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## The Free Press.

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Burlington, Vt.

If Mr. Morrill's bill to return the direct tax of 1861 to the States becomes a law, Vermont will get nearly \$200,000. This will lessen taxes considerably.

In view of the expected surplus in the postoffice department, the fee for registered letters might be reduced to five cents, the rate which prevails in Canada.

A singer in a Wagner opera in New York, the other evening, came twice out of a tomb in which she is supposed to be lying dead, to bow her acknowledgments to the audience. This was a little queer; but if the modern stage presents no more absurd or improbable scene than this, no one need complain.

The Weekly Free Press from this date is reduced one-half—it is now only ONE DOLLAR a year.

Conversation was carried on the other day by means of the telegraph between Vancouver, British Columbia, and London, a distance of 8000 miles over land and under the sea, and then London talked with San Francisco. This telegraphing was part of a test scheme to prove that a cable from Vancouver to Australia would make a feasible connection with business centres in this country and Europe.

Conductor Frost of Rutland is entitled to a first-class notice. Though he had three ribs broken by the smashup near Buxterville, on the Delaware and Hudson railroad the other day, he crawled out of the car, tore a board off a fence nearby, and with this shovelled snow into the car where it had caught fire from the stove, thus saving the car from burning and several passengers from being burned alive. It was a narrow escape for him and all of them.

The papers say that a patent for the manufacture of artificial maple sugar has been issued to one Josiah Daily, of Madison, Ind. The stuff is made by adding to ordinary syrup a decoction made from hickory bark. The result, Mr. Daily says, cannot be distinguished from genuine maple syrup. Perhaps not, for those who are not in the habit of eating genuine maple syrup. But why should the government protect by patent the manufacture of a cheat? Does it not, by so doing, become a party to a distinct fraud?

One Dollar a year for the Weekly Free Press.

The cattle-raisers on the western ranches are having a hard time of it. Many thousands of cattle have perished in the blizzards, and during nine months of last year, it is said that there were more than \$1,000,000 lost from this cause in the Territory of Montana alone. If the business is to be continued in that quarter it is probable that new methods will have to be adopted, and that the exposure of cattle on the plains, without any provision for their shelter against the terrible storms which sweep over that section, will have to be abandoned. Regard for their own purses if not pity for the dumb beasts, will in time compel this.

Papers that have been declaring that "Trusts" and protection go hand in hand should note the fact that the resolution for the investigation of the trusts was introduced by a republican and a protectionist, Mr. Mason of Chicago, and backed by Samuel J. Randall, also a protectionist. The most vigorous opposition given the resolution came from the free trader and democrat, Mr. W. L. Scott. The Philadelphia Press calls attention to the fact that if there ever was an administration interested in trusts Mr. Cleveland's is. His secretary of the navy, Mr. Whitney, knows all about them. So does Henry B. Payne, an administration senator. The whisky trusts has its intimate relations with the free trade side of the administration, and the Pan-electric trust has or had much to do with the attorney general.

### A Preliminary Canvass.

The St. Johnsbury Republican sent out, the other day, a circular to a number of prominent Vermonters, asking each to state:

1. His preference for presidential ticket.
2. Second choice?
3. What is the most commendable thing in connection with the present administration?
4. What, in Cleveland's administration, is most open to criticism?
5. What will be the issue in '88?
6. Preference for governor?
7. Second choice?

The replies indicate that the majority of Vermont Republicans are not committed to any candidate for president; and that—as was to be expected—preferences for governor have not yet crystallized. Thus of a hundred republicans who answered the interrogatories only forty per cent. were willing to name a candidate for president.

Of the forty, 24 favored Blaine; 5, Edmunds; 3, Sherman; 3, Lincoln; 2, Sheridan; 1, Hawley; 1, Harrison; and 1, Depew. For second choice, 10 favored Sherman; 4, Blaine; 4, Allison; 3, Lincoln; 4, Sheridan; 2, Harrison; 2, Hawley; and 1, Edmunds. The preferences for vice-president were, 8 for Hawley, 5 for Lincoln, 2 for Harrison, 2 for Sherman, 2 for Sheridan and 1 for Foraker.

Of the democrats who replied, all, fourteen in number, were for Cleveland. Where a second choice is named, Governor Hill of New York takes the lead and Thurman, Lowell and Black have one each.

