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W. MORTON SMITH Editor and Manager
SARAH B. HARRIS Associate Editor

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OBSERVATIONS

Some months ago Senator Thurston answering for Nebraska, said the solid vote of this state in the national republican convention would be cast for McKinley. It is beginning to be evident that the senator's remark was not ill-advised. Unquestionably the sentiment of three-fourths of the republicans of Nebraska is strongly in favor of McKinley. As elsewhere some of the politicians are for some other candidate. They have done considerable scheming; but, apparently, to no avail. Public sentiment has overtaken private selfishness. Within the last week or two the McKinley movement has assumed definite form. The McKinley club seems to answer admirably the purpose of a centralizing force. Republicans all, over the state are signing the McKinley petition, and joining the big McKinley club. The few politicians who, a few weeks ago, were asking for an unpledged delegation are now holding their peace. Some of them have already pulled themselves into the McKinley band wagon. Others are reaching up. By the time the delegates are selected the McKinley movement will be so formidable that it is doubtful if anyone will have the temerity to raise his voice in behalf of an unpledged delegation.

There are undeniable advantages in an unpledged delegation. But the one reason why it would be particularly undesirable to send an unpledged delegation to St. Louis is that nine out of ten of those who oppose instructions are opposed to McKinley or are animated by purely selfish reasons—a desire to go to St. Louis and trade the vote of Nebraska or a portion of it for a political job. There are several ambitious politicians who would like to be delegates and have a free delegation so as to be

able to approach Harrison and Reed and McKinley and Allison and barter the franchise of the state for a paltry mess of official pottage. Patriotic Nebraska republicans do not want to see the Nebraska vote peddled about and hawked to the highest bidder for a consideration of purely private interest. For this reason and for the further reason that they want this state to go to McKinley they are opposed to anything but a straight McKinley delegation.

As a beneficiary of President Harrison, Mr. Rosewater was supposed to favor the matrimonial-presidential candidate. But the first choice of the editor of the Bee is Senator Allison, of Iowa. Mr. Rosewater would like to see an unpledged delegation. John L. Webster is a candidate for delegate. He has indulged in flirtations with the McKinley followers and he has consorted with the Allison men. He wants an unpledged delegation. He thinks Nebraska could obtain greater recognition if the delegates were unpledged, which being interpreted means that the office of attorney general might come to Nebraska through a trade. Mr. Webster would not refuse the portfolio of attorney general. Senator Thurston's friends in Omaha are generally for McKinley and instruction. Ex-Senator Manderson states emphatically that he will not be a candidate for first or second place on the national ticket. He is for McKinley. In this city Mr. Gere has been mentioned as a candidate for delegate. Many supposed he was a Harrison man. The editor of the Journal signed the call for the big McKinley meeting to be held in this city next month, which commits him to the McKinley movement. Mr. Gere, under these circumstances, will be a popular candidate. L. L. Lindsay and Dr. Kerman, candidates for delegate, are for McKinley. Mr. Houtz, through his connection with Senator Thurston, would naturally be for McKinley. G. M. Lambertson is a candidate. He was assistant secretary of the treasury under Harrison and is supposed to be loyal to the ex-president. He is opposed to instructions. John M. Thayer is spoken of as a prospective delegate-at-large. He is an uncompromising McKinley man. C. O. Whedon is a candidate for delegate. Mr. Morrill has been urged to stand for delegate, but he will not be a candidate.

It is said that ex-Senator Manderson found official life in Washington a pleasant but expensive luxury. He is reported as being desirous of remaining in his present remunerative position, solicitor for the Burlington. Should his country call him, however, his naturally patriotic impulse would doubtless cause him to obey the call.

Major Moses P. Handy, late "lord high chancellor of the Jim Blaine boom" discussed republican candidates in the Times-Herald the other day. He said the winning candidate must be a

man who boldly places himself on record on the live issues now before the country. Major Handy quotes a leading politician as saying: "Allison is all right, but he can't change the mental habits and political methods of his life. Why, Allison could walk on piano keys from New York to Omaha and never sound a note."

