

HUCKSTER KING.

[One of the great nations of modern times, having acquired by purchase the holdings upon its continent of three nationalities, ventured to express the thought of buying for fifty millions of dollars some desirable provinces of a neighbouring, much disparaged though much coveted, dominion.]

I.

YES, buy a nation of free men with gold !
 Buy with your wealth the love of native land !
 The books are set, your college bankers stand
 To tell your dollars when our days are told.
 Buy where those things unbought before are sold,
 Upon man's holy of holies set your hand—
 Seal it your traffic hall with your new brand,
 For Greece is dead, and England is grown old !

Now all the outer courts in splendid power
 Ye have filled full ; your money-changers line
 The aisles pure-wrought with art, where no voice falls.
 Pass in, revere not : At this midday hour,
 How should God dwell within a temple's shrine
 That never knew His shadow on its walls !

II.

This is no race of negro slaves ye buy ;
 The earth has none more fetterless than these
 Fair children reared about your mother's knees.
 From home—that sorry thing outworn, cast by—
 From love—that mere bond service of the eye—
 Redeem them, while across their hills and seas
 You set a road wheredown your ministers
 May bring their starved souls nurture ere they die.

Thou art the best-begotten of the earth ;
 Wrap round the world's bleak heart against all lust,
 The vesture of the glory of thine arm ;
 Bow down in pity o'er that land of dearth,
 And feed its hungry mouth with thy gold dust,
 Lest envying thee its heart take sordid harm.

III.

It was not so in your great fathers' days,
 Who stood for righteousness,—struck home for free
 Unsullied truth ; while they who could not see
 Eye to their eye no less learned heroes' ways—
 Resigned what things the sons of women praise,
 'To gain—whatever loyalty may be,
 More frail than any flower of the sea,
 More strong than all the great Sun's bitter rays.

You buy their children ! . . . Friends, our heart is set
 To win in the old ways of love and fear.
 We do desire your love pure heart to heart,
 Yet take good heed lest haply ye forget
 That love but follows where respect draws near,
 That scorn and love dwell never far apart.

IV.

No, shut your reeking coffer's paltry lid !
 Close up your treasury doors, take otherwhere
 Your bargain-words which foul the day's clean air ;
 The market is not open to your bid.
 Within white walls let your white coins lie hid ;
 Go lay your tarnished eagles for a share
 Of barter in the Scarlet Woman's hair ;
 Your hither course to chaffer, God forbid !

Being alive, we are not come to sale ;
 And though this land would cover us being dead,
 Ye have not wealth of heart to buy such graves.
 Go learn devotion where world glories fail—
 Valour and simple manliness, and dread
 To deal your sordid whim to veriest slaves !

BLISS CARMAN.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

MR. BLAINE AND THE PRESIDENTIAL SITUATION.

THE letter of Mr. Blaine, announcing his withdrawal from his long-standing candidature for the Presidency, suggests one question of a philosophic nature, and raises another of immediate, practical import.

What were the characteristics or circumstances that placed Mr. Blaine in possession of an irredeemable mortgage upon the Republican party ? A parallel case was that of Henry Clay and the Whigs. It is easier to understand the fact than the motive of the popular enthusiasm for "Harry of the West," nearly half a century ago, but the much-used terms "Americanism" and "magnetism" are possibly as good as any to suggest the springs and sources of his power. He had, in high perfection, the arts of appealing successfully to national vanity, and of flattering those who came into contact with him, and thus turning them into devoted personal followers. In these two qualities Mr. Blaine is his rival as well as successor. The

latter-day politician has not the fine presence nor the silvery tongue of Clay, but his appearance does not lack dignity nor animation, nor his utterance certain effective characteristics of oratory. He is an agreeable, interesting man to meet in a private or social way, being ever-alert to please and impress those who may come to intercourse with him ; in political council he has long been recognized as one of the most resourceful of men ; he has a habit of cheerful industry, by which he accumulates such store of contemporary knowledge as to make him a master among friends and a terror to foes ; in temperament, he is ardent, sanguine, and aggressive, whereby he attracts to his standard the ambitious, the restless, and the freebooting spirits of his day, and being utterly untroubled by a conscience in public matters, he is among the most versatile and shifty of politicians. Never scrupling, since his entry into political life, to use his station and influence for the building-up of his private fortune, it is not surprising that where less objectionable qualities have failed, a multitude of subordinates have enrolled themselves under his banner in hope and trust of a lavish era of jobbery, should he come to the head of affairs. In his long public service he has made no solid nor lasting contribution to political life or progress ; no wholesome impulse or influence has emanated from him ; there is nothing to give him a fixed place in American history, but the student of the philosophy of politics will find much that is instructive and entertaining in his career.

