

**THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.**

The advocates of the republican form of government would be sorely puzzled if they were asked even to extenuate, much less to defend, the scene presented by the recent presidential campaign in the United States. For months that struggle has raged with a fury and a vindictiveness to which its re-occurrence every four years fails to reconcile.

The political issues at stake were comparatively small, but the personal issues were tremendous. The army of those who hold office was arrayed against the army of those who sought to grab their places. The Civil Service of the Great Republic comprises about a hundred thousand servants, and there a change of government means a complete change of all office-holders. No wonder if the battle was fierce; no wonder if a whole nation went wild. Astonishment, if not disgust, must cease even at the most ferocious and most ruthless means taken to secure victory. Vituperation, slander, calumny, all held high carnival. No story was too nauseous to be vamped up, or even to be invented, provided only a rival politician could thereby be injured.

Although the vote was taken more than two weeks ago, the result was not practically decided until Saturday last. It was indeed, morally certain that Cleveland had been elected, but it was not morally certain that the followers of Blaine would not succeed in frustrating the verdict of the people. Eight years ago the Democrats elected Tilden, but that did not prevent the Republicans from installing Hayes in the White House. Then the country stood on the verge of civil war, now only prompt acquiescence in the official declaration can avert it.

Blaine went into the contest, hampered by public record which ought to have annihilated his every chance of success. It was proved by his own letters that he had on various occasions prostituted the high and responsible position, which he held as speaker of the Senate, to purposes of self-enrichment. Cleveland, indeed, stood well as far as his public acts were concerned, but his private life, which his enemies did not fail to rake up and gloat over, was far from being exemplary.

It may seem, at first sight, very absurd that any man should become the head of a nation, simply because he is the son of his father. Such election of chief magistrate may appear too much the work of a careless, and often malicious chance. But when we consider how great is the danger to the State when the choice is left to faction; when we consider the magnitude of the loss to business, the fury of the passions raised; when we consider, in fine, the perfect demoralization sure to ensue from such a war of parties, we must congratulate ourselves that we live in a country where hereditary succession holds good, where no lawless ambition prevails, and where peace and certainty are certain, even if at times some sacrifice of talents and character are inevitable.

To Canadians, the decision across the line is not without importance. The accession of the Democrats to power most probably means such a change in the fiscal concerns of the United States as will prove most beneficial to Her Majesty's loyal subjects in British America.

**EXEMPTION.**

The question of Exemption is rapidly becoming paramount, and the powers which be will soon be compelled to take cognizance of it. To us, it is hard to understand how there can be any difference of opinion on the subject. The plea that certain properties are held and owned only for benevolent purposes, and therefore should not be subject to taxation, is tantamount to saying that there are certain charities which ought to be the recipients of government bounty. Now to draw the line between such aid and State assistance to religious denominations would be an impossible task. Yet the advocates of the latter are units, while its opponents are thousands. Perfect toleration, bounded only by the accepted code of morality, is all that any government ought to grant, for anything beyond this is the first step in a rapid descent to dissolution. Simple honesty is nowhere more imperative than in

church affairs, and no congregation ought for one moment to contemplate the acquisition of property for which it is unable to pay. Taxation is one of the inevitable attendants on property, and no valid excuse for its non-payment can be made good. It is urged, indeed, that the thing is as broad as it is long, but this is not the case. First, because the charity struggling into existence is placed disadvantageously with its more prosperous sisters; and then, even if we grant the indifferency of the matter to the whole country, the injustice to the special municipality remains. It exemption be indefensible in the cases of church property, still less so is it in the case of all other kinds. Where no exceptions are made, there cannot be even a suspicion of unfairness; where exceptions are made, the municipality as a whole is certain to suffer, and its component parts are not likely to be satisfied. We trust that the Mowat Administration will give no uncertain sound in this question, whatever may be the consequences. However great may be the importance of the continuance in office of any government, the framing of just and salutary measures is of infinitely more.

**THE PRIZE ESSAY.**

We call the attention of our readers, especially the younger portion of such, who reside within the limits of our corporation, to the valuable prize offered by the officers of the temperance organizations in this place for the best essay on "The Evils of Intemperance." We hope there will be a large number of competitors, and that their literary productions will be so good that the judges will find it difficult to decide on the best. One, only, can be a successful candidate, but no young person can enter earnestly on a task like this, and draw on his abilities, natural and acquired, without being intellectually benefitted. An effort to compose an essay helps to concentrate the thoughts upon a certain theme, and all our reading and observation is made subservient to the elucidation of the subject under consideration. The mind being full we will find a way of relieving it by dotting down our impromptu thoughts and gathered suggestions in crude and unrounded sentences, but unlike a fleeting thought undetained, we have them fast. We study them, we shape them, and by a proper combination of words and well-regulated sentences, our ideas are presented in a readable form, so that others can understand what we wish to convey. Few, however, have the patience and perseverance to acquire an art of such real and permanent utility unless a stimulus is held out as an inducement to effort. A tangible reward is now within the view of every competitor, and we hope that the young people of our village will show their appreciation of this "golden" opportunity by each making an earnest effort to secure this valuable reward.

**WESTON.**

From our own Correspondent.

**DEATH OF A CENTENARIAN.**—At the residence of her granddaughter, Mrs. John Torrance, Thistleton, Etobicoke, Janet Wardlaw, relict of the late Peter Wardlaw, York Township, aged 101 years. Deceased was a native of Lanarkshire, Scotland, and came with her husband and family to this country and settled on lot 7, Con. 4, York Township, just 50 years ago. Deceased was twice married. First, to Mr. John McLellan, and had issue of two sons, the eldest, John McLellan, Esq., of Etobicoke, now in his 81st year, still survives her. She afterwards married Peter Wardlaw, and had by him nine children, five sons and four daughters, the only survivors being James Wardlaw, Esq., Niagara Falls, and Peter Wardlaw, Esq., of Etobicoke. Her sons are all in affluent circumstances, and with their children, and children's children to the fourth generation, six of the procession being g. g. grandchildren, followed the remains to their last resting place.

Deceased, enjoyed, during her long life, exceptionally good health, and up to the last possessed a vigor of body and mind seldom seen in people a quarter of a century her junior. Her hands were never idle; for several years her time had been mostly occupied, when not writing to some one of her many descendants, in knitting and reading her Bible, which she could do even the smallest print without the aid of spectacles. A few days before her death she caught cold, but thought little of it, and on Saturday, 8th inst., she visited Mrs Rowntree, a g. granddaughter, some half a mile distant. She however, gradually became worse, and breathed her last as above stated.

Tuesday, 18th inst., was a red letter day in the Presbyterian congregation here, the occasion being the induction of their new pastor, Rev. Walter Reid. In the evening, a comfortable tea was served by the ladies, suitable speeches by local outside talent, and the whole enlivened by a competent choir, which made the occasion both pleasant and profitable.

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