

If the people of the United States do. not understand by this time all the complex machinery of Electoral Colleges, and the mode in which the votes of the electors of the different States shall be counted in Congress on the second Wednesday of February next, it is not because there has not been a large amount of writing upon the subject. We cannot open a leading exchange from any part of the country without finding in it from one to five or six columns on Electoral Colleges and the counting of the vote in the presence of the two Houses of Congress.

The Hon. Clarkson N. Potter, of New York, has seen fit to make a pleases in the matter. We are certain large contribution to the electoral literature of the times, and to tell the people and Congress exactly what must be done when the matter of opening and counting the votes for After all the writing we have had on President and Vice President comes before the Senate and House of Representatives. In the long and labored selves as to the power possessed by letter which Mr. Potter has published in a New York paper in regard to the duty and province of Congress In counting the electoral vote, there is not anything new, or peculiarly striking. It contains a resume of the proceedings of Congress in such cases almost from the commencement of the government till the present time, and it may be valuable to some as a letter of reference. But the document of the New York lawyer derives its chief importance from the fact that it is supposed to have been dictated by Governor Tilden, and outlines the course which will be pursued when the votes for President and Vice President shall come to be counted by Congress.

Some time since, it was hinted that the House of Representatives would turned for Hayes, to send out an innot attend on the day appointed by law for counting the vote, but Mr. Potter speaks authoritatively upon this subject, and seems either to have the Senate sends jout a committeee to complete control of the Democratic Kentucky to look into the informamembers of that body or to have con- tion of the so called Presidential sulted each one as to what he would election in that State. Louisiana has mary, "The House of Representa- Kentucky enjoys. Her State governtives," says he, "will not refuse to at- ment is as legal as that of Kentucky. tend to the counting of the electoral Her methods of determining how her vote. It will permit the counting of electoral vote is to be cast are no more every vote which it may judge lawful to be counted; and no vote can be lawfully counted without its concurrence or against its judgment and direction." This is a very strong assertion, and a plain declaration that the House of Representatives, which has a large vote of the record of another State. Democratic majority, shall rule and | The House might find that Louisiana ing or rejecting the vote of a State, suspected of dealing unfairly with the If the vote shall be counted according people. The Senate may find that

#### exclusive legal evidence" that those States cast their votes for certain candidates. The Man adds: "It cannot be, therefore, that the authority

an reside anywhere to try any question, or to find any fact, that is to warrant the two Houses in rejecting the votes of any Electoral ollege of whose authority to give those votes the State through its constituted authorities, has legally informed Congress. All such questions and all such facts it belongs to the proper authorities of each State to try and determine, before the persons supposed to be chosen electors are assembled to give their votes. Any attempt by the two Houses or either of them, to go behind the certificates and to determine the right of the electors to give the votes which they have certified, when the State has decided that right by its competent authorities, will lead to conclu sions in which the people of this country will not acquiesce."

There is plainly a wide difference of pinion between Mr. Potter and the Sun in regard to the power and 1 in Oregon, 7 in Pennaylvania, and 1 in authority which the two Houses of Congress can exercise in counting the vote for President and Vice President. According to the latter, Congress can not go behind the certified vote of any State, but, according to the former the House of Representatives can do as it there is no such power, as Potter claims there is, vested in either branch of Congress; if there were it would be a dangerous thing for the country. the subject neither Republicans nor

Democrats are agreed among them-Congress in counting the Presidential

### The Great Question.

vote.

THE POWER OF CONGRESS TO REGU-LARE, SUPERVISE AND DICTATE THE ELECTION OF THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE.

