POLITICAL EPOCHS.

REVOLUTIONS IN THE POLITICAL BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT.

The Oscillations Which the Politieal Pendulum Has Made Within the Past Century.

There have been many changes in the politics of the executive branch of the Government in the hundred years which have passed since the nation's existence began under the Constitution. All of them involved a complete revolution in the policy under which public affairs were conducted. Each of these changes form a conspicuous landmark in the political vista—each constitutes a well-defined epoch in the country's history.

The changes referred to are here termed revolutions. The term is correct, although used in a different sense from that for which it stands in European minds. They involved no change of dynasty, and, except in one instance, produced no social or political cataclysm. They were merely a transfer of power from one body of citizens to another, and were contemplated by the men who formed the Constitution, as well as brought about by agencies created by the nation's great charter itself.

PEACEFUL REVOLUTIONS.

How, when and by whom were these revolutions wrought? The question may seem to be a small one. In reality, however, it is large, and the answer to it involves consideration of the history and policy of the political parties which have arisen during the country's existence and the record of the country's leading statesmen and publicists. The answer, in fact, will be a *resume* of the political life of the nation from the beginning.

Party, in the present sense, was unknown in this country until over a dozen years after the close of the war for independence. During that struggle the Whigs were those who sought separation from Great Britain, and the Tories were those who opposed it. These were the designations sometimes applied to the divisions into which the people of the colonies were thrown. Whig then was only another name for patriot, and Tory simply a euphemism for traitor.

The debates in the Convention which framed the Constitution revealed a difference in sentiment as to the strength and scope of the authority to be granted the Government. Those who favored a strong central Government, with the powers and prerogatives of the States relatively restricted, came to be called Federalists, while those who took the opposite ground, and desired decentralization, with the States relatively strong and independent, were classed as Anti-Federalists. This was the germ of the party divisions into which the people have aligned themselves. Another advance in party development was reached when, a year or two after the formation of the Constitution, the Anti-Federalists, realizing the inappropriateness of their party name any longer, dropped it, and soon after became known first as Democratic-Republicans, and then as Republicans.

FEDERALISTS AND ANTI-FEDERALISTS.

The leading Federalists were Washington, Hamilton and Adams. The most conspicuous Republicans were Jefferson, Madison and George Clinton. A few words will be necessary right here to prevent misunderstanding. The term Republican, applied to party, as used during the first quarter of this century, had a widely different meaning from that which it has conveyed for the past thirty-five years. This fact must be made plain now.

Party names die, but principles are eternal. The Federalists of 1789–1816, the Loose Constructionists of 1817–26, the National Republicans of 1826–32, the Whigs of 1833–53 and the Republicans of 1854–89 favor a strong central government, a broad interpretation of the Constitution, an adequate protective tariff and liberal internal improvements. The Republicans of 1796–1823, the Strict Constructionists of 1824 and the Democrats of 1825–89 opposed all those. This is the touchstone by which party identity must be determined. Here is the line of descent along which party lineage must be traced.

Here is the broad line of demarkation which has separated the parties from the beginning of the Government. Unless this distinquishing mark is kept clearly in mind the nomenclature of political parties will be misleading and unsatisfactory. If those men were living and retained the views which they held during the time in which they were a power in the country, Washington, the Federalist of 1788; John Quincy Adams, the Loose Constructionist of 1824; Clay, the National Republican of 1832 and the Whig of a subsequent period, would be Republicans now; while Jefferson, the Republican of 1795; Jackson, the Strict Constructionist of 1824 and the Democrat of a later era, would be Democrats to-day.

THREE FEDERALIST PRESIDENTS.

The Federalists triumphed in the first three Presidential elections. There was no opposition to Washington in either 1788 or 1792, while that against John Adams, who was chosen President in 1796, was overcome. This was the last triumph of the Federal party in a National canvass.

In 1800 the day of doom came for the Federalists. President Adams' policy toward France partially antagonized Hamilton and a large section of the party, and the alien and sedition laws—the former of which authorized the President to sent out of the country all foreigners whose conspiracies might embroil the Government in foreign war, and the latter of which forbade conspiracies against the Government and all publications designed to bring it into disrepute, repelled many Federalists, and correspondingly strengthened the Jeffersonians. These influences defeated Adams in his attempt to secure re-election in 1800, and put Jefferson in the Presidential chair.

