

TIME FOR ROORBACKS

WINGED SLANDERS THAT MAY SPEAK IN A NIGHT.

Some Notable Cases Reviewed—Origin of the Word "Roorkback"—First Victims of the Political Scourge—The "Morey" and "Murchison" Letters—The Fate of Lord Sackville-West—Burchard's Memorable Blunder.

With election day bearing down upon us it would be well for ardent politicians to brace themselves and be ready for roorkbacks. It is the season for them.



GEORGE OSGOODBY.

A quibble of speech, a premeditated misconstruction, an unfortunate allusion, or a complication of circumstances redounding to the misfortune of one candidate and the consequent advantage of his opponent.

Then there are various unclassified sorts of roorkbacks too numerous to mention, and, besides, for all we know, fate may have still other kinds "up her sleeve."

As will be remembered by elderly people, the word roorkback came into vogue subsequent to the publication, during the presidential campaign of 1881, of certain letters, entitled "The Travels of Baron Roorkback."

But these were not the original "campaign lies." Slanders of some kind have found their way into nearly every presidential campaign since the time of Washington.

During the Van Buren-Harrison campaign, in 1835, this same tendency to throw the blackest mud just before the close of the struggle was strongly evinced.

Van Buren was charged with being an aristocrat, and the number of his extravagance at the people's expense was widely circulated and largely believed.

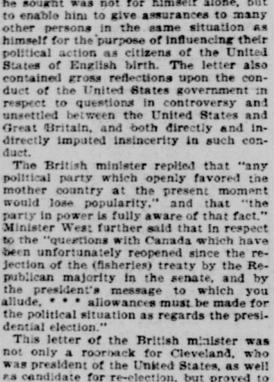
His son John, who had spent a good deal of his time abroad, was characterized as a libertine, and, what was in those days considered a far more serious fault, a conscientious disciple of the English nobility.

THE CASTLE SCANDAL

WEALTHY AMERICANS CHARGED WITH NUMEROUS THEFTS.

Great Sensation Caused by the Discovery of Stolen Goods in Their Rooms—The Husband Fleeds Ignorance and Declares That His Wife Must Be a Kleptomaniac—He Says He Gave Her Plenty of Money to Buy What She Wanted.

Mrs. Walter M. Castle, now the sensation in London, is one of the society leaders of San Francisco. Her friends there can hardly realize that she has been



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thrown into jail like a common felon and brought to the prisoner's dock to hear herself charged with theft. She is very pretty and of a gentle disposition, and until her arrest in London not one word has ever been said in denunciation of her character.

On the afternoon of October 29, 1884, on the very verge of election time, a mass meeting of ministers was held in the Fifth Avenue hotel, New York. This meeting was in connection with the Republican line, and was attended by more than 1,000 clergymen of all denominations.

After Mr. Blaine had been presented, Rev. Samuel D. Burchard, who had been selected as spokesman for the ministers, made a short address, in the course of which he said: "We are Republicans, and we don't propose to identify ourselves with the party whose antecedents have been rum, Romanism and rebellion."

This alliterative phrase was taken up by the Democrats with a hue and cry that resounded from one end of the country to the other, and was written and printed and told in all the languages used in the United States, with telling and fatal effect upon Republican prospects.

The present campaign is one of large issues and tremendous interest, and as a consequence many hot words have been spoken, and columns of sensational literature have been blown about by the winds of malice, but the influence of ante-election sensations is not so strong in these latter days.

By way of soothing unction for our national pride, it should be here set down that the roorkback is not a distinctly American institution. Within the memory of the writer the "baron" who first made his presence painfully felt in America, was the Count de Roorkback, an English nobleman, who was a member of the House of Commons in 1837.

The British awakening to the immense possibilities for underhand politics, as disclosed in the publication of this pernicious epistle, was one of painful amazement. The division on the second reading of the coercion bill was an event of critical importance for Tories and Unionists, and the London Times seized the opportunity for publishing a letter alleged to have been dictated by Mr. Parnell nine days after the Phoenix park assassination for the purpose of reassuring extremists.

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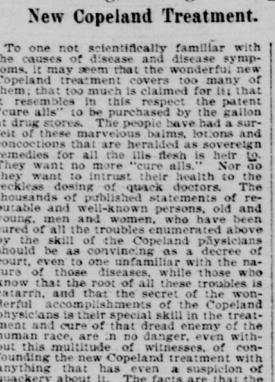
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MISS HANNAH MEYER, SEATTLE, WASH.

swollen so that I could not see, I had a severe headache constantly, was operated on in Germany, when 14 years of age to remove tumors from my nose.

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