

“devil of partisanship” everywhere manifests itself in American politics, and so far from trying to exterminate it we encourage it by supporting persons of disreputable character for party sake. The cry, “Mr. Morrisey—the Hon. John Morrisey, prize-fighter, professional gambler, and honorable member of congress,” is not at all exaggerated.

The questions, “Is this man honest?” “Is he patriotic?” are less often asked by the bosses, than “Can he carry the district?” The man who can pay the “bosses” well for their services and who can in return make enough out of his office to remunerate himself is the one for whom they will work.

It is no uncommon thing to hear persons remark: “I belong to the Republican party.” “I belong to the Democratic party.” Yes, they do *belong*. They are the very poodles of the party around whose necks are collars branded “penny.” It is essential for good government for persons to have a high regard for party ties, but when the “political problem” is lost sight of party ties should be broken and the freedom which our forefathers sacrificed so much for to establish should be exercised to the furtherance of their ideas. The manner in which political campaigns are conducted is below the dignity of this great nation. You may gather all the ribaldry of political campaigns, in one year in despotic Europe, and it will not equal the filthy and obscene indulgences of the press and platform during a presidential campaign in this country. The most vulgar, imputent and least conscientious man is the typical politician. The conduct at many of our open political meetings is simply outrageous. Language is used and stories told that would shock the speaker were he to hear them when the campaign is over. It seems to be a national custom to consider everything “fair in politics.” The political slanderer is not regarded as such after election day, but is left to replenish his supply of political harangue for the next campaign. There are scores of good men

who would gladly enter the political arena for a contest were the truth and nothing but the truth to be the weapon of their opponents, but such is rarely the case. “Truth crushed to earth will rise again,” but it seldom rises until the contest is over. What patriotic citizen can recall the recent campaigns in Texas and Tennessee, where the liquor interests were backed by millions of dollars and Jeff Davis, without indignation?

What is needed more than anything else in this country is more enthusiasm on the part of the good people, and more independent thinking in politics. Make voting compulsory, especially at primaries. Let the dirt of past campaigns fall but let the disgust live to remind us when the temptation returns. Nobody is better, wiser or happier for all the scandals of past politics. Benefits derived from them on one side offset those on the other, like two successive torch-light processions, with their pyrotechnics, leave nothing but their bad smell in the air. J S. W.

A CARD.

G. J. THOMAS,
Editor of THE FREE LANCE.

My Dear Sir: I do hereby resign the business management of THE FREE LANCE, to take effect December 31st, 1887. * * * It is with great reluctance that I now tender this resignation, but other matters require my attention. * * I beg to submit the following statement as showing the financial condition of THE FREE LANCE at the present time:

Cash on hand.....	\$119 07
Amount due on or before June 30 1888.....	241 50
Total.....	\$360 57

After deducting the amount sufficient to meet the expense of publishing the remaining seven issues for the present college year, there will be a balance of at least \$100. With the best wishes for the success and prosperity of THE FREE LANCE, I remain,

Respectfully yours,
JNO. F. L. MORRIS.