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any application for office from this state.

The nominee of the republican convention is, in many respects, a remarkable man. Not since the days of Lincoln and Grant has a public man in this country become such a popular idol, and Lincoln was brought to public notice under unique conditions, and Grant was made a public hero through the events of the civil war. Blaine blazed a more or less spectacular way through public opinion, and had many followers. But given as he was to twisting the British lion's tail, to spreadeagling and to making brilliant appeals to the imagination and patriotism of the American people, he never attained the remarkable personal triumph that is McKinley's today. Two things have given McKinley his great popularity, his conspicuous identification with the great principle that, through persistent republican policy and recent democratic maladministration has at last come to be regarded as the essential American principle; and his great strength of character that has in the last two years impressed people of all shades of political belief. Without parade or demonstration of any sort Mr. McKinley has come to be known as a careful, conservative, able, intensely patriotic, strong-willed, high-minded, honest man—in the highest sense the typical American; and certain other traits of character as exemplified in his private life have endeared him to the people and given him a peculiar place in their affections. Mr. McKinley is today the foremost American, representing all that is noblest and best in the American character and standing for that which is honest and true and patriotic in governmental policy. The republican party has never gone to the people with a stronger candidate. He is strong in his republicanism, strong in his individuality and character.

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JOHN M. THURSTON

BY CARL SMITH

Since that memorable summer day eight years ago when John M. Thurston burst full panoplied into political existence by the simple means of a picturesque speech, in which he alluded to James G. Blaine as the later Henry of Navarre, who "in the sublime magnanimity of his incomparable greatness," had set aside the gift of the presidency, the Nebraska lawyer has become a fixed star in the political firmament, and today he is approaching his greatest degree of magnitude Tomorrow, or as soon thereafter as practicable, he will be chosen as permanent chairman of the national convention and will make one big speech and shortly after he will nominate, or, rather, second the nomination of Maj. McKinley, and will then make an even bigger talk. In the convention He will crowd Foraker aside from the honor of being the fine figure of the McKinley movement, and will push right along to his cabinet position covered with the picturesque ornamentation of vivid acclaim—as he would put it himself Judge Thurston is by long the strong man of the McKinley movement. They talk about Hanna. Pshaw! The hogs are in the alley with high fences on either side, and, of course Hanna can't drive them along. It took much of the finesse and political acumen of Thurston to get them into the alley for Hanna's driving.

Foraker ought to be the sagacious and flowery head of the McKinley movement, but the folk here have an idea that there is celluloid under most of Foraker's love for his fellow-Ohioan and that the rag need not be very wet

to rub it off. Thurston has the confidence of the router from Hoophole township and of the moneyed manufacturer with steel rails and woollen clothes to sell. Judge Thurston—there it is again—the title comes easy, although, as is frequently the case, the senator's judicial career has been bounded by the four walls of the office of a justice of the peace. By force of ability alone he developed from his justice shop to the halls of statecraft—if statecraft has halls worth mentioning. It is not the slightest disparagement of his abilities that his title of judge is something on which he could not "prove up" and get a good, sound deed. He doesn't need it in his business, anyway.

Two men equally equipped went out from Nebraska to attend that celebrated convention which nominated Harrison eight years ago. Both were lawyers of the best caliber, both were railroad attorneys. Both were clever and shrewd politicians. One of them, Charles J. Greene, is still the head of the Burlington's legal business in Nebraska, being overtopped only by Senator Manderson, the line's general solicitor; the other, John M. Thurston, is a United States senator and a probable secretary of state. Starting from the same scratch line these two men have fallen farther apart yearly until now Greene is not even familiar to the councils of his ward club in Omaha, while Thurston is fixing up to fool around among ambassadors and barons and things at Washington. This same John M. Thurston was four years ago only two removes from the

presidency of the United States. Had the postponed Blaine movement been successful at Minneapolis the ticket would have read: "Blaine and Thurston." The second remove was election. The ticket mentioned, had it been elected over Cleveland and Stevenson combination, would have arranged things so that instead of Thurston being here in St. Louis battling for McKinley he—having profited by Blaine's death—would be waiting at the end of a telegraph line at Washington for news from out the westland concerning his nomination to succeed himself. One or two ifs can do a great deal of damage if fate only places them carefully.

Mr. Thurston is practically the owner of this convention. Except for McKinley he will himself be the fat woman, the bearded lady, the tattooed giant and the glass eater from Borneo combined. He has already planned for two speeches, and he has words enough up his sleeves and secreted elsewhere about his person to respond to the demands of any emergency. What he says goes just as forcefully as does that which Hanna says.

CLEAN CANDIDATES.

John T. Mallaleu, chairman of the republican state central committee, has the interests of the party and the welfare of the state very much at heart. He is very anxious that the candidates for office on the republican ticket this year shall be clean men. To this end he gathered up all the candidates he could find in the city one night this week and took them to the sanitarium, where they were all given a bath in the pool. The clean candidates are: W. M. Geddes, A. E. Cady, George Eckles and prominent citizens George A. Day, Dick Smith and Charles Sutphen.