

The  
**PALIMPSEST**  
JUNE 1932  
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### THE PURPOSE OF THIS MAGAZINE

THE PALIMPSEST, issued monthly by the State Historical Society of Iowa, is devoted to the dissemination of Iowa History. Supplementing the other publications of this Society, it aims to present the materials of Iowa History in a form that is attractive and a style that is popular in the best sense—to the end that the story of our Commonwealth may be more widely read and cherished.

BENJ. F. SHAMBAUGH

*Superintendent*

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### THE MEANING OF PALIMPSESTS

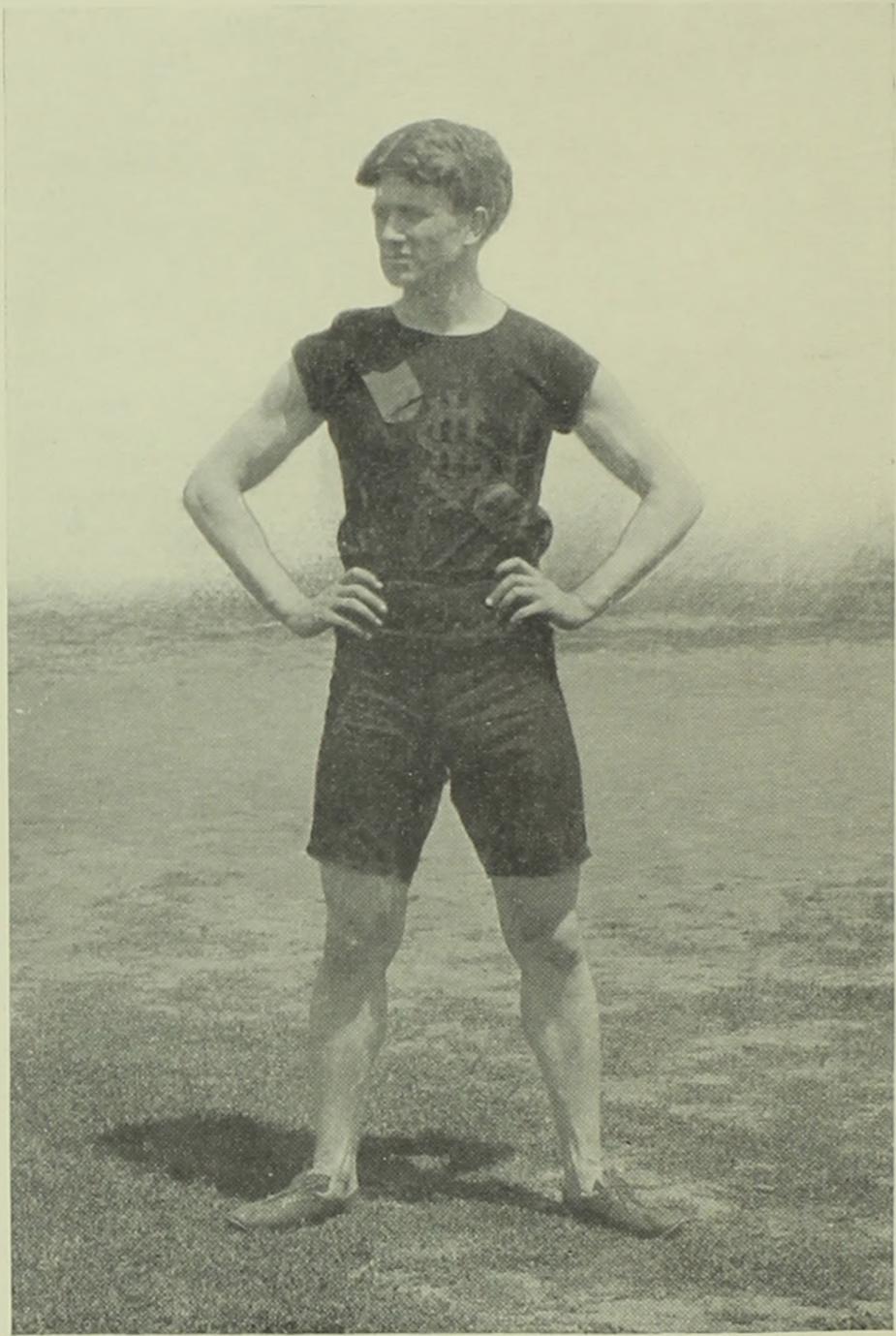
In early times palimpsests were parchments or other materials from which one or more writings had been erased to give room for later records. But the erasures were not always complete; and so it became the fascinating task of scholars not only to translate the later records but also to reconstruct the original writings by deciphering the dim fragments of letters partly erased and partly covered by subsequent texts.

The history of Iowa may be likened to a palimpsest which holds the records of successive generations. To decipher these records of the past, reconstruct them, and tell the stories which they contain is the task of those who write history.

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JOHN V. CRUM

# THE PALIMPSEST

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## John Van Fleet Crum

On May 25, 1895, at Berkeley Oval in New York City, John V. Crum of the State University of Iowa surprised the East by flashing to the tape a winner in both the 100 yard and 220 yard dashes of the Intercollegiate Association meet. And in ten seconds and twenty-two seconds respectively.

Yale, Harvard, Princeton, Pennsylvania *et al.* had heard of a young sprinter in the West who was coming to the Mott Haven games with a remarkable record for fast running, but they were confident that inaccurate timers had overrated the boy's ability. Yale said he couldn't beat Richards, their star performer; Pennsylvania knew that he couldn't defeat Ramsdell, who had carried off the honors in the dashes a year earlier; Harvard hoped he could, but doubted it. And when the lone representative of the "cornstalk univer-

sity", as some Eastern writers dubbed Iowa, had lowered the colors of all the Eastern universities in the dust, Yale protested as did Pennsylvania. Crum did not run as they did in the East, besides he was a professional, and his name was not Crum at all. These protests, however, availed little except to deprive Crum of his rightfully won medals for a few weeks while the officials investigated and cleared him of all charges of professionalism.

John V. Crum was born in Bedford, Iowa, on September 3, 1872, the son of William E. and Harriet Van Fleet Crum. His father was a prominent lawyer and banker who had been graduated in law at the University in 1869. Inasmuch as Iowa City had been the home of his parents before they moved to Bedford and his grandmother, Ellen Van Fleet, still lived there, it was only natural that young Crum should select the University of Iowa as his school.

