

reign. The only measure of personal policy with which any one credits him is the annexation of San Domingo, which will now, probably, be revived, and may possibly lead to trouble. It is announced that he signalized his re-election as the head of the nation by boasting to his lieges of the craftiness with which he had employed "pickets," in plain English, spies, and spies of the most infamous kind, to betray to him the councils of his opponents. Lincoln was not made of the very finest clay of humanity; but he had grace, on his re-election, to speak with modesty and dignity of his own exalted trust, and with generosity of his defeated opponents. However, if General Grant is, in most respects, inferior to General Washington, there seems to be a bare possibility that in the most important respect of all, he

may turn out immeasurably his superior. General Washington was the first of the elective Presidents; it seems just possible that General Grant may be the last. The great fact that the institution is perfectly needless, and a vast political nuisance, appears to have dawned at last upon the minds of a certain number of American citizens, who have begun to agitate for its abolition. The organizations and interests connected with this quadrennial prize of faction and corruption are so strong that the attempt seems almost hopeless; but should it ever succeed, the benefit would be unspeakable to the United States, and to all countries which are affected by the policy of the Republic. The elective Presidency was a principal source of the indirect claims, as well as of the civil war.

A CHRISTMAS ODE.

(From the German of Friedrich Rückert.)

IN Bethlehem the Lord was born
 Whose birth has brought us life and light,
 On Calvary that death of scorn
 He died, that broke Death's cruel might :
 I wandered from a western strand
 And sought through many an Eastern land,
 Yet found I greater nought than ye,
 O Bethlehem and Calvary !

Ye wonders of the ancient world,
 How hath your pomp been swept away,
 And earthly strength to ruin hurled
 By power that knows not of decay !
 I saw them scattered far and wide,
 The ruined heaps on every side ;
 But lowly glory still I see
 Round Bethlehem and Calvary.