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## Our Outlook

### WHO WILL BE THE NEXT PRESIDENT?

If Walter Wellman and other political prophets are to be relied upon there is good reason to believe that President Roosevelt may yet be a candidate to succeed himself.

These wise ones do not seem to put full weight in the President's repeated announcements that he will not accept nomination for a third term.

But the theory is that the contending interests of possible candidates, Taft, Cortelyou, Hughes and others will bring a deadlock and then the Convention may swing around to a sweeping nomination of the President. In such a case what would he do? He would probably accept it as an inevitable, even if he did not wish it.

There is nothing new to add to such a forecast of events.

But it certainly would be an interesting contest in which the two most marked men of the two great parties were placed in actual combat against each other on issues such as are now before the country.

It would excite much speculation too, as to which of the giants had the greater strength and whether the country favored a change of administration from an able Republican to an able Democrat.

This is not a prophets' column and we are offering no opinion on the subject.

Now comes a final manifesto from the President himself reasserting what he said "on the night after election" and declaring that he has "not changed and shall not change the decisions thus announced." So the prophets must change their outlook and Bryan will have another competitor than Roosevelt.

### REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.

The first battle of the 1908 conflict has been fought and the city of Chicago wins. The G. O. P. is to meet in convention at the Coliseum on June 16, 1908.

Kansas City made a gallant fight for the honor or the profit—which ever it may be—but the advantages seemed to be so much in favor of the more central city that the vote

stood for Chicago 32, Kansas City 17, Denver 4.

This will mean lively times in the early summer season and if it should happen that the Democrats should decide to meet in the same city, the hotels will reap a great two-fold harvest next summer.

### MORE CRY FOR WAR SHIPS.

The Emperor of Germany has declared in a note this week that the policy of Germany is "a stronger navy, colonization, commercial development, peace and again peace." This paradox is in perfect harmony with our own President's talk. To talk of peace and ask for a bigger war weapon in the same breath seems to have a logical relation in the minds of great rulers. President Roosevelt's recent speeches were remarkable for two things, viz.: the peaceful domestic policy on the one hand and the insistent call for a bigger navy on the other.

Some of us are probably a little crude in our understandings but it would seem to common people that the way of peace is not to excite each other to bigger armies and colossal battle ships and yet this is what the nations of the Christian era are doing.

### FOUR HUNDRED LIVES.

The season which brings us close to Christmas festivity also brings the dark shadows of great calamities. The explosions and other accidents in mines seem always to follow, one upon the heels of another, at this season of the year as if in grim mockery of our excessive show of abundance and festivity.

The last of these sad occasions, thus far reported, is the awful entombment of four hundred miners in Monongah, West Virginia. On Friday, Dec. 6th, a terrific explosion occurred soon after the full force of miners had gone down to their work,—and to an awful death.

It is utterly impossible to bring one's imagination to picture the desolate scene—the terrible confusion—the signs of wreck and ruin—the wail and woe of women for their husbands—children crying in piteous sympathy with their stricken mothers, hardly knowing what it all means, that 400 including their own fathers and brothers have been suddenly buried in darkness.

So closely are related the necessities and comforts of the millions with the very life of hundreds of our fellow men. It is not within the power of the government and all the people to do too much to prevent such holocausts.

### DR. BROSS THOMAS' BIBLE DISCOURSES.

The course of sermons on the authority and worth of the Bible, as delivered in the Presbyterian church, Highland Park, are a continuous liberal education to all who are in attendance.

These sermons are in the nature of a Professor's lectures on fundamentals, but are so presented that they appeal to all classes of hearers.

Last Sunday Dr. Thomas followed up his previous defence of the Bible in the schools with a further statement to emphasize his position that he does not advocate forcing it into the schools but he strongly protests against forcing it out. The Bible is there, has been there from the beginning and it is the very essence of sectarian narrowness to force it out.

The discourse of Sunday morning was on Bible criticism which he characterized as being a very old thing dressed up anew. Criticism is desirable if rightly directed, but criticism which aims at finding flaws is not profitable. To criticize is to open the mind to intelligent view and judgment. Lower criticism as distinguished from what is called "higher criticism" is that the first aims to find exactly what was written while higher criticism deals with their authorship and literary qualities.

The text of the Greek testament is more perfect than any known copy of Shakespeare's writings.

The Bible is able to bear witness of itself. The question—"What does the book say of itself?" is of first importance. As to its history, the Bible is not a story based on myths or fables. It deals with men and time and date. It is historic.

It is fiction, also, for parable is fiction; but its fiction is declared as such, while its history relates to time, place and events.

Radical criticism denies history and seeks to place science against creation. It declares that Abraham is a myth and then it is disagreed about its own statements.

A great difference between the myths and fables of Greece and the histories of men of the Bible is that Hercules, Helene and others are not related to time and place. But Abraham and Jacob and Joseph are historic,—connected with the geographical facts of the world and events of time.

The old books of the law are also related to men and time and place. Moses' farewell address in the book of Deuteronomy is like Washington's farewell address: it is so true to time and place and circumstance.

Finally, the Bible is a book of power in life and character. It transforms life and writes itself into the character of men.

### OLD HICKORY CHIPS.

While all this praise is being passed around to the men who aided in checking the panic, it looks as if recognition of some kind is due those patriotic people who left their money in the bank.

The editor of the Congressional Recorder is in a peculiar position, since he can reject no manuscripts, however worthless, that come to him through the regular Congressional channels.

A Columbia University professor says evolution is nothing but a series of lucky accidents. Hereafter when a man is bumped by an automobile and gets heavy damages he may know that he is merely evolving according to programme.

The Boston Globe prints a long editorial on "The Need of Interior Waterways." There is no getting around the fact that the prohibitionists have made that an important topic.

"The man who works eighteen hours a day as a habit is a plain ass," says the Los Angeles Times. If thereby he keeps another man out of a job he is also a plain hog.

Mr. Foraker's latest fire alarm seems to have awakened all the Republicans living in the vicinity of the blaze.

The weather is beginning to make false prophets out of the gentlemen who have been predicting an open winter.