On the gubernatorial question only a third of those who replied cared to express themselves. Of the 34 who expressed a preference, 8 prefer Frederick Billings of Montpelier; 6, Stephen Thomas of Montpelier; 4, W. P. Dillingham of Waterbury; 4, Levi K. Fuller of Brattleboro; 2, Franklin Fairbanks of St. Johnsbury; 2, Judge Vezzey, and one each for James Barrett of Rutland, T. C. Fletcher of St. Johnsbury, E. J. Ormsbee of Brandon, Redfield Proctor of Proctor, B. D. Harris of Brattleboro and H. E. Royce of St. Albans. Second choices were for W. P. Dillingham 4; L. K. Fuller, 13; G. W. Hooker, James Barrett, B. D. Harris, Stephen Thomas, T. C. Fletcher, Frederick Billings, H. C. Ide, Franklin Fairbanks, J. K. Batchelder of Arlington, P. D. Blodgett of St. Johnsbury, Z. M. Mansur of Island Pond, C. B. Eddy of Bellows Falls and Fred E. Smith of Montpelier one each.

For governor eight democrats stood, for J. E. Edwards of Newport; 3, W. H. H. Bingham of Stowe; 2, L. W. Radnotin of Rutland, S. C. Shurtleff of Montpelier and Seneca Haisleton of Burlington one each.

A canvass as fragmentary as this, of course, determines nothing in regard to candidacies. The most that it shows is that the time has not yet come for any general expression on these matters. In due time, no doubt, there will be open discussion and concentration of opinion, and the Vermonters will then be more ready to stand up and be counted for this, that or the other man.

Some of the replies, however, contain timely and excellent suggestions. We quote from them as follows:

EX-GOV. J. L. BARSTOW.

1. For first place a man of unimpaired reputation, one whose nomination has not already greatly reduced the majorities in nearly all the republican States; a man that can be elected such as Sherman, with Lincoln or Harrison for second place.
2. Sherman and Hawley.
3. The management of the treasury. This has been upon precisely the same old-fashioned foreign policy and the nomination of independent men upon the inter-State commerce commission deserves commendation.
4. In point of time, disregard of promises and the giving up of the civil service reform; in fact, hostility to Union soldiers, and the free trade doctrine, and the last annual message. He asks for free trade in wool, thus striking at the farmers of the whole North, the class now least affected and least prepared for organization to resist the effort to place them on the level with the farmers of Canada, England and Ireland to say nothing of the people of the West and of South America and Australia. It does not matter how one-half the farmers of the North raise no wool, they are all interested in the diversity of agricultural productions and if the wool growers are forced to stop that business they must take up some other, like butter and cheese, thus increasing the product and diminishing the price to the detriment of all. If the democrats in the House follow his counsel and the republicans make a combination, Cleveland's political epithet will be "died in the wool."
5. It ought to be tariff for revenue with protection in our own hands.
6. And? The nominee of the convention.

HON. W. W. GROUT, M. C.

1. Give us one that will command the united support of republicans and it will win.
2. Generally in not having been as mischievous as was feared.
3. The president's promise, many times repeated, that the faithful public servant would be rewarded; and the sweeping removals from office, in particular the removal of his made, and his late free trade message.
4. Free tariff and surplus, principally: civil service reform, a free ballot and temperance incidentally.
5. My position must be one of strict neutrality. I hold all the candidates about equally, and I hope to live to see them all go down—one at a time of course.

EX-JUDGE JAMES BARRETT.

1. If I were to make the next president I would be George F. Edmunds.
2. Joseph R. Hawley. As candidate, 1st. Robert T. Lincoln, 2d. Gen. Sheridan.
3. My position must be one of strict neutrality. I hold all the candidates about equally, and I hope to live to see them all go down—one at a time of course.
4. Non nostrum \* \* tantus componere litas.
5. Tariff—and which party shall come out ahead.
6. R. D. Harris.
7. Nobody.
8. I should be satisfied to have Mr. Blaine the next president, but should not select him for candidate.

EX-JUDGE JAMES BARRETT.

1. For all candidates the regular choice of the convention—believing the voice of many better than the voice of one.
2. The president's marriage.
3. Civil service rules. Violated; tariff and foreign policy.
4. Civil service, foreign policy, tariff.
5. The nation has prospered in spite of the work of Cleveland and his party. The nation survived the last democratic administration, but it cost a struggle.

HON. CARROLL S. PAGE OF HYDE PARK.

Chairman of the State republican committee, says: I am for Blaine, or Sherman, or Allison or Hawley, or Harrison or any other of the dozen candidates that I might name, my first preference being for the man who, on comparing notes at Chicago, is found to be in the judgment of that convention, the best fitted to solidly and unite us and lead us to victory. The same sentiment should, I believe, animate every true republican with reference to his preference for the governorship.

