

MANHOOD SUFFRAGE.

Neither the Dominion or Provincial Franchise Acts can be regarded by the people as satisfactory, but as both the Liberal-Conservatives and Liberals are gradually coming round to the opinion that manhood is the only true basis upon which the Franchise can be placed, it is to be hoped that these opinions will soon be crystalized in legislation, so that each British subject who has attained to the age of twenty one years shall enjoy his full right as a citizen in both provincial and federal elections. There are some Liberal-Conservatives, as well as Conservative-Liberals, who are opposed to the further extension of the Franchise, on the ground that it would still further increase the number of irresponsible voters. Were this contention true, they would be consistent who oppose a Franchise such as that based upon manhood suffrage; but under both the federal and provincial Acts, the right of voting is given to persons who have no property qualifications whatever. A tenant who pays a yearly rental of twenty dollars stands in precisely the same position, so far as the right of voting is concerned, as the proud possessor of fifty acres of dyke marsh. Whereas, the college professor, the school-master, the clerk, or the bachelor mechanic, who may happen to prefer boarding to paying a yearly rental for their rooms, is, from that simple fact, deprived of his rights as a citizen. If our laws extended the Franchise to all possessed of a property qualification, they would be consistent, although, to our mind, objectionable. But the moment the principle of a property qualification is departed from, it fairly opens the door to manhood suffrage. Our present electoral Acts are both complicated and expensive; and through the revision of the lists many persons possessed of proper qualifications are revised out of their privileges—finding out all too late that their names have been marked off or inadvertently omitted.

The provincial and federal policies of the Liberal party appear to be at logger heads on the matter of Franchise. The Hon. Edward Blake favors manhood suffrage with a simple registration of names, while the Premier of Nova Scotia, being a Conservative-Liberal, still adheres to property and rental qualifications. In like manner the Conservative party in the Dominion and Province are not in accord. Sir John A. MacDonald takes the same view of the question as that taken by Mr. Fielding; but being a Liberal-Conservative—not a Conservative-Liberal—he goes one better, and extends the Franchise to those in the receipt of a yearly income of \$300.00, while his supporters in this province, with few exceptions, endorse the Hon. Edward Blake's platform of manhood suffrage. We are delighted to note that the *Halifax Morning Chronicle* now gives its support to the more simple method proposed by Mr. Blake; and as the *Morning Herald* has for years advocated manhood suffrage, we may hope that public opinion will soon be ripe for the reform, and that in future voters may be saved from the annoyances to which they are subjected under the present system. At present, the great object of each political party is to get the names of its supporters on, and to keep the names of its opponents off the lists; and it is a well-known fact, that even with the greatest vigilance on both sides, the names of men honestly entitled to vote are struck off. This is not as it should be; but the evil will exist so long as the present methods of revision are legally sanctioned. Some day, our posterity will wonder how it was that our legislators were so short-sighted and illiberal in the matter of the Franchise. But this will doubtless be looked upon as one of the barbarisms of the nineteenth century—for, assuredly, so far as this Dominion is concerned, the nineteenth century will see the property and rental qualifications abolished, and manhood suffrage substituted in its stead.

WILL PRESIDENT CLEVELAND BE HIS OWN SUCCESSOR IN OFFICE.

On the Fourth of March last, President Cleveland completed the second year of his official term. Although the election of his successor is still a year and a-half distant, American politicians are already preparing for the contest. While the rank and file of the Democratic party, and many leading Democratic politicians are anxious to see Cleveland re-nominated, the political wire-pullers, who have received scant favor from the administration, are working tooth and nail to prevent his re-nomination. One of the planks of the Democratic platform passed by the convention that nominated Cleveland, was "Civil Service Reform." Moderate men of both parties had seen the necessity for this, as the very existence of the Republic was threatened by the old cry, that "to the victors belong the spoils." It was seen that a corrupt President with over one hundred and fifty thousand offices in his gift, could, by the large sums raised by assessments on salaries, and the assistance of his dependents, continue himself in power indefinitely, or be displaced only by a revolution. A grave crisis had arisen, and in response to the popular will, a Civil Service Act, substantially the same as the Canadian Act, was passed during the Grant-Hayes administrations, and was very fairly carried into effect by President Arthur. When Blaine was nominated by the Republicans (in the face of his bad record) the most respectable portion of his party refused to support him, and voted for Cleveland in the full faith that he was an earnest believer in Civil Service Reform. With this aid Cleveland was elected, and then Democratic politicians assailed him on every side, urging him to turn all the Republican officials out, and fill their places with straight Democrats. A weak man might have yielded to their wishes, and thus made himself popular with his party, while violating the pledges on which he had been elected. But Cleveland was firm as iron, and insisted on carrying out the spirit and the letter of the Civil Service Act. There were a large number of purely party offices which he filled with Democrats, not forgetting his friends the Mugwumps, but he made no other changes, unless for cause, or the expiration of official terms.

