

THE POLITICAL CARTOON.

ONE of the most interesting developments of modern times is the art of political cartooning, says The Chicago Times-Herald. Hundreds of newspapers, comic weeklies and other periodicals all over the country are springing cartoons apropos of the great Presidential campaign of 1896. Two score years ago the political caricature was unheard of. To-day it is one of the great features of the daily newspaper. A number of the earliest cartoons made in this country show a marked difference from the caricatures of to-day. While the work upon some of them is crude, the idea which the cartoonist wished to convey is, nevertheless, very forcibly expressed. Many of the cartoons of the early days were far from being dignified and respectful, and a number of them were even brutal. The modern cartoon is finished and perfect and in most cases it pokes fun at a political candidate in a very inoffensive way. Indeed, it is said on excellent authority that politicians consider it such a mark of honor to be cartooned that they send their best photographs to the well-known artists of the country. It is vigorously maintained by many that a politician does not amount to much until he has been cartooned. After that distinction he is supposed to have advanced several steps and to have arrived at a distinction that makes him a force of some moment. The political cartoon first came into prominence during the Presidential campaign of 1860, when Lincoln was the Republican nominee, Douglas the Democratic champion and John C. Breckinridge was the nominee of a bolting wing of the Democratic party. Even then few newspapers began the practice of printing political cartoons, although they had many on other subjects. Single-sheet wood-cut cartoons were made alone and scattered broadcast all over the country. The Cleveland Campaign Plain Dealer, a fiery Douglas organ, was one of the few papers which printed cartoons. The paper was also a bitter antagonist of President Buchanan, and it did its utmost to make things hot for the President and for candidate Lincoln and all his supporters. One crude picture represented Lincoln and Douglas as pugilists. Douglas had Lincoln's head under his arm and was represented in the act of severely pummeling the noted Abolitionist, while a number of Lincoln's most noted opponents stood outside the ring ropes jeering at the "rail splitter" and urging on the "little giant."

STRAW NEWSPAPER EDITORS.

Most Russian newspapers keep "a man of straw" as responsible editor. In return for the use of his name he draws a salary of about \$1,000 a year. In the event of a prosecution the man of straw has to stand fire. If the judgment is against the paper he has to go to prison. Some time ago the man of straw of The Novoe Vremya was sentenced to four months' imprisonment. It was the first piece of work he had done for some years, although he had been regularly drawing his salary all the time.—Fourth Estate.

NOVEL ADVERTISING.

From the announcements of births in the newspapers an enterprising London shopkeeper now makes up a birthday book. No other explanation of the following type written letter occurs to the parent who, in receiving it, has thus been reminded by a stranger of a coming anniversary: "Madam—As your little daughter's birthday is approaching, and thinking that probably

you may require some present for her in commemoration of the event, we take the liberty of enclosing an abbreviated list of our toys which we think would be suitable, and trust that you will be able to find among them something with which she would be pleased; or, should you desire it, we shall be most happy to send you, on receipt of your instructions, our full and illustrated catalogue. Hoping to be favored with your orders, which shall receive our prompt and best attention, and wishing her 'many happy returns of the day,' we are, madam," etc.

OUR INTERESTING CABLE SERVICE.

[FROM THE FLAG, OTTAWA.]

WE are not in the secrets of the cable news service from London which is served out by the New York agencies to the press of the American continent, but it gives very funny reading sometimes, according to British ways of thinking. Here, for instance, we find published in Monday morning's papers, under date London, July 25, an item about the Queen living a great deal in the open air during the hot weather. On Monday, July 27, in our mail from London, which was delivered in New York Saturday, July 25, we found in our London papers the same news. Here are the two:

[Cable, dated London, July 25, printed as cable news July 27.]

During the recent heat the Queen lived much of her time in the open air, or, rather, under tent, near Frogmore. Here her secretaries worked, state documents were signed and luncheon served. Intimate guests, who were allowed access to this retreat, say that it had a charming location, caught what cool breezes were going, and had a pleasant outlook towards the Berkshire hills.

[Paragraph received by mail in New York July 25, in London papers July 18.]

During this abnormal hot weather the Queen drives to Frogmore soon after nine in the morning, and takes her breakfast in a tent. In a neighboring one she spends the morning at work with her secretaries, getting the business over well before two, when she returns to the Castle for luncheon. Five o'clock tea is generally taken at Frogmore, which is just now looking delightful.

Hardly worth cabling from London on July 25, a week after it happened, when it could be scissored and dished up with changes in New York the same day.

NEWSPAPERS AS LOOKING-GLASSES.

One of the latest deliverances on the subject of the press from the pulpit is that of the Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott in his baccalaureate sermon to the students at Harvard. From the point of view of the press there was no better paragraph in Dr. Abbott's sermon than this: "The journalist is the historian. It is more important to know what is going on to-day than what occurred in ancient Greece. We hear the cry that murders, divorces and all crimes should be kept from the press. No! We want a press that shall tell us the vices of mankind as well as the virtues. The press is a looking-glass. We look in it every morning and see ourselves very dirty. But we do not want to find fault with the glass. We want to wash ourselves."—Kansas City Star.

AN EXCHANGE OF COMPLIMENTS.

[WHITBY CHRONICLE.]

The Vindicator complains because occasionally we clip its items. We admit the corn, but we usually credit the Vin. when we steal, a little act of courtesy which it overlooks when it clips The Chronicle. There are several papers which do that, but who watch carefully and complain if we retaliate. Our readers are well aware that The Chronicle publishes very little besides original matter. Besides, papers might well afford to lend one another a few items to help pass the hot weather.