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BDITORIAL OFINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS-COMPILED EVERY DAT FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

### The Mexican Difficulty and the Possibili-ties of Intervention. From the Times.

One of the secrets of Lord Stanley's success as the Foreign Minister of England doubtless lies in his ability to judge of passing events, not as they affect the personal or domestio sentiment of civilized communities, but as they seem to bear upon national interests, and the working out of a national policy. It is a quality of statesmanship which is clearly brought into view in the Minister's reply to the request for information respecting Maximilian's death, made by a member of the House of Commons. That reply, it will be seen, discourages any appeal for vengeance against the Prince's murderers. "I do not see," says Lord Stanley, "what especial notice is possible or required on the part of the British Government." In other words, the Foreign Secretary holds that the Queen's advisers were not responsible, in the first instance, for the mal-adventure which culminated in the tragedy at Queretaro; that they ceased to have any special interest in the administration of Mexican affairs when the Tripartite treaty was brought to a close at Soledad; that the French protectorate formed no part of the original scheme of intervention: and that in the imperial project which followed, England had no other part or lot than the recognition of what appeared to be the de facto Government of Mexico.

The British Secretary not only refuses to be committed to a hasty declaration of sympathy, but he bars the door rgainst any appeal in that direction, by roundly denying that the execution of the Emperor is in any sense the affair of England or of the English Government. The Foreign Minister's words seem, at first blush, to be unnaturally cold-considering the excited state of public feeling throughout the greater part of the Continent;--in all the Court circles of Europe; among the higher and the lower classes of English society; and even here among our own people. Outside of the more violent faction in Congress, there has been but one expression in regard to the execution at Queretaro. That expression has been one of thorough execration against the bloody orders of Escobedo's court-martial. Of all this, Lord Stanley was thoroughly well informed when he announced in the House of Commons that the murder of Prince Maximilian was no concern of the British Government. Are we to condemn the British Secretary? Is his indifference an insult to the general sympathy of civilized communities for the courageous and self-sacrificing victim of Cæsarism? These are questions which we venture to think a great many here and elsewhere may not, without some prompting, take the trouble to study at all. And yet they deserve some share of study, if we care to interpret fairly, justly, and with anything like discrimination the policy of our own Government.

While individual members of the Administration may hold the execution of Maximilian to have been a wanton insult to the sentiment of Christian communities, it does not follow ward as avengers of the deed. We did not aid in any manner in bringing the Prince Maximilian into the meshes of that selfish and fatal policy which caused his ruin, and which struck the latest and most terrible blow against the aspirations of the House of Hapsburg. We not only did not invite the Protectorate of France, nor the erection of an Imperial dynasty to give play for the experiments of modern Casariam; but we protested and protested when our authority and influence were held, momentarily, of little account, against the adventure of the Austrian Prince from its beginning down to the day of the departure of the French troops. The fate which overtook the amiable, single-minded Prince, sad and horrible as it was, does not place us, as a nation, in the pesition either of mourners or "avengers." We should be loth to think that any great number of the American people do not cherish a hearty. wholesome, and earnest detestation of the wretched faction which, in its temporary triumph, now clamors and shouts for blood. But we should be equally unwilling to have it said that in determining our future policy in regard to Mexico, we were guided by any other considerations than those of a broad national character. Whatever arguments weigh with the British Foreign Secretary in determining his abstinence from all intervention in Mexican affairs until the game of the dominant faction shall have further developed itself, apply with double force here. Our policy has favored the revival, whether for good or evil, of what is supposed to bear the outward semblance and character of a republican Government. But we are no more responsible for the acts of its agents than we are for those of the Governments of Hayti, Peru, or Abyssinia. We have desired to see the country work out its own salvation; we have not only discouraged assaults upon its independence; but we have given it the only remaining chance it can have, to show itself worthy of independence. It has made an atrocious beginning. It has committed the unpardonable folly of rejecting advice which would have saved from the scorn and the contempt of civilized nations and of all who have long predicted its ruin. But when all this is said, the dominant faction in Mexico has not, so far, gone to the length of demanding chastisement at our hands. The murder of Maximilian we are no more called upon to avenge than we are required to toin an expedition for the release of the English captives in Abyssinia. And to that extent, we can fairly appreciate Lord Stanley's seeming indifference. It is not the indifference, we assume, of callous feeling any more than is Secretary Seward's representation of the Santa Anna case. Prudent governments have to see to it that they do not hastily become sentimentalists. The indulgence of sentiment costs money. It costs nations tremendous sums. It cost Great Britain five hundred millions sterling inside of a decade or so, when the last generation was young. It has cost France, in this very Mexican adventure, between three hundred million and four hundred million francs. It has cost her Emperor -what? Are we Americans going into the same sentimental game? Our political work at home, to-day, involves heavier labors and more tremendous responsibilities than have ever fallen to the lot of any other constitutionally governed community. Our municipal, State, and National taxes are a burden which will only be bearable by the strictest economy. Mere rumors of filibustering have now a depressing tendency on our securities. Gold appreciates in value, and our industries are anything but lively. Is it a time for the indulgence of sentiment? Or for the practice of economy, forbearance, prudence, and even temper ?

