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CAPE FEAR.

CICERO W. HARRIS.

THURSDAY MORNING, NOV. 9, 1876.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE EVENT.

There is something deeper in politics than politics. And there is something higher in politics than its arts or its immediate ends. Politics is a business—the business of affairs; it is a science—the science of government. As a business, it is like all other business—full of care and worry, of labor and anxiety. As a branch of study it is not dissimilar from other studies—fresh and interesting to those who like it, dry and tedious to those who do not. Few make it a study, many practise it as a business, for profit or pleasure or for both. In this country under republican governmental forms there are necessarily many politicians. Almost every voter is a politician, though unfortunately there are few who are profound or accomplished students in politics. Indeed while a host of people read the newspapers, and discuss public measures, it is rare that an individual is found who brings to the study of the science a calm eye and a cultivated mind. Necessity has made a myriad of political talkers and doers, choice and opportunity only now and then have formed a gifted, poised individual like Montesquieu or Matthew Arnold, who gets into the inner life of public affairs and extracts therefrom the pure sweets of which the subject matter is capable.

Again, there is a philosophy in political events, as of course if there be political philosophers there must be a political philosophy. Behind the chicanery, the raging heat, the rancor of every day, out-door politics, there is an elaborate and massive, a subtle and mysterious concatenation of motives and principles which go back in their origin and sink down to their basis in the fundamental laws of thought and action.

But we must quit the realm of generalities and come to particulars of which we have abundance in our public life of to-day, both in Europe and America. Here in this country, cursed with the crudities and other weaknesses of a raw government administered ostensibly by the people themselves through their agents, it is not far to seek the cause of policies that rise and fall every day. The student who deals with momentous questions faithfully can see in the course of the Republican party a source of alarm. He can see cause for uneasiness because its tendency has been steadily, act by act, to remove the lines of State autonomy, and set up in their stead an irresponsible despotism under the name of the people. It has not halted in its progress. On the contrary, it has cited in its defense all the love of the Union, of the Government, of the flag, it found prevailing in the bosom of loyal citizens everywhere. What was the *motif*? What ulterior purpose was in view if not the gradual but sure subversion of our common liberties wrung by Anglo-Saxon ancestors six hundred years ago from a faithless King, and sanctified in the blood and prayers of millions of freemen since? Grantism was the culmination of Radical madness. In it was concentrated all the vigor, power, ability and purpose of Radicalism. In the final success of Grantism by the election of Hayes, it would have been exhibited the spirit of the Republican organization to its full extent. And in such success it would have been charged with an appearance of truth that the American people themselves had consented to put away all the formerly accepted theories of government, and take in their place the monstrous doctrine of the irresistible weight of the majority pressing down Constitution, laws and institutions. Happily the purpose of the people was not to endorse Grantism and the doctrine of might through the election of Hayes. The people saw the dread spectre of centralism standing behind the Republican candidate, and they refused utterly to take the placid Ohioan to their bosoms.

This is the philosophy of Tilden's election. Corruption in high places was a factor in the result, but it was the revelation of the mailed hand of the Middle Ages in South Carolina that secured the Democratic victory of Tuesday. The American people have not passed under the yoke. They

are still to be relied upon when their personal liberty is assailed in a demonstrative manner.

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