Cincinnati, November 24.-The Commercial editorially says: "Before committing themselves utterly to the doctrine that the Congress of the United States has power to regulate, supervise and dictate the election of a President, the Democratic leaders should take a look at the whole situa-

tion. General Ewing proposes in case the electoral vote of Louisiana is revestigating committee and take testimony, with the view of contesting that vote in Congress. Then suppose do on the second Wednesday of Feb- the same rights in the Union that n 41-1v to be called into question than those of Kentucky. One State is as sovereign as another. If one House of Congress has a right to go behind the record of Amazon, Ohio..... 1,000,000. the vote of one State another House of the vote of one State another House of Congress has a right to go behind the Travelers Life & Accident. 4,000,000. do as it sees fit in the matter of count- is infested by dishonest men, who are n41113

The Democrate Check in Congress. In the present House of Representatives

In the present House of Representatives the Democrats have a trustworthy majority of at least 73 votes. The majority they held during one long session, in which they claimed that they had won the confi-dence of the people, and since the recent election they are continually boasting of their 'popular majority." But judging by the complexion of the next Congress, the dense of nonular sending in the the degree of popular confidence in the Democratic party is not such as to justify much boasting. Their great majority is cut down till it cannot exceed a round dozen, and may be less. Indeed, so close was the vote in some of the districts now conceded to them that it was for some time conceded to them that it was for some time doubtful if there was a Democratic majority in the House at all. Their first losses were in the October elections when they lost 4 in Indiana and 5 in Ohio. These were fol-lowed in November by the loss of 2 in Cali-fornia. I in Florida, 6 in Illinois, I in Iowa, 1 in Karasa 4 in Massachustia 2 in 1 in Kansas, 4 in Massachusetts, 2 in Michigan, 4 in Missouri, 1 in New Jersey,

Tennessee These results would be accepted by any party not infatuated with pride and obsti-racy as a stinging rebuke. The country could not readily tell a party in a more con vincing fashion that they had not met its ex-pectations than by reducing a majority such as the Democrats have in the current Con-gress, to the pitiful margin which it will have in the next one. Nothing could bear more directly on the judgement of the peo-ple regarding the conduct of the majority ast session than this remarkable change in its proportions.-New York Times.

A New Orleans correspondent writes: Of the fifty-seven parishes in the State forty have been officially heard from. They show a Republican majority of from seven to eight thousand. There will be contests in regard to at least twelve and perhaps twenty parishes, but they will not come up untill the districts in which there is no contests have been disposed of. This is in accordance with the State election laws. The count of the uncontested parishes will be finished in about three days, and then the disputed ones will be considered.

It is thought that they can be gone through with in seven days, and that by the first of December an official announcement of the vote for President ond Vice President can be made.

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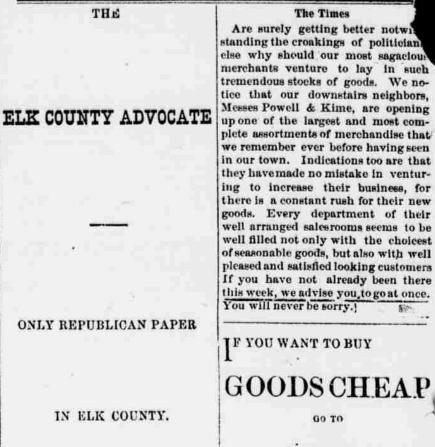
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direct, else they will not recognize the person as President of the United States who may have a majority of the votes of the electors appointed and duly certified by the proper authorities of the respective States. If the language of Mr. Potter means anything it means this, nothing more, nothing less. That we may not do him any injustice we quote his exact words: "Whomever, by the vote so counted, shall appear to have the majority of all the electors appointed will be President, and will be accepted by the Democratic party as such; and whomever, if no President be so chosen, the popular branch of the government shall then, in due form, choose to be President, will be so accepted by them; and it will be those who may see fit to resist the executive, thus lawfully elected, who will be defying the law."

The constitution of the United States says: "the President of the Sen\_ ate shall, in the presence of the Senate den. and House of Representatives, open all the certificates and the votes shall then be counted," no matter whether' Republicans or Democrats may object. The language of the constitution is mandatory, and confers no discretionary power in the matter of counting compel them to vote for the Democrats. the vote upon any person; all the certificates must be opened by the President of the Senate and be by him counted, or else by whomesoever he may appoint. But Mr. Potter assumes that votes which the Democrats may consider fraudulent and object to shall not be counted, boldly declares that the House of Representatives shall decide the whole matter, as it alone has judicial power in the case. Now very good Democratic authority asserts that the counting of the vote for President in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives is purely a ministerial and not a judicial act.