He entered the College of Liberal Arts in the fall of 1890. Crum was a modest, unassuming lad who soon became popular with his classmates. As a freshman he gave little indication of that speed which was later to bring him and his University national recognition. As a fellow classman put it: "When Crum was a freshman, no one ever thought he could run."

Nor did he show much more promise as a

sprinter in his sophomore year, but he kept doggedly at the task of perfecting himself on the track. He won his first race at the University in 1892, a 220 yard dash, inasmuch as Henry C. McCluskey, University champion at that time, was ill. In his junior year Crum ably seconded McCluskey at Des Moines in the Iowa State meet. It was as a senior, however, that he began to display the marvelous speed which carried him to the pinnacle of intercollegiate racing fame. On a memorable October afternoon in 1893, at the Fall Field Day games of the University, he began a series of thirty-seven victories in the 100 and 220 yard dashes.

Crum also played halfback on the football team at the University in the fall of 1892 and again in 1893, and contributed to several victories by his brilliant long runs. At the insistence of the Athletic Association, however, he gave up football to perfect himself on the track.

In the spring of 1894, under the careful training of Edward W. Moulton, Crum easily won the 100 yard and the 220 yard dashes and the 220 yard hurdle race at the home meet, and then captured first in both the dashes at the State meet in ten and one-fifth and twenty-three seconds respectively. The fatigue of these races was augmented by an all-night ride to Chicago, where,

the next day, he won the 100 yard dash in ten and one-fifth seconds and the 220 yard dash in twenty-two and two-fifths seconds at the first Western Intercollegiate Association meet.

The fall of 1894 found Crum back at the University enrolled in the College of Law. At the fall field meet he won first place in the 50 yard, the 100 yard, and the 220 yard dashes and in the 220 yard hurdle race. He also won first in both dashes at the Central Association championship meet at St. Louis in ten seconds and twenty-six seconds respectively.

The track season of 1895 began with the Iowa-Grinnell meet on May 18th, in which Crum won the 50 yard dash in five and two-fifths seconds, the 100 yard dash in ten seconds, the 220 yard dash in twenty-two and two-fifths seconds, and the 220 yard hurdles in twenty-six and one-fifth seconds. Between that date and June 15th, he participated in twenty-five races in Iowa, New York, and Chicago, and won them all. On the strength of this extraordinary performance he was invited to represent the New York Athletic Club in the Labor Day games at Bergen Point, New Jersey, and to meet the fleet representatives from the London Athletic Club in the international meet in New York on September 21, 1895.

Two well filled scrapbooks of clippings from



Iowa, Chicago, and New York papers, from *Harper's Weekly* and other magazines, kept by Crum and carefully preserved by his family, tell the story of the many triumphs and final defeat of the Iowa wonder during the year 1895.

The twentieth annual field meet of the Intercollegiate Association of Amateur Athletes of America, commonly known as the Mott Haven games, was held in the Berkeley Oval at Morris Heights, New York City. Saturday, May 25, 1895, was an ideal day for any sort of outdoor sport and Morris Heights never looked more attractive. A gentle breeze swept over the emerald field, but it was not strong enough to interfere with the races. The track was lightning fast.

Bedecked in the colors of their favorite colleges, between four and five thousand spectators filled the grandstand, the bleachers, and the adjacent bluffs. There were several drays and coaching parties on the bluffs and along the lower field. Pennsylvania followers, pinning their hopes on Ramsdell, made the most noise.

Crum was the center of attention. He had come out for the trial heats on Friday, the day before, with a hotel blanket wrapped around him and a close fitting yellow cap pulled down tight on his head. This cap had become a talisman for he had not lost a race since he began to wear it.

When he tossed aside his blanket he stood revealed as "a pleasant looking fellow, dark skinned, of medium height, and very muscular." His running suit was tight fitting and of black material, relieved only by an old gold sash over one shoulder and an old gold S. U. I. monogram on his chest. This monogram was mistaken by many as a dollar sign until it was explained that it stood for State University of Iowa.

He got off to a bad start in the first trial heat, but soon caught his man, and flashed to the tape so easily a winner that the knowing ones at once recognized the fact that the rumors about his speed had not been overstated. In each succeeding heat he clearly demonstrated that he was practically alone in his class among the starters. Crum's style of running was at once noticed. He swung his arms almost stiff from side to side as he ran, not directly back and forth, as was the custom in the East.

It was after his display of speed in the trials on Friday that his competitors lodged the protest against him on the grounds that he was a professional and his name was not Crum. One wag said, "He's a professional all right, for he has the dollar sign on his chest."

During the trial heats, a tall angular student from Yale, standing close to the ropes on Berke-

ley Oval, asked Crum, "Do you have a nice class of fellows out there in Iowa?" John V. assured him that Iowa students were pretty fair fellows, all things considered. Then the Easterner inquired, "Do you have a track to practise on?" "Dad" Moulton, hearing the question, wheeled around and said, "Oh, no! Out in Iowa, they race between corn rows."

The semi-finals in the one hundred yard dash left William Richards of Yale, E. S. Ramsdell of Pennsylvania, H. S. Patterson of Williams, and John V. Crum of Iowa to compete. The four men were called to their marks, and, when the pistol was fired, Crum made a most awkward start, getting away some eight feet behind the field. At fifty yards he still trailed the Easterners. Then slowly but surely his muscular legs carried him up to his opponents, and at eighty yards they were only a shade in front of him. At ninety yards, the four sprinters were almost on a straight line. Then Crum, with a final burst of speed, flashed past his rivals and breasted the tape six inches ahead of Richards. Ramsdell, faltering in the last few strides, took third. Time, ten seconds flat.

It was in the 220 yard run, however, that the young man from Iowa showed his remarkable sprinting. The disappointed University of Penn-

sylvania delegation brightened up as the final heat was called, for Ramsdell usually was better in the longer distance, and the Quakers felt he would turn the trick in this race. The Yale men were confident that Richards would win for trainer Mike Murphy had assured them that his star pupil would do close to twenty-one and one-fifth seconds if the race was red hot.