FIRST POLITICAL REVOLUTION.

The election of 1800 was the first political revolution which the country had known. For twelve years the Federalists had been in control in the executive branch of the Government. In their management of public affairs they had been wonderfully successful. They had put the wheels of Government in motion, devised a system of finance which, in its larger features, has remained in vogue to the present day, and marked out lines along which public business will undoubtedly be conducted for centuries to come. In constructive ability the Federalists have never been equaled except by the Republicans during the civil war period of 1861–65. The party, however, lacked discipline and coherency. Adams' want of tact, Hamilton's imperiousness, and the petty jealousy which each felt toward the other, made its defeat by the Jeffersonians in 1800 a comparatively easy task.

After its first reverse the wreck of the Federal party soon became complete. Adams' retirement upon his defeat in 1800, the killing of Hamilton by Burr in a duel four years later, thus depriving the party of the services of two of its most illustrious chieftains, and the unpatriotic attitude which it took in the War of 1812, finished the business for the Federalists. They never won an election after that of 1796, and, with the close of the Presidential canvass of 1816, the party collapsed.

The Federalists were defeated and discredited, their teachings, in some degree at least, were repudiated, and the political pendulum swung in the opposite direction.

For nearly a quarter of a century the Jeffersonians had no difficulty in retaining power. From 1800 onward, for election after election, their sway was virtually undisputed. Practically speaking, each President named his successor. Jefferson, Madison and Monroe each was chosen for two terms, the latter for his second term.

In the election of 1820, at which only one electoral vote was cast against Monroe, party lines were obliterated. The Federal party had been dead three years, and the Jeffersonians, or Republicans—that is to say, the Democrats of that day—finding nobody to combat, began to lose the incentive for exertion which opposition always brings.

Elements were gathering coherency and force, however, which were destined to defeat the all-powerful Jeffersonians. Although the Federal party died soon after the canvass of 1816, the principles for which it stood survived. The opponents of the Jeffersonians began to call themselves Loose Constructionists in 1817, and Henry Clay first and John Quincy Adams later became their leaders. This party favored, as the Federalists had done, and as the National Republicans, Whigs and Republicans afterwards did, a free interpretation of the Constitution. The opposite party, or Jeffersonians, eventually became known for the time being, as the Strict Constructionists. These were the party designations when the lines were drawn in the Presidential canvass of 1824.

THE FEDERALISTS IN POWER AGAIN.

In the national campaign of 1824 the political pendulum took another swing. The motion had not the momentum nor did it extend so far as that of the year 1800. But it was a swing, and it was back toward the ground which had been occupied by the old Federal party. The Jeffersonians were defeated after an uninterrupted sway of twenty-four years in the Executive branch of the Government, a period of unbroken control never equaled in duration except by the Republican party of a later day, in its exercise of power from 1860 to 1884.

The year 1824 marked the second political revolution in the country's history. There was no union on Presidential candidates by either party in 1824. The Loose Constuctionists were divided on John Quincy Adams and Henry Clay for President, and the Strict Constructionists were similarly divided on Andrew Jackson and William H. Crawford. Jackson obtained 99 Electoral votes, Adams 84, Crawford 41 and Clay 37. No candidate having a majority, the election was thrown into the House of Representatives, when Clay transferred his support to Adams and elected him.

The period of the sway of the Jeffersonians, like that of the dominance of the Federalists, had been stirring and glorious. In the twelve years of Federal rule the population of the country had grown from 3,000,000 to 5,300,000, and the number of States had been increased to sixteen by the admission of Kentucky, Vermont and Tennessee. In the twenty-four years of the power of the Jeffersonians the population of the country doubled, the area of the country was largely increased by the big Louisiana purchase and the acquisition of Florida, and the number of States grew to twenty-four by the elevation of Ohio, Louisiana, Indiana, Mississippi, Illinois, Alabama, Maine and Missouri to Statehood. Within the days of Jeffersonian supremacy, also, the second war against Great Britain was fought and the Missouri compromise adopted.

The duration of the rule of the Loose Constructionists was short, lasting only four years. The Adams and Clay factions of the party had in the meantime united, taking the name of National Republicans.

"OLD HICKORY" TO THE FRONT.

