

mitting congress to elect our presidents, some of the authors of the Constitution felt that they had disposed of the most difficult of all the problems confronting them.

The direction of discussion in recent years has been generally toward more democracy and less representative republicanism in the election of presidents. There is now scattered support for abandonment of the Electoral College and for direct popular vote for president. The 17th Amendment establishing a direct popular vote for United States senators in place of their selection by state legislatures was a symptom in 1912 of what could come.

But, regardless of the 17th Amendment and the current talk of direct election of presidents, there is no doubt what the authors of the Constitution thought of political democracy. They did not trust it and were against it.

The General's Failing

At a reunion of the Indiana Association of Iowa held on the campus of Drake University at Des Moines, in August, 1887, Gen. George W. Jones, of Dubuque, ex-U. S. senator from Iowa, was present and made an appropriate speech, he being an Indianan, having been born in Vincennes in that state. After the exercises had been concluded, and before the general had left the stand, two ladies, Mrs. M. and Miss J., went to the stand and requested the president of the association, Judge P. M. Casady, to introduce them to the witty and polite general, which he did. The general, shaking hands, kissed each of them heartily in the presence of the large audience there assembled. The ladies blushed, and those who witnessed the scene smiled, some of them audibly. It is improbable that the ladies would have solicited an introduction if they had known the general's failing. The general said to the president he could not resist the temptation of kissing such good looking ladies.—*Iowa Historical Record*, Vol. 4, 5 and 6, p. 432.

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