From the tenor of the State press I judge that Mr. Harris and Dillingham are likely to be the leading candidates and either of them would make an excellent governor. This being the case the one should be selected who will add the greatest strength to our State ticket, for Vermont being the first to speak by her State election in 1888 should give us an uncertain sound and every true republican should feel like waiting. His personal preferences for the governorship in order that we may roll up a majority upon the State ticket that shall assure our republican friends in other States that the principles of the grand old party are

just as strongly entrenched as ever in the hearts of the people. If, as is claimed, the temperance element in our party is disposed to insist upon a candidate who is the especial exponent of the temperance element, I am inclined to look with favor upon Mr. Harris, and if Mr. Dillingham, better than any other man, represents the growing demand of the best element in our party, that we take stronger grounds in opposition to the nation, we can hardly expect less than coldness or indifference upon the part of those republicans who have run, and late every party that does not hate ruin.

MAYOR HENRY OF BURLINGTON.

1. Gen. P. H. Sheridan.
2. That man whom a majority of the New York delegates agree upon.
3. Appointing Hon. E. J. Phelps minister to England.
4. Trying to return the rebel flags.
5. "Protection" and "Free Trade."
6. W. P. Dillingham.
7. Mr. Harris.
8. I think we must carry New York, consequently if I were a delegate I should be in favor of nominating the man they thought the strongest.

HON. JOSIAH GROUT OF DERRY.

1. The regular republican nominee.
2. His attractiveness.
3. It is hard to tell. It is all hollow, and is chiefly for the purpose of lulling the people into a false sense of security, and has caused more business stagnation than anything else.
4. Tariff for protection, free vote, fair count and civil service reform.
5. Blaine will probably be the republican candidate. Can go home cheerfully. While I prefer Mr. Harris, yet I think he would likely make the strongest run. His candidacy seems inevitable and he will make a lively campaign.

COL. GEORGE W. HOOKER.

1. Nominee of convention.
2. The marriage of Miss Folsom.
3. His free trade message.
4. Protection vs. free trade.
5. Nominee of convention. Delegates unpaid; free from personal appeal of candidates. In other words, no riding the circuit.

Of the editors who responded, Col. Clarke of the Rutland Herald prefers Sherman for president and the nominee of the convention for governor. Editor Gibbs of the St. Albans Messenger is for Blaine and Dillingham. Editor Swan of the Bellows Falls Times expresses no preference for president, and in regard to governor says: "At the proper time Windham county will, I trust, present a good and strong man, every way acceptable to the State."

The following were among the democratic responses:

HON. ADAM ATKINS, ESQ.

1. Grover Cleveland.
2. None.
3. The common sense and independence of the people.
4. That all of the heads of some branches of the civil service have not done as the president would like to have them do.
5. W. H. H. Bingham.
6. Seneca Haisleton.
7. I believe that those whom the president has appointed to office had done as he has, there would be no cause for complaints among the democrats.

EDITOR C. H. DAVENPORT OF BRATTLEBORO.

1. Cleveland and Black.
2. None.
3. It is nearly commendable in all its departments and branches that it is hard to specify or enumerate.
4. Dismissing of the Mexican pension bill.
5. Tariff.
6. John L. Edwards.
7. Seneca Haisleton.
8. I believe that those whom the president has appointed to office had done as he has, there would be no cause for complaints among the democrats.

HON. W. H. BINGHAM.

1. Grover Cleveland.
2. Governor Hill of New York.
3. While all is commendable, it is difficult to select the one the majority would prefer.
4. No serious criticism. Rather slow in filling offices with friends to manage the affairs of the treasury and the land office, though hampered by some legal restrictions.
5. The tariff, unless settled in this Congress, the reduction of taxation in some way and sustaining democracy in principle.
6. Do not wish to indicate my preference among so many suitable candidates in the department of foreign policy.
7. From my standpoint, think Cleveland will be nominated and elected. Republicans have commenced noise too early. What is gained by victory over Cleveland? While Cleveland is secured for removal, the republicans cannot say but they will do the same if he is elected. It will be merely a spurious contest.

HON. SENeca HASELTON.

1. Grover Cleveland.
2. None.
3. Its steadfast adherence to the principle that office is a trust.
4. The persistent overwork on the part of the president.
5. Whether or not the present administration deserves the confidence and approval of the people.
6. Stephen C. Shurtleff of Montpelier.
7. In defining my belief as to the issue in the coming campaign I assume that Congress will be a set adjustment, provide for a substantial reduction of the revenue. Mr. Shurtleff is preferred for governor because he personally merits a re-nomination and also because the republican cause will be advanced by both parties since it tends to belittle our state politics.