#### Excitement in Europe Over the Murder of Maximilian. From the Herald.

When intelligence of the fate of Maximilian first reached us we foresaw and described the flerce outbursts of indignation and the deep and unfeigned sorrow with which news of the sad event would be certain to be received all over Europe. Each successive mail, as it arrives, confirms the accuracy of the views then expressed. The papers are literally full of Maximilian and Mexico. It is the all-prevailing topic of discussion; and, with scarcely a single exception, grief over the untimely fate of the unfortunate Prince is mingled with unqualified reprobation of the brutal conduct of his murderers. No event at all comparable to the execution of the Mexican Emperor has occurred since Louis XVI perished by the guillotine; nor has any event since that occasioned such deep and general sorrow; and unless we greatly mistake history will pronounce it equally unnecessary and equally barbarous. The murder of the King neither secured nor quickened the life of the French republic; and we speak mildly when we say that we wait for evidence to be convinced that the salvation of Mexico has been secured by the murder of Maximilian.

We publish a letter from the pen of our special correspondent at Vienna, in which the feeling in the Austrian capital is ably de-We publish also an article from the scribed. Pall Mall Gazette, together with numerous extracts from other European journals, in all of which the prevailing feeling is truthfully reflected.

It will be seen from an examination of those papers that while ample justice is done to Juarez and his friends, there are others who come in for a fair share of blame. Chief among the latter is the Emperor Louis Napo-This is precisely what we expected. leon. We have ever been convinced that the more thoroughly this Mexican business was studied, and the more completely it was mastered, the more fully manifest would it become that the chief offender, the real originator of all this mischief, was the Emperor of the French. There are others who have grievously if not wilfully erred, and whose conduct in the matter must ever remain inexcusable; but Louis Napoleon must continue to bear the burden of the guilt.

A Latin empire on the American continent, absurd and impossible to all who know the material out of which it was to be created, was a grand but ridiculous conception, traceable to the imperial brain alone. Filled with vanity because of success achieved on the field Solferino, desirous to propitiate the House of Hapsburg, whom he had greatly humbled, and not unwilling to do a kindness to an ambitious and high-spirited Prince whom he had robbed of his province of Lombardy, it was Napoleon who opened up to the mind of Maximilian visions of empire, and encouraged him to indulge the hope of yet sitting in pride and splendor in the halls of the Montezumas. No one can say that the glittering prize was eagerly grasped at. On the contrary, the whole project was viewed by Maximilian with suspicion and distrust; it was seen to be fraught with great and serious peril; it was discouraged by the Emperor, his brother; it implied the abandonment of his position and prospects as Prince of the Austrian empire. What was there that Mexico could give that Austria had not already given? In what sense could he be a gainer? A worthless crown and an empty name would be poor rewards for the sacrifices which it would be necessary to make. The influence of Napoleon alone overcame these scruples. It was his urgent entreaties, his glowing pictures, his liberal promise of help, which at last wrnng from Maximilian a rel tant consent and it was the bayonets of France which won. and for a time maintained, for him his sceptre and his crown. It is unnecessary to go into the history of later movements to illustrate Napoleon's guilt. The crowning offense was committed at the outset. The grand crime of the whole affair was the bartering away of the rights of a people over which the would-be trader had no control. That crime was committed by Napoleon. We do not say that Maximilian was innocent; but Maximilian, whatever his faults, has died like a true man and made ample atonement. We have again and again, in the pages of the Herald, spoken of the execution of Maxi-milian as a piece of unnecessary cruelty. We have spoken of those who ought to have saved him, who were able to save him, but who did not, and who must continue to bear the shame and disgrace which attach to their conduct. It will be difficult for Mr. Seward, in any number of volumes which he may choose to publish, to convince an intelligent public that he has acted in this matter either in the interests of humanity or in the interests of the American people. But Mr. Seward's offense is small when compared with that of Napoleon. The ghost of Maximilian cannot be an agreeable companion; but the loss of popularity, of power, of prestige, the loss of everything which he cares to live for, and which he has fought so hard to win, will be a punishment less easy to bear.