As usual Crum was the last man away from the mark, but at 100 yards he had the field in hand, and held his lead safe down the stretch at a heart-breaking clip. Unfortunately there was blundering in the timing. Charley Reed, with an injured hand, failed to stop his watch as Crum broke the tape. Bob Stoll, who was one of the most reliable timers in the country, caught the winner in twenty-one and three-fifths seconds. Mort Bishop, the third timer, caught the race in twenty-two seconds even. Such experts as "Sparrow" Robinson, Fred Stone, Mickey Finn, and "Dad" Moulton all tolled twenty-one and three-fifths seconds. The rules, however, made it imperative in such a situation for the judges to announce the slower time of the two official timers — twenty-two seconds. It was the general opinion of trainers and sports writers that, except for the accident to the third timekeeper, Crum would have been credited with a world's record.

It was Crum's custom to telegraph the outcome of important races to his parents. "New York, 5:45 P. M. To W. E. Crum, Bedford, Iowa", sang over the wires. "Won Both Races", was the laconic message. As soon as the welcome news was received, the local newspaper issued a special edition which was delivered to all parts of the city by boys on bicycles. The front page carried a banner headline, "Blue Grass Johnny Wins", with pictures of two roosters crowing in exultation. As the people of Bedford learned the joyful news, they began to assemble on Main Street, as if by common consent, until in an incredibly short space of time a vast number of men, women, and children had congregated to celebrate the occasion.

A huge bonfire, the blare of a brass band, the firing of anvils, and the din of many types of noisemakers furnished an outlet for the pride and satisfaction of the home folks in the victory of Johnny Crum. The throng paraded to the home of Crum's parents and serenaded the family. Speeches were made, the crowd gave the University yell, and improvised the following: "Hi! Hi! Hi! Rah! Rah! Rum! Champion of America! John V. Crum!"

When Crum returned to Iowa City he was given a rousing reception. A delegation of a

thousand students and townspeople besieged the home of the venerable Mrs. Ellen Van Fleet and demanded her grandson. The boy had to be forced by the committee in charge to come out. Finally he yielded and as he stepped out on the porch, a mighty shout went up.

He walked down the wide steps and entered an open carriage. A hundred willing hands seized the ropes attached to the carriage and the procession paraded down the street to the business section of the city. A band led the way, the University cannon boomed a welcome, and skyrocketes and roman candles filled the sky with colored balls of fire. The ball team sported a white-tented wagon decorated with Chinese lanterns and bearing a legend, "Our Johnnie, the Pride of the West". Banners and transparencies of old gold carried sentiments that would have "stirred the heart of an Egyptian mummy."

The procession moved to the post office corner and paused. Will Larrabee, as an Athletic Association leader, presided. Judge Martin J. Wade expressed his joy over the enthusiasm manifested. He predicted the defeat of the English champions if Crum met them, and declared that the energy, pluck, and determination, thus far shown by John V. Crum, if continued through life, meant perpetual success. Chancellor Emlin McClain of the

College of Law declared that it was a time for happiness and festivity, not speech making, and proceeded to lead the crowd in the University yell — "Haw! Haw! Haw! Hi! Hi! Hi! Hawkeye! Hawkeye! S. U. I.!" Dean Amos N. Currier of the College of Liberal Arts thought the time was ripe for an appeal for support of the new athletic park movement, and spoke feelingly on that subject.

Then Larrabee introduced Crum as the champion of America. As he stood up, a loud cheer lasting five minutes greeted him. Students shouted "Crum! Crum! His father's son! He went to New York and away he run!" Others yelled "Crum! Crum! He took the bun! He went to New York and see what he done!"

In a voice trembling with emotion, Crum said, "Friends, let me thank you one and all for your kind assistance. The track team, as you know, is running no bank just at present, and had you not contributed liberally, I could not have gone to New York. It gave me great pleasure to win there; but my joy was multiplied many times over when I learned that it had been such a pleasure to you. When I see what you have done in my honor to-night, I feel as if I could run a hundred yards faster than ever in my life."

Crum's performance at the Mott Haven games

was so much of a surprise to the East that New York papers devoted columns to the young man from the University of Iowa. "Who is this man Crum, and where is the University of Iowa," queried a writer in the *New York Press*, "and why weren't these questions asked before by the proper committee of the Intercollegiate Athletic Association, so that we would have been spared the unpleasant sight of this undergraduate of a prairie-dog and grasshopper institution carrying off two first prizes from Yale, Harvard, Princeton and the University of Pennsylvania?"

"We are sure that if the proper committee had done its duty and found out who Crum was, this never, never would have happened. . . . What are college lawyers for except to keep Crums out of such contests to save the public and post-graduate mind the shock of seeing first prizes going anywhere except where they belong; that is to say, to Yale, Harvard, Princeton and occasionally the University of Pennsylvania? It avails nothing now to make Crum out a professional on the ground, for instance, that the monogram 'U. S. I.' on his shirt looks like '\$'. The mischief is done. The public mind has been shocked. . . . It will be receptive of all sorts of heresies now. Next year it will be prepared to see a first prize sprinter from Kickapoo College or the University of Okla-

homa. The college lawyers were caught napping when they failed to hold the watch on Crum before receiving the entry from the University of Iowa.

"But what does Crum mean? Does he realize the height and depth and all-around dimensions of his iconoclasm? Does he remember that there have been sprinters out on the Harvard campus for more than 250 years, a quarter millennium? That at Yale athletics were nigh three-quarters of a century old when Nathan Hale went there, before the Revolutionary War? That Jonathan Edwards, Princeton's second president, forgot the damnation of infants unbaptized long enough to 'root' for the orange and black of old Nassau when George II was king, before the one-hoss shay was built, when Iowa was further beyond the ken of men than to-day are the rings of Saturn or the canals of Mars? That Benjamin Franklin watched with delighted approval his boys of old Penn take out the first eight-oared barge on the Schuylkill?

"Avaunt! Aroint thee, Crum! Go get thee to thy grasshoppery, thy prairie-doggery! And come not back!"

Newspapers in Chicago had given much space to Crum's exploits both before and after the Mott Haven games, and naturally the sports writers

heralded his coming to participate in the second meet of the Western Intercollegiate Association on June 2, 1895.

Loud cheers greeted the Iowa boy when he appeared on the field clad in the famous black track suit with the gold sash and monogram, and wearing the little yellow cap, soiled with the dust and sweat of battle. He had not fully recovered from the fatigue of the trip east, and was worrying over his forthcoming law examinations. Even the phlegmatic "Dad" Moulton was concerned about his pupil's condition. Nevertheless Crum won his preliminary heats in both the 100 and 220 with ease. Then he won the finals in both races in ten seconds and twenty-two seconds respectively, crossing the line two feet ahead of his nearest rival in the former and three feet ahead in the latter.

