What's to Happen.

A Mr. Lincoln, of Illinois, familiarly known as "Old Abe," age 51, height six feet seven, by profession Rail-Splitter, is to be our next President. The thing seems pretty sure. Since the Pennsylvania election, everybody concedes it. It becomes a matter of some importance, therefore, to see what is likely to happen in consequence of it. On this point doctors differ. Mr. J. W. GERARD, who talks in italics and deals largely in very poor jokes, thinks Mr. Lincoln intends to split the Union. Mr. O'Conor becomes facetious—very much as a retained and well-bred hyena might beand thinks Lincoln will live on negroes, to save expense of beef, during his Presidential Gen. Walbridge waxes strong on statistics and small quotations, and John Cochrane adopts the balloon style of oratory, with about the same success which attends Prof. Lowe's attempts to cross the Atlantic. Besides these persons, who are professional alarmists, there is a large class of men who

thing terrible is to follow the election of a Republican President. They fear that the South will be excluded by law from the territories,—that slaves will be set free in the District of Columbia,—that the inter-state Slave-trade will be prohibited, and a great variety of legislative encroachments on Southern rights will be perpetrated.

It may lend some degree of comfort to minds of this apprehensive cast, to tell them that whatever may be the wishes of the Republicans on these topics, they are not likely

have a vague but real apprehension that some-

to have any opportunity to carry them into effect. Under our form of Government the President does not make laws,—any more than the Supreme Court does-nor, practically, half so much. Congress retains that function -and the Senate is an indispensable part of Congress. Now the Senate is certain to be in Democratic hands for two or three years to come, and there is some reason to fear that the House will be also. The Republicans are likely to lose some members in several States, -and possibly they may lose enough to throw the balance of power into other hands. It will not be easy, therefore, for Mr. Lincorn to do much mischief, even if he should be disposed. We have great confidence in his pacific and conciliatory disposition. He seems to us much more likely to be too good-

natured and tolerant towards his opponents, than not enough so. Rail-splitting is not an exciting occupation. It does not tend to cultivate the hot and angry passions of the heart. It is much less stimulating in this direction than the business of overseer on a slave plantation. It teaches a man to strike heavy blows, and to plant them just where they are needed-but he learns, also, to deal them only when they are needed. A skillful professor of this science willnot be likely to go around splitting things in general,-putting a wedge into every crack he sees and driving it home merely for the love of the thing. He has an eye to utility. It is only when things have fallen into decay a little-when the fences are down and the cattle and swine wandering into forbidden territory, rooting up useful crops and doing more harm in a day than a careful farmer can remedy in a week, that he splits rails to repair the breach and fence in the troublesome brutes. We have not the slightest doubt, therefore, that Prof. Lincoln will disappoint utterly the sanguinary expectations of Mr. Gerard. But even without this personal confidence in him, we have an additional security against his doing mischief, in the fact that so far as legislation goes, his hands will be tied.

But even without this personal confidence in him, we have an additional security against his doing mischief, in the fact that so far as legislation goes, his hands will be tied. One branch of Congress, at all events, will be against him. There will be no hostile legislation at Washington—no "overt acts" of aggression which will ca'l for a declaration of independence on the part of the Southern States. Things will go on very much as they have hitherto—except that we shall have honesty and manliness instead of meanness and corruption in the Executive departments, and a decent regard for the opinions of mankind in the tone and talk of the Government on the subject of Slavery.