DR. J. D. HANNAHAN OF RUTLAND.

1. Grover Cleveland.
2. None.
3. Honesty of purpose in all things.
4. Leaving too many republicans in office.
5. Tariff, solid South and civil service reform.
6. Some good democrat.
7. Some other free democrat.
8. I think that things to day in my judgment the democratic ticket will give Grover Cleveland and Gen. John C. Black, and although I have no desire whatever to be offensive it seems to me that if the republicans ought to be generous once and more to make it unanimous, as in my judgment it is a foregone conclusion that Cleveland will be his own successor.

The storm and snow blockade of last week was in extent and severity a most notable one. Never, probably, in the history of American railroads, were so many trains and so many passengers so thoroughly snow-bound throughout so many States. A thousand passengers were storm-staid on Friday on the New York Central road alone. The number who were wearily and in many cases hungrily waiting in the cars, night and day, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, till the trains could be shovelled out of the drifts, and the locomotives move, must have been numbered by tens of thousands. From east and west and north, far and near, come the same stories of stalled trains and "dead" locomotives, and drifts piled to a height and length almost without precedent. We remember no previous time since the railroads began to run, when the New York morning papers failed to reach this place for three full days. Though the roads generally met the emergency with energy and generally got their tracks open on Saturday, we fear that the trouble is not over for them as a channel dug through the drifts is easily filled by future snows and in time becomes impregnable to a snow-plough.

The man who sent the New York Evening Post an editorial puff for a candidate for the presidency of Princeton college, enclosing \$1 with the comment "please insert," didn't see his article in print. On the contrary, he saw the editor's dry remark that "when the sale of editorial opinion begins prices will range higher than \$1 a column."

### The Political Outlook—Is It Wise to Nominate Mr. Blaine?

To the Editor of the Free Press:

This is a time when republicans should candidly and seriously reflect upon the selection of a standard bearer for the coming political contest, to the end that strength and harmony may prevail. The following facts taken from the Tribune Almanac furnish food for thought:

In 1884, Blaine gained from the democrats, California 3 votes, Nevada 3 votes, total 11, while of the States that were republican in 1880 he lost, Connecticut 6, Indiana 15, New York 36, total 57 votes.

In the popular vote, taking majorities and lack of majorities alone into account, he gained over the republican vote of 1880, on the Pacific slope, as follows:

|   |        |              |        |
|---|--------|--------------|--------|
| California                                    | 11,161 | Nevada       | 2,570  |
| Colorado                                      | 4,490  | Oregon       | 619    |
| In the remaining Northern States he gained in |        |              |        |
| Kansas  | 1,565  | Pennsylvania | 31,075 |
| Maine   | 9,589  |              |        |

But he lost:

|               |        |               |        |
|---------------|--------|---------------|--------|
| Connecticut   | 6,648  | New Hampshire | 1,467  |
| Illinois      | 11,750 | New Jersey    | 9,195  |
| Indiana       | 11,408 | New York      | 26,392 |
| Iowa          | 26,418 | Ohio          | 9,665  |
| Massachusetts | 58,241 | Rhode Island  | 3,851  |
| Michigan      | 35,710 | Vermont       | 431    |
| Minnesota     | 3,823  | Wisconsin     | 19,352 |
| Nebraska      | 2,884  |               |        |

Total gain in majorities, 64,567; total loss in same, 256,889.

In 1884 the prohibition vote was 150,369, and the labor, greenback-Butler vote was 175,370, both largely cast in the North.

Henry George and Powderly are said to unite in advising the labor party to have no candidate in 1888, in which event this vote will mainly go to the democrats, while the prohibition vote, judging from recent State elections is likely to be largely increased, mainly from the republican party.

Up to 1884, the doubtful States of the North and east of the Rockies, were said to be Indiana, New York, Connecticut and New Jersey—all carried by Cleveland. Did the election of 1884 demonstrate that there were other doubtful States in that region?

Let us look at Massachusetts. This State in 1880 gave a republican majority over all of 48,015. In 1884 the party lacked 10,230 votes of a majority. If the Butler vote had been cast for Cleveland, he would have carried the State by a plurality of 300 votes.

In Wisconsin a majority over all in 1880 of 21,626 was reduced in '84 to 2,444 in a vote of 319,870.

