

# THE GRANGE ADVANCE.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, '76

H. H. YOUNG, Publisher & Editor.

## Republican Nominees.

For President—  
R. B. HAYES, Ohio;  
For Vice President—  
WM. A. WHEELER, N. Y.;  
For Presidential Electors—  
State—C. K. DAVIS, Ramsey;  
1st Dis.—A. J. EDGERTON;  
2d "—A. K. FINSETH;  
3d "—HANS MATTSON;  
For Congress, (Second District.)—  
H. B. STRAIT;  
For county Auditor—  
S. J. WILLARD;  
For Sheriff—  
M. S. CHANDLER;  
For Register of Deeds—  
CHARLES MCCLURE;  
For Judge of Probate—  
N. O. WERNER;  
For county Attorney—  
J. C. MCCLURE;  
For Surveyor—  
WILLIAM DANFORTH;  
For Coroner—  
DR. E. S. PARKS;  
For Court Commissioner—  
N. O. WERNER;  
For Commissioner, 4th District—  
A. J. GRAVES;  
For Commissioner, 5th District—  
F. TETHER.

## What is the Issue?

Personal inclination ought to have no influence in politics. Whether a man is our friend or enemy is not the question, but whether he is the proper man for the place. And, in determining this, it is not only essential to consider the character of the man himself, but, also, that of his associates and of the influences which will surround and control him. It does not always follow that because a man is good and wise he is most suitable to fill a position. Indeed, it is often the case that a greatly inferior man is the proper one to select, when the choice is between him and one palpably his superior, for the reason that he is peculiarly adapted to the work.

In the present canvass, in this congressional district, our democratic neighbors are urging the election of Hon. E. T. Wilder, because *he is a better man than Hon. H. B. Strait*, the republican candidate. They do not specify in what particulars he is better, but assume that his superiority is so obvious that none will dispute it. So far as this immediate locality is concerned, they have a great advantage over the friends of Major Strait, inasmuch as the latter is hardly known to the people, while Judge Wilder is a old resident and well acquainted with most of the citizens of this county. That he is an estimable gentleman, honest, moral, and competent, cannot be gainsayed; and it is easy to make his acquaintances believe that he is, in every respect, more worthy than Major Strait, who is comparatively a stranger and for whom even his most zealous friends do not claim that he exceeds the average of good citizens.

We have not the slightest objection to make to aught that is claimed for Judge Wilder. Our own experience as well as his general reputation confirms us in the belief that he is very considerably above the average of good men and in every respect eminently worthy of the esteem and confidence of his fellow-citizens. On the other hand, hearsay evidence does not so uniformly attribute to Major Strait only meritorious qualities. He is both praised and blamed, lauded and denounced. But there is this difference between the positions which these men respectively occupy. Judge Wilder has seldom been placed in situations which forced him to provoke active opposition. His sphere has been that of a private citizen, blessed with competency and able to float smoothly along the current of life, without getting in anybody's way or exciting the hostility of associates. Under such happy auspices, and endowed naturally with generous impulses, good judgment and better than ordinary intellectual faculties, he could well afford

to build up the enviable reputation he enjoys.

Not so with Major Strait. His lines have fallen in less pleasant places; he has had to steer through rougher waters; to avoid shoals and rapids. He has jostled against others and been their active competitor, and has, therefore, attracted opposition and won enemies. What wonder then that his reputation has suffered somewhat from these fierce collisions? That he has made mistakes and excited antagonisms? Such facts prove nothing against him, for they are the consequences of the circumstances of his life. In all that is said against him, we have yet to find one single accusation of culpable wrong. He is not accused of theft, dishonesty, fraud, neglect, nor even of inability to do whatever was required of him in his four years of official career.

Mr. Thacher accuses him of having broken a promise, but that gentleman very probably accepted as a promise what was merely intended for the statement of a probability. Two years ago it was hardly likely that Major Strait would be a candidate this season, and if he then said to Mr. Thacher: "Well, sir, I will not be in your way next time," or words to that effect, he may have meant nothing more than to assert what was altogether likely to occur, without intending it as a promise or expecting it to be so understood. He certainly had no right to make, nor had Mr. Thacher a right to accept, any such promise, for the nomination of candidates belongs to the people, and is not something which may be promised, bartered, sold, or given away.

