

faster, theirs cannot be an exception to the rule, as the unerring principle, (which they claim to be exclusively their own,) is wanting, and that before the necessary momentum can be applied to their microcosm the world will have shot so far in advance of their position that they will never be able to overtake it, no matter how long or rapid their strides may be. So that from that stand-point it will be seen that their great footing is their great hindrance to keeping pace with the times.

For several months before the elections come off a series of *fetes-champetre* are organized, (called "Pic-nics" here, because the speakers pick each other's characters to pieces and do the work of Old Nick generally,) the people assemble in some grove, like the Druids of old, where refreshments are provided, consisting of whiskey, pemmican, and such other delicacies as the tastes of the caterers may suggest, but the principal dish is pemmican. It may not be generally known what pemmican is, and to enlighten the minds of those who are ignorant of that important fact, I will describe it. A deer is killed and afterwards beaten with clubs till all the bones are mashed to the consistency of jelly, and the skin loosened from the flesh, so that it slips off easily at the proper time, but before removing the skin the whole mass, beaten into a pulp, is roasted or barbecued before an open fire, and when cooked it is served up to the free and independent electors and their families, who enjoy the feast so well that they make it the topic of conversation in the family circle for several months afterwards.

Pemmican is much like Scotch haggis, with the difference that instead of a deer a sheep is used for the haggis, and instead of the carcass of the sheep being cooked in its skin, like that of the deer, the stomach is removed, and the whole body, skin and all, is sewed up in it, being first well seasoned with whiskey, and in that condition cooked and served up as the "king of the puddin' race," the wool attached to the skin giving it that peculiar flavour which is confined to the haggis alone, and so much prized by the Scotch. Pemmican is an Indian corruption of "American." When the savages first began to eat roast Americans they could not articulate that name distinctly, but came as near it as they could by saying, memican, and after a while the name of their peculiar feast became established as pemmican—which is also applied to the deer preparation.

The free and independent electors having partaken of the good cheer, an instrument popularly called "The Stump," is brought forth with much ceremony, from a van in which it is carried from place to place, and set up in the midst of the throng, when the speakers mount it one by one, and during several hours declaim about the wickedness of their opponents' vices, and the saintliness of their own virtues. The stump is a Yankee invention—a kind of psychological battery, so constructed that when a person stands