In Michigan we had 17,997 majority over all in 1880. If the Butler vote had gone to Cleveland he would have only wanted 592 votes more to have carried the State.

In Illinois our majority in 1884 was only 2,135 in a total vote of 672,813.

In Iowa where it was said "the prairies were on fire for Blaine," the fire was so intense that a republican majority in 1880 of 44,789 was reduced to 18,301 in 1884.

To secure the success of the party requires at this time great coolness and wisdom. No one can wonder that the surpassing brilliancy and ability of Mr. Blaine should secure for him a large and enthusiastic following; but in times of emergency, reason and facts should take the place of sentiment. A day, a week or a month may change the outlook entirely. But moderation, candor and wisdom will never be out of place.

OBSERVER.

The London Times, in a tone of dignified rebuke, tells us that "the United States has long borne a reputation for declining to subscribe to principles to which other States conceived it their duty to assent." This is undoubtedly true. We are continually shocking old world opinions; and yet we seem to be getting along very well, thank you.

### OUR KALEIDOSCOPE.

There was a young lady who grew so

She had to dispose of her trousers;

When told at a ball,

She replied, with a frown, that she knew so.

England seems to be running Ireland

On the ground plan.

The crack club—the policeman's Milly.

If you want to hear some racy English,

Go to a horse trot on the ice.

If there is anything that makes the tail-end

man in the line leading up to a ticket

window mad, it is to have a woman with

a St. Louis bustle insinuate herself near

the head of the procession and drive him

back about 12 yards into the sweet sub-

sequently.

Carelessness with matches caused 626

fires in New York last year and about

1076 divorces.

Blobson declares that there is just about

as much fun in playing solitaire as there

is in trying to lift yourself up by your

boot-strings.

There is a woman in Luguan, N. C., who

can split 200 fence rails in a day. Her

husband stays in and does the sewing and

fixes over her bonnets.

"Turn about is fair play," as the man

remarked when he got worsted in a dis-

tinct fight and scooted for shelter.

A leap year conversation—Angelina:

Augustus, will you be mine?

Augustus: "My dear girl, I will be a

brother to you—but your husband, oh, no;

that cannot be."

There is a common impression that the

fastest thing of which our senses take cogni-

zance is a flash of lightning. This is a

mistake, as anybody knows who has ever

seen a young man with a red necktie, a

spotted shirt collar and a loudly striped

\$12 suit of clothes.

Jay Gould began life at \$4 a week in a

tannery. He is now worth one hundred

millions. But then Jay never stopped

work and lived on assessments and trust

because some tanner, a couple of hundred

miles away, employed a man whom a

committee of hide-scrappers called a

"scab." If these had been Jay's tactics,

he would still be beating pelts to a deco-

tion of hemlock.

Mrs. Biogus—"What is the use of all

this snow?"

Biogus—"Snow use."

The papers say the beef men have sent a

bill to Congress. What in time is the

matter with the plumbers? Are they

asleep?

American school teachers in Canada get

an average of \$150 a year salary. They

are not able to sling quite so much style

as their brethren of the American colony.

Guest (snowbound in Whitehall—"Is

there an elevator in this hotel?")

Proprietor—Yes, sir. Step through that

green baize door and ask the barkeeper for

four fingers of gin.

### HOME MATTERS.

#### CITY AND VICINITY.

Valentines are beginning to appear in costly and elaborate designs appropriate to the season.

It is expected that the Dartmouth college sophomores will hold their annual banquet at the Van Ness House February 20.

The time for noting cases for trial at the term of the United States Circuit and District Court to be held in this city, Feb. 28, will expire on Tuesday, the 7th inst.

A road has been busted out from here to Shelburn harbor and yesterday a team crossed for the first time. The road is quite rough owing to the anchor ice.

Negotiations are in progress for the erection of a block of stores, 100 feet deep, on the west side of Church street between the Central House block and the residence of J. A. Shedd.

There was a serious fire in St. Augustine, Fla., last Friday night, and the house and barn of Mr. C. A. Hibbard were in great danger, but by the exertion of his friends they were saved.

An effort is to be made to arrange a series of races on the ice in the near future. The greatest obstacle seems to be the preparation of suitable tracks within convenient distance of the city, but this difficulty will undoubtedly be overcome and some exciting races held.

The committee consisting of Alderman Englesby, City Clerk Allen and City Attorney Roberts, appointed to reprint the city charter as it now exists and to revise and print the city ordinances subject to the approval of the City Council, have already completed their work. Considerable labor in the way of condensation has been done, but no very radical changes have been made