The charges against Mr. Strait are extremely vague, and cannot be refuted because of their indefiniteness, and, hence, do not deserve serious attention. Incapacity is alleged against him, but when you ask of what he is incapable, you are only answered that he cannot make a speech. Heaven knows that there are speech-makers enough in congress without him, and if about nineteen-twentieths of those sent there were blessed with this same incapacity the country would be better off. The truth is, Major Strait can say what is required of him to say, and he has the reputation of being one of the most industrious and efficient of committee-men, and an indefatigable worker for those of his constituents who ask him to interest himself in their behalf. His four years' experience render him more than ever competent to be an efficient and useful member, and give him a decided advantage over Judge Wilder, notwithstanding the latter's superior abilities.

Again, while we do not, for a moment, suspect that Judge Wilder would go with his party in the commission of a wrong, we must not forget that he is a democrat and will look at all questions from the democratic standpoint. Hence, upon party questions generally we must expect him to vote with his party, and, as it is these party measures of the democratic party which we oppose, we cannot regard Judge Wilder differently from what we would any other gentleman that party might have nominated.

Because we support the policy of the republican party and oppose that of the democracy, we feel it our duty to support Major Strait and oppose Judge Wilder in this contest. Major Strait is a republican who has always been true to the party policy and will, no doubt, continue faithfully to maintain it, and he is entitled to the support of the party, as much so now, as when he ran against Mr. Cox two years ago.

—The St. Paul Dispatch has shed Harlan P. Hall, Esq., and the democracy, and the "three predictions," and is now a clean cut republican newspaper, ably edited by Capt. H. A. Castle. We can't say that we are glad of the change. We

hate to lose Hall. He was our chief source of amusement, and his eccentricities made even "the lying little Dispatch" a welcome visitor. Castle is a good writer, but he tells the truth generally. Hall's untruths did no harm, for nobody believed them. But it is always thus; this is a world of change. We can only say: good bye, Hall. May success attend you in your retirement; and, welcome, Castle. May you do much good and reap a rich reward.

## The County Fair.

Goodhue county is one of the largest and most productive counties in this State, and its fair ought to be the best attended and most attractive. The officers of the agricultural society have taken pains to prepare an acceptable premium list, and the credit of the association is such as to insure that the premiums will be promptly paid. The grounds, too, are in a locality convenient to all parts of the county, and near a village affording every accommodation to those who visit the fair.

Under such circumstances, there is but one reason why the coming fair should not be entirely successful; and we hope that the readers of the ADVANCE will generally assist in striving to make it so. The time for holding it—October 11th, 12th and 13th—though somewhat late, is a propitious season. It is after the autumnal rains are over and too early for such severe cold as will interfere with the comfort of visitors, and would, probably, be the best possible time were it not that it is after all the surrounding fairs, and this one will, consequently, not occur until the interest in such exhibitions begins to wane.

It strikes us that annual fairs might be made much more advantageous to the public than they are, if a complete change were adopted in the general programme. On last Friday we attended the Harvest Festival of the Pomona Grange of this county, held in Burchard's hall, Hay Creek valley. There was a small but attractive selection of agricultural products exhibited there, and considerable time was consumed in examining them and in discussing methods of cultivation; thus not only awakening an interest in such subjects but disseminating a fund of useful information.

Now, why could not our annual fairs combine, as well, this feature of a harvest festival? Dispense entirely with the premiums, and attract visitors and exhibitors by appeals to their pride and their desire for enjoyment, rather than by pecuniary inducements? Let the articles exhibited be brought there and placed in comparison with each other, not merely from a hope to win a premium and thus aid in the sale of such products at fancy prices; but with the purpose of generous rivalry and a desire to stimulate each other to greater exertions to attain superior excellence in the future.

Instead of merely running to the fair to spend a few hours in gazing at a not always attractive exhibition, let there be inducements offered, in the shape of social enjoyments and profitable entertainments, to have the entire agricultural community, at least, repair thither for a two or three days' visit. Let it be, in brief, a festival as well as a fair, and instead of being used merely to advertise somebody's machinery, or nursery products, or fancy stock, as our fairs are now-a-days, let it be an occasion for feasting and frolic and for discussing agricultural topics which may be suggested by the events transpiring at the time. Then, instead of returning weary and disappointed, we shall go to our homes gladdened and improved, and will strive to prepare for the next festival products more worthy of admiration.

—Some persons think we err in assuming that some of Thacher's

pretended friends are really Wilder's friends. Well, let them prove that we are wrong, by working earnestly for Major Strait. That will prove us mistaken, if we are mistaken.

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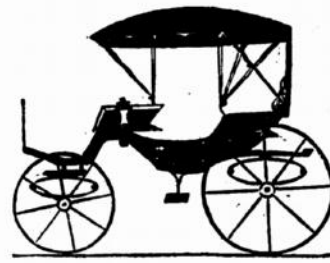
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