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## OUR NOMINEES.

Grover Cleveland, the Democratic nominee for President of the United States, was born on the 18th of March, 1837, in the little village of Caldwell, Essex county, N. J. He was educated at the public schools of New Jersey and at an academy in Clinton, Oneida county, New York. At the age of sixteen he became a clerk in the New York Blind Asylum. There he met a young man who prevailed upon him to seek his fortunes in the West. They started for Cleveland, Ohio. On their way they stopped at Buffalo, N. Y., where young Cleveland paid his respects to his uncle, Mr. Lewis F. Allen. This gentleman was very favorably impressed with the young man, whom he saw for the first time.

SETTLING IN BUFFALO.

As much to dissuade his nephew from the Western venture as anything, Mr. Allen told him that he was in need of a clerk, and if he would stop in Buffalo he should have the situation. The offer was a tempting one, for employment was what he was in search of, but he replied:—"I have agreed to go to Cleveland with my companion and I cannot desert him now in the midst of the journey." It was finally agreed that Grover should interview his friend upon the subject, and, if possible, gain his consent. Mr. Cleveland, much to his gratification, found that his comrade was willing to release him from the agrement to go to Ohio, and Grover Cleveland became a resident of Buffalo. Mr. Cleveland had already determined upon the law as a profession, and arrangements were consummated for a law student's desk in the office of Messrs. Rogers, Bowen & Rogers. It was not long before the law firm intimated to the uncle that his nephew was a talented young man, and they soon felt satisfied in paying him a handsome salary, which they found him abundantly able to earn. Mr. Cleveland was admitted to practice as an attorney in 1859. After his admission he continued with his preceptors for four years, which, with the previous four years served as a student, gave him eight years of the best kind of legal experience. He was then appointed Assistant District Attorney far the county of Erie by District Attorney C. C. Torrance, which position he filled with marked ability for a period of three yeaas. He was nominated by the Democratic County Convention in 1865 for District Attorney to succeed Mr. Torrance and was defeated at the polls by Lyman K. Bass. Mr. Cleveland formed a law partnership with the late I. V. Vanderpoel on the 1st of August, 1866, which was contiued until January, 1869. He then became a member of the firm of Laning, Cleveland & Folsom, the late A. P. Daning and the late Oscar Folsom being his associates. The firm remained in existence for two years, and until Mr. Cleveland retired therefrom to assume the duties of Sheriff of Erie county, to which office he was chosen at the election in November, 1870. At the expiration of his official term as Sheriff he became a member of the firm of Messrs. Bass, Cleveland & Bissell, with Lyman K. Bass and Wilson S. Bissell as associates.

MAYOR OF BUFFALO.

Mr. Cleveland was the Democratic candidate for the office of Mayor of Buffalo, in November, 1881, and was elected by an unprecedented majority, running upward of 5,000 ahead of the State ticket, and leading every candidate for local offices. His administration was marked by rare ability and judgment, and his courage in dealing with reckless and corrupt measures won him the respect of all classes of citizens. Wasteful and corrupt measures were always vetoed and effectually killed. Not an enactment was passed over his veto. The veto of the notorious street cleaning award alone saved the city $100,000.

He passed the first few weeks of his term of office in attentively studying the details of every department of the city administration. His previous experiences as Assistant District Attorney as Sheriff taught him what to look for and where to look for it. He found the ordinary municipal abuses, sanctioned by long habit and immunity, flourishing as usual. One morning he surprised the city by issuing an order that all the officials should keep strict business hours, like the employes of private firms. Before the office-holders had recovered from this shock he began a series of vetoes which equally astonished the Common Council. This Board had a republican majority and attempted to override the vetoes, but Mayor Cleveland's terse, logical, businesslike messages were published, and public opinion was too strong for the opposition Councilmen. They attempted to entrap him by passing a resolution apportioning for the celebration of Decoration Day a sum of money reserved by the charter for other purposes, believing that Mayor Cleveland would not dare to interfere with Decoration Day, or that he would become unpopular if he did. Down came the veto as promptly as ever, and in his message the Mayor so thoroughly exposed the trick, that his popularity, instead of diminishing, rapidly increased.

