

SHORT STORIES

In Modern Note.

AT AN OLD ELECTION.

The election today, in the orderliness and quiet with which it is being conducted, said a citizen to the Selma Times, is in marked contrast to the election twenty years ago. Then, almost as soon as the polls opened, there would be a long line of whites and blacks, the latter often predominating, waiting to cast their ballots. At the time to which I refer I was living in a neighboring Southern city. I recall an incident at one of the elections which demonstrates the strenuous methods which were sometimes necessary to insure white supremacy. I had a negro coachman who invariably voted. On this particular election day he returned home in the afternoon with a countenance that looked like it had been taking some familiarities with a buzz-saw. "What's the matter, Zack?" I asked with some solicitude. "It's this way, boss; I went to the votin' place and there was the county undertaker, sah, a sittin' with a big book open 'foah him, and he sez to me right sharp like 'What's your name?' 'Zack Taylor,' I says, humble. 'Let's see, says the undertaker, and he turned ovah the leaves of the book. All of a sudden he stopped turnin' and begin to run his finger down the page mutterin' to himself. 'Taylor, Taylor, Taylor, Taylor-Zack.' And putty soon he holered out 'Heah it is. You black scoundrel. I dun buried you ten years ago. What you mean by tryin' to vote?' Just then a passel of white men tuk an' threw me out an' den I dun come home 'fore dey could bury me again."

Such incidents are far in the past now, fortunately for both the white man and the negro. Both have been benefited by limiting the ballot to the intelligent class of citizens.

CHARACTERISTIC.

The Chicago Tribune says: "You know there's a belief that when a man is delirious from fever he tells his most cherished secrets?"

"Yes, but it isn't so. I could show you—"

"Well, it certainly isn't true in the case of old Polyphemus. When he was raving in his delirium the other night the watchers supposed he would let out a few facts about his wealth and what he's got it invested in. He not only didn't do that, but I'm blessed if he didn't tell more lies about it than if he had been talking to the assessor."

Went Him One Better.

The Illinois State Register says: A well known Glasgow divine related the following anecdote, showing that the ready wit of a countryman was more than a match for him:

He was going to the country for his holiday and was in a railway train when a young man entered. In a short time the two commenced a conversation, in the course of which the clergyman asked the youth what he worked at.

"I am a coupler, sir," was the reply.

"A coupler! So am I," replied the clergyman with a laugh.

The youth looked at him for a minute or so, then burst into a fit of laughter and said: "Oh, I see; ye'r a meenister. Ye marry folks. But I gang farther than ye dae. I baith couple and uncouple."

The clergyman laughed heartily and acknowledged that the youth had the better of the sally.

EXIT WATTERSON.

Henry Watterson's political aspirations recently have come to grief. It was not a great while ago that he was said to be a candidate for president, but, if he hankered after this honor, he thought better of it. Then it was announced that he would be a candidate for governor, and there can be no doubt that this candidacy was under consideration by him, but now he has withdrawn from the contest, offering the following spicily explanation:

Preferment is not for me. Brought to the point where I must look the situation full in the eye I am appalled by the conditions which the successful candidate for office must needs meet and overcome; the rogues and cheats he must court, or cozen; the servility he must affect, or practice; the obligations incur; the personal solicitation, ignoble and humiliating; the use of money more or less corrupt and corrupting; for, though he have an overwhelming majority of the people at his back, there stands the machine, first to be

The Cause of Many Sudden Deaths.

There is a disease prevailing in this country most dangerous because so deceptive. Many sudden deaths are caused by it—heart disease, pneumonia, heart failure or apoplexy are often the result of kidney disease. If kidney trouble is allowed to advance the kidney-poisoned blood will attack the vital organs or the kidneys themselves break down and waste away call by call.

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captured and then to be deployed, with all that this implies.

Although I have never had a machine I am not a stranger either to the character or the efficacy of machine methods, nor do I lack some points of vantage in case I wanted to construct a machine for my own purpose. But no unclean dollar has ever passed my hand, either coming or going, and I am too old to turn rascal. Sometimes I have declared that I should like the people to write "governor of Kentucky" on my tombstone. But I should ill rest in my grave if there were the suspicion of stain upon a letter of that honorable epitaph.

Mr. Watterson's political experience reminds us of that of a Tennessean who was a stalwart Democrat in the time of Andrew Jackson. When the latter was elected president, the friends and neighbors of the Tennessean referred to told him that his services for the Democratic party ought to be recognized, and they advised him to leave Owl Hollow at once, go to Washington and get Gen. Jackson to make him secretary of state. He adopted their advice, and when he was shown into the president's presence he said:

"General, you know I have been a hard party worker for many years, and the Democrats of Owl Hollow have insisted on my becoming an applicant for secretary of state."

"I am sorry," said President Jackson, "but that position was allotted to another some time ago."

"Well, I wouldn't mind being secretary of the treasury."

"Geographical reasons make it impossible for me to give that cabinet position to a Tennessean."

The applicant went through the cabinet list, but all were pledged. Then he intimated that he was not adverse to being minister to England or France, but those places too had been pre-empted.

"Then, General, I will accept the position of postmaster of Owl Hollow," said the applicant.

"I am very sorry," said the president, "but Brown has had a petition before me for several weeks, he has the indorsement of leading Democrats for the place, and I have virtually promised to give it to him."

The Tennessean was terribly disheartened over his ill luck, but he turned to the president and said: "Say, general, have you got an old pair of pants that you don't want?"

Mr. Watterson seems now to be entirely out of the running, but if any one has an old pair of pants that he has no further use for perhaps they would be gratefully received.—Commercial Appeal.

As Elizabeth approached the mud puddle she noticed Raleigh unfastening his mantle. "What is your game?" demanded the monarch showing a royal flush.

"To play the Queen for all it's worth," answered the courtier, laying his cloak down at her feet.

"Take my hand," rejoined the sovereign, raising him.

Those that were in attendance thought that cards would soon be out, but Sir Walter, being promoted to command the royal yacht secured a new deck.—New York Times.

By overpowering a drunken assailant, Mr. Bryan has demonstrated that President Roosevelt is not possessed of all the strenuousness the country affords.

Now that Hoffman is in Okolona for a short time everyone wanting up-to-date photographs made will do well to call soon were it be too late.

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