Crum returned to the University, passed his examinations successfully, and returned to Chicago to represent the Chicago Athletic Association in the meet with the University of California. There, on June 15th, he won the 100 yard dash in nine and four-fifths seconds and the 220 yard dash in twenty-two and two-fifths seconds.

Crum returned to his home at Bedford to begin the practice of law. He kept up his training, however, won a race at a national guard encamp-

ment in August, and then departed for Chicago to begin active training for the championship games of the Central Division of the Amateur Athletic Union scheduled for August 31, 1895. These games were open to amateurs attending college or residing in Colorado, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Ohio, Missouri, Montana, Wisconsin, Nebraska, and Wyoming.

Under the direction of Harry S. Cornish, trainer for the C. A. A., Crum practiced faithfully to improve his starting. "Dad" Moulton had not tried to change his style of starting, fearing that his protégé might injure himself in breaking away too fast during the cold days of spring. He relied on Crum's unique finishing power to win, and his confidence had not been misplaced.

On the day of the games interest centered in the dashes, and a huge crowd attended hoping to see Johnny Crum establish a new record. The Iowa wonder was the center of all eyes. He wore a white flannel shirt with the "C" and "Circle" of the C. A. A. on his breast, black trunks, and the famous little yellow cap. In his practice work, he trotted up and down the path, occasionally running off into the grass, curvetting and frisking about like a young colt.

The 100 yard dash was the first event on the

afternoon program. Four men responded to the call — G. D. Stuart of St. Albans, Lewis Holland of the West End Athletic Club of St. Louis, E. R. Perry and John V. Crum of the C. A. A. Crum won the race easily finishing three yards ahead of Stuart in ten seconds flat.

The contestants in the 220 yard dash were called to the track shortly before four o'clock. The entries were John Maybury of the University of Wisconsin, Lewis Holland of St. Louis, D. H. Jackson and John V. Crum of the C. A. A. The 220 yard course was around a turn with each lane staked and roped to prevent fouling. The track was firm and fast, ideal for a record-breaking contest.

The four men set beautifully at the first attempt and were given the pistol. To all appearances Maybury was quickest away, Crum delaying slightly and seeming to tangle in getting into his stride. He was well straightened out, however, in the first ten or twelve yards, and the pace was terrific as the four runners rounded the turn into the home stretch. As they settled into the straight-away Crum and his Wisconsin rival were exactly abreast. Maybury held the Iowan even for the next twenty yards, then Crum forged ahead. Maybury made a desperate effort, but Crum responded with one of those famous bursts of speed,

and crossed the line four yards ahead of Maybury who faltered near the finish.

This brilliant finish was cheered wildly by the crowd, and the timers at once compared watches. Each of the three men caught the race in twenty-one and four-fifths seconds, a new world's record for a 220 yard race around a turn. Cornish, who had been training Crum since August 15th, was elated. "Crum is the grandest runner the world has ever seen", he declared. "He is a wonder."

After walking to his dressing room Crum turned deathly sick, but soon rallied and left immediately to catch a 5:30 train for the East to participate in the Labor Day games at Bergen Point, New Jersey. When he arrived in New York City he was met by representatives of the New York Athletic Club who took him to the training quarters on Travers Island.

The next day, September 2, 1895, he took part in three 100 yard dashes, winning the first in ten and one-fifth seconds, losing the second in the same time to B. J. Wefers of Lawrence, Massachusetts, and winning the final from Wefers by six inches in a thrilling finish. Time, ten seconds. A large crowd witnessed the Labor Day games and Crum was greeted warmly by the Easterners who remembered his performances in the Mott Haven games the previous spring.

In the Labor Day games, Crum wrenched his left leg and it refused to yield to treatment. A swelling and a long blister developed on the back leg muscle some four inches above the knee. Despite the condition of his leg, those in charge of the group on Travers Island insisted on his participation in trial heats at Manhattan Field, New York, on September 7th. In the 100 yard dash, Wefers, to the surprise of many, defeated Crum by two feet in ten seconds. Crum did not run in the 220 as he wrenched his leg again in the former race.

In a letter on September 12th to a friend in Iowa City, Crum said: "Don't be surprised if you hear that I am beaten Saturday, because I sprained my leg and it is not well yet, but I hope the soreness will leave the muscle so that I can run."

The championship races of the American Athletic Union were held at Manhattan Field, New York City, on September 14, 1895. Crum limped after the preliminaries, but gamely came out for the finals. He and Wefers had clearly demonstrated their superiority in the dashes over the rest of the field in training at Travers Island, and a large crowd had assembled to see the Eastern speedster and the flash from Iowa perform. Crum wore the dingy yellow mascot cap, but despite this

aid, Wefers defeated him in the 100 yard dash in ten seconds flat, and the 220 yard dash in twenty-one and four-fifths seconds.

Crum was terribly cut up over his double defeat by Wefers but set about doggedly to get ready for the international games on September 21st. He missed the careful attention of "Dad" Moulton and Harry Cornish, for it is certain, had either been in charge of his training, Crum would not have been allowed to participate in the trials on September 7th, which caused further damage to his injured leg.

On the day of the international games, between ten and twelve thousand people gathered at Manhattan Field to witness America's star athletes meet the best from the British Isles. In the 100 yard dash, B. J. Wefers and John V. Crum, wearing the Mercury winged-foot emblem of the N. Y. A. C., represented the United States; Charles Alfred Bradley and H. G. Stevenson of the London Athletic Club represented Great Britain.

Wefers took the lead when the pistol was fired, with Bradley, Crum, and Stevenson coming at a terrific pace a yard behind, in the order named. Throughout the race they never faltered, and the four finished in a burst of speed that brought every spectator to his feet. Wefers broke the tape a yard in advance of Bradley with Crum

third. Time, nine and four-fifths seconds, equaling the world's record.

In the 220 yard race Wefers and Crum represented the United States while Gilbert Jordan and Alfred R. Downer were the British entrants. Again Wefers ran a magnificent race, breaking the tape in twenty-one and three-fifths seconds, and equalling the world's record. Crum was second.

