

# Goodwin's Weekly.

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## Campaign Perplexities

IN ONE of his essays Emerson says: "This country is filling up with thousands and millions of voters, and you must educate them to keep them from our throats." To look over the political field just now one would say "They are educated, but they are at each other's throats." Seven candidates, seven parties, and each one dead certain that he holds the only safe line of procedure for this nation, and all the rest wrong. And why should parties and candidates be limited to seven? Why not double the number? There are foundations enough for plenty more parties, foundations at least as tenable as are some which are demanding the suffrages of the people. And what is the poor voter to do? Today one candidate comes along and explains that only a few changes are needed to make the country perfect. Tomorrow another will be here to affirm that save for the wonderful resources of the country and the industry of the people, the country would have been ruined long ago, and that a change of program must be made at once if we would save some fragments. Then day after tomorrow another will come and explain how much money is being spent annually for strong drink, and show how many homes the amount would found, and by easy mathematics demonstrates that the amount thus spent would, in fifty or one hundred years, banish poverty and make everybody comfortable. Then Mr. Debs will come and make it clear that with a fair distribution the hours of labor would be reduced two-thirds, wages doubled and every man would have at least eight hours a day to devote to study, good works, and that instructive contemplation which matures and uplifts the mind and makes man indeed only a little lower than the angels.

And so they go, and the poor voter is pulled this way and that and is liable to decide that it is all too deep for him, that a land in such a desperate stage is hardly worth the saving. That is the condition outside of Utah. Here we have things arranged differently. We have two or three men to arrange matters and to instruct the people how to vote, and we avoid the doubt, anxiety and solicitude which distresses men on the outside.

All that is needed here is to go to the polls and vote as instructed. See how much trouble is saved by that method!

We are not sure that a sharp war between our country and some foreign power might not be a good thing. That would bring people back and make them reflect that the creation of our Republic was intended to change the face of the world, to give to the poor a chance to advance, and to insure first to our countrymen and later to the world certain inalienable rights which through the ages had been denied the masses of mankind. It would make men reflect upon the condition of the world's poor when our Republic rounded into form, what it has already been to humanity, what it promises to be, and then the old thought would come back that it is a land worth living for; if need be, worth dying for; and that any who would alter its plan would be enemies not only of the country, but of mankind.

## "What Though the Field be Lost"

THERE is a hint that young Mr. Knight, the candidate for Governor, seems a little short on statesmanship, but long in confidence that he is all right and that his candidacy is all right. He is sure that he is going to be elected; he has reached the delirious point that is common to youth some time in life, when he wakes up to find that he is in a position to attract attention, and those who have seen most of him, say he takes to the situation as a duck does to water, as a sail takes to a breeze; that he has none of the repugnance that Coriolanus manifested when requested to show himself to the people, in order to win support. It is said that Mr. Knight is so using his nomination that every time Governor Cutler sees him he grows proud of himself by comparison. The chiefs of our holy church are shrewd. Sometimes they give a brother permission to run for office, knowing that if he is beaten the loss will not be irreparable.

## Not a Cheering Outlook

THE election is drawing near and a great many people are waiting impatiently for the result. There are others who feel that no matter who may be elected, there is not enough in the platform of any party to inspire great hopes, and there are thousands and tens of thousands of earnest men who are anxious for the future of the country. Not three hundred years ago the Spaniards dethroned the Aztec King and subdued his country, and the Inca's possessions were treated the same way. There were no braver men than Cortez and Pizarro and their followers. Never before was such spoil found by conquerors; but the mass of the people in those countries now are inferior to the races their ancestors destroyed. There is much to hope for in our country, but there is much going on that is disquieting. Selected students from all the states recently went to West Point and Annapolis to submit to examinations as to their fitness to receive a military training. More than half failed. The conclusion cannot help but be that the schools of the country are so defective that a revolution is needed in them, that their whole plan as now pursued should be changed.

But the showing makes clear that parents are as neglectful as those who have charge of the schools. The showing carries with it a mighty indication of national degeneration. Because of a tropical climate and the easy gathering of wealth, we find that the first race of brave men who from Spain peopled the New World have in nine generations degenerated into a race which but cumber the earth. When Diaz took charge in Mexico he promised bounties to energetic foreigners who would come to his country and help restore it, admitting frankly that the element of advancement had been leached out of his own people. Have we any guarantee that the end of our Republic will be better?

There are but three things that can hold up our race. One is education—not a skimming of a few books, but a thorough grounding; a national belief in the dignity and necessity of honest labor, and third, obedience to the laws. We have

seen in the last year that the Governor and all the force he can summon cannot maintain peace and give security to life and property in Kentucky. The news, this week, is still more startling from Tennessee. It was almost as bad in Illinois three months ago—that disposition to throw off all restraints of the laws, when evil passions are aroused. And the fault in every case originated in the homes of the men who commit the violence now. There is no honest discipline, no respect taught for authority, but rather a false pride that when any man thought himself wronged or imposed upon he must seek revenge through violence.

Then the ignorant, the vicious and the lawless elements are being reinforced annually by hundreds of thousands of wretches from Russia and southern Europe, who come only with the thought that freedom means license. And they come bringing their feuds with them and work their revenges out on our soil. There is nothing in the coming election that promises any improvement on these conditions. The most cheering thing before us today is the order and discipline of our fleet in foreign waters. They show men devoted to duty and the discipline needed to insure order.

## The Great West

THOMAS JEFFERSON bought Louisiana from Napoleon; he sent Lewis and Clark to explore it; but even Jefferson had no idea that the Republic would extend to the Pacific. Of course the revolution that steam, on land and sea, would make, never dawned upon his vision. The Pacific coast in his day was a year distant by the shortest route, three years distant by ship, and the idea of one country extending so far that a law passed at the capital would be a year and a half or two years in reaching the people, was not to be considered. In 1812 he wrote a letter to John Jacob Astor, in which, referring to the commencement of a settlement by Astor on the Columbia, and declaring the gratification with which he looked forward to the time when its descendants should have spread through the whole length of the coast, he adds: "Covering it with free and independent Americans, unconnected with us but by the ties of blood and interest, and employing like us the rights of self-government." The next year, 1813, he wrote again to Mr. Astor, characterizing the settlement as "the germ of a great, free, and independent empire on that side of our continent." It was different with John Adams, who saw our Republic coincident with the North American continent. But as late as 1848, after railroads were a success in the East and steamships had begun to venture out upon the deep sea, in a speech in Faneuil Hall, Daniel Webster declared that the west coast could not be governed from Europe or from the Atlantic side of the continent, and continuing said:

"And now let me ask if there is any sensible man in the whole United States who will say for a moment that when fifty or a hundred thousand persons of this description (Americans mostly, but all Anglo Saxons) shall find themselves on the shores of the Pacific ocean, they will long

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