

son, and show Helena, the real center of the play, in a finer, and nobler aspect.

Her firm control of passionate feelings, her steadfastness of purpose, is all the more clearly shown by comparison with the weak and contemptible Parolles.

THE PRESIDENTIAL QUESTION.

For the first time in our country's history, an ex-president has made the tour of the world and his return has been marked by a welcome that is almost anomalous. It bears some resemblance to the extravagant adulation which is showered upon occasional European monarchs by a people who have been taught from infancy to reverence the very name of royalty. It is questionable whether the gaudy ovation that has marked Grant's progress from San Francisco to Chicago, would also have marked a similar journey through the country in 1877.

Gen. Grant on his retirement from the presidency in that year, became, by the act, a private citizen; and, as one, he took no more lofty a step in circumnavigating the world than many other wealthy American citizens have done. The governments which he visited felt bound, through real or assumed friendship toward the United States, to accord to Gen. Grant a courteous welcome, and one that befitted their customary mode of receiving eminent persons. The ex-president had just vacated the highest office in the gift of our nation, and as a military leader, his record has been brilliant; but he was a private citizen nevertheless, and his late greeting seems almost a reflection of the royal attentions which he has received.

But there is another aspect of the case, and one which lends it additional interest. During the second term of Grant's administration, much was said about his being put forward as a candidate for the succeeding term. The project met with

much disfavor and came to naught. Of late, the scheme has been revived, and is apparently meeting with more acceptance. Washington set a precedent to all future presidential candidates by declining a third nomination; and if he had declined a second, the example might have been still better. Nearly every president has aspired to a reelection. If his policy has been no more than fairly "endorsed," and especially if his party is still in the ascendency, his chances are yet good. Caucus wire pulling can secure his renomination, and campaign lying and the free use of the party lash can do the rest. But these campaign measures will scarcely avail in the case of Mr. Hayes. His policy caused immediate disaffection in the ranks of his party, which, again, has been brought to the verge of defeat.

His renomination is therefore doubtful, and with perversity, the name of Grant has been brought forward. His journey has been so construed as to give his name new prestige, and the disaffection toward Hayes lends his name some strength. Grant may have the ambition to aspire to a third term, and his foreign tour may have been undertaken in view of enhancing his chances for another candidacy; but the Sphinx-like reticence of Grant is alone a sufficient reason for withholding our distrust until the next few months will solve the problem. Grant's third candidacy would imply two things; that he possesses a very prominent fitness for the position, or that no one in the Republican ranks can be found who can adequately fill that position. The former is not obvious and the latter is a sad comment on the ability of the republican statesmen. Grant is a good general but not a statesman of high rank. He has but little special fitness for the position except that which lies in the fact of his previous incumbency, and this plea for his re-nomination is contrary to the genius of our institutions. If Grant is again nominated, he will very likely be elected; but to say nothing of the liability of