### AHEAD OF TIME.

The state of Kentucky has a law providing for the electoral vote for President and Vice President to be cast on the first Wednesday in December, while the United States statute on that subject requires it to be done on the second Monday in January. The Kentuckians, among other things, are devotedly attached to the doctrine of state sovereignty, and, obedient to the *lex loci*, the electors met on the date first named and cast the vote of the commonwealth for Cleveland and Stevenson. There is nothing like being prompt, and sometimes a decided point is gained by taking time by the forelock. In this case the Kentucky branch of the electoral college has at least shown the others of the same political faith what they are to do and how it is done; but if they want the vote of the state counted at all on the second Wednesday in February next, the "colonels" will have to get together at the time designated by Congress and do their voting over again.

### A NEW RAILROAD FACTOR.

If there is any truth in yesterday's dispatch as to the closing of the gap in railroad communication between Caspar, Wyoming, and Ogden, Utah, a tardy explanation of a colossal marvel may not be out of order.

Two or three years ago, when the Chicago & Northwestern by its western feeder constructed its line to Caspar and stopped there, great curiosity was felt as to the motive that could have caused that great corporation to cease operations while still "in the air," having reached no terminal giving further connections or contributing in even a small degree to the operating expenses of the extension already made.

The knowing ones finally decided that the amicable terms concluded about that time between the Northwestern and the Union Pacific—an alliance it might almost be called—lay at the foundation of the folly alluded to. President Charles Francis Adams

preferred the gloved hand of diplomacy to the mailed fist of aggression, and his policy was to stifle competition before it could be born rather than to conquer it either in pitched battle or by the tedious operations of a prolonged siege after it had secured an existence. So the would-be contestant for western business was cajoled into becoming an ally and an amicable sharer in the spoils; the Central Pacific was again checkmated in its desire for a more favorable connection than the U. P., and the people of the West, particularly of Utah, were again disappointed in their rosy hope of vastly stimulated commercial activity.

But no one ever believed that matters could remain long in that anomalous condition. The Northwestern railroad could not long maintain its reputation for energy and business sagacity if it satisfied itself with that amusing extension that "began at the river and ended nowhere," or if it should blind itself to the fact that its U. P. alliance would not prove permanent and beneficial. And the dispatch referred to shows that a sense of the condition has finally been experienced. Caspar's star is announced to be waning and Ogden's to be in the ascendant. The former has enjoyed the honor longer than ever anticipated, and the latter is to be congratulated on the promise of reward that at length comes to him who is patient. Naturally the Central Pacific will be elated, and the Union Pacific will need no reminder that it is to be required to meet new conditions. Nor is it likely that Salt Lake City will be left out of all the immediate benefits. The U. P., deprived of much of its revenue from western business, may take the heroic course of pushing its own long-promised extension through to the Coast; and the Northwestern, being once in Ogden, may not feel its journey ended till it reaches Utah's capital and metropolis, in which case Mr. Bamberger's little puzzle, known as the Great Salt Lake and Hot Springs R. R., may be worth watching.

All this in case the dispatch of yesterday is correct, and its plan be carried out. Of course if the thing is merely rumor, and there is nothing laughable about it, why, then, —

### A LESSON IN AMERICANISM.

The report that President Harrison after the expiration of his term of office will become a member of the faculty of the Stanford university, California, and deliver a course of law lectures, may or may not be true; but the rumor itself is interesting as suggesting a phase of American republicanism that cannot but be profitable as an example to all the nations.

It will seem strange to the subjects of kings and kaisers that a man who recently occupied the highest governmental office in the world, that is, the chief magistrate of the greatest government under the sun, should be able, without loss of prestige or dignity, to resume the ordinary walks of life and employ the talents lately exerted as national executive in the humble calling of a college professor. They can scarcely conceive of one whom they esteem a ruler peacefully

laying down the reins of power. With them death, mental or bodily disability, or force of arms are the only known agencies of effecting a change. Most of all are they amazed that in the one who thus vacates the chair of state there is no suggestion of busy intrigue and restless endeavor to regain the place to which another has ascended.

A great object lesson in this which the United States of America thus show from time to time before the world of mankind—this choosing from the sons of the country one to act for a season as its highest officer and then relegating him to the ranks again. And to the credit of recent ex-Presidents be it said they have done much to make the lesson year by year more effective. Of not every instance in our history can as much be said. There have been cases where the retiring official has so completely disappeared from public sight and mind as to give credit to the belief that his election was an accident. Indeed, there has been a disposition in many quarters to regard an ex-President much as a worn-out shoe, and worthy only of remembrance for what he had been, not for what he was. But of late years there has been a marked change, not only in the conduct and course of life of the men themselves, but of their fellow-citizens toward them. One need scarcely mention the name of Grant, whose place in the people's heart could never be usurped by another, and whose popularity increased to the day of his death. Notable, too, for his high demeanor and worthy Americanism during what proves to have been merely an exile from the White House was ex-President and now President-elect Cleveland. And there is no kind of doubt that President Harrison, when the time comes for him to step out, will carry with him the loving esteem and the hearty loyalty of the great body of the people. Whether lecturing on law before a class of students in California or practicing his profession as an attorney at his own home, he will do nothing to create in any honest heart a feeling of disappointment that he was once the Union's President.

It is right that it should be so, and it is to be hoped that from this time on it may so continue. Thus shall the nations of the earth have constantly before them two great ideals to be sought for in every perfect commonwealth: the patriotism of the individual and the constancy of the masses.

### TO PREACH ISLAM.

A dispatch last night announced that Alexander Russell Webb, who a short time ago resigned his position as United States consul in order to be at liberty to devote himself to the propagation of Islam in America, meets with great success in soliciting subscriptions in India for this purpose. He has already obtained thousands of dollars and will—so the dispatch says—spend it on periodicals, lectures and a translation of the Koran. How much is to be devoted to other more personal objects the report wisely omits to record, but it is probably safe to presume that the gentleman's enthusiasm for the oriental