In 1828 the political pendulum took one more swing, this time, as in 1800, in the direction of Jeffersonianism. By this time the Jeffersonians—the men who first called themselves Republicans, and afterward Strict Constructionists—began to be known as Democrats, and that is the partisan name which they have borne ever since.

The campaign of 1828 was largely personal, as that of 1824 had been. It was a canvass of abuse, slander and falsehood, compared with which those of 1880, 1884 and 1888 were dignified and respectable. The vilest and most atrocious accusations were brought against Adams, the candidate of the National Republicans, and Jackson, the Democratic standard bearer, the falsity of which has often been exposed since then, but which had an influence at that time.

To President Adams himself was largely due the responsibility for his own defeat for re-election. Many of the most influential Federal officials were secretly, and some of them openly, working in favor of his opponent. Adams knew this, and yet, with a noble self-sacrifice and devotion to public interests which clung to him throughout his whole public career, he sunk the politician in the patriot and refused to remove them on personal grounds. They performed the duties of their posts acceptably, therefore they were left undisturbed to employ the patronage of the Government against the Government's Executive. He was even more conspicuously lacking in tact than his father, the second President, had been. His rugged and unyielding honesty repelled many of his warmest admirers. He made no compromises with conscience. He scorned the petty artifices of the mere party worker. To retain a friend or conciliate an enemy he would not turn a hair's breadth from the course which his judgment marked out. All this was magnificent, of course, but it was not politics.

However, principle was not altogether lost sight of in the contest of 1828, and Jackson's victory was a triumph for the cause of the Democracy as well as a personal conquest for "Old Hickory" himself.

THIRD POLITICAL REVOLUTION.

The Democratic victory of 1828 was the third political revolution which had been brought about in the Executive branch of the Government. For the twelve years following that party retained control of public affairs, choosing Jackson to the Presidency for a second time, in 1832, and sending Van Buren, his political heir, to the White House in 1836.

Within the twelve years of Democratic supremacy, beginning in 1828, a great deal of history was made. The National Republican party, which was born in 1826, died after its defeat in the Presidential canvass of 1832, when led by Clay, and the Whig party was built upon its ruins. In 1832 the Anti-Masonic party appeared in the national canvass, with William Wirt as its Presidential candidate. The organization opposed the election of Masons to office. In other respects its principles were the same as those of the National Republicans of that year and of the Whig party, which was born in 1833. The Anti-Masons, as a party, never took part in another canvass, but united with the National Republicans in forming the Whig organization.

This is a summary of the changes in party names and organization which took place between 1828, when the Democrats entered power under Jackson, and 1840, when they went out of power under Van Buren.

Within the period named several new issues were injected into politics. Jackson's opposition to the national bank scheme was the pet project of the Democrats, and the extension of the tariff and internal improvement idea were the leading questions advocated by the Whigs.

Four other important events occurred also within the twelve-year period of Democratic rule beginning in 1828. The nullification movement in South Carolina culminated in 1832, which brought down the power of the Government against that State; national delegate Conventions for the nomination of Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates came into being in that year, and have remained in vogue ever since; the distribution of the surplus in the treasury among the States in the form of a loan was begun in 1836, and a financial crisis more disastrous than any which the country knew before or has known since occurred in 1837, and had great influence in politics by strengthening the anti-slavery sentiment of the country, and thus aiding the foes of the Democratic party.

Arkansas and Michigan—the first in 1836 and the other in 1837—were the only States admitted in the twelve years of Democratic rule ending in 1840.

THE WHIGS VICTORIOUS.

The year 1840 saw the fourth oscillation of the partisan pendulum. The victories which the Democracy gained in 1828, 1832 and 1836 were far less sweeping and complete than the defeat which it suffered in 1840. This was the second National canvass in which the Whig party appeared, and the second time in which William Henry Harrison had been the candidate of the party. The party, however, had not united on him in 1836. Hugh L. White, Daniel Webster and Willie P. Mangun also having been supported by the Whigs in that year. The victory of the Whigs in 1840 was due, primarily, to the blunder of the Democrats, inspired by Jackson, in their attacks on the United States Bank, which produced the great panic of 1837. Personally, Van Buren was opposed to this policy, and foresaw the madness of following it up, but even when he was President Van Buren weakly allowed Jackson to do his thinking for him in this matter, and paid the penalty in the defeat which sent him to private life in 1840, and which kept him there.

