

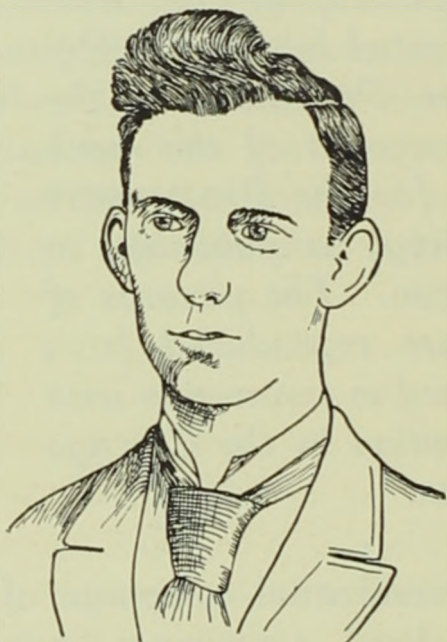
For Harrison and Reid

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



M. H. LYON

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

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. "Enthusiasm, like the



S. K. STEVENSON

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

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

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?

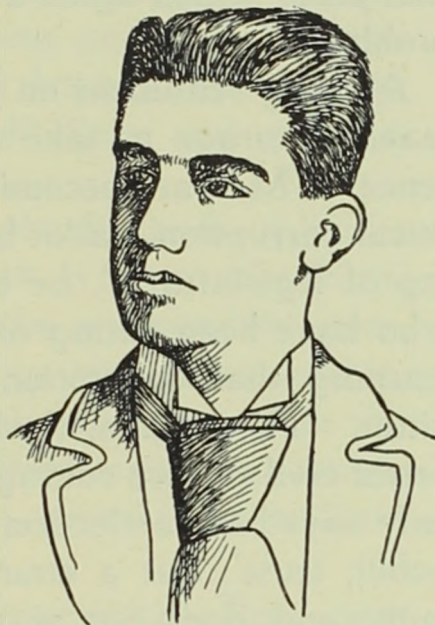
Being a party of deeds as well as of doctrines, of results no less than lofty sentiments, the just "pride and crowning glory" of the Republican party "is found in what it has accomplished. It was called into existence in the nation's darkest hour, but, strengthened by the bayonets of brave men and the 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; 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



BENJ. F. SHAMBAUGH

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

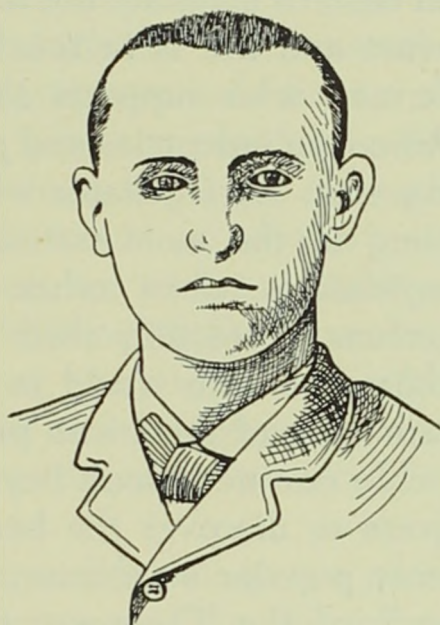
she comes to light the grand old party on to victory. And she sheds her magic light on the leader of that party, on her undaunted warrior, her prince of peace, Russell A. Alger."

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!