

# The Democratic Sentinel.

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## THE DEMOCRATIC SENTINEL.

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JAS. W. McEWEEN

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Office, in Makeever's New Block. Residence at Makeever House.

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### Shakspeare Study.

Among the many solemn humbugs by which the world is fooled, there is not one more shallow than the pretense of some tragic actors to be considered what are called "students of Shakspeare." If this claim means anything, it presumes that the works of this poet are of such mystic and misty profundity that deep research and kindred inspiration are required to discover his hidden meaning, and these actors are ordained to expound this bible of the stage. Humbug! A tragedy is a great literary effort designed, not to be read or meditated upon, but to be represented before a mixed audience. Its language, therefore, should be clear and unmistakable as it flows from the mouths of the speakers; its action should be clear and perspicuous. If it is not so, then the poet is all at fault. He is not a prophet; his business is not to tell lies about what is to be; so he has no reason to be obscure. There are no two ways about him; he has no reason for misleading or for mystifying the people.

The so-called student of Shakspeare is a narrow-minded fellow who seeks to torture the palpable meaning of trivial passages into what are termed "new readings" for the purpose of rendering himself conspicuous at the expense of the poet, to whom he imputes obscurity, the very worst fault a dramatist can exhibit. If such fellows could arouse the sleeping spirit of the grand old man, recall him like the ghost in "Hamlet" to revisit the glimpses of the moon, and then submit to him their new readings, I can imagine his reply.

"What on earth does it matter? Either interpretation will serve. I cannot remember which I intended. My dramas were written under the spur of necessity to meet the crying needs of the theater of which I was one of the managers. They will be found to contain errors and blemishes. Let them be so, and do not encourage infatuated worshippers to turn defects into beauties. Nature is full of imperfections, and if it pleased the great author to leave this work so to eternity, why seek perfection in every miserable little heap of dust? These trivial details you bring to my notice do not affect the purpose and shape of my play; and if they concern neither the action nor the passion nor the characters, why make so much ado about nothing? I am neither honored nor flattered by the blind worship bestowed upon my works by some writers. If my existence had depended upon these text grubbers, I should have been shelved two centuries ago between Ben Johnson and Massinger, or buried with Beaumont and Fletcher. I owe my existence to the stage, to the actor. No dramatic poet has any existence in the closet. Out of my thirty-six plays, about a dozen survive. The rest are preserved for the admiration of those who never read them. Each of the dozen will be found to afford a conspicuous and all-absorbing character for the great actor or actress. Whenever a well-written play affords such an opportunity, it will hold its life on the stage.

"The 'Two Gentlemen of Verona' and 'Love's Labor Lost' are read as a matter of duty to the author of 'Hamlet' and 'Othello.' I owe my existence to such actors as Edmund Kean and Garrick, who joined spirits with me, embraced my passion, and embodied my characters. They changed my language and reshaped my work to fit their qualities, and they did it well. This is the way to study Shakspeare."

The actor's power to represent a passion is a gift, not a deliberate artistic effort obtained by study. It is a faculty, to be developed and improved by practice. The poet only affords the actor an opportunity to display his powers; one is the complement of the other in the grand result. The actor who is built on a poet—such is the so-called student—is merely a mouthpiece, not an artist, for he should obtain his inspiration as the poet gets his, out of his inner gifts. I, who say this, am both an actor and a poet, and I speak of what I know.

Then—may I be forgiven for saying so—there are some young women whose education has stopped short somewhere between writing and spelling, who are thrust up into conspicuous positions on the stage, and taking refuge behind their good looks, profess to be students of Shakspeare.

O, the humbug of it all! and how the dear world is fooled by it!—Dion Boucault.

A MEDICAL journal states that the average Chinese baby weighs but five pounds. The journal did not state whether the Chinese baby's capacity for squalling was less, in proportion to weight, than that of any other baby, but if they howl in the Chinese language as loud as the American kid does in the United States language, how the poor mother must suffer. If any one has ever heard two Chinamen holding a convention in their native tongue, they can readily see that a child who is just learning to lisp a few syllables in the Chinese language would make Rome howl.—Lack's Bure.