for once, is resolutely bent upon being happy, prosperous, and comfortable; and although there are gentlemen of the poetical and philosophical persuasions who mourn this tendency to materialism, we, who know nothing more material than blowing whole armies into fragments, cannot agree with them. But whethe we like it or not, the world refuses any longer to fight for light and trivial causes; the people have grown wise, and kings have been obliged to give up their little games. The consequence is that inventors, even in France, are quite as great folk as the Marshals of the Empire; and he who finds out a labor-saving adaptation of the mechanical powers is greater than he who taketh a city. It is a cheerful peculiarity of the time that he who really hits upon a useful invention is sure of being handsomely rewarded.

The busy world wants it, must have it, cannot afford to do without it, and, however reluctantly, is obliged to pay for it. It is true that the inventor is sometimes lacking in prudence, and allows himself to be swindled out of the due reward of his ingenuity; but the world is not to blame for this; it pays some body always, although it may now and then settle with the wrong person. Such an error is occasionally inevitable, and is probably no more frequent in matters of invention than in other branches of business. The world, if anything, is a little too oredulous. It has encountered so many wonders, and seen so many apparent impossibilities overcome, that it is astonished by nothing, and willing to believe in anything. The consequence is that it gets a great many things, extremely useful and highly convenient, which otherwise it would be it forced to go without. Invention, duly encouraged, increases every day in fecundity. We do not care over much for the Legion of

Honor, but we confess to a little pride in the reflection that our own country has been among the foremost in this competition of usefulness. If Yankees have been devoted to whittling, they certainly have whittled to some purpose. For a good many years the world has been laughing at Yankee machines; lately it has been wiser-it has been buying them. We are glad to have our tasteful and artistic contributions noticed and approved, because they bear testimony to the fact that, while we make excellent locomotives, and the best mowing-machines extant, we are not unmindful of the graces and the elegancies of life. It proves something that one of the first objects of an American girl's ambition is to possess a piano-forte. She may be poor; she may be earning with difficulty her own daily breat; but how often she manages to buy the coveted instrument, and to pay for it by little instalments, which imply great sacrifices and close economy, the agents of the manufacturers might tell us. This feeling is very seldom one of vanity; it arises oftenest from a real love of music and the desire of making some progress in the practice of it. This demand has created the manufacture. If we make the best pianos in the world, it is because we buy more of them, and know the good ones from the bad. We can remember when in the whole villages there was not so much as an old-fashioned spinet, while now almost every household has a better piano-forte than Mozart or Haydn ever played on. We doubt if there be this general diffusion of the means of musical culture anywhere else in the world, except, possibly, in some parts of Germany. And yet, we are considered by the ignorant of other nations to be a hard, practical, penurious, grasping, and purely mechanical people. Probably, we take the liberty of saying, there never was a more blundering mistake made in

wars making, and its inevitable distress, and want, and ruin. Nor will the world again lapse into a condition of chronic hostility; for future campaigns, thanks to railways and im-proved projectiles, must be short. The world, same time utterly ignoring the permisious old Copperheads-and they can carry the States of New York and Pennsylvania at the coming elections. By taking this course they can succeed; by taking any other they will surely fail.

#### President Salaave of Hayti. From the Tribune.

General Turin Salnave, the new President of Havti, is a man of whose former history but little is known. The first that was heard of him in this country was his alleged participation, in July, 1864, in an attempt to assassinate one of President Geffrard's ministers. He was condemned to death by a court-martial, but escaped to San Domingo. In May, 1865, he placed himself at the head of an insurrectionary movement in the northern part of the Republic. On the 9th of May he organized a Provisional Government, and on the next day he took possession of Cape Haytien. The insurrection was unsuccessful. The insurgents, at the beginning of June, were shut up in Cape Haytien, where Salnave maintained himself until November, when a difficulty which he had with the English Consul led to the bombardment of Cape Haytien by English vessels. When his position became hopeless, Salnave took refuge on board of the American steamer De Soto, which conveyed him to the Dominican port of Monte Christi. After the success of the insurrection in the earlier part of the present year, public opinion seemed to be unanimous in designating Salnave as the ablest man for the Presidency. He accordingly assumed the government as Provisional President, and, as our latest despatches from Hayti indicate, has just been elected President by a unanimous vote.

