

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE ELECTION.

Our recent presidential election has been one of the most curious events with astonishing, and to some extent quite unexpected, results, in which the hyphenated vote was probably more important than could be foreseen. Mr. Wilson and Colonel Roosevelt antagonized the German-American and the Irish-American voters to such an extent that through the *Nationalbund* and the Independence Conference they expressed their determination to rise like one man against both.

The Independence Conference—originally founded as the Embargo Conference because it advocated an embargo on munitions—went a step farther. It took an active interest in the campaign in behalf of Mr. Hughes, because its leaders had been assured that Mr. Hughes would not be so subservient to Britain as Mr. Wilson had been, but that he could be depended upon to be a true American president. They advised the hyphenated vote (both German and Irish) to stand up for Governor Hughes.

The situation looked promising for Hughes, but throughout the campaign our newspapers reported his speeches in such a way as to create a doubt in the minds of those who wanted a truly neutral attitude on the part of this government toward Europe. At the critical moment, Mr. Hughes, when speaking in Columbus, Indiana, was asked questions from the audience, and in answer he replied first, that he certainly would not forbid the sale of munitions to the Allies, and second, that he would not advise Americans to avoid traveling on vessels of belligerent nations. Since in sheer self-defense Germany will have to attack armed merchantmen, Mr. Hughes's policy must inevitably lead to war between the United States and Germany. The result of his own speeches, together with the activity of Roosevelt in his behalf, turned a great many German-Americans against him, since they preferred Wilson's definite assurance of a policy of peace to the aggressive spirit of Mr. Hughes.

The *Nationalbund* and the Independence Conference received a number of letters protesting against their policy, and it was foreseen by the leaders of the German-American citizens that the hyphenated vote would not follow blindly the advice of their leaders but would be split. Further it ought to be said that the brewers of Ohio fought shy of the alliance of the Republican party of their state with the temperance movement and advised their friends to support Wilson.

The writer of these lines knows that while the multitude of hyphenates voted for Hughes a great many of them held back. Some voted for Benson and a large number voted for Wilson because, as they said, "Wilson was the lesser evil," and "we are sure that Wilson will at least keep peace."

It is an old experience that our presidents owe their election to the mistakes of their rivals. When Bryan traveled over the country McKinley stayed at home. Bryan preached free silver and every speech he made gained votes for McKinley. So again recently Mr. Hughes and his supporter Colonel Roosevelt went about making speeches, and their statements raised serious doubts in the voters' minds about the advisability of Hughes for a president.

There are too many people among Mr. Hughes's own party who have found reason to distrust him, people who felt that his election would endanger the peace of the whole country, and there are other minor reasons which contributed to the final result. Mr. Hughes made peace with Colonel Roosevelt but not with the Progressives. His campaign was managed by the old guard to the exclusion of any other element. It would have been better if Mr. Hughes had made peace with the Progressives and kept away from Colonel Roosevelt. Mr. Wilson's success in California seems to be due to the support he received from the labor unions.

It seemed as though it would be easy to defeat Mr. Wilson. He has made so many mistakes that history is not likely to pronounce a favorable verdict upon his administration, but it would have taken a stronger man than Hughes to beat him.

As matters now stand we must trust to the manhood of Congress, and we hope that the members of Congress will have enough backbone to hold back the present incumbent of the presidency and make him live up to our national traditions. We want an American president, not one who considers the interests of England first and those of our own country as secondary. P. C.

MOHAMMED'S ASCENSION.

Among Moslems the observance of the injunction against pictures became such a habit that to make portraits or even draw the outlines of a human face has been avoided in all Islam. Nevertheless this regulation can not be traced back to the prophet himself. It might be easily explained from the Mosaic law which forbids making any likeness of God, and since man has been made in the image of God the protraiture of men is likewise to be regarded as sinful. The truth is that Mohammed himself never paid any attention to painting either to approve or disapprove, but Mohammedan art has carefully heeded the interdiction. Under this limitation artists of Islam invented a new style of developing beauty merely by ornamentally interlaced lines, called arabesques.

The modern Moslem seems to feel no inclination to see the likeness of Mohammed represented in art—a desire which would be a very natural one, and showed itself prominently in Christian art. Nevertheless Mohammed has been portrayed in the development of Islam during its spread over Asia. As an instance we reproduce in our frontispiece a picture of the prophet's ascension on his winged horse Borak, here represented with a human head to indicate that it is endowed with a human soul and has been deemed worthy to be received into heaven.

The picture however refrains from showing the face of God. The prophet is led into heaven by an archangel and presented to another who seems to be accompanied by a host of angels whose faces appear above his head. The picture shows the influence of Persian art. It was found in Herat, Afghanistan, and is preserved at the National Library at Paris. It is assumed to date from the beginning of the fifteenth century.