The Honorable Tobias Castor, with his little note book and his stubby lead pencil, is in Washington. The democratic national committeeman, the head push of the Nebraska straights, the practical, material essence of pure and undefiled Nebraska democracy, is at the head center of pap-distribution, consorting with the Honorable Julius Sterling Morton, and the powers that be generally, and it is reported that the official axe is to be raised for the decapitation of certain federal office-holders in this state whose partisan views are not plugged to the Cleveland size. It is said that office holders will not be relieved of the burdens of official life for political reasons; but that those who believe in sound money are safe. Those who are declared to be inefficient will be the men who have a weakness for the diluted democracy of W. J. Bryan. It is hinted that Mr. Harley may have to put his head on the block. It is an inspiring sight truly, to see this man Castor sitting in judgment on men's political views. The Honorable Tobias Castor is a good man for some purposes. He is energetic, and he is faithful. But it may appear a little presumptuous for the Honorable Tobe to pass judgment on the opinions or affiliations of, for instance, such a man as Mr. Harley. Mr. Castor is for sound money. But does Mr. Castor know what sound money is? Is it not a fact that considerations of political principle are above the intellectual level of the great and powerful national committeeman? But the Honorable Tobias is the doctor, and when he goes down to Washington and prescribes, the democrats here in Nebraska have to take the medicine.

John M. Thurston strikes a familiar gait in the following tribute to McKinley in the Cincinnati Commercial Gazette: "And this man upon whose shield malice can find no blemish and slander place no stain; this man whose whole life has been consecrated to his God, his country and his home; this man whose intense loyalty and devotion to American interests make him the ideal leader for the supreme hour; this man of the people; the uncompromising friend of those who toil, a soldier, a statesman, a patriot without fear and without reproach, our candidate for the presidency of the United States is William McKinley."

Very recently the Journal, the faithful friend of the down-trodden rich man remarked: "The rich men of the United States have given to philanthropic objects during the year \$29,000,000." In

some manner a copy of Nebraska's pride reached the office of the New York Sun, and that paper commenting on the Journal's remark said:

Magnificent, truly; but with the exception of one or two gentlemen, such as John D. Rockefeller and Seth Low, none of these rich men have given a very big block of money measured by their means. Their imagination hasn't kept pace with their fortunes. The chances for gifts of great wealth are as good as ever. The opportunities for the rich men of New York to give sums measured in millions for purposes of public usefulness and honorable self-commemoration are enough to make poor men's heads swim. Who will give five millions to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, or to the Museum of Natural History, or for the founding of some other valuable institution, or for building the cathedral of St. John the Divine? Don't be afraid of all speaking at once. Everybody will be heard, even in chorus.

The Journal might induce some of its friends to donate a million or two to its celebrated flag fund.

The gold and silver product of Colorado for the year 1895 is estimated at \$25,000,000. Last year was a poor year, agriculturally, for Nebraska; but the corn product alone, taking the low estimate of 75,000,000 bushels, was worth \$12,000,000. Last year's gold and silver product in Colorado was infinitely less valuable than Nebraska's agricultural product, and 1895 was Colorado's big mineral year and Nebraska's bad agricultural year.

Mr. Dana, of the New York Sun, who does not believe in the department of agriculture and who likes to poke fun at the Honorable Julius Sterling Morton, in criticising the annual report of the department said: "It may be that the annual report was a little heavy but if so, it was because Mr. Morton was so unused to brandishing the pen." Mr. Dana may think he knows Mr. Morton, but he does not. Mr. Morton unused to brandishing the pen! Why the goateed and well groomed gentleman whom President Cleveland snatched from the furrows of Arbor Lodge and transplanted in the rich soil of Washington was born with a steel pen in one hand and a Dixon lead pencil in the other. While wearing the swaddling clothes of infancy he went about marking on walls and writing letters. He has been writing all his life. He is more fecund and fertile than any public man or farmer in Nebraska. He is felicitously facile in alliterative allegory. He writes deeper than most of his brother farmers plough, and his style is as radiant and pleasing as the morn. Mr. Morton is more familiar with the steel pen than with anything else, save, possibly, the cow pen and the hog pen.

The assurance of those Omaha people is sublime. The projectors of the Trans Mississippi and International exposition having secured \$10,650 in subscriptions the Omaha newspapers announce that the scheme is now "fully under way" and its success is now assured. The fact that the exposition