### ALL SORTS

#### OF OPINIONS ON THE ELECTION.

NEW YORK, November 10th.—The World sent out telegraphic inquiries to men of prominence all over the country asking what in their opinion would be the result of the New York election on the future Democratic Presidential nomination. From some of the replies received to-day the following extracts are taken:

Governor Taylor, of Tennessee: "Tuesday's elections prophesy with infallible precision the shelving of James G. Blaine and the re-nomination and re-election of Grover Cleveland to the Presidency in 1888."

Governor Marmaduke, of Missouri: "Tuesday's elections point strongly to the re-nomination of President Cleveland and, with equal emphasis, indicate increased strength in the Democratic party, whoever may be the Republican nominee."

Governor Coke, of Texas: "It indicates Cleveland's re-election in 1888 as clearly as events in this day can do it. I have never believed that Mr. Blaine with the flavor of defeat hanging to him, would be again nominated by his party."

Governor Seales, of North Carolina: "The election Tuesday should and will secure the nomination of Mr. Cleveland."

Governor Seay, of Alabama: "The nomination of Cleveland by the next National Democratic Convention has long been foregone. I do not think that Blaine's prospects for the Republican nomination are affected one way or the other by the election in the State of New York last Tuesday."

Governor Bodwell, of Maine: "The result in New York assures the re-nomination of President Cleveland. I am equally satisfied it points to the re-nomination of James G. Blaine."

Governor Lee, of Virginia: "The splendid Democratic indorsement of the President's Administration by the Empire State proclaims in advance this nomination and re-election. We are told, Mr. Blaine can have the Republican nomination if he wants it. I hope he will want it."

Editor Handy, Phil'a News: "Tuesday's voting showed that New York can hardly be classed any longer as a doubtful State. With the New York Democracy thoroughly reconciled to the Administration and the prohibitionists persistently antagonistic to the Republican party, New York will probably give Cleveland the Presidency in 1888 as she did in 1884."

Governor Curtin, of Pennsylvania: "I answer that in my judgment it settles beyond question the renomination of President Cleveland for re-election. I have believed and still am of the impression that Mr. Blaine can be the candidate of the Republican party if he desires it and, in my judgment, he is the strongest man of his party."

Senator Blackburn of Kentucky: "New York's vote on Tuesday seems to dispose of Mr. Blaine as a candidate. Mr. Cleveland's renomination was fixed before."

Editor Bowles, Springfield Republican: "If we were to point a particular moral, it would be to suggest to the Republican party the wisdom of heeding the voice of discretion and good sense, heard oftenest among the plain people, which protests that the nomination of the Presidential candidate of 1884 would be an act of fatal folly."

Editor Barrett, Boston Advertiser: "The election in New York does not alter the existing conditions as to the respective nominations of Blaine and Cleveland. I think that as between Blaine and Cleveland, Mr. Blaine will be stronger next year than he was in 1884."

Editor McClure, Phil'a Times:

"The election clearly shows that Cleveland is now stronger with the people than when he was elected in '84 and that Blaine is weaker."

Senator Beck, of Kentucky: "Tuesday's vote means Cleveland for another term, Blaine's retirement, an end of hero worship, and a rebuke to personal abuse. I think Cleveland will have Allison as his opponent."

Editor Belo, Dallas News: "The result of the election insures the renomination and election of Grover Cleveland next year, and probably eliminates Blaine from the field of presidential candidates."

Senator Gray, of Delaware: "Cleveland's renomination is a logical necessity of the situation. The result in New York makes his calling and election sure."

Editor H. Liday, Indianapolis News: "The weakness of the Labor vote there in this off year, indicates greater weakness in the presidential year, while the growing strength and animus of the Prohibition vote promises no decadence. In that case there is this addition and subtraction going on at once to the loss of the Republicans and the gain of the Democrats. There is little if any hope on the outlook for Blaine, and there is much urgency for the Republicans to look alive for another candidate and trenchant issues."

Editor Russell, Chicago Herald: "Young Grant might have blazed the way for young Lincoln, but proved the impotency of an un-American appeal that electors shall vote for the son because his sire was famous discredits the sentiment in practical minds, and leaves them no alternative but to fall back upon Blaine and search for a negative and unknown quantity. In my opinion, Blaine can poll more Democratic and less Republican votes than any Republican candidate, and in the vital States of New York, Connecticut and New Jersey would give more cause for uneasiness to Cleveland's friends than any Republican who can be named but whose candidacy would be an anti-climax."