What will be the effect of Mr. Blaine's withdrawal upon the Presidential election ? It is as certain that his control of the party machinery could have compelled his own nomination by the Republicans as that he would have been beaten in a renewed contest with Mr. Cleveland ; consequently (unless he means to "rule or ruin," by forcing a candidate subservient to himself upon the nominating convention), the first result of his withdrawal is to greatly improve the situation and prospects of his party, by leaving it free to choose such a candidate as is best fitted to undermine the strength of, and to profit by such weakness as there may be in, Mr. Cleveland and his position. Senator Allison, of Iowa, Evarts, of New York, Hawley, of Connecticut, and Sherman, of Ohio ; Judge Gresham, of Indiana, and General Sheridan are the names chiefly mentioned. The "boom" of the last-named is of the smallest dimension and weakest character conceivable : he is simply a successful soldier, living on his military achievements of a quarter of a century ago, among a generation of civilians, to whom the Civil War is merely an interesting page of history. Mr. Evarts is from a State which the Republicans are exceedingly desirous to carry, but he is destitute of a single personal or political quality that gives promise of popular interest in his candidacy. Judge Gresham is from a doubtful State, regarded as important to both parties, but he is comparatively an obscure man, and the talk about him seems sentimental only, and is probably insincere. Mr. Allison has contentedly occupied, for a considerable time, the position of a "dark horse," or availability candidate, willing to wait on the necessity or pleasure of Mr. Blaine, or to fill the breach in the event of all the strong men being killed off in the war of factionalism. He would run well in the West, but is lamentably weak in the East. General Hawley is a much more promising man than Allison, and under ordinary circumstances would make a candidate of more than average excellence. Under any circumstances he would make a good President, if he could be elected, but in existing conditions he would almost certainly be defeated by Mr. Cleveland. This leaves only Mr. Sherman, and upon him the choice of the party leaders will probably fall when they reach the point of determining how the stronghold of Mr. Cleveland is to be assailed with the best chance of success. In many respects he is the anti-type of Mr. Blaine, being a cold, deliberate, calculating man, neither having nor striving for a devoted or an impulsive following. He has an ample fortune, won by personal sagacity and without pushing his public opportunities. His acquaintance with the facts and theories of politics is as extensive and penetrating as that of Mr. Blaine is inaccurate and superficial. He has borne a distinguished part in constructive legislation and also in national administration. He possesses, in a greater degree than any other prominent member of either party, the confidence of the moneyed men and corporate interests of the great cities, and it is to the financial aid and active influence of these capitalists and corporations that the Republicans must look for the means of counter-vailing the personal strength of Mr. Cleveland and the advantage enjoyed by the Democrats in controlling the vast patronage of the Government. Altogether, it looks as though the Republicans will have to adopt Mr. Sherman with unanimity, if not enthusiasm, and in so doing they will probably take the most promising road to possible victory. Nothing could save him from being an uninteresting man, but he would almost certainly make an acceptable magistrate, his integrity and ability being, happily, beyond question.

Washington, Feb. 18.

It may not be out of place at this season of the year, when cosmetics are so much used by professional and amateur artists at theatrical and other entertainments, to point out that this practice is not devoid of danger. Light cosmetics, such as properly prepared vegetable powders, starch, etc., may be used without any deleterious consequences ; but the heavier powders, which are often preferred because they do not come off so readily as the lighter ones, and because they are also cheaper, always contain mineral ingredients. Bismuth is occasionally used, but carbonate of lead in large quantities, mixed with chalk, is most common. Cases of lead colic and lead paralysis have been now and again traced to the wearing of such cosmetics, especially if applied night after night, and many cases of the milder forms of lead-poisoning, which at first seemed difficult to explain, have been shown to be due to the habitual use of these preparations.—*Lancet*.