Representation of Minorities-"Cumula-tive Voting." From the World.

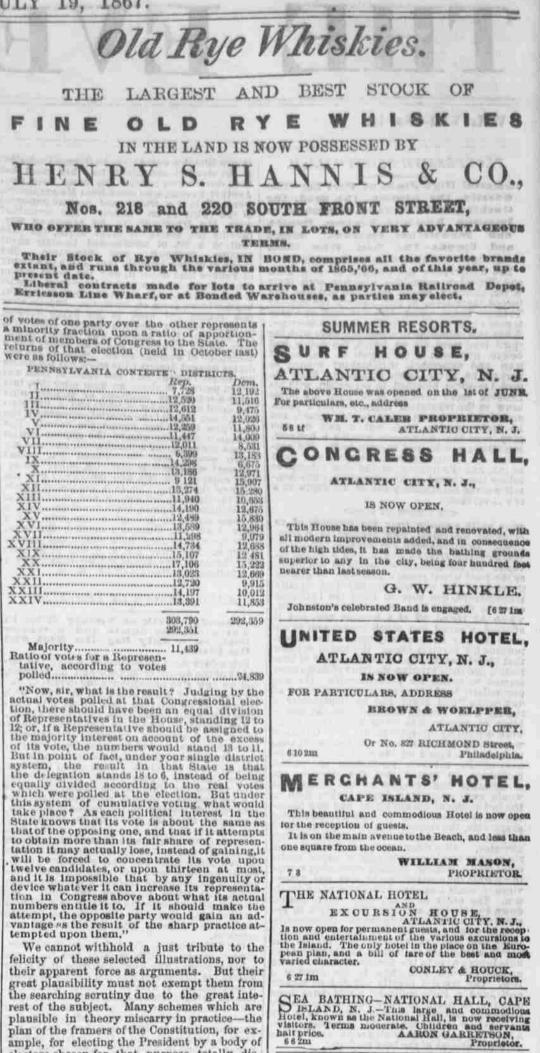
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The ingenious and aptly illustrated argument of Senator Buckalew in favor of what is called cumulative voting, elicited unequivocal expressions of concurrence in his conclusions from two or three intelligent Senators. Senator Reverdy Johnson, in particular, stated that he had been for some time acquainted with the works of Mr. Mill and Earl Grey : that they had convinced his judgment ; that the arguments of Mr. Buckalew exceeded theirs in cogency and pertinent illustration; and that he, Mr. Johnson, as then advised, would vote for such a reform whenever it should be more seasonably presented.

The method of cumulative voting, as a means of securing a more adequate representation of minorities, is deemed by Mr. Buckalew, and do ubtless is in reality, preferable in point of simplicity to any of the other methods which have been suggested for attaining the same result. But while unhesitatingly endorsing its simplicity, we reserve any expression of opinion respecting its efficacy, until we have presented the plan and Mr. Buckalew's leading illustrations. It strikes us that its practical efficacy must be the turning point of the discussion, inasmuch as there can be no reasonable difference of opinion as to the justice of the end, and simplicity in the means is a decisive ground of preference, if they are also efficacions.

The principle of cumulative voting requires



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#### The Legion of Honor.

From the Tribune. We do not know whether the Decoration of

the Legion of Honor, which Napoleon III has been good enough to bestow upon several American exhibitors, carries with it any kind of unconstitutional nobility or not; but we think we may run the risk, and make no protest. One gentleman, who is in the sewingmachine business, advertises that he has been made a Knight, and if so, we cheerfully admit that, the needle being vastly more useful than the rapier, he is as well entitled to write himself "Sir" or "Chevaller" as anybody dubbed during the days of chivalry could possibly have been. One eminent plano-forte maker boasts a similar honor, and piano-fortes, if they do not play "The Battle of Prague" too often, are also peaceful in their tendencies, and worthy of encouragement.

