

let me hear from you occasionally. There are some transatlantic subjects I should like amazingly to hear your opinion upon: write unreservedly, and write as you talk, your letters shall be strictly confidential."

"'I shall be very proud of the honour, my lord,' said I.

"He seemed absent a moment, and then said, as if thinking aloud,

"'I wish I had some little keepsake to present you with, as a token of my regard; as long as I have your books I have wherewithal to place you before me as a living animated being, and not an abstraction.' And then his face lit up as if he had found what he wanted, and taking the ring you see on my left hand off his little finger, he presented it to me in a way somehow that only those thoroughbred folks know how to do.

"But President," said I, "our time is out too; and I must say I am kinder sort of skeered I have been talking too much about myself."

"Not a bit," said he, "I actilly think you are fishin' for compliments, you apologise so. No, no, I am sorry it is so late. He is a fine fellow that Horton. But, Sam, they don't onderstand the people, do they?"

"They don't," said I, "that's a fact. Do the people onderstand them? Not always," said I.

"'Zactly," said he, "when you have born senators, you must have born fools sometimes."

"And when you elect," said I, "you sometimes elect a raven distracted goney of a feller too."

"Next door to it," said President, larfin', "and if they aint quite fools, they are entire rogues, that's a fact; eh, Slick! Well, I suppose each way has its merits, six of one and half a dozen of the other.

"But the President," said he adjusted his collar and cravat, "he ought to be the choice of the people; and Sam (it was the first time he'd called me that, but I see he was warmin') it's a proud, a high and a lofty station too, aint it? To be the elect of twenty-five millions of free, independent, and enlightened white citizens, that have three millions of black niggers to work and swet for 'em, while they smoke and talk, takes the rag off of European monarchs; don't it?"

"Very," said I, risin' to take leave. "And President," said I, for as he seemed determined to stand in the market, I thought I might just as well make short meier of it, and sell him at once. "President," said I, "congratulate the nation on havin' ehosen a man whose first, last, and sole object is to serve his country, and yourself on the honour of filling a chair far above all the thrones, kingdoms, queendoms, and empires in the uneversal world." And we shook hands and parted.