

# ELECTIONS OF PRESIDENTS

## What Statistics of Nineteen Contests Show.

### Differences Between Aggregates of Votes Cast For and Against Successful Nominees Very Small.

An analysis of election statistics is somewhat entertaining, if not often instructive. Glancing at the record of the aggregate vote cast at Presidential elections since 1824, (when it was first possible to get accurate statistics pertaining to National politics,) and during which intervening time nineteen Presidential elections were held, it is somewhat remarkable that there is a difference only of about 2 1/4 per cent. between the aggregate of votes cast for the nominees chosen to fill the office of Chief Executive and the combined vote cast in opposition to such nominee, the aggregate vote for the successful nominees being 51,895,412; the combined vote for all opposing candidates, 53,209,553, an excess of 1,314,141.

At ten of the elections the chosen candidate received a majority of the popular vote, while nine of the elected Presidents had a majority of the popular votes against them—the heaviest opposition being cast in 1892, when Grover Cleveland was elected for the second time, the combined opposition vote cast for Benjamin Harrison and others reaching 6,502,433, as against 5,556,918, or an excess of 945,515 over the Cleveland vote. The following carefully prepared table will fully explain details:

Year.	Successful Nominees.	Popular Vote.
1824.	John Q. Adams, Fed.	196,190
1828.	Andrew Jackson, Dem.	647,231
1832.	Andrew Jackson, Dem.	687,509
1836.	Martin Van Buren, Dem.	761,549
1840.	Wm. H. Harrison, Whig.	1,275,017
1844.	James K. Polk, Dem.	1,337,243
1848.	Zachary Taylor, Whig.	1,390,544
1852.	Franklin Pierce, Dem.	1,601,474
1856.	James Buchanan, Dem.	1,838,169
1860.	Abraham Lincoln, Rep.	1,866,352
1864.	Abraham Lincoln, Rep.	2,216,067
1868.	U. S. Grant, Rep.	3,015,071
1872.	U. S. Grant, Rep.	3,597,070
1876.	R. B. Hayes, Rep.	4,033,950
1880.	J. A. Garfield, Rep.	4,449,053
1884.	Grover Cleveland, Dem.	4,911,017
1888.	Benjamin Harrison, Rep.	5,440,216
1892.	Grover Cleveland, Dem.	5,556,918
1896.	William McKinley, Rep.	7,104,779
Total.		51,895,412
Opposition excess in 72 years.		1,314,141

The majorities marked by an asterisk (\*) are the opposition majorities at nine elections. The other figures in same column are the majorities of successful nominees.

### FORLORN HOPE OF VICE PRESIDENTS

Although there have been twenty-eight Presidential terms since the foundation of our Government, and though, to use the phrase of Daniel Webster—himself a disappointed aspirant for the White House—"every Vice President has always been a would-be President at heart," it is a singular fact that John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Martin Van Buren were the only three elected Vice Presidents who were subsequently chosen by the people to fill the position of President. And of all the statesmen called to fill Cabinet positions since the foundation of the Government, only six—Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, John Quincy Adams, Martin Van Buren, and James Buchanan, each of whom had been appointed Secretary of State—were promoted to the Presidency. Nor did any President pro tempore of the Senate, except John Tyler, or any Speaker of the House of Representatives except James K. Polk, ever sit in the Presidential chair. This may not be a very encouraging outlook for Governor "Teddy."

### LIFE DURATION OF PRESIDENTS.

The "cares of State" have not shortened the lives of many of our Presidents. Gen. William H. Harrison and Gen. Zachary Taylor were the two oldest of our Presidents at the time of inauguration, Harrison being sixty-eight and Taylor sixty-five years of age. John Adams, Andrew Jackson, and James Buchanan were each over sixty years of age when they assumed the Presidential chair. Eleven of our elected Presidents were under sixty when inaugurated, and four were less than fifty years old—Ulysses S. Grant being the youngest of our Presidents, inaugurated when only forty-seven years of age. Washington lived to reach his sixty-seventh year, John Adams his ninetieth, and Thomas Jefferson lived to see his eighty-third year.

Andrew Jackson died peacefully at his country home, the Hermitage, in Tennessee, nearly eighty years of age. Martin Van Buren had a good time abroad after he was President, and lived in elegant style at Kinderhook, N. Y., till he reached his seventy-ninth year. Millard Fillmore died at seventy-four. James Monroe lived for six years after filling his second Presidential term, and died in the seventy-third year of his age. John Quincy Adams, after having attained the highest honors in the gift of the people, did not "retire," but kept on serving his country as a Congressman, and one day, hale and hearty and honored, in the eightieth year of his age, the indomitable statesman was struck down with paralysis in the Federal Capitol.