We suppose that no person will call in question the soundness of the New York Sun's Democracy, and it evidently does not agree with the views advanced by Mr. Potter. It is very sure there is no authority or power which can object to the counting of the vote of any State which may be sent, within the time prescribed by law and duly certified, to the Presi- his wrath to the lock-up. dent of the Senate. The appointment of Electoral Colleges is commit-ted entirely to the States, and their late election was within eight of what was certificates, when duly certified by the State authorities, "become by 7th inst. it was 112,522, and on the 7th inst. it was 112,530, a gain of one per sorce of the constitution the sole and ' annuw.

to the direction of the Democrats of though the local affairs of Kentucky the House, then the person who shall are exceptionally well managed, the have a majority of the electors ap- solemn regulations made by the Conpointed by the several States shall be stitution for electing a President are President, and the Democratic party, utterly disregarded in that State. If as such, shall recognize him as the Louisiana can be pitched out why not Chief Magistrate of the nation. This Kentucky or any other State? Let is a plain declaration that the votes us not depart from the plain path for investigation, and promotes thought and must be counted as the Democrats shall marked out by the Constitution."

> Blue Jeans Williams is 68, and his wife 70 years of age

The city tax in Philadelphia this year is to be \$2 50 on the \$100. There are five thousand ownerless trunks

at the Centennial, in spite of baggage smashers. The Georgia State Board of Health is

g ing to investigate the causes of the yellow fever. Atlantic City received its installment of

wind last Monday at the rate of forty-four miles and hour.

At Honolulu, on the King's birthday, November 16, swimming matches are a feature of the feasts.

Probably owing to the excitement Hayes, if elected, will be inaugurated on S unday the 4th of March.

Alex H. Stephens laid over every night on his recent trip from Georgia to Wash ington. He is still very feeble.

Conklin, Sherman and Sargent among those most prominently mentioned for President of the next Senate.

Illinois is the banner greenback State, having given Peter Cooper 16,006 votes. Still he is no nearer in than Hayes or Til-

A company has been formed at Niagara Falls for making paper out of wood. They won't let anybo dy look at them for less than five dollars an hour.

Colored men in Louisiana can be found to make affidavits that the Republicans bulldozed them, or tried to, in order to Tweed was born in 1823, married in 1844, in 1851 was elected alderman, afterward sent to Congress and then on and on until he reached Vigo and was returned to New York,

Showers of grasshoppers are reported in various portions of Fayette county, Ohio. They are rather late for this year, but their successors will be at work early in the spring,

At the auction sale of the Menzie collection of books on Tuesday Breckinridge's "Incidents of the Insurrection in the Western Part of Pennsylvania in the Year 1794," sold for \$14 50 a volume.

A Board of Health Inspection Committee reports that 100,000 quarts of water have been sold in New York city as milk. No wonder the supply from the Croton reservoir is alarmingly scarce.

A woman in St. Louis met har death by wearing a sun-bonnet, which prevented her seeing the horse and wagon which ran over her. There are not many women who run the risk of death from anything like blinders on their bonnets.

A Chicago fireman's wife met a restaurant waiter according to appointment a few nights ago, but the fireman was there too, and after bull-dozing both of them to his heart's conte- t, dragged the objects of

It is noticed as a singular fact that the

I TPAYS every Manufacturer, Merchant, Mechanic, Inventor, Farmer, or Professional man, to keep informed on all the im-provements and discoveries of the age. IT PAYS the head of every family to in-

troduce into his household a newspaper that is instructive, one that fosters a taste encourages discussion among the members. The Scientific American which has been published weekly for the last thirty-one years, does this, to an extent beyond that of any other publication; in

fact it is the only weekly paper published in the United States, devoted to Manufac-tures, Mechanics, Inventions, and New manhood, dc., I will send a recipe that will cure you, FREE OF CHARGE. This Discoveries in the Arts and Sciences. great remedy was discovered by a mis-Lvery number is profusely illustrated and its contents embrace the latest and

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