characteristic qualifications which render an individual competent to discharge the important functions of President in order that we may determine by this standard of the examination of the respective merits of each to which the precedence must be awarded – The first inquiry of an American when enquiring with regard to the competency of a candidate for the presidential office should invariably be this – Is he honest? is he capable? is he faithful to the constitution and laws of his country; and should we consider him the most potent unless he justifies this character? The term honest here used, does not imply that vague and undetermined virtue, merely denoting against public fraud in the ordinary transactions of life, but it is that determined and fixed principle, interwoven with our very existence which preserves the mind pure and serene - terminates in the hour of political temptation when the glittering and fascinating prize is offered to the taste, appealing to the powerful and immense hazard and the attainment of which so many noble beings have sacrificed health and honour and principle – To be capable, at once suggests all those high mental endowments and artificial acquirements which can possibly distinguish man from brutes – a highly cultivated and comprehensive intellect, a study and acquisition of information on the sciences of the earth, nature and history, a capacity for writing, and above all and unprejudiced impartial decision of character – these are indispensable qualifications and will proceed in the first place to demonstrate that the intellectual and intellectual statesman must as a precedent and consequence be maintained the best endowed in these characteristics if he wishes to command the voting multitude.