The times have changed since poor Fulton tried to interest Napoleon I in steam navigation, and was impatiently dismissed as a visionary. This is, indeed, the golden age of mechanicians. Formerly an inventor went wandering up and down the world, poverty-stricken, foot-sore, and in all ways distressed; he waited in ante-chambers, be seiged boards, petitioned and memorialized and demonstrated ; he wrote letters which were never answered, sollcited loans which were never afforded, presented projects which were never considered, and had before him a perpetual prospect of dying in the street, the jail, or the almshouse. He might be mobbed, or murdered, or adjudged a lunatic. If any body knows of any adder reading than the biography of inventors and projectors, we beg him to keep his information to himself. We, at least, have no desire to avail ourselves of it.

Wars were formerly history itself; now they are the historical episodes. Peace and mate rial prosperity have now to the minds of most men the value which was once attached to the world since it was created.

The fate of all nationalities is governed by so many circumstances which cannot be foreseen, that it ill becomes us to boast of the probable future of our dear country. This much, however, is certain:-We are rid of that moral and economical incubus which brought at last upon us the distress and shame of civil war. That period of pain and calamity has passed, and a future of pure and consistent freedom is before us. There is a Legion of Honor to which the Muse of History may admit a whole people; and in the society of great, consistent, and truly virtuous nations may we be enrolled !

### The Coming Elections in New York and Pennsylvania—Prospects of Political Parties. From the Herald.

There is a good deal of controversy justnow between the Democrats and the Republicans as to the prospects of each in the coming elections in New York and Pennsylvania. Thad. Stevens said not long ago that the Democrats would carry these two States at the next election. A great many of his own party, however, not so far-sighted or frank, assert the contrary. On the other side, a portion of the Democrats are hopeful, while not a few are doubtful. All this shows the chaos into which political parties are thrown and the muddle in which the politicians find themselves. Now, it is quite clear that the success of either of the parties depends upon their conduct and the management of the elections, and this is more particularly the case as to the Democrats, for they have the most vigorous fight to make. Still, we agree with Thad. Stevens that they have a good chance of succeeding if they

manage right. What, then, is the course to pursue? Certainly not that which the Copperhead members of Congress, such as Brooks and the Woods, of this city, and other Copperheads like them have pursued. They have only played into the hands of the Republicans. They have done more to strengthen the Republican party than the Republicans themselves. If the Democrats should follow such leaders they will certainly be defeated in the coming elections; for both they and their obsolete dogmas have become odious to the mass of the people. No party can succeed that does not accept the results of the war. The past is beyond resurrection. We have passed through a political revolution, and its consequences remain fixed as the stars in the firmament. The anti-war CopperMeads are dead. The war Democrats must throw overboard the Seymours, the Woods, the Brookses, Andy Johnson, and all the old obnoxious leaders of that faction, if they would succeed. They should call conventions in this State and in Pennsylvania, ignoring the past and their past permicious leaders, and frankly accept the results of the war, with the Reconstruction acts and all, as a new point of departure. They then should nominate General Grant for the Presidency, without a plat-form and without pledges. By taking his glorious record, his well-known conservative principles, and his judicious conduct in recognizing the reconstruction measures of Congress as a platform, without any other declaration either on his part or on the part of the conventions, they will take the wind out of the sails of the Republicans, and inaugurate a political revolution throughout the country. The people know where General Grant stands, and have confidence in him. They require no

the abolition of the single district system which now prevails in the election of members of Congress, and asks for each citizen the privilege of casting as many votes as his State is entitled to members. Before the single district system was adopted, many of the States elected their Congressmen by what is called a general ticket; each elector depositing a ballot containing as many names as the State had seats under the apportionment. The district system was adopted to accomplish the very same object which Mr. Buckalew seeks to attain by its abolition-a fairer representation of minorities. Under the general ticket system, the whole delegation of a State was given to the dominant party, even though it succeeded in the election by a single vote. By breaking the States up into districts, every locality in which the minority party could out-vote their opponents gained representative in Congress. Merely to abolish the districts and do nothing else, would operate against the minorities. As parties have lately stood, it would give all the members from New York, all the members from Pennsylvania, and indeed from most of the States now represented, to the Republicans. How is this proposed to be avoided ? By what is called cumulative voting; that is, by permitting every elector in a State which is entitled to ten members, to cast, if he chooses, ten votes for one candidate, or five votes each for two candidates, or two votes each for five candidates, or to distribute his ten votes among candidates in any manner he pleases. We will do Mr. Buckalew the justice to permit him to give his own illustrations of the expected operation of this method, unmixed with any running commentary of ours, and uncolored by our modes of statement:-