His administration of the office fully justified the partiality of the friends who insisted upon nominating him, and vindicated the good judgment of the people who so powerfully insisted upon electing him. It is not too much to say that in the first half of the first year he almost revolutionized Buffalo's municipal government. With no more power than his predecessors had, he inaugurated reforms before only hoped for, and corrected abuses which had become almost venerable. Accounts against the city were thoroughly audited, since he pointed out what is required of an officer wuose duty it is to audit. The wholesome rule of competition was adopted for important work that used to be given out in the form of political patronage. So far as one man can see, he saw to it that the city got the full value of its money. He knew his power and was not afraid to use it. He conquered the most corrupt combinations ever formed in the council and rebuked the conspirators in terms that brought the blush of shame to the most brazen of Aldermen. His veto messages have become municipal classics. Knowing his duty, he faithfully performed.

GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK.

The earliest reports from the Democratic State Convention of 1882 spoke of the nomination of Mayor Cleveland for Governor of the State of New York as a surprise. It was no surprise te the men who proposed the nomination. He had been fighting the petty thieves of the Buffalo municipality for a year and the people of that section wanted him to fight the big thieves of the State government. The tier of four counties, of which Erie is the chief, sent their delegates to the Convedtion pledged to vote for Grover Cleveland, and for nobody else. They knew their man, and soon taught the Convention to know him. On the morning after the nomination of Grover Cleveland the Buffalo Express, the leading republican newspaper in the interior of the State, announced that it would support him instead of the republican candidate. Within a week many other leading republican organs and politicians took the same bold stand. Republican—so divided upon almost every other subject, as District Attorney Woodford and George William Curtis—agreed in repudiating the Folger forgery ticket. Thousands of republicans, led led by the Young Men's Club, of Brooklyn, voted for Grover Cleveland, and thousands more refrained from voting for any Governor. He swept the State like a tidal wave, carrying all before him, and being elected by a majority over Folger of 192,854.

As Governor his independence and honesty insured his popularity. He will always be remembered as the man who signed the seven reform bills for the city of New York, which gained him the undying enmity of Kelly and his gang, which took away all power from the Board of Aldermen and which are destined to cleanse the political atmosphere of the city.

The administration of Cleveland as Governor has been highly satisfactory and fully in accordance with his views expressed in his letter accepting the nomination. All the appointments to office which he has made bear the stamp of that high, conscientsous spirit which has always actuated him. His industry is beyond all question. Never has there been a man less approachable by politicians in quest of fat offices. His moral courage is great, as witness his veto of the Five Cent Fare bill, which he treated regardless of the shower of abuse which he knew to be coming. Many of his other vetoes have been singularly objectionable to New York Ward politicians. Many of the bills he has signed have had a like effect. If he is elected President he may be expected to follow the poth of political rectitude whsch has always distinguished him, and he will be opposed by none but the schemers and tricksters of his party.

PERSONAL.

A friend of Governor Cleveland thus describes him: "He is a tall, stoutly built gentleman, weighing over two hundred pounds, aged forty-seven years and a bachelor. He has dark brown hair. clear keen eyes and a firm and dignified expression. His manner is so curt and brusque, his 'yea, yea,' and his 'nay, nay,' that he often offends those who speak with him for the first time; but the longer he is known the more warmly he is esteemed, respected and admired. He does not wear his heart upon his sleeve for eaws to peck at, but his stern demeanor he conceals a kindly, generous and charitable nature. One of his oldest and most intimate friends characteristically described him as "an up and up man." Everybody who has ever had any dealings with him is aware that he means precisely what he says and says exactly what he means. In appearance, no less than in character, he is one of the old Continental school of politicians, and seems to have come down to us from a former generation to teach us what strong, brave, honest, resolute men our forefathers were who founded the Republic."