He stood true to the Democratic platform, and while he has alienated the unprincipled politicians of the party, he has gained the popular heart. Outside of the Civil Service question, he has done his duty unflinchingly, and has vetoed more bills, it is said, than all the other Presidents put together. He does not stop to consider whether friend or foe will be affected by his vetoes, but faithfully performs the duties of the great trust committed to his charge. He may not be a brilliant politician, but his steadfastness of purpose, his integrity, and his strong common-sense, have been conspicuously displayed in all his public acts.

His sterling qualities, and his wise administration of the government, are duly appreciated by the public. His bitterest enemies in the party are beginning to see that they are only hurting themselves by opposing him, and are rapidly falling into line. Everything points to the fact that he will be re-nominated by the Democratic party, and become his own successor as President of the United States.

WHITE SLAVES.

It will be unnecessary here to recapitulate the shocking barbarisms brought before the public by Rev. Mr. Ambrose and Mr. Adams, through the means of this Blue Book and otherwise, nor to publish many other such cruelties and immoralities which have since come to our knowledge from other sources, for the farming-out system is not confined to Digby County, but is also practiced in all its peculiarities in many other parts of this Province and in New Brunswick, as was shown by the public sale of several paupers at Sussex, N. B., not long ago, and recently by the following item, which we clip from an exchange:—

"A HERO OF THE NILE,

AND ALSO OF WATERLOO, AGED 105,
Buried in New Brunswick like a Dog.

St. John, Feb. 16th.—A story which is almost incredible, comes from Norton, Kings County. A few days ago, John Alberton, the oldest man in New Brunswick, died in the parish of Norton, where pauper farming is in vogue. He was buried the same day in a box which had not even a shaving in it for the body to lie on. There was no burial service, and in fact, the man, who was 105 years old, who had served under Lord Nelson, and was present at the battle of the Nile,—who served also at Waterloo under Wellington, was buried like a dog."

This recalls the case of the dungaree-clad Waterloo veteran in Digby under the farming out system, and the death last month of George Price, a pauper farmed-out in Halifax County, N. S. He had fought under Wellington at Waterloo, and entered Paris with the allied armies.

In the controversy aroused by Messrs. Ambrose and Adams on this subject, it was stoutly asserted by their principal assailant that the charges alleged by them were utterly untrue; and, moreover, that the paupers in Digby County are as kindly treated under the farming-out system as in any part of the English speaking world. The Commissioner's Blue Book settled this dispute pretty thoroughly. But an examination of this system will show that it is utterly evil in itself, appealing, as it does, to the strongest and yet meanest principle of depraved human nature.

The farming-out system of pauper support, as practiced in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, is as old as the first settlement of the country. It is only of late years that even in any of the larger centres outside of the cities the poor have been collected into alms-houses. In the villages and smaller towns the overseers of the poor board them out, as a rule, at the lowest possible rates, for although office-seekers bid for popularity by reducing taxation, care is taken of self, and the keenest sufferers by such economy are those who cannot resent injustice or hardship by a vote. The amount voted for pauper support is generally made as small as possible, with exceedingly little fear of opposition.

THE HORSE-POWER OF A WHALE'S TAIL.

Sir William Turner, the eminent Professor of Anatomy in the University of Edinburgh, recently delivered a lecture to the members of the Philosophical Institution of the city on "Whales: their Structure and Habits," in the course of which he referred to a point of considerable interest to engineers, which was the horse-power exerted by the tail of a large whale. Regarding the length of full-grown whales, Professor Turner remarked that the porpoise was 4 feet or 5 feet long, whereas the Greenland right whale was from 50 feet to 60 feet long, and he said that the great finner-whale, which frequently visited the British seas, reached the length of 80 feet, or even more. An animal of the latter sort was stranded at Longniddry some years ago. After speaking at some length on the structure of whales, the lecturer made some remarks on the rate of speed at which they travelled. It had been estimated, he said, that the Greenland whale could attain a speed of nine or ten miles an hour, and that the finner-whales attained even a greater speed. In all probability the Longniddry whale could propel itself through the water at the rate of twelve miles an hour, and the sperm whale was said to be capable of driving itself along at the same rate of speed. He had aided Mr. John Henderson, of Glasgow, the well-known builder of the Anchor liners, to assist him in arriving at the horse-power which must be exercised by one of these great whales so as to acquire a speed of twelve miles an hour, and he put the case of the Longniddry whale before him. It was 80 feet long, weighed about 74 tons, and had a tail 18 feet to 20 feet across from the extreme ends of its flanges. With these data Mr. Henderson calculated that a whale of the dimensions mentioned, in order to attain a speed of twelve miles an hour, would require to exercise a propelling force of 145 horse-power.