Although the Americans captured every event from the Britons the cup of bitterness for John V. Crum and his friends was full. One week later, on September 28, 1895, he closed his career on the cinder track by winning the preliminary and final in the 120 yard dash in twelve seconds at the fall field meet of the N. Y. A. C. on Travers Island.

Crum returned to Bedford to engage in the practice of law. In the fall of 1896 he captained a football team, composed of former high school and college players and known as the Bedford Athletic Club Football Eleven. His team rolled up a total of 134 points against 10 for their opponents, closing the season without a defeat.

Having served as city attorney in 1896, a successful career in his chosen profession seemed assured. However, he had developed a very successful liniment for athletes which he named *John*

*V. Crum's Rub Out*; and, believing that business offered greater opportunities than the law, he moved to Des Moines early in 1897 to manufacture and distribute this product.

He was manufacturer, business manager, shipping clerk, and office force, all in one. Returning to his boarding house, he would often joke about having trouble with his factory hands that day. He wrote his own ads, and, due to the fact that he was nationally known among athletes and his liniment was well received, the business expanded rapidly.

One Saturday afternoon, late in April, he engaged in some strenuous exercise, and that night he complained of cramps in his stomach. On Sunday he felt no better, and that night he suffered severe pains. On Monday he was taken to the hospital, and from that time he grew steadily worse. On Friday he was operated on for appendicitis, apparently with success, for on Saturday he seemed much better. On Sunday evening, however, a change for the worse recalled doctors and nurses who labored with him all night. Early on Monday morning, May 3, 1897, the end came.

His death cast a gloom over the entire community. Messages of sympathy came to his parents from all over the country. His body was removed to Bedford where on May 5, 1897,

funeral services were held. Court adjourned and the bar and court officials attended in a body. His fraternities, Beta Theta Pi and Phi Delta Phi, each sent an official representative from Iowa City. All Bedford mourned, for every one in the city knew and admired John V. Crum.

One of the resolutions passed by the Taylor County Bar Association expressed the sentiments of all. "*Be it further Resolved*, That in the death of our brother, the Taylor County Bar has lost one of its most esteemed and respected members and our city one of its noblest citizens."

BRUCE E. MAHAN

## For Harrison and Reid

*Nearly three months before Benjamin Harrison was nominated at Minneapolis, the Zetagathian Literary Society at the State University of Iowa selected him as the Republican candidate for President of the United States. This account of the mock convention is adapted for the PALIMPSEST from verbatim proceedings as published in the Iowa City Republican. The pictures of prominent delegates are reproduced from etchings that were printed in connection with the story of the convention in the Chicago Tribune. — THE EDITOR.*

The first gun in the presidential campaign of 1892, according to the local newspaper, was heard at the Opera House in Iowa City on Friday evening, March 18th. On the stage were the duly accredited delegates to the national Republican convention represented by members of the Zetagathian Literary Society. In the background appeared a large crayon sketch of General U. S. Grant, framed in crepe, to the left was a portrait of James A. Garfield, and to the right was a bust

of President Benjamin Harrison. Here, there, and everywhere the stars and stripes adorned the auditorium.

At the proper moment Hon. J. S. Clarkson of Iowa, Chairman of the Republican National Committee, impersonated by Will Bailey, called the



FRANK NELSON

convention to order and announced that Chauncey M. Depew of New York, whose rôle was taken by Frank Nelson, would act as temporary chairman. Mr. Depew took the chair amid great cheering and proceeded to deliver an eloquent keynote speech. Beginning with a graceful tribute to former lead-

ers of the nation, he praised the champions of liberty and democracy. Nor could he forget "the brave soldiers of that bitter conflict which witnessed the birth" of the Republican party. "The dismal sound of hostile forces, the raging billows of war and secession, the roar of cannon — all have happily passed away and in their

stead we see a nation strong and free. On every hand we hear the hum of industries and the tramp of sixty-seven millions of people. With generous hearts for the true and brave, with grateful feelings for their noble work, with that sincerity which true patriotism alone can give, we would assure the soldiers of our continued protection and support."

Turning from the events of the past, Depew described the important issues of the present. On the eve of a mighty contest, "a battle, not of swords, but of ideas", much "wisdom and deliberation" would be required to settle the problems that were arousing the public mind. "Upon you, gentlemen, will devolve the important duty of naming our standard bearer" who, if "principles and true statesmanship are the essential factors of success in American politics", may be confident of "a great and decisive victory."

"The mission of the Republican party is not yet fulfilled," continued the speaker, "nor will it be fulfilled until every home in our commonwealth shall be consecrated to the cause of honest labor and equality of rights, until every laborer shall receive a just remuneration for his daily toil, and until every citizen shall be allowed to wear, unmolested, the royal garb of citizenship granted him by a free government. These are the ends for

which we must labor. It is unity of action, caution in every movement and unshaken faith in Republicanism that will secure for us a triumph, — great and lasting.”

The most difficult question confronting the country was taxation. “The Republican party”, declared the youthful keynoter, “believes that duties should be so levied as to equalize the burdens of taxation. That system of taxation is the best which raises revenue sufficient, not only to defray the expenses of our government but also to build up and protect our industries. Nature has blessed us abundantly. The hidden resources of the earth must be developed and utilized. If we want to be strong as a people, if we want to command the confidence and respect of other nations, if we want to be prepared for any and all emergencies, we must be independent, not only politically, but industrially.

“The Republican party — the party of the past, the party of the present, and the party of the future” — believes in the protective system. “It has built up diversities of industries, thus supplying the wants of all classes of society. It has invited to our shores the best brain and energy of other lands, and has made it possible for the products of the farm to be exchanged for the products of the factory. It has quickened American ingenuity,

and stimulated every channel of trade. The engine has chased the buffalo from our western plains, hamlets have been transformed into populous cities and the wilderness into homes of industrious millions. Our foreign commerce has increased until to-day the flag of the American Republic is seen in almost all of the commercial waters of the world. We are a nation not only of producers but of consumers. We must maintain these two classes. The stability of our government demands it; the welfare of society demands it; our industrial prosperity demands it.

“Shall we rely upon foreign labor for the necessities of life? Shall we drive the American producer into the cheap markets of the world? Shall we close our factories and send our currency abroad? Four thousand voters answer no. The Republican party answers no. Increase the factors of production and you increase the wealth of a nation. There is no surer sign of a nation’s prosperity than to see the smoke ascending daily from the smokestacks of thousands of our manufacturing industries.

