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### SOCIETIES.

Masonic Regular Meetings. Minden, No. 253, on Monday, Nov. 5th, at 7:30

Ancient St. John's, No 3, on Thursday, Nov. 1st. at 7:30 p.m. Cataraqui, No. 92, on Wednesday, Nov. 14th, at 7:30 p.m.

Sons of England. LEICESTER LODGE, No. 33, of the Sons of England Benevolent Society, will meet in their new Lodge Room, corner Montreal and Princess Staover Strachan's Hardware Store, the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month.

Cunard Steamship Company. SAHANG from New York every Saturday. Au-thorized Agent, F. A. Folger, Ferry Dock, foot of Brook St., Kingston

Young Men's Christian Association. FREE READING ROOM, 123 Princess street, nee Wellington St., open daily from 9 a.m. to

INSTITUTION.

ment-The Origin of the Ballot-Peculiarities of a Presidential Campaign.

Arm of the Lord, awake, awake! Put on thy strength, the nations shake.

The doctor's text was: "Two cubits and half was the length of it, and a cubit and half the breadth of it, and a cubit and a half the height of it."-Exodus xxxvii, 1. He said Look at it-the sacred chest of the ancients of pure gold. On the top of it stood two wings. In that sacred box was the law, and the Jordan parted A Champanage of the

precious, momentous box. No unholy hand might lay hold of it. It was called the ark of the covenant. But you will understand it was a box, the most precious box of the ages. Where is it now? Gono forever. Not a crypt fragment of it.

But is not this nation God's chosen people Have we not passed through the Red seaf Have we not been led with a pillar of fire by night! Has this nation no ark of the covenant! Yes, the ballot box, the sacred chest of the nation, the ark of the American cove-

In it is the law, in it is the divine and the human will, in it is the fate of the nation. Carried in front of our host again and again the waters of national trouble have parted. Mighty ark of the covenant, the American ballot box! It is a very old box.

In Athens, long before the art of printing, the people dropped pebbles into it to give expression to their sentiments. After that beans were dropped into it-a white bean for the affirmative, a black bean for the negative. After that, when they wished to vote a man out of citizenship they would write his name upon a shell and drop that into the box. THE MIGHTINESS OF THE BALLOT BOX.

O'Connell and Grote and Cobden and Macaulay and Gladstone fought great battles in the introduction of the ballot boxes in England, and today it is one of the fastnesses of that nation. It is one of the corner stones of our government. It is older than the constitution. In it is our national safety. Tell me what will be the fate of the American ballot box, the ark of the American covenant, and I will tell you what will be the fate of this nation. Give the people once a year, or once in four years, an opportunity to express their political sentiments, and you practically avoid insurrection and revolution.

Either give them the ballot or they will take the sword. Without the ballot box there can be no free republican institutions. Milton visiting in Italy noticed that on the sides of Vesuvius gardeners and farmers were at work while the volcano was in eruption, and he asked them if they were safe. "Yes," said the farmers and the gardeners, "it is safe; all the danger is before the eruption; then comes earthquake and terror, but just as soon as the volcano begins to pour forth lava we all feel at rest." It is the suppression of political sentiment, the suppression of public opinion, that makes moral earthquake and national earthquake. Let public opinion pour forth, and that gives that gives permanency to good government. And yet, though the ballot box is the sacred chest and the ark of the American covenant, you know as well as I know it has its sworn antagonists, and I propose this morning, in God's name and as a Christian patriot, to set before you the names of some of the sworn enemies of this sacred chest, the ark of the American covenant, the ballot IGNORANCE AS AN ELEMENT IN POLITICS.

First, I remark, ignorance is a mighty foe. Other things being equal, the more intelligence a man has the better he is qualified to exercise the right of suffrage. You have been ten, fifteen, twenty, thirty years studying American institutions, you have canvassed all the great questions about tariff and home rule and all the educational questions, and everything in American politics you are we.l acquainted with. You consider yourself competent to cast a vote next Tuesday, and you are competent. You will take your position in the line of electors, you will wait for your turn to come, the judge of election will announce your name, you will cast your vote and pass out. Well done.

But right behind you there will come a man who cannot spell the name of comptroller, or attorney or mayor. He cannot write, or if he can write he uses a small "I" for the personal pronoun. He could not tell on which side of the Allegheny mountains Ohio is. Educated canary birds, educated horses know more than he. He will cast his vote and it will balance your vote. His ignorance is as mighty as your intelligence. That is not right. All men of fair mind will acknowledge that that is not right. Until a man can read the Declaration of Independence and the constitution of the United States, and calculate the interest on the American debt, and know the difference between a republican form of government and a monarchy or a despotism, he is unfit to exercise the right of suffrage at any ballot box between Key West and Alaska.

In 1872 in England there were 2,600,000 children who ought to have been in school. There were only 1,833,000, in other words, about 50 per cent., and of the 50 per cent. not more than 5 per cent, got anything worthy foreign ignorance and add it to our American ignorance, and there will be in November thousands and thousands of people who are are these things to be corrected? By laws of compulsory education, well executed. I go in for a law which, after giving fair warning for a few years, shall make ignorance a crime. There is no excuse for ignorance on these subjects in this land, where the common schools make knowledge as free as the fresh air of heaven. I would have a board of examination seated beside the officers of registration, and let them decide whether the men who come up to vote have any capacity to be monarchs in a land where we are all monarchs. One of the most awful foes of the American ballot box telay is popular gnorance. Educate the people, give them an opportunity to know, and understand what they do. If they will not take the education, deny them the vote.

