

### HOW WE CHOOSE OUR PRESIDENT

To-morrow the people of the United States vote for President and Vice President of the United States for the next presidential term of four years commencing on the 4th day of March, 1865. The occasion will justify a brief review of the method by which the people express and effectuate their will in this important matter.

In the Second Article of the Constitution of the United States it is provided that "each State shall appoint, in such manner as the Legislature thereof shall direct, a number of electors, equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress." And in the Twelfth Article is further provided that these "electors shall meet in their respective States and vote by ballot for President and Vice President." By the same article they are required to make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President and Vice President and the number of votes for each, and to sign and certify the same, and to transmit them sealed, to the Seat of Government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate is directed to open said certificates in the presence of the House of Representatives, when the

shall be counted. The person having the greatest number of votes for President shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed. If no person have such majority then from the three persons having the highest numbers the House of Representatives shall choose immediately the President. In choosing the President in the House the vote shall be taken by States, the representation from each State having one vote. A quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two-thirds of the States, and a majority of the States shall be necessary to a choice.

The person having the greatest number of votes for Vice President shall be the Vice President, if such number be a majority of the electors appointed. If no person have a majority then from the two highest numbers on the list, the Senate shall choose the Vice President, a quorum for the purpose being two-thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number is necessary to a choice.