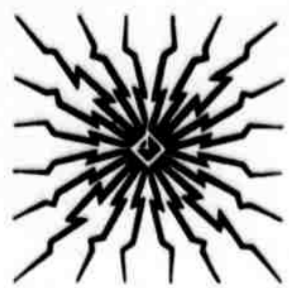


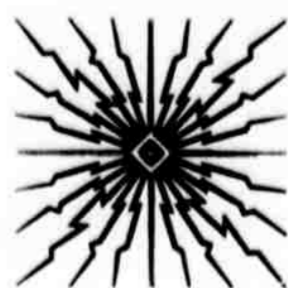
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POLITICAL TALK

Ex-Governor John M. Thayer, in discussing the circulation of Major Calhoun's petition among republicans the other day, said: "I understand more than 200 old Union soldiers have signed Calhoun's petition, and that they have signed it because he is an ex-confederate soldier, in order to show that they had no feeling against him on that account. Now, I do not wish to bring up the old war question in connection with Calhoun; I am not fighting against his selection as postmaster, but I cannot help reminding the old soldiers that by asking for Calhoun's appointment they have given him the preference for the reason that he was in the rebel army. They endorse him on that account. How does that look to them? But I have heard it said, 'I prefer a rebel soldier to one who was a northern copperhead during the war.' So say I, every time. I heartily endorse that sentiment; but are we to conclude that there is no competent democrat in Lincoln worthy to be postmaster who was loyal and patriotic during the late war? I am not willing to admit that. In my judgment the old soldiers, including myself, have made fools of ourselves, and I took the first occasion to relieve myself from that disagreeable predicament. Certain democrats laid a nice little trap for us. In the coming campaign, when we charge that the southern brigadiers in the late struggle to overthrow the government are now in control of the presidency and both houses of congress, they, the democrats, will point to the fact that the union veterans of Lancaster county endorsed an ex-confederate to be postmaster of Lincoln, and will naturally ask, what have you to say against the southern brigadiers? What have we republicans to do with this contest, anyhow. It is not our funeral We ought to be, and I am, in the position of the old woman in that terrific contest between her husband and the bear: 'Go it old bruin, go it old hose, I don't care a continental which gets licked.' It really does me good to see the fight in the democratic ranks go on; my health improves on it; it is as good as a tonic. Oh, the harmonious democracy!" General Thayer has written to the postmaster-general asking that his name be taken from the petition.

As matters begin to take tangible shape, politically, it becomes manifest that in the republican ante convention campaign this year, the situation will possess at least one unusual feature. In

the first congressional district, it is going to be the field against the Nemaha county politician, Church Howe, and in the state it is going to be the field against the Nemaha county politician, Tom Majors. At this moment it cannot be said that Howe's prospects for the congressional nomination are nil; neither can Majors aspirations for the governorship be regarded lightly. Both men are very much in earnest, and they are prepared to make a hard fight.

Majors will have the Bee's more or less violent opposition, the opposition of the working element of the state central committee, and there is, moreover, a considerable feeling of hostility among members of the party generally, the opinion being expressed that Majors has carried his fight far enough. In his campaign for the congressional nomination Howe may have the silence of the Bee, but not any active help, and he will be opposed by the anti-Rosewater republicans. Lancaster county will select from its three soi-disant candidates, and presenting a solid front Lancaster will be a formidable obstacle in Howe's way. Church is working his preliminary canvass chiefly on the old soldier question.

In this city it is evident that Judge Waters will have some opposition in the approaching spring campaign; but from the present outlook it is altogether probable that Waters will be renominated. Some activity is already manifest in the wards and there is a prospect of some lively contests. H. B. Sawyer, out in the Sixth has a just claim to the title of coming man. In the Fourth O. W. Webster will be a candidate for renomination. Chris Camp is also a candidate in this ward. Moseley will have some opposition in the Fifth.

A growing tendency of Americans is thus caricatured by a contemporary: "The formation of the Society of Descendants of Soldiers of the Colonial Wars will be followed, I am sure, by a Society of Descendants of the Men and Women of the Colonial Peace. You can be a governor-general, a deputy governor-general, and so on in the former, and get just as good an office in the latter at the same price. Certain it is that every American is descended from somebody, and certain it seems to be that he must belong to a society of the descendants of somebody or the sons of whatyoumaycallit. I know no people more covetous of ancestral distinction than my esteemed countrymen in this republic, where hereditary honors are supposed not to count. From the society of the Cincinnati to the Gentlemen's Sons of the Sixt' Ward, the pas-

sion rules. Give us plenty of red sashes and ribbons, a military cap or a cocked hat to wear upon our simple republican heads, a wreath of medals and badges upon our rejoicing breasts, bright war-like trussers and miscellaneous togs, and a scabbard whacking away at our shrunk shanks, and we are as happy as a Guinea nigger with a stovepipe hat. An office for every man, the more ponderous and oriental the title the better, a chance to be enrolled among the descendants of somebody, or in some society of great name, a chance to march in procession and to hear speeches at "banquets," and our hearts are as cork. Hurrah for us, the only people that loves simplicity, detests flummery, abhors titles, and hates vain pomp and show! Hurrah for us, I say, and let every hand wave the plumed crest!"

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