“Gentlemen of the convention. If you will keep these cardinal principles before you, if you will rise to the greatness of the occasion, if you will select a man strong in himself, strong in his party and strong with the people — then I assure

you that your work will receive the hearty commendation of an intelligent public, and that the destinies of our nation will again be entrusted to the care and wisdom of the Republican party."

When the applause had subsided, the chairman appointed the usual committees on permanent organization, credentials, and resolutions. Fortunately there were no Blaine delegations to contest the seats of Harrison supporters. To expedite procedure the temporary officers were made permanent. On behalf of the committee on resolutions, H. S. Richards, acting in the capacity of Henry Cabot Lodge, presented a typical Republican platform. After reaffirming devotion to the principles of the party and to the memory of immortal leaders in the cause of liberty, the resolutions commended the administration of President Harrison and the legislation of the Fifty-first Congress, but condemned the "present Democratic congress" for attempting to "break down our American system of protection". On the currency question positive opposition to "the ruinous policy of free coinage" was expressed. While the Republicans welcomed "the industrious and honest foreigner to the blessings of our land and institutions," they proposed to exclude pauper and criminal classes. The spoils system, "which prostitutes the public service by making public

office the reward of party fealty", was condemned without reserve. No "backward step" should be taken in paying "the debt of gratitude which a loyal people owe to those who risked their lives in the defense of the Union." Planks in support of the Columbian Exposition, a strong navy, construction of the Nicaragua canal, and extension of education completed the structure of the party program. After defeating an amendment to the tariff section, the convention adopted the platform with cheers.

Thereupon the chairman ordered the roll call of the States. When Indiana was reached, John C. New of that State, in the person of M. H. Lyon, took the platform to place the name of Benjamin Harrison before the convention. A more important duty had never been entrusted to a body of American citizens than the selection of a Republican candidate for the ensuing campaign. The Democrats were sure to array



M. H. LYON

against him "all that sophistry can create, that malice can invent, that gold can buy." Against such insuperable odds only the "strong and stainless armor" of Benjamin Harrison could stand impervious to the "shafts of calumny and criticism".

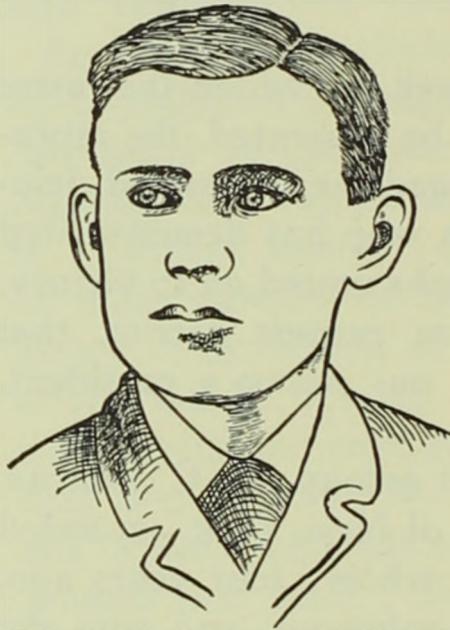
Harrison had never wavered as an "expounder and defender" of the principles of the party. "True in every particular to the platform on which he was elected", thundered the young orator, "he has stood as the defender of a sound currency against those threatening its debasement. Loyal to American interests against the encroachments of other nations, he has strongly supported the policy of protection to American industries, that policy that is causing our vast domain to throb with health and strength in every branch of business life. Trusted by the moneyed interests, he has always championed the cause of the oppressed and poor. Beloved by the Union soldiers, in war he was their faithful comrade and commander, in peace their truest advocate and friend. The ardent upholder of popular education, of internal improvements, and of the freedom of the ballot, he has planted himself upon the eternal principle that every citizen of the republic should be protected in the exercise of all the rights and privileges guaranteed to him by the Constitution."

President Harrison's foreign policy also stood in sharp contrast to the "weakness and indecision of his predecessor. Cautious yet courageous, kind and courteous yet firm," Harrison had made the national ensign "honored on every sea," and under its "starry folds the humblest citizen of the republic" could feel secure in any country in the world.

Although he did not seek to "bedim the lustre of other noble names" to be presented, the representative of Mr. New urged the assembled delegates to choose the "man who has demonstrated his ability to lead your ranks united on to victory, that stainless citizen, that earnest patriot, that prince of party leaders, our nation's president, Benjamin Harrison."

In a brief and eloquent eulogy, H. C. Dorcas, posing as Frank Hiscock of New York, seconded the nomination of one in whom "four years ago, our country placed her confidence, and who she has grown to trust, revere and love, during such an administration of her affairs as can never fail to command these honors from America's loyal sons." He was pleased indeed to endorse the candidacy of "the noble man, General Benjamin Harrison." Another resounding second was delivered by O. C. Anderson who impersonated J. V. Spohn of Texas.

S. K. Stevenson, impersonating David B. Henderson of Iowa, took the floor and in an impassioned plea, proposed the name of his "fellow townsman", William B. Allison of Dubuque. Stevenson feared that the convention might be carried away by impulse.



S. K. STEVENSON

"Enthusiasm, like the pine torch, goes out when struck by an adverse breeze", he cautioned. "What we want is conservatism and courage that, like the radiant electric light, burns steadily on through adversity and success." That nominee alone would succeed who possessed the "complete confidence of the merchant of the east and the farmer of the west". He must represent the "conservative practical elements" of all sections of the nation. "We are strong enough to compel a triumph," he urged, "but it will require the united effort of all to grasp it."

"The great questions of finance, of ballot reform, of reciprocity and of temperance are before

the convention. The

us and demand our attention. Perhaps the greatest and most pressing of these questions, and *the* question that affects most directly the life and happiness of every citizen from the humblest laborer to the richest capitalist, is the question of sound money." Of necessity the Republican candidate should be one well versed in this complicated subject. And who was better qualified than Allison?