"Now, let me illustrate how this scheme would work by a particular example. Take the case of Vermont, a State with 60,000 voters, 40,000 of whom are members of the majority party, and 20,000 of the minority. By act of Congress-the existing apportionment of law-that State is entitled to three members. The numbers I entitled to three memoers. The humbers is have stated are very nearly the exact numbers of voters in that State. Every one at a glance can see what ought to take place. The majority, having 40,000 votes, should choose two members of Congress from that State, and the minority, having twenty thousand votes, should elect one member. Then there would be just repre-sentation. Then there could be no complaint in any quarter. Then our principle of the re-presentation of the people would be applied to the particular case, and no human being can ouceive of any argument or objection against that result.

that result. "This system of cumulative voting renders just that result certain—renders it morally im-possible that any other should take place; and why? Because the minority, cumulating their votes upon a single candidate, can give him sixty thousand votes; each elector giving his candidate three votes, it would count him sixty thousand. The forty thousand constituting the political majority in the State, if they attempt to vote for three candidates, can only give them forty thousand each. If they cumulate their votes upon two candidates, which is what they are entitled to, they can give them sixty thouvoies upon two candidates, which is what they are entitled to, they can give them sixty thou-sand votes each; so that two men will be elected to Congress representing the majority, and one man representing the minority, and it is im-possible for either one of those political inte-rests to prevent the other from obtaining its due there of representation.

rests to prevent the other from obtaining its due share of representation. "Take the case of Pennsylvania, with twenty-four members. In that State at the last Con-gressional election there were polled 595,141 votes. The majority party polled 305,790, and the minority 592,351. It thus appears that there was a majority in favor of one political interest in toat State at that Congressional election, smouthing to 11,489 votes. Multiplying that by five-one-flith of the population ordinarily being the voters of the State-and you see that that surplus which one party possessed of votes over the other represents a population a little exceeding fifty-five thousand-less one-half the number of inbabitants in the State entitled to a representation in Congress, so that this surplus

appointed their expectations. We by means assert that the system of cumul voting would equally disappoint the intentions of its advocates; but this is certainly a fair point of inquiry.

electors chosen for that purpose, totally dis-appointed their expectations. We by no

Proposed reforms in methods of election need to be considered in reference to the action of political parties, as well as in regard to their intrinsic merits. It is the nominating system and party discipline which prevail in this country which have thwarted and nullified the expected operation of the system of Presidential Electors, making the Electors mere passive tools for enforcing the behests of nominating conventions - bodies wholly unknown to the Constitution and laws. And yet party action, exerted through such bodies, is the very life of our politics. Assuming, as Mr. Buckalew does-an assumption warranted by our whole past history-that there will generally be two great rival parties in the country, what guarantee can be given that party discipline will not be as strict and controlling under the new system as under any other? The nominations for Congress would continue to be made by party conventions, and every citizen not wishing to lose his votes would cast them for some of the candidates thus put in nomination. In all closely contested States, each party would be likely to nominate a full list of members, since a failure to do so would be a confession of weakness of which its opponents would take prompt and triumphant advantage. A party which nominated less than the full number would thereby acknowledge and advertise its inability to elect the Governor and other State officers to be chosen in the same election. It is the foible of all parties going into an election to be sanguine and hopeful it is their practice and a part of their tactics to swagger and boast and never to make voluntary confessions of weakness. In all States, therefore, where parties were a all balanced, each would put into the field a full ticket for members of Congress, and party spirit and discipline would cause it to be generally voted for. The practical result

would be simply a restoration of the old general ticket system. The successful party. though succeeding by less than a hundred votes, would have all the members; and half the citizens of the State would be unrepre sented.

In such a State as Vermont, aptly selected by Mr. Buckalew for illustration, the Democratic Convention might nominate only one member, and the Republican Convention two. and each party get the equitable representa-tion which he describes. But the cases would be rare in which, in a State entitled to three members, the minority would happen to have just votes enough to elect their one candidate. If they had too few, they would be no more represented than under the present system.

The freedom with which we discuss Mr. Buckalew's proposition must be regarded as a proof of our sympathy with his general views. He did not broach it with any expectation of its immediate adoption, but for the purpose of eliciting discussion. The subject is most interesting; the end sought to be attained most equitable; and at this stage of the inquiry more is perhaps to be gained by a general sifting of the various propositions and the ex-posure of their weak points, than by advocacy of any of them. What we wish to see is the successful solution of a problem which, well started, and confessed to be important, is by no means to be abandoned as beyond the compass of human ingenuity because none of the solutions thus far offered seem quite successful.

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