Another powerful enemy of this sacred chest, the ark of the American covenant, the ballot box, is spurious voting. In 1680, in Brooklyn, there were a thousand names recorded of persons who had no residence here, and if there were a thousand attempted fraudulent votes in the best city on the continent, what may we expect in cities not so the ark of the American covenant, they deserve extermination.

is intimidation.

Corporations sometimes demand that their employes vote in this and that way. It is skillfully done. It is not positively in so many words demanded, but the employe understands he will be frozen out of the establishment unless he votes as the firm do. So you can go into villages where there are establishments with hundreds and thousands of employes, and having found out the politics of the head men in the factory, you can tell which way the election is going. Now, that is damnable. If in any precinct in the pleases, there is something awfully wrong.

differently from what you do? Oh, you say you do not interfere with his right of suffrage. But you call him into your private office, and you find fault with his work, and after a while you tell him there is an uncle. or an aunt, or a niece, or a nephew that must have that position. You do not say it is because he voted this or that way, but he knows and God knows it is. If that man has given to you in hard work an equivalent for the wages you pay him, you have no right to ask anything else of him. He sold you his work; he did not sell you his political or religious principles. But you know as well as I do there is sometimes on that sacred chest, the ark of the American covenant, a shadow corporate or monopolistic.

I do not wonder at the vehemence of Lord Chief Justice Holt, of England, when he said: "Let the people vote fairly. Interference with a man's vote is in behalf of this or that party. I give you notice that if an offender against the law comes before me I will charge the jury to make him pay well for it." No shadow plutocratic, or mobocratic, or capitalistic. Every man voting in his own way-God and his own conscience the only dictator.

Another powerful foe of that sacred chest, the ark of the American covenant, the ballot box, is bribery.

You know something of the hundreds of thousands of dollars that were expended to carry Indiana in 1880. You know something of the vast sums of money expended in Brooklyn and New York in other years to carry elections. Bribery is one of the disgraces of this country. And there will be more money used in bribery this autumn's election than in any previous election. It is often the case that a man is nominated for office with reference to his capacity to provide money for the elections or with reference to his capacity to command money from others. You know the names of men who have at different times gone into the gubernaterial chair or congressional effice buying their way all throagh. I tell you no news. Your patriotic hear, has been pained again and again with it.

Very often it is a or money that bribes, but it is office. "Los made the president and I'll make you a gaulhes, oricer: you make me governor and i'm make you sarveyor generalt: you make me maker and I'd put you on the water board; you give me position and I'll give you position.' Inat is the form of bribe often and often in those pread cities. I do not say it is in our car, but you know again and again throughout the land these have been the forms of bribe offered. So it is often the case that by the time a man comes to an office to which he has been elected he is from the crown of head to the sole of foot mortgaged with pledges, and the man who goes to Albany or to Washington to get an office is applying for some position which was given away three months before the election. Two long lines of worm fence, one worm fence reaching to Albany and the other to Washington, and there a great many citizens astride the fence, and they are equally poised, and they are waiting to see on which side there is most emolument, and on this side they get down. But bribery kicks both ways. It kicks the man that offers it and the man that takes it. Bribery today you will admit to be one of the mightiest foes of the American ballot box.

SOME OF THE ODDITIES OF CAMPAIGNS. Another great enemy of that sacred chest is defamation of character. Can you find out from the newspapers when two men are running for office which is the best! - How often in the autumnal elections the good man is denounced and the bad man applauded, so that you can come sometimes to no just opinion as to who is the best man, and there are hundreds and thousands of electors who go up to vote so utterly befogged they know not what they do. Is not that a fearful influence to be brought upon the ballot box of this country? It has been so ever since the foundation of this government.

Thomas Paine writes Washington a letter, and publishes it, saying: "Treacherous in all private friendship and a hypocrite in public morals, the world will be puzzled to know whether we had better call you an apostate or an impostor, and whether you abandoned good morals or never had any." That is Thomas Paine's opinion of George Washing-

John Quincy Adams declared that he was solaced in regard to the scandals and the anathemas inflicted upon him by the fact that his father, John Adams, had to go through the same process, and John Quincy Adams declared be really thought in that present election there were men who gave thoir entire time to manufacturing falsehood in regard to him. Martin Van Buren was always pictorialized as a rat. Thomas H. Benton and Amos Kendall were always pictorialized as robbers with battering rams breaking in the door of the United States

On the day on which Thomas Jefferson was inaugurated president of the United States. March 4, 1801, the following appeared in The Sentinel of Boston: "Monumental inscription. Yesterday expired, deeply regretted by millions of grateful Americans, and by all good men, the Federal administration of the government of the United States. animated by Washington, Adams, Hamilton, Knox, Pickering, McHenry, Marshall and Stoddard; aged twelve years. Its death was occasioned by the secret arts and open violence of foreign and domestic demagogues. As one tribute of gratitude in these times this monument to the talents and services of the deceased is raised by The Sentinel." Under such defamation as that Thomas Jefferson went into cflice.

My father told me that when Andrew Jackson was running for president of the United States the whole land was flooded with coffin bandbills-pictures of six dead men, in allusion to the six deserters whom Andrew Jackson had had shot, and all the pictorials of those times represented Jackson as taking his office from the hand of the

Continued on page three.

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