But the Whigs' hold on power was of short duration. The death of Harrison, which took place just a month after his inauguration, sent Vice-President Tyler to the Presidency. Tyler antagonized his party on most partisan questions. This conduct led the Cabinet to step down, and produced the demoralization among the Whigs which was one of the factors in bringing about their defeat in 1844.

THEN THE DEMOCRATS WIN.

The annexation of Texas touched the popular heart. The Democats favored it and the Whigs opposed it. This was the principal issue in the canvass of 1844, and on it the Whig party was defeated and the fifth political revolution in the country's history achieved.

Although the Democrats stood for an idea in 1844 which was popular with the country, this advantage was neutralized by the great hold which Clay, the Whig candidate, had on the fancy of the masses. Clay undoubtedly would have been elected had he not written a certain private letter on the annexation question intended to conciliate the South. In the letter he said he was not opposed to Texas annexation in itself, with or without slavery, but objected to it while Texas was claimed by Mexico. The letter was published in the North as well as the South. It is doubtful if it won many votes for him in the Southern States, but it is certain that it repelled thousands from him in the North. It drove enough anti-slavery Whigs in New York over to James G. Birney, the Presidential nominee of the Liberal party, to give that State to James K. Polk, the Democratic candidate, and made him President.

The duration of the Democratic sway, which began in 1844, was as short as that of the Whigs, which opened in 1840. It ended in 1848 by another Whig victory.

The principal events of the four years of Democratic power under Polk were the Mexican War, the immense acquisition of territory which resulted from it and the admission of Florida, Iowa, Texas and Wisconsin to Statehood.

THE SIXTH REVOLUTION.

The Whig victory in 1848 was the sixth revolution which had been achieved in the Executive branch of the Government. This triumph had been gained by a policy of evasion. The party was hopelessly divided on the slavery question. In the hope of gaining power, therefore, it selected a citizen of a slave State, Zachary Taylor, who was a mere soldier, with no political record to explain away, and it adopted no platform. But even this shuffling and trickery would not have availed the Whigs, had not aid come at an opportune time and from an unexpected quarter. The Democratic National Convention having nominated Lewis Cass, thus slighting ex-President Martin Van Buren, the latter "got even" by accepting the nomination of the Free Soil party, bringing over in New York to that organization the Barnburner element of the Democracy, which opposed the extension of slavery into the Territories. This gave the State to Taylor, and made him President. Thus for the second time had the vote of New York been decisive in a national canvass. The four-year periods of power which came in with the Whigs in 1840, and continued with the Democrats when they won in 1844, remained with the Whigs when they gained their victory in 1848. The Whigs went out once more in 1852, and never appeared again in a national canvass.

The principal events of the last four-year period of Whig power were the passage of the Clay compromise measures, including the fugitive slave law; the beginning of the rush to the newly-discovered gold mines of California, the admission of that locality to Statehood, and the death of Calhoun, Clay and Webster, the great triumvirate of American statesmen.

Among the most conspicuous of the statesmen which the Whig party produced, apart from the men which that organization sent to the Presidency, were Clay, Webster, Thomas Ewing, John J. Crittenden and Thomas Corwin, each of whom had been Cabinet officers. In the Whig days, also, the abolition movement, the leading spirits in which were William Lloyd Garrison, Gerritt Smith and Wendell Phillips, spread over most of the Northern States.

THE DEMOCRATS RULE FOR EIGHT YEARS.

When the Democrats went into office in 1852, thus achieving the seventh of the partisan revolutions which had occurred since the beginning of the Government, they remained in for eight years, a longer period than any party had held sway since the same organization acquired power in 1828, under the lead of Jackson.

Stirring events occurred during the eight years beginning with March 4, 1853, in which the Democratic party was in power during the Administrations successively of Presidents Pierce and Buchanan. That period witnessed the death of the Whig party, the beginning and the end of the Know Nothing movement, the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, the birth of the Republican party, the election of a Republican Speaker of the House of Representative (Banks), the campaign against the Mormons, the border wars in Kansas, and the admission of Minnesota, Oregon and Kansas to Statehood. Five events of this period stand out in startling prominence. These are the dastardly assault on Charles Sumner by Congressman Preston S. Brooks, of South Carolina, for denouncing the Democrats in the Senate for the "crime against Kansas," the invasion of Harper's Ferry by John Brown and his execution, the split of the Democratic party into two factions, the election of Abraham Lincoln President, and the passage of secession ordinances by most of the slave States.