## THOMAS A. HENDRICKS.

Thomas Andrews Hendricks, ex-Governor of Indiana and candidate for the Vice Presidency of the United States in 1876, is essentially a self-made man. He is a native of Ohio, a State which seems never to tire of producing men of active ambition and of great political ability. As a young lawyer, as a member of the State Legislature, as Congressman, as United States Senator, as Governor, he showed that he possessed talents which singled him out from among his fellows. Add to this his personal popularity in Indiana and it explains why his name was selected for the Tilden ticket in the notable campaign of 1876. On that occasion he carried his State by a majority of nearly six thousand, and good judges of political affairs in Indiana have declared that it was solely owing to the magic of his name that Indiana was won by the Democrats.

Mr. Hendricks' public life has been long and varied. In 1848 he was elected to the State Legislature from his county. In 1850 he was chosen a delegate to the Convention which made the present Constitution of the State, and was an active participator in the proceedings of that body. In 1851 he was elected to Congress, and in 1852 was re-elected to the same office. In 1855 he was appointed Commissioner of the General Land Office, and held the posision until he resigned in 1859. In 1863 he was elected a Senator of the United States and served a full term of six years. In 1872 he was elected Governor of Indiana, and served as such until January, 1877, when he was succeeded by Governor Williams.

It is a sufficient proof of the ability and success of Mr. Hendricks in the Senate that toward the close of a single term he had placed himself among the foremost men of his party and become a prominent candidate for the Presidency. In the Convention of 1868 he was brought forward, and at one time led all other candidates, receiving the solid vote of New York and the Northwest. Ohio, however, which had been compelled to abandon its own candidate, was determined to defeat all other Western men, and the delegates from that State threw their votes for Horatio Seymour persistently, and finally produced a stampede of the whole Convention to his support.

In Mr. Hendricks' profession—the law—all acknowledge him to be great. This is the vocation to which nature particularly adapted him, and it is his favorite one. He has, since first entering public life, returned to the practice of his profession with facility and zeal immediately upon the termination or intermission of official engagements.

PERSONAL.

Governor Hendricks is a man of medium height and symmetrical form. He is erect, active and vigorous. His face is manly and handsome. The features are large and expressive, and while there is a soft, good humored expression in the large blue eye and in the mouth and dimpled chin, the brow, forehead and full heavy jaw, show wisdom and resolution. His complexion is florid. He looks like one who has lived a happy life, encountered no great sorrows and yielded to no great vices. Though he has for years been taught to regard the Presidency as within his grasp, his ambition has been rather a sort of rational longing for the honor than an insatiable thirst for power. His disposition is as sunny as his complexion, and in social life he is a great favorite. To acquaintances he is affable and easy, to close friends warm and lovable, to political partisans courteous but cautious. He would rather conciliate an enemy than oblige an ally. His habits are such that he found $5000 a year ample for his expenditures during his Senatorial term at Washington.

## THE PLATFORM.

The Democratic party of the Union through its representatives in National Convention assembled, recognizes that, as the nation grows older, new issues are born of time and progress, and old issues perish. But the fundamental principles of the Democracy, approved by the united voice of the people, remain, and will ever remain, as the best and only security forthe continuance of free government. The preservation of personal rights, the equality of all citizens before the law, the reserved rights of the States, and the supremacy of the Federal Government within the limits of the Constitution, will ever form the true basis of our liberties, and can never be surrendered without destroying that balance of rights and powers which enables a continent to be developed in peace, and social order to be maintained by means of local self-government.

But it is indispensable for the practical application and enforcement of these fundamental principles that the government should not always be controlled by one political party. Frequent change of administration is as necessary as constant recurrence to the popular will. Otherwise abuses grow, and the Government, instead of being carried on for the general welfare, becomes an instrumentalityfor imposingburdens on the many who are governed for the benefit of the who govern. Public servants thus become arbitrary rulers.

