

"REMINISCENCES".

There sat at my dad's supper table on a Sunday Afternoon when I was a lad an old retired Lutheran minister, by the name of Carrol. Doctor Carroll had spent the bulk of his ministerial career in the State of Pennsylvania, and was then living with a married daughter here in our midst. He and dad had become quite friendly. The topic of conversation just then happened to be 'politics' and Doctor Carroll says across the table to me, "John! do you know ^{how} Benjamin ^{happened} to be elected president over Grover Cleveland in 1888"? My answer was "No"! "Well", says he, "I will tell you".

"Mr. John Wanamaker, the wealthy Phila. merchant and Sunday School teacher suddenly acquired political aspirations so he sent for Mr. Mathew Stanley Quay the U. S. Senator and republican boss of the state and he says to him: "Mr. Quay, I have 50 thousand dollars here for Mr. Harrison's campaign and I want you to take and use it where you think it will do the most good". "Now where do you suppose that he put it"? My prompt reply was: "He put it in his pocket". "No"? says he, "Not all of it". "To spend it in Pennsylvania meant merely throwing it in the sewer, that state being already safe and sound. He goes over into Brooklyn and gets a ward-healer to line up 5 thousand repeaters (the woods being full of such cattle in those days) to grow beards. On election day they showed up at the polls first with a full growth: some hours later they showed up with side-burns, then later on with only a mustash and finally clean shaven. The State of New York was Harrison's by 8000, and John Wanamaker, the Sunday-School teacher became Post Master General."

Thus much on the election of President Harrison so now for some politics of a local flavor. Who in his right mind would ever have dreamed that an obscure personage by the name of Thomas S. Martin would ever have defeated one of our Confederate War heroes whose name was Fitzhugh Lee for a seat in the U. S. Senate? Well, he did, and by just such tactics as was used in the defeat of Mr. Cleveland by senator Quay. The only difference being that the black man's vote was used instead of that of his be-whiskered brother's. This system was rampant in the good old days before the pole-tax and registration laws were placed on our statute books. Poe saw it in 1844 and he so vividly described same saying; "A republical government could never become other than a rascally one."

These laws were not for the purpose of depriving the Negro of his right to vote any other than that of the white man whose ballot was for sale to the highest bidder and they could be purchased by the dump-cart load just before sun-down at 50¢ per head. In plain language the system was nothing other than cheating. Now our Supreme Court comes along and says that where the U. S. government ^{is it not} a law for the prevention of cheating in politics is unconstitutional!!

Well, if this condition be so, why is it not unconstitutional to prevent cheating in her military College out in Colorado? And President Johnson tells the world that he is going to enforce this decision at the point of the bayonet if necessary. John Milton told us that; "Who overcomes by force has overcome but half his foe",

From earliest youth I had been a great fancier of POE both as a poet and story teller, but all else I could learn was that he was morally a sot and practically died in the gutter. It was not until I got hold of his biography by Mr Harvey Allen that I saw a new light. Poe was a caustic critic of our form of government and his traducers were many.

"He who ascends to mountain tops shall find,
The loftiest peaks all wrapped in clouds and snow".