THE REPUBLICANS RULE TWENTY-FOUR YEARS.

The eighth political revolution, that which took place in 1860, stands conspicuous on the record of the partisan upheavals which have occurred in the executive branch of the Government. In that year the swing of the political pendulum took on greater momentum and made a broader sweep than at any other time in the nation's history. Then, too, the record of peaceful changes in party control, which had gone uninterruptedly from the beginning, was rudely broken by war.

The period of Republican ascendency which began with the election of 1860 ended with that of 1884. Power was never held so long by any organization uninterruptedly before except by the Jeffersonian party, the parent of the present Democracy, when it acquired control in 1800. The early years of the period, the civil war era, was the second heroic age of the Republic. In those years, also, was displayed by the party in power an energy and constructive ability, combined with an intelligence, vigor and resourcefulness in meeting and mastering the difficulties encountered in providing ways and means for the prosecution of the war, and in subsequently restoring and maintaining the public credit, such as have not been approached by any other party except the Federalists during their twelve years of power under Washington and the first Adams.

THE GREAT POLITICAL EVENTS

Of the twenty-four years of Republican control, apart from the prosecution of the war and subjugation of the rebellion, were the adoption of the Morrill tariff, the issue of the greenbacks, the creation of the national banking system, the raising of money to carry on the Government during the war, the reconstruction of the insurgent States, the restoration of the public credit, the adoption of the post-rebellion amendments to the Federal Constitution, the creation of an Electoral Commission to settle disputes in the count of Presidential Electors, the passage of the silver-dollar coinage law, and the creation of the State of West Virginia out of part of Virginia, and the admission of the Territories of Nevada, Nebraska and Colorado to Statehood. The chief political figures of the era, aside from the Presidents, were Wm. H. Seward, Salmon P. Chase, Hannibal Hamlin, Jefferson Davis, Thaddeus Stevens, for a long time one of the Republican leaders in Congress; Galusha A. Grow, the first, and Schuyler Colfax, the second of the Speakers of the House of Representatives during the war; J. S. Morrill, the father of the Morrill tariff; Henry Wilson, Charles Sumner, C. L. Vallandigham, Jesse D. Bright, Roscoe Conkling, James T. Blaine and John Sherman. Vallandigham and Bright, during the war period, were the two most conspicuous of Western copperheads.

FOR FOUR YEARS ONLY.

The ninth political revolution in the country's history was the defeat of the Republicans in 1884, after holding control of the Government for almost a quarter of a century. The contest in that year was notable for many reasons. It was the closest canvass ever decided at the polls; it was the third in which the vote of New York had been decisive, and it put into the Presidency a man who was scarcely known outside his own city three years before, who was not a great statesman, who had no experience in politics on the national stage and who had no military record. Men had been made President before who had neither political experience in national office nor any knowledge of statesmanship, but military service had gained them the office.

The most striking political manifestations of the four years in which the Democrats were in power after their victory in 1884, was the movement in favor of a low tariff started by President Cleveland in one of his annual messages to Congress, and the crusade of his party in Congress in the same direction, under the leadership of R. Q. Mills.

TENTH AND LAST REVOLUTION.

The Republican victory in 1888 marks the tenth and latest swing which the partisan pendulum has taken in the century which has just closed, of the Government's life under the Constitution. The issue which the Democrats raised to lengthen and strengthen their hold on power—the tariff—was the very issue which drove them out of power.

FUTURE PROBABILITIES.

Here is the record of the political revolutions which have occurred in the past 100 years. Ten of them in all have taken place, and they happened in these years: 1800, 1824, 1828, 1840, 1844, 1848, 1852, 1860, 1884 and 1888. The length of time between each two varies from four years to twenty-four. Five of these periods of power extended only four years each, one lasted for eight years, two each for twelve and two each for twenty-four. Averages in this case would be useless as a basis for prognostications for the future—but even the most cursory and superficial inquiry into political history will show that the conditions which led to the long period of sway of the Jeffersonian party from 1800 to 1824, and of the Republicans from 1860 to 1884, are altogether extraordinary, and not likely to occur again within the next half or three-quarters of a century. Probabilities in the future point to short periods of power by any party.