This is now the condition of the country—hence a change is demanded. The Republican party, so far as principle is concerned, is a reminiscence. In practice it is an organization for enriching those who control its machinery. The frauds and jobbery which have been brought to light in every department of the Government are sufficient to have called for reform within the Republican party. Yet those in authority, made reckless by the long possession of power, have succumbed to its corrupting influence, and have placed in nomination a ticket against which the independent portion of the party are in open revolt.

Therefore a change is demanded. Such a change was alike necessary in 1876, but the will of the people was then defeated by a fraud which can never be forgotten nor condoned.—Again, in 1880, the change demanded by the people was defeated by the lavish use of money contributed by unscrupulous contractors and shameless jobbers who had bargained for unlawful profits or for high office.

The Republican party, during its legal, its stolen and its bought tenures of power, has steadily decayed in moral character and political capacity. Its platform promises are now a list of its past failures.

It demands the restoration of our navy; it has squandered hundreds of millions of dollars to create a navy that does not exist.

It calls upon Congress to remove the burdens under which American shipping has been depressed; it imposed and has continued those burdens.

It professes the policy of reserving the public lands for small holdings by actual settlers; it has given away the people's heritage till now a few railroads and non-resident aliens, individual and corporate, possess a larger area than that of all our farms between the two seas.

It professes a preference for free institutions; it organized and tried to legalize a control of State elections by Federal troops.

It professes a desire to elevate labor; it has subjected American workingmen to the competition of convict and imported contract labor.

It professes gratitude to all who were disabled or died in the war, leaving widows or orphans; it left to a Democratic House of Representatives the first effort to equalize both bounties and pensions. It proffers a pledge to correct the irregularities of our tariff; it created and has continued them.

Its own Tariff Commission confessed the need of more than twenty per cent. reduction; its Congress gave a reduction of less than four per cent.

It professes the protection of American manufactures; it has subjected them to an increasing flood of manufactured goods and a hopeless competition with manufacturing nations, not one of which taxes raw materials.

It professes to protect all American industries; it has impoverished many to subsidize a few.

It professes the protection of American labor; it has depleted the returns of American agriculture—an industry followed by half our people.

It professes the equality of all men before the law; attempting to fix the status of colored citizens, the acts of its Congress were overset by the decisions of its courts.

It "accepts anew the duty of leading in the work of progress and reform;" its caught criminals are permitted to escape through contrived delays or actual connivance in the prosecution.

Honeycombed with corruption, outbreaking exposures no longer shock its moral sense. Its honest members, its independent journals, no longer maintain a successful contest for authority in its councils or a veto upon bad nominations.

That change is necessary is proved by an existing surplus of more than $100,000,000, which has yearly been collected from a suffering people. Unnecessary taxation if unjust taxation.

We denounce the Republican party for having failed to relieve the people from crushing war taxes, which have paralyzed business, crippled industry, and deprived labor of employment and of just reward.

The Democracy pledges itself to purify the administration from corruption, to restore economy, to revive respect for law, and to reduce taxation to the lowest limit consistent with due regard to the preservation of the faith of the nation to its creditors and pensioners.

Knowing full well, however, that legislation affecting the operations of the people should be cautious and conservative in method, not in advance of public opinion, but responsive to its demands, the Democratic party stands pledged to revise the tariff in a spirit of fairness to all interests.

But in making reduction in taxes it is not proposed to injure any domestic industries, but rather to promote their healthy growth. From the foundation of this Government taxes collected at the Custom House have been the chief source of Federal revenue. Such they must continue to be. Moreover, many industries have come to rely upon legislation for successful continuance, so that any change of law must be at every step regardful of the labor and capital thus involved. The process of reform must be subject, in the execution, to this plain dictate of justice. All taxation shall be limited to the requirements of economical government. The necessary reduction in taxation can and must be effected without depriving American labor of the ability to compete successfully with foreign labor, and without imposing lower rates of duty than will be ample to cover any increased cost of production which may exist in consequence of the higher rate of wages prevailing in this country. Sufficient revenue to pay all the expenses of the Federal Government economically administered, including pensions and interest and principal of the public debt, can be got under our present system of taxation, from Custom House taxes on fewer imported articles, bearing heaviest on articles of luxury, and bearing lightest on articles of necessity.