James Madison, on the contrary, after having been as highly honored by the American people as John Quincy Adams, retired altogether from public life, and for twenty years after his retirement lived the life of a rich country gentleman at his estate, in Montpelier, Va., until the eighty-fifth year of his age. President Buchanan passed away peacefully at Wheatlands, his country seat, in his seventy-seventh year, and President Andrew Johnson died in his sixty-sixth year, about the same age as were William Henry Harrison, Zachary Taylor, and Ulysses S. Grant at the time of their death.

Only James K. Polk, Chester A. Arthur, Abraham Lincoln, and James A. Garfield—the last two by assassination—died before reaching their sixtieth year. John Tyler, the most unpopular of all the Presidents, died at the age of seventy-two in the Confederate service in the City of Richmond, Va., in 1862.

### THEIR PATERNAL ANCESTRY.

The paternal ancestry of all our Presidents was as follows: English, 15; Scotch, 3; Scotch-Irish, 5; Welsh, 1, and Dutch, 1. Of our Vice Presidents, the paternity was: English, 16; Scotch, 2; Scotch-Irish, 4; Welsh, 1, and Dutch, 1. Thomas Jefferson was of Welsh origin and Martin Van Buren was of Dutch paternity, and each, having been elected to fill both positions, are numbered among the Presidents and Vice Presidents. The Presidents of Scotch origin were James Monroe, Ulysses S. Grant, and Rutherford B. Hayes, and those of Scotch-Irish parentage were Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, James Buchanan, Chester A. Arthur, and William McKinley.

The earliest "disappointed" Presidential nominee was, perhaps, one of the greatest men, in point of intellect, America ever produced. Aaron Burr was an aspirant for the Presidency in 1796, and again in 1800. The struggle between Thomas Jefferson and Burr in this latter contest was one of unexampled fierceness, and nearly convulsed the country. The result of the contest was a tie. Jefferson and Burr each receiving seventy-three votes in the Electoral College, and the choice devolved upon the House of Representatives. Jefferson received the votes of ten States, which, being the largest vote cast for a candidate, elected him President. Burr received the vote of four States, which, being the next largest vote, elected him Vice President, under the system then in force.

### RESENTMENT OF BURR.

Burr never recovered from his defeat, and tried to recoup in his scheme for a new dominion in the Southwest. If he could not be President, he aimed to become Emperor, but he failed to become either, and died a broken-down man in comparative disgrace and obscurity. History has nothing in it sadder or more suggestive than the downfall of Aaron Burr; in a few years sweeping the political gamut from almost successful President to defeated traitor.

Among other victims of Presidential "heartbreak" may be mentioned Henry Clay of Kentucky, Daniel D. Tompkins of New York, John C. Frémont, Stephen A. Douglas, and Horace Greeley, the latter perhaps the saddest tragedy in the long line of political defeats, for there is little doubt that his political disappointment was instrumental in killing him.

Presidential "excursions" by aspirants for a second term were not unknown eighty years ago. President Monroe was the first occupant of the White House, to inaugurate

political "junketing," in his canvass for a second term, in 1820. He had been urged by some of his advisers (who were a little "scary" of the then rising popularity of John Quincy Adams as a Presidential aspirant) to "go and see the country," and he then started out on an alleged mission "to inspect the National fortifications and defenses." The President, on his tour, wore the undress uniform of a Revolutionary officer—a blue coat, a light pair of pantaloons, and a cocked hat.

Human nature and politicians being always the same, there were the usual drawbacks and backbitings, ill-feelings and jealousies to score as a background to the President's "tour of inspection." Some of the opposition papers accused him of "putting on airs" and of being "the pomp of a King," because at one time he rode in a carriage drawn by four horses. Other editors reproved him for "wasting the time of the Government in sight-seeing." He was denounced for being too "sentimental," because he kissed a pretty girl who presented him with a poetical address. But, notwithstanding all such opposition, the first regular out-and-out Presidential Summer picnic was a great success in every way, and produced the most important and beneficent results. For while it made the President acquainted with the people, it made the people better acquainted with the President, and laid the basis for that "era of good feeling" with which the memory of President Monroe has ever been associated, and when the electoral votes were counted, after the Presidential election, it was found that James Monroe had received 231, while John Quincy Adams of Massachusetts received only 1.

### JOKE ON PRESIDENT VAN BUREN.

President Martin Van Buren was not so fortunate as had been Monroe, when he, in 1840, indulged in "a swing around the circle," as President Johnson called it, or "a fishing excursion," as President Arthur styled it, which were only different designations for object-less politics, keeping themselves as Presidents before the people. The year 1840 happened to be the "two-dollars a day and roast beef" campaign of "Tippecanoe and Tyler, too," while Van Buren "ran against a buzz saw," for as President he was held responsible for the "hard times" occasioned by the panic of 1837, and in the Electoral College Gen. William H. Harrison received 234 votes, while Van Buren got only 60.