VITALITY OF POLITICAL PRINCIPLE.

The record also shows the vitality of political principles and the evenness by which the party balance is held among the people. Omitting the first fifteen or twenty years of the Government, during which both parties favored protection to home industries, the line of cleavage between the partisan organizations is broad and distinct. The Federalists, Loose Constructionists, National Republicans, Whigs and Republicans have been the champions of a broad interpretation of the Constitution, strong central Government, protection to domestic industries and generous internal improvements, and the Anti-Federalists, Republicans, Strict Constructionists and Democrats have opposed them. The school of thought taking the negative side of this proposition—the Democrats and their progenitors—have held power fifty-two years, and those holding the affirmative side—the Republicans and their partisan ancestors—will have held power just fifty-two years also when the present Presidential term ends.—*St. Louis Globe-Democrat.*

An Art Criticism.

Bonnat, the great French painter—notably in portraiture—was interviewed last month by Theodore Stanton for the Chicago *Inter-Ocean*. In the interview occurs this capital witty criticism: "What do I think of the impressionist school? It is composed of men who know nothing, and who try to convince the world at large that they have discovered something." There never was a fairer hit. Some work of that order was exhibited at the last State Fair in Sacramento, and no one who then examined it has yet been able to say whether the pictures were hung top side down or whether the framer had not made a mistake and framed a blotched canvas or a splatter cloth.

Bonnat made this severe criticism on our English-speaking cousins:

"As to the English, I confess I am unable to understand the decadence of English art in the presence of the numerous and noble private collections for which England is justly famous. I am myself something of an art collector, and whenever there is an important sale of paintings, or of drawings advertised at Christie's, I always make a point of attending it, and I have obtained in this way some valuable additions to my little gallery. But the English seem to lack true powers of appreciating art, as well as those of execution. Can it be that the formation of these fine private galleries is simply a matter of fashion? I can not myself decide that question."

IDLENESS is the beginning of all vices. Do not be idle in curing your cough; it may be the beginning of consumption. For such diseases the only sure cure is

Warner's Log Cabin COUGH AND CONSUMPTION REMEDY.

Price $1.00, and 50 cents a bottle. Try it.

WIT AND HUMOR.

FUNNY THINGS FOUND IN THE WEEKLY PAPERS.

Light Reading for Those Who Would Laugh and Grow Fat.

"Sweet and low—"A lump of sugar on the floor.—*New York Journal.*

A noodle is most apt to find himself in the soup.—*New Orleans Picayune.*

There are a good many cases of a salt in admiralty courts.—*Burlington Free Press.*

Bolt-making seems to be the favorite occupation among politicians this year.—*Columbus Dispatch.*

There is a town in Arizona called "Aching Tooth." It ought to grow, because there is nothing to stop it.—*Rochester Post-Express.*

A Jersey City undertaker advertises that he furnishes "every requisite for a funeral." He must be a doctor as well as an undertaker.

She—"If you attempt to kiss me I'll call mamma." He—"All right, call her! I'd rather kiss two than one." "Then I guess I won't call her."

A woman always seems to wear the largest hat she can find at night; a man wants the largest hat he can get in the morning.—*Yonkers Statesman.*

Teacher—"Do you know the difference between right and wrong?" Boy—"Naw." "If you were to take your little brother's cake from him, what would you do?" "Eat it up."

"Where are you going, my pretty maid?" "I'm going to your employer, sir," she said. "I don't get much salary, my pretty maid." "Then I won't marry you, sir," she said.

Teacher—"How is a young lady to act when she is alone on the street?" Rosebud—"She must look around every once in a while to see if any handsome young fellow is following her."