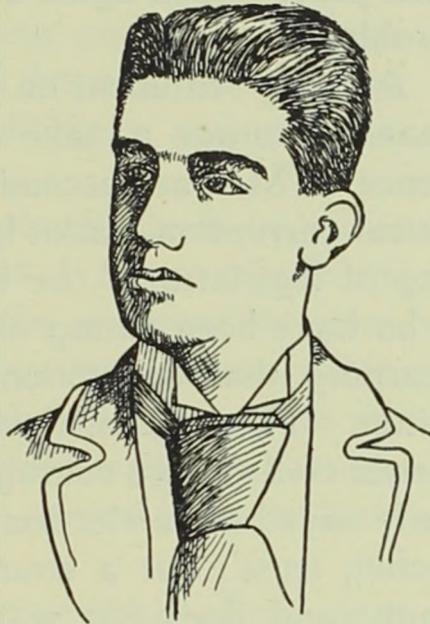
Being a party of deeds as well as of doctrines, of results no less than lofty sentiments, the just "pride and crowning glory" of the Republican party "is found in what it has accomplished. It was called into existence in the nation's darkest hour, but, strengthened by the bayonets of brave men and the prayers of pure women, it lived and grew. It grappled with the most gigantic insurrection in the annals of the world, and after four years of Titanic battle, crushed it, and struck the last shackles of bondage from human arms. It found the national treasury empty and the nation's credit fast ebbing away, but, by the wisdom of its leaders, it has filled, yea, to overflowing, this depleted treasury, and made our credit the best of any nation on the globe. It took for its motto, Liberty, Justice and Equality, and true to its pledge, it has given to our country an era of unequaled peace and prosperity. Progress has been

made on every hand. On rolling prairie and by rushing stream, factories and schools have sprung up and flourished. Gold has flowed into our treasury. Our white winged barks of commerce have tracked all water, cast anchor in every haven on the globe, and contentment and joy have dwelt in the 12,000,000 homes of our land.

"Gentlemen of the convention, Iowa bids me" nominate William B. Allison. "The currency legislation and those laws of honor that preserved the national credit, the resumption of specie payment, the silver coinage act, the stoppage of Chinese immigration, the inauguration of reciprocity and other legislative efforts approved by the Republican party to-day" are statutory monuments to his genius, his industry, and his courage.

Then followed one of the best addresses of the evening by the brilliant George F. Hoar of Massachusetts whose rôle was depicted by H. O. Pratt. Allison's relations to the industrial interests of the country had accomplished "great improvement in the transportation facilities of the West, thereby aiding the agricultural, financial and commercial interests of that section of the country, which to-day is so justly prominent and influential in American politics." Further endorsement of Allison was vouchsafed by C. D. Walrod who acted for P. O. Gibson of Georgia.

The next name presented was Thomas B. Reed, ex-Speaker of the House of Representatives, whose candidacy was advocated by C. A. Boutelle of Maine, ably impersonated by Benj. F. Shambaugh. The leadership of Reed was urged not because he was a Maine man but because he was a citizen of the United States and the "best exponent of the genuine American ideas and principles of east and south and north and west alike." The Republican party must not stand on its past alone but must build on the present. Its former victories were won "because it had the courage to create a new South;



BENJ. F. SHAMBAUGH

because it did not hesitate to undertake the Herculean task of Reconstruction; because it fostered commerce and protected home industry in its infancy and adopted judicious tariff reform when once that industry had obtained a firm rootage in our soil. And but yesterday the Germans told us that the scheme of Reciprocity was beyond doubt

the greatest stroke of statesmanship of the present century. These are the kind of measures that brought triumph to our party in the past. But victory this year must be won not on what we have done but rather on what we are now doing and promise to do. The successful party will be that party which fights along the lines of existing problems."

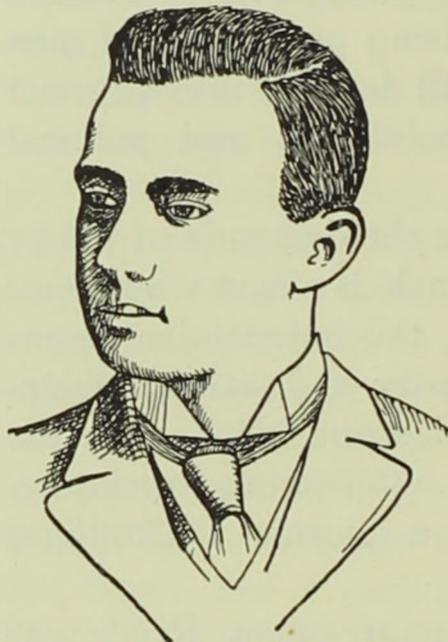
A rising sentiment on the part of the voter demands courage to take a stand and get off the fence. "Men are becoming heartily weary of political corruption, ballot box stuffing and the buying of legislatures", he exclaimed. "Even those who have been eating of the forbidden fruit are learning that corruption tastes bitter, ah, very bitter. Then again, there is a cry for more and better civil service courage; for a courage that not only says before election that 'a public office is a public trust', but a courage which acts accordingly and does not waver when seated in the presidential chair. And above all, there is a cry for better men to fill the public offices. Men who are dauntless, courageous, powerful, broad minded, pure, — statesmen. Men who are neither slaves to vice, politics nor power. Men not politicians. Statesmen not wire twisters. Men who will refuse to submit to the 'party lash'. The spectacle of a high official allowing his party to

dictate to him what office he shall run for, what office he must hold, and how long he shall hold it, notwithstanding his own wishes to the contrary, is degrading; nay, more — it is *slavery*! If it is right for the senator to sell himself politically, who shall say that it is wrong for you and me and all of us to sell ourselves physically, to become plantation slaves! The rising generation of men with the new sentiment will demand the ostracism of party slaves, ward politicians and political schemers.

“Such, I believe, will be the demands of public sentiment. And where, I ask, is a man who better represents this sentiment, the independent manhood, the courage, the purity, the statesmanship, modern American principles and ideas, than the man who, in the face of a filibustering legislature, had the courage to count a quorum, the brilliant Thomas B. Reed.”

The nomination of Congressman Reed was seconded by W. L. Converse in the name of William W. Bowers of California, who believed that the country wanted a statesman, not a politician, for President. Reed had identified himself with reform and won the admiration of friends and opponents alike. Another emphatic second was tendered by L. J. Rowell who pretended to be T. H. B. Brown of Virginia.

Michigan's favorite son, General Russell A. Alger, was placed before the convention by J. C. Burrows of Michigan, ably impersonated by H. S. Hollingsworth. Michigan, according to this partisan orator, "is the Republican star of hope, the light of the north. At the zenith of her greatness



H. S. HOLLINGSWORTH

she comes to light the grand old party on to victory. And she sheds her magic light on the leader of that party, on her undaunted warrior, her prince of peace, Russell A. Alger."