James K. Paulding, the author (in con-

Year.	Opposing Nominees.	Combined Vote.	Majorities.
1824.	John Q. Adams et al.	155,872	40,318
1828.	Andrew Jackson et al.	509,097	138,134
1832.	Henry Clay et al.	563,297	124,205
1836.	Wm. H. Harrison et al.	736,656	24,893
1840.	Martin Van Buren et al.	1,135,761	139,256
1844.	Henry Clay et al.	1,361,368	*24,125
1848.	Lewis Cass et al.	1,511,807	*151,263
1852.	Winfield Scott et al.	1,538,395	63,079
1856.	J. C. Frémont et al.	2,215,802	*377,633
1860.	S. A. Douglas et al.	2,810,501	*944,149
1864.	G. B. McClellan et al.	1,808,725	407,342
1868.	Horatio Seymour et al.	2,709,615	305,456
1872.	Horace Greeley et al.	2,869,095	727,075
1876.	S. J. Tilden et al.	4,127,848	*93,898
1880.	W. S. Hancock et al.	4,760,353	*311,300
1884.	J. G. Blaine et al.	5,133,968	*222,951
1888.	Grover Cleveland et al.	5,940,567	*500,351
1892.	Benjamin Harrison et al.	6,502,433	*945,515
1896.	William J. Bryan et al.	6,818,373	286,406
Total.		53,209,553	

junction with Washington Irving) of "The Salmagundi Papers," and who was known as "a literary politician," because he held the position of naval officer for many years through several Administrations, was personally very intimate with Van Buren, and the then President enlisted his services as a companion in one of his Western electioneering trips.

Van Buren was a courtly, polished gentleman, and could "orate" by the hour, but during the time he took this trip with Paulding he became tired out, and the thought occurred to him that as he was not personally very well known in the Western section of the country he would have Paulding do a little of the required speechmaking for him. When the train stopped at a way station and the people would give "cheers for President Van Buren" Paulding would go forward, apologize for not feeling very well, make a short, incisive speech, delight his audience, and Van Buren would feel happy at escaping so much effort.

But Paulding played a pretty good trick on Van Buren, who had kept poking fun at him for doing so much of the hard work of the trip. So, with a resolve to get even with his tormentor, when the train reached a more important station and Paulding had personated and spoken for Van Buren, he wound up his speech by alluding, in a very complimentary way to Van Buren as "the illustrious author, and eloquent orator, James K. Paulding," who had kindly consented to accompany him on his trip, and who would be only too glad of the opportunity of addressing his fellow-citizens and admirers.

There was no getting out of this scrape, and Van Buren was obliged, as Paulding, to make a longer speech than he would have had to make as Van Buren. After that episode each tub stood on its own bottom for the remainder of the trip.

### AN IMPECUNIOUS EX-PRESIDENT.

James Monroe was, as shown by the votes cast for his re-election, the most popular of all our Presidents, but this very popularity, in a measure, brought him to grief. He had married a lady who brought to him a good deal of money, and the President kept up a big establishment, and entertainments at the White House were conducted on a princely scale, considering the comparative simplicity of the times. Monroe also had a lot of relatives, to whom his heart, house, and purse were ever open, and who took advantage of his liberality. Besides he held office at a peculiar time, when the political bad blood of the earlier days of the Republic had stopped flowing and old sores were getting healed up. What has since been known as "the era of good feeling" had begun, and Monroe, who was an amiable man, desired above all things to keep up this happy state of affairs. He was never so happy as when presiding over a jolly good dinner or seeing his wife presiding over an elaborate evening party at the White House, which had then just been finished.

After his second term of office was over the debts contracted by the President began to bother him as a private citizen, and followed him to his place of retirement, Oak Hall, in Montpelier, Va. Finally his creditors annoyed him so much that the ex-President found it necessary to secure a residence in New York City to escape the Sheriff.

One of his daughters had married a gentleman by the name of Samuel L. Gouverneur, and with her and her family the ex-President was glad to find a refuge. But being a proud man personally, he did not like the idea of being entirely dependent on his daughter's hospitality, and he kept on the "lookout" for something to do.

Just then an enterprising firm had begun to publish books by subscription, and offered liberal commissions to agents who had influence enough to get orders for their books. The idea struck the old ex-President that this would be just the kind of work for him, in a quiet, confidential way, as he certainly had a large circle of friends and acquaintances throughout the country. And (though unwritten history) it is said to be an established fact that right here in New York the once popular President of the United States, in a little private room in Mrs. Gouverneur's house, sat a few hours every day, writing letters to distinguished statesmen and politicians whom he had once entertained in style at the White House, asking them to subscribe for the book he was taking an interest in.

It was a singular and very pathetic spectacle, and does not leave much regret for the fact that after about two years of this book business the old gentleman and grand old statesman died on the "Glorious Fourth," being the third ex-President of the United States who died on Independence Day. His remains were interred in this city; but in 1853 they were taken to Richmond, Va., and reinterred on April 28, in Hollywood.

WILLIAM CAULDWELL.