"Why do you look so sad, Miss Ethel?" "Sister Helen is going to marry Tom Barry." The worthless young reprobate! No wonder you are sad." "Oh, it is not that; I wanted him myself."—*Life.*

"Mamma, at the Ponce de Leon hop last night Mr. De Ritch asked me to be his wife." "Of course you accepted him?" "Of course—but he began so queerly." "How?" "He asked me if I loved him."—*Puck.*

New Yorker—"I congratulate you on the latest acquisition to your family. Boy or girl?" Nebraskan—"Girl." "What's her name to be?" "Well, she howls so much nights we thought we'd call her Cyclonia."—*Epoch.*

"Excuse me, Mr. Brown," said the haberdasher, "but this is a quarter necktie you have selected; you always wear a dollar one." "That's all right, old boy," he returned, with a wink; "my wife has just started making a crazy quilt."—*Judge.*

Mrs. Reclass—"I have selected this bonnet, Frank. Isn't it a beauty, and only $13!" Frank (hurriedly)—"Thirteen dollars? My dear, 13 is an unlucky number. You musn't think of paying that for a bonnet. Try one of those $5 beauties."—*Lowell Citizen.*

Mother—"That young man seemed to be very affiable last night. Did he propose before he left?" Daughter—"No, he didn't propose exactly, but he blew rings of tobacco smoke, so he must have been thinking of engagement rings, or something of that sort."

Smith—"The most modest lady in the world lives in Boston." Jones—"What makes you think she is the most modest lady in the world?" "I just guess so. In her library she has one bookcase for the works of male authors, and a separate one for female authors."

Wiggins (looking at the results of his wife's shopping)—"Well, I suppose we may be able to make use of some of this stuff some day, but where are the shoes you said baby needed?" Mrs. Wiggins—"Bless my heart, I forgot them! I spent all day at the bargain counter, you know."—*Texas Siftings.*

Mr. Dunnell—"You'll pardon me for taking advantage of a secluded corner, my dear Miss Bristoe, but I want to ask you a question." Miss Bristoe—"T-this is s-so sudden!" Mr. Dunnell—"I know I'm a bit abrupt, but I want to inquire as to the best time to find your father at home. He owes our firm for that last block of stock, you know."—*Judge.*

Gentleman (in Chicago gun store)—"I want a pistol." Dealer (politely)—"Yes, sir. Here is a small, plain weapon, usually bought for defense against footpads. Here is a silver-mounted beauty, very popular for shooting sweethearts; and here, sir, is our shef-doover, full-jeweled, rolled-gold plate, all the rage now for shooting wives."—*N. Y. Weekly.*

Wife (time, midnight)—"Pretty time of night for you to come home—and in such condition, too." Husband—"M'dear, it's (hic) only fright. I sthopped in at zee microscopic s'ciety rooms and, m'dear, I looked at some water in microscope, m'dear—zhe water we drink, m'dear—and sure zi live, m'dear, I shaw it full of snakes. Mershy on me! Zhe 'em yet."—*New York Weekly.*

Jeweler—"You say you want some name engraved on this ring?" Young man—"Yes, I want the words: 'George to his dearest Alice,' engraved on the inside of the ring." "Is the young lady your sister?" "No, she's the young lady to whom I am engaged." "Well, if I were you I would not have 'George to his dearest Alice,' engraved on the ring. If Alice goes back on you you can't use the ring again." "What would you suggest?" "I would suggest that the words be: 'George to his first and only love.' You see with that inscription you can use the ring half a dozen times. I have had experience in such matters myself."—*Texas Siftings.*

George—"Eh? You got engaged last night? Gus, my old, my dear friend, tell me how you did it." "Gus—"Really, I hardly know myself. Couldn't help it. Just like falling down stairs. I was on the edge of a proposal, she gave me a push and there I was—engaged." "Well, I haven't had any such experience. Every time I try to start my knees knock together and my teeth chatter and my tongue cleaves to the roof of my mouth. I've tried a dozen times to pop the question to Miss De Pine, and slumped every time." "And did she let you slump?" "Yes." "You are courting the wrong girl."—*Harper's Weekly.*

Miss De Pink (trying to get the conversation into a pleasant groove)—"I was so shocked while reading Max O'Rell's book to-day. He says that in America the girls do the proposing. Isn't it contemptible in him to print such a slander? Mercy! Why, any self-respecting American girl would die before she'd let a man know she loved him. The idea of our girls proposing!" Mr. Bashful—"Don't they." "Of course not." "I—I'm very sorry, because I never, never could pluck up courage to propose to a girl. I feel very blue to think a girl would rather die than—than let me know she wanted to marry me. I—I guess I'll go home. Good-by." "Oh! Oh! Oh! Don't go. I—I love you. Mercy! I nearly lost you. Sit down on this sofa, my darling."—*New York Weekly.*

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