We therefore denounce the abuses of the existing tariff, and, subject to the preceding limitations, we demand that Federal taxation shall be exclusively for public purposes, and shall not exceed the needs of the Government economically administered.

The system of direct taxation called the "internal revenue" is a war tax, and so long as the law continues the money derived therefrom should be sacredly devoted to the relief of the people from the remaining burdens of the war and be made a fund to defray the expense of the care and comfort of worthy soldiers disabled in the line of duty in the wars of the Republic, and for the payment of such pensions as Congress may from time to time grant to such soldiers, a like fund for the sailors having been already provided, and any surplus should be paid into the treasury.

We favor an American continental policy based upon more intimate commercial and political relations with the fifteen sister republics of North, Central and South America, but entangling alliances with none.

We believe in honest money, the gold and silver coinage of the Constitution, and a circulating medium convertible into such money without loss.

Asserting the equality of all men before the law, we hold that it is the duty of the Government in its dealings with the people to mete out equal and exact justice to all citizens of whatever nativity, race, color or persuasion, religious or political.

We believe in a free ballot and a fair count, and we recall to the memory of the people the noble struggle of the Democrats in the Forty-fifth and Forty-sixth Congresses, by which a reluctant Republican opposition was compelled to assent to legislation making everywhere illegal the presence of troops at the polls, as the conclusive proof that a Democratic administration will preserve liberty with order.

The selection of Federal officers for the Territories should be restricted to citizens previously resident therein.

We oppose sumptuary laws which vex the citizen and interfere with individual liberty.

We favor honest civil service reform and the compensation of all U. S. officers by fixed salaries, the separation of church and State, and the diffusion of free education by common schools, so that every child in the land may be taught the rights and duties of citizenship.

While we favor all legislation tending to the equitable distribution of property, to the prevention of monopoly, and to the strict enforcement of individual rights against corporate abuses, we hold that the welfare of society depends upon a scrupulous regard for the rights of property as defined by law. We believe that labor is best rewarded where it is freest and most enlightened. It should, therefore, be fostered and cherished. We favor the repeal of all laws restricting the free action of labor, and the enactment of laws by which labor organizations may be incorporated, and of all such legislation as will tend to enlighten the people as to the true relations of capital and labor.

We believe that the public lands ought, as far as possible, to be kept as homesteads for actual settlers; that all unearned lands heretofore improvidently granted to railroad corporations by action of the Republican party should be restored to the public domain, and that no more grants of land shall be made to corporations or be allowed to fall into the hands of alien absentees.

We are opposed to all propositions which upon any pretext would convert the general Government into a machine for collecting taxes to be distributed among the States or the citizens thereof.

In reaffirming the declaration of the Democratic platform of 1856, that the liberal principles embodied by Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence and sanctioned in the Constitution, which makes ours the land of liberty and the asylum of the oppressed of every nation, have ever been cardinal principles in the Democratic faith, we nevertheless do not sanction the importation of foreign labor, or the admission of servile races unfitted by habits, training, religion, or kindred for absorption into the great body of our people, or for the citizenship which our laws confer. Americon civilization demands that against the immigration or importation of Mongolians to these shores our gates be closed. The Democratic party insists that it is the duty of this Government to protect, with equal fidelity and vigilance, the rights of citizens, native and naturalized, at home and abroad; and to the end that this protection may be assured, United States papers of naturalization issued by courts of competent jurisdiction must be respected by the executive and legislative departments of our own Government, and by all foreign powers. It is an imperative duty of this Government to efficiently protect all the rights of persons and property of every American citizen in foreign lands, and demand and enforce full reparation for any invasion thereof.

An American citizen is only responsible to his own Government for any act done in his own country or under her flag, and can only be tried therefor on her own soil and according to her laws; and no power exists in this Government to expatriate an American citizen to be tried in any foreign land for any such act.

[CONCLUDED ON FOURTH PAGE.]

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