Here was the one man strong enough to unite all sections of the country. "Alger, the poor man's friend, the rich man's trusted servant! Alger, the intrepid leader in peace and war! Michigan's hero, Michigan's savior from Democracy! The pride of the Grand Army of the Republic! The one man who can command every Republican vote! The man who has no doubtful record to defeat him! A platform in himself! Such a leader the Republican party must have.

Such a leader the party possesses. With Alger at the head of the procession, with the sacred stars and stripes waving over him, the Republican party, the people's friend, can make a triumphal march to Washington and once more rally 'round the old state house."

The warm support of Alger by M. N. Johnson of North Dakota was expressed by J. L. Kinmouth, who believed that sectional harmony could best be gained by choosing a man who was from neither the East nor the West.

"The country is divided into numerous factions, all striving for supremacy", declared O. H. L. Mason, serving as spokesman for the Hon. John Sherman of Ohio as he placed the name of William McKinley before the convention. "We need a man whose force of character, brilliant career and political policy, will unite these factions, and one in whom every laborer may safely confide his interests."



O. G. L. MASON

In McKinley he believed the Republican party would have a representative whose ears would be open to the slightest "ripple of the Mississippi as well as to the roar of the Atlantic," and whose voice would "be heard in the interests of the Iowa farmer, as well as for the New York factory. Not an eastern magnate but a sturdy commoner whose heart and life is in touch with American needs. A man who supports the policy that preserves American industries and protects America's working men. A legislator who without fear or trembling in the most critical period of Republican legislation, when other men stood behind the screens protecting their seats in congress, proclaimed to the world in unmistakable terms the principles of American protection."

No one need look beyond the Fifty-first Congress to discover the heroic character of Ohio's most popular statesman. "With his foot on the neck of the Tammany tiger, with one hand he throttled the British lion, and in the other held a bill which set American spindles free, and inscribed his name among the most eminent of our country's statesmen. Under the banner of such a man will rally the north and south, the east and west. We need a man of genius who can see the end from the beginning. Genius is like a flash of starlight, swift and brilliant. Not born of thought,

or carried through the processes of logic, but as the burst of an inspiration. A man of eloquence and conviction. Of that eloquence whose source is in the soul, and that carries conviction to the heart. In no man of this generation are these qualities of statesmanship so wonderfully combined as in Governor McKinley.

"In the name of the factories whose smoke stacks mark industrial progress, of the farms whose tenants are the happiest people on the globe, and in response to the call of labor demanding recognition in the deliberations of this convention," the youthful imitator of John Sherman submitted the name of William McKinley to "insure the supremacy of that party whose record is as pure as sun light; under whose banner the sons of toil must look for protection and American institutions for defense."

A rousing endorsement of McKinley was given by W. M. Davis appearing as John Dalzell of Pennsylvania. In him the Republicans would have a man who "represents the people; a man who knows their wants and needs; one who has come in contact with the laborer, the farmer and the mechanic; one who stands as the champion of the industrial classes and whose record as a statesman and a legislator has won for him a name among the leaders and great men of our nation."

Immediately after the roll of the States was completed, the convention prepared to vote on the presidential candidates. The result of the first ballot was Harrison, 267; McKinley, 178; Reed, 160; Allison, 153; and Alger, 58. During the second ballot, as various delegations changed their vote, the members of the convention shouted approval and tossed their hats into the air. Finally the nomination of Harrison was announced "amid the wildest cheers and tremendous enthusiasm." The second ballot stood Harrison, 561; McKinley, 149; Reed, 30; Allison, 18; Alger, 18.

When order was again restored, the convention proceeded with the selection of a candidate for Vice President. Frank Russell, posing as George F. Edward of Vermont, placed the name of Whitelaw Reid before the convention. He felt that New York would stand firmly behind her native son and that "the interests of the East" would be most ably represented by the Empire State. Governor William Merriam of Minnesota was also proposed. On motion of J. S. Clarkson of Iowa, Whitelaw Reid was nominated by acclamation. Thereupon the convention, having resolved to donate the profits of the entertainment to relieve suffering in Russia, adjourned, *sine die*, with three cheers for — Harrison! Harrison! Benjamin Harrison!

## Comment by the Editor

### *IN REALITY*

That the Republicans would nominate President Harrison for a second term was a justifiable assumption in March, 1892. Partisan inertia, contented postmasters, and well-established custom lent support to that opinion. Though the Zetagathians might have been aware of the President's unpopularity, there was no particular reason to suppose that he should be blamed for the effects of McKinley's tariff, the war in Chile, the dearth of silver dollars, or the dispute with Great Britain over some irresponsible seals in the Pacific Ocean. His brusque manner, as impersonal as a March wind, was scarcely a disqualification for the office of chief executive, however offensive it might be to ambitious politicians. The sum of untoward circumstances did not seem to constitute a sufficient reason for a party split. None of the potential rivals — McKinley, Allison, Reed, or Alger — was especially preëminent.

Yet as early as March, influential Republicans were quietly trying to enlist dissatisfied factions under the glamorous banner of James G. Blaine. Senator Quay was disgruntled because the President had accepted his resignation as Chairman of

the Republican National Committee; Senator Platt wanted the cabinet position he had bargained for; and "Ret" Clarkson of Iowa, who had resigned as Assistant Postmaster General after Harrisonizing the mail service, reverted to his former allegiance to the "Plumed Knight". Though Blaine wrote to Clarkson on February 6th that he was "not a candidate for the presidency", his friends persisted and finally, three days before the convention, he resigned as Secretary of State to assume the pose of a willing recipient.

The incongruity of the Chairman of the National Committee being hostile to the President must have been as obvious as it was remarkable. Depew would indeed have been a more representative keynote speaker than J. S. Fassett. Despite the skilful maneuvers of Blaine's ardent satellites, however, the stubborn Harrison delegates refused to be stampeded. Neither the eloquence of a Colorado Senator, the persuasive enthusiasm of a beautiful lady with a white parasol, nor a scheme to make a dark horse of McKinley were effective, and Harrison was nominated on the first ballot.

The Zetagathians were also right in predicting that Whitelaw Reid would be the vice-presidential candidate.

J. E. B.

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