

If we thus fortify ourselves with a reasonable knowledge of the actual condition and practical requirements of the country, in senses political, we shall be able to use and exercise the franchise as becometh a free and wise people. We will then be morally sure to commit our political destinies to the proper hands; and the whole country will look with awe and confidence to the day we are called out to the polls to issue our constitutional fiat, when

" Bertram's might and Bertram's right,
Will meet on Ellaugowan's height."

VOTING.

You must suffer me to say that people, as a rule, do not think enough of their votes and of their voting. This is because sufficient consideration is not given to the objects for which we are expected to vote. No greater State privilege could be conferred upon us than is extended to us, in the liberty to govern ourselves. A grave trust is here confided to our care, which can only be trifled with on pain of damaging consequences. By prudently executing this trust, we prove, in positive manner, our fortunate fitness to take care of ourselves; by imprudently using it, we show precisely the reverse. Suppose that, instead of signifying our views and wishes by ballot, each of us was required to fyle with the Presiding Officer a written opinion, containing an explicit statement of what we know and desire concerning our political rights (?) and relations—the needs of the country, the improvements called for, the changes advisable in the policy of the governing powers, etc., etc.—giving, in every case, the reason for our opinion; would we not, for our own credit, take particular pains to prepare that document? Well, all that we could express in that paper is symbolically embodied in the lead-pencil mark we put upon our ticket in the booth. The decision which we record by our ballots must be reached in the same way, by the same mode of investigation, the same summing up of facts, the same analysis of evidence, the same process of reasoning, the same conclusions of ratiocination, that would lead to a solemn judgment delivered in