

THE BULLFROG.

*Nec sumit aut ponit aures.
Arbitrio popularis aures.—Hor.*

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THE LATE PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

Prior to the commencement of a war which has for four years occupied the attention of the whole civilized world, the Americans were apt to quote the mediocrity of their public men as illustrative of their country's greatness. In their opinion there was no better proof of prosperity than to require scarcely any governing at all; indeed, an American once said to Mr. TROLLOPE:—"It is better to have little governors than great governors: it is our glory that we know how to live without 'having great men to rule over us.'" This theory, however plausible during times of calm and sunshine, proved utterly unsound in times of strife and difficulty. Almost all the early reverses of the Federal Government were the result of mismanagement in the details of the public service, whether financial, administrative, or military. English writers saw in every American failure only the evil results of democracy, and were loud in condemnation of institutions which they had been brought up to condemn. Month after month the English press regarded the civil war, and all the varying incidents connected therewith, as illustrative only of the evil working of a constitution based on principles the reverse of those which find favor in Europe. The secession of the Southern States was cited chiefly as an instance of the instability of that great Republic whose praises had been so vauntingly noised in the ears of the world, in season and out of season. All Europe had tired of American braggadocio, and the real greatness of America was scarce recognized owing to the offensive manner in which it was proclaimed. It was, therefore, not strange that in England, and indeed throughout Europe, the shortcomings of BUTLER and HOOD, of POPE and McCLELLAN, of STANTON and CHASE, should have been seized upon as an argument against the truth of those vaunted principles of freedom and the rights of man—universal suffrage and the ballot—which Americans so eagerly proclaimed—in the Senate, in the Press, and on the platform. America was regarded as one new power against many old powers, rather than as a new against an old world. It was indeed admitted that the rise of the United States was without a parallel in the history of nations; but at the commencement of hostilities it was commonly supposed that the mighty Western Republic would crumble away beneath a pressure it had not hitherto been called upon to sustain,—that a constitution framed under circumstances singularly favorable would not stand the wear and tear of a protracted civil war. Three years ago, it was confidently asserted, in England, that the "government of the multitude" would not much longer bear the strain of war, that, in fact, democracy had on this side of the Atlantic proved a complete failure. The English people little knew the real strength of those whose institutions they so hastily condemned,—little comprehended the real greatness of a people whose distasteful vauntings have since been proved undeniably true. How different is the present position of Federal America from that wherein she stood three years back! The government of the United States is no longer regarded as a merely experimental institution, but as a power to whose decision the great European powers attach considerable weight. England has just now a peculiar interest in American policy, as regards Canada; France

has a peculiar interest in American policy, as regards Mexico:—neither England nor France can any longer affect to regard America as a young "bumptious" power, all swagger and no real strength. And such being the case, how can we be insensible to that sad catastrophe, the announcement of which has come upon us in a manner so terrible and unexpected. PRESIDENT LINCOLN dead! PRESIDENT LINCOLN assassinated!—the news will cause a thrill of horror throughout all Europe. During the last two years of his life, Mr. LINCOLN dictated the policy of his country with extreme moderation, though with inflexible firmness. While careful not to compromise Federal honor, he was yet conciliatory towards the European powers, and specially anxious to maintain friendly terms with Great Britain. He was beyond all doubt one of the best friends England had in Washington, and his courtesy to Englishmen on this side of the Atlantic was proverbial. During the commencement of the war his power was, it is true, exercised in a manner somewhat foreign to British notions of freedom. But, be it remembered, he was the supreme Governor of a great nation at a time of great national danger, and his subsequent return to constitutional procedure was as sudden as had been his departure therefrom. His power was absolute, and few men have ever been able to use absolute power without occasionally abusing it. Mr. LINCOLN found himself opposed to a race of men whose self-sacrifice and gallantry had never been surpassed, and whose aptitude for self-government seemed apparent to all. Speaking of the Southern States, at the commencement of the struggle, an English writer truly remarked: "History contains hardly another instance of a government so complete, so effective, so powerful, so popular, so wisely guided, and so well obeyed, starting into life at the first outset of a revolution, almost in sight of the enemy it had defied. Neither in the opening history of the United Provinces, nor in that of the United States themselves, can any parallel be found for this marvellous feat of administrative energy and skill." Such was the government to which Mr. LINCOLN found himself opposed, and such was the government which Mr. LINCOLN lived to see humiliated. Under Mr. LINCOLN's rule the Federal States proved themselves capable of carrying on year after year a war at the magnitude of which the mightiest European potentates stood spell bound. Men were slow to believe that an all-powerful democracy could long exist in the nineteenth century against adverse circumstances, but the fact is now patent to the world, and the mighty Western Republic has only just found out its real strength. We all, indeed, had read and heard much of American greatness, but we have now lived to see that greatness proved, and that too, under circumstances peculiarly trying. And through all the trials, chances, and changes of four eventful years, the late President had the destinies of America in his hand, and his re-election was the best proof that, up to the end of his Presidential career, he had the confidence of his countrymen—the proudest tribute a public man can desire. He stood manfully by the helm at a time when all around was dark, and stormy, and dangerous, and it was under his able guidance, that the good ship Constitution weathered the storm and carried the star-spangled banner within sight of the haven