M. A. Foran, of Ohio: "President Cleveland will be nominated for a second term and elected. The election in this State, in my opinion, leaves Senator Sherman out of the contest in 1888."

Editor Taylor, Boston Globe: "The elections of Tuesday indicate that Massachusetts is a debateable State as between Cleveland and Blaine."

General Collins, of Massachusetts: "The collapse of the eccentric movement in New York and the signal triumph of the Democracy insures victory in the presidential campaign unless something like a miracle happens. Mr. Cleveland will, of course be renominated and stand at the head of a united party. If Blaine desires the Republican nomination he can have it, but if he has grown wise with years and experience he will probably not consider it worth taking. No matter how individuals and groups of men will growl, the people believe in Cleveland, and will support him more heartily next year than in 1884."

Editor Nixon, Chicago Inter-Ocean: "An outsider who attempts any opinion on the politics of New York State generally treads on uncertain ground. Still the Republicans of the West have opinions of the signs of the times as seen in the New York election. These certainly indicate that the President is strong in his own State, and that under the present leadership, Republicans will continue unsuccessful. Restored harmony does not seem sufficient. There must be something done to revive principles and renew party enthusiasm. Some one must be nominated against whom there are no bristling animosities, and whose name or career will revive the memory of days when principle, not patronage was contended for. Such a name would probably bring New York's great Republican leader out of his retirement, and out here it

is remembered that New York Republicans have won no victory since Mr. Conkling went into retirement. Mr. Blaine's nomination will never accomplish these things, because the avowed animosities against him were as bitter as they were four years ago, and those of his own special followers against Mr. Conkling are unallayed. Under these circumstances he could hardly secure as large a Republican vote as he did in 1884, while with a live Democratic President in possession at Washington, it is hard to believe that his Irish Catholic vote would be as large as at the last National contest. Mr. Blaine is still the idol of a large number of Republicans; but, as I understand the prevailing sentiment of the party, it is to put aside personal preferences and concentrate on some representative of Republican principles who can be elected. The result in New York will be construed against Mr. Blaine, and will cause a renewal of the effort to find a candidate whose canvass will not arouse old animosities, but whose triumph will be equally representative of Republican ideas and principles."

Stamping Out the Mugwumps.—Mr. Murat Halstead is a mugwump of 1872. He now telegraphs to the New York Tribune:

"Will Republicans of New York kindly take notice that the Republicans of Ohio speak right out on the great public questions? And we are rewarded by our direct methods by success in stamping out the mugwumps, and we have comparatively few prohibitionists. The way to hold the lines of battle is to edge them with fire. And when the Solid South unfurls the bloody banner of the Confederate, we do not think it wicked to put up the Old Flag and turn loose the bird of glory."

This must be very impressive to Republicans, because it is the same Mr. Halstead who in the pinch of the war spoke "right out" to Secretary Chase as follows:

"Our noble army of the Mississippi is being wasted by the foolish, drunken and stupid Grant. He can't organize, or control, or fight an army. I have no personal feeling about it, but I know he is an ass."

"The President's (Lincoln) weak, puling, piddling, humanitarianism is death and hell to the army. Can't you take him by the throat and knock his head against a wall until he is brought to his senses on the war business? I do not speak wantonly when I say there are persons who would feel that they would be doing God service to kill him, if it were not feared that Hamlin is a bigger fool than he is. And yet the pitiful Congress twaddles weekly in private caucus about political matters, as if a little more nigger would do everything."

Mr. Murat Halstead is evidently a writer who edges his lines with fire, a person of sound judgment and deep perceptions, a discreet and valuable Republican counselor, and of a heart pierced with the woes of the colored race.—Harper's Weekly.

### DON'T

let that cold of yours run on. You think it is a light thing. But it may run into catarrh, or into pneumonia. Or consumption.

Catarrh is disgusting. Pneumonia is dangerous. Consumption is death itself.

The breathing apparatus must be kept healthy and clear of all obstructions and offensive matter. Otherwise there is trouble ahead.

All the diseases of those parts, head, nose, throat, bronchial tubes and lungs, can be delightfully and entirely cured by the use of Bosche's German Syrup. If you don't know this already, thousands and thousands of people can tell you. They have been cured by it, and "know how it is, themselves." Bottle only 75 cents. Ask any druggist.