PART TWO.

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THE PARTY LEADERS

Some of the Men Who Head the Great Reform Movement.

THEY COME FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE

Farmers, Artisans, Prohibitionists and Machine Politicians Upon One Platform.

MEN WHO HAVE FOUGHT IN ALL PARTIES

Some Have Won Renown While Only Notoriety Belongs to Others.

SOME PRESIDENTIAL POSSIBILITIES

Story of the Life of the Van Wycks, Peffers, Simpsons, McKeighans, Donnellys and Other Shining Lights Among the Modern Apostles of Reform.

Some interesting people are figuring in the present big convention. Many of them have cut wide swaths during the past year in the political field and have national fame or notoriety. Some of them, and they are prominent too, are surprises that resulted from the political revolution of 1890, while others are old war horses who have sniffed the battle in the ranks of the republican and democratic parties and have been forced by the turn of the political wheel to choose between rear seats in the old parties and chances for preferment in the reform movement. Appended are sketches of some of the prominent workers in the convention.

Charles H. Van Wyck.

Charles H. Van Wyck has been congressman from New York and senator from Nebraska, pioneer, soldier and lawyer, and now he is in private life, but an active worker in the farmers alliance and people's party movements. He was in congress as a republican, but opposed the railroads with a good deal of energy, and in consequence was found lying outside the breastworks when the Nebraska legislature chose a senator in 1887.

He was born at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., in 1824; was graduated from Rutgers college, New Jersey, after which he studied law; was admitted to the bar and was soon elected district attorney for Sullivan county, New York. He gained popularity so fast that in 1858 he was nominated for congress by the republicans of that district, and though the democratic majority had been 1,200 he completely reversed it and was elected by nearly the same majority, assisted greatly, no doubt, by the general political "stump" of that year.

In 1860 he was re-elected, and while holding his seat in congress was made colonel of the Tenth Legion, or Fifty-sixth New York volunteers. He served in the Army of the Potomac to the close of the war, became a

brigadier general, and in 1866 and 1868 was re-elected to congress. Soon after the war closed General Van Wyck and a party of colonists traversed Iowa in wagons and made a location just west of the Missouri, where Nebraska City now is. After closing his fourth term as a New York congressman he located in Nebraska, where he soon became a member of the constitutional convention, and was for three terms a member of the state senate.

It was at the session of 1881 that he was elected United States senator to succeed A. S. Paddock, and his career in that position was stormy from the start. He had been elected partly because of a growing popular feeling against railroads, and the more he was thwarted the more radical he grew, till he parted company with his republican associates, and anti-railroadism, so to speak, became his absorbing passion. He stood quite alone in the senate, and attacked powerful corporations of every kind.

As matters then were a man might as well have gone to Mecca to preach against Mohammedanism as to talk against corporations in the United States senate, or even in the Nebraska legislature. Some of his fellow senators made it almost a personal matter to see that he was defeated, and the argument most vigorously used against him was that he "could not be depended on to vote with his party." Add that he favored a reduction of the tariff, and it will be seen that he could not be re-elected. Hon. Algernon S. Paddock regained the seat and Mr. Van Wyck, now freed from party obligations, naturally became an alliance man and prominent in the people's party. He is possessed of a moderate competence and enjoys a profitable law practice.

H. L. Loucks.

The vice president of the National Farmers Alliance and Industrial Union, Mr. H. L. Loucks, was born in 1846, in Ontario, Canada. He is a practical farmer and a college graduate. His earnest, kindly nature has always impelled him to active participation in whatever reform or beneficent under-

takings were next at hand. He was worthy chief of the Independant Order of Good Templars of Canada before he was 25 years old. He has lived on his farm near Clear Lake, S. D., for several years, and during that time he has been one of the influential men of the state.

The first independent or people's party convention growing out of alliance education was held in Dakota June 7, 1890, and was called by Mr. Loucks and Mr. Wardall. This convention antedated the Kansas people's party organization, and makes Dakota, rather than the former state, the birthplace of the great organized political revolt against the two old parties, which has been steadily gaining strength since its inception.

Mr. Loucks was the candidate for governor on the people's party ticket in their first state campaign, and made a powerful canvass. He was the president of the National Farmers alliance, or open alliance, which, by the way, is the older organization, when in its most flourishing condition, but resigned his position, believing that the secret methods of the Farmers Alliance and Industrial Union would prove more effective, and also that the strength of the farmers of the nation should be concentrated in one national body.

Mr. Loucks is editor of the official paper of the Dakota alliance. Much of his work, his speaking and writing, for several years has been done under such distressing invalidism as to render it heroic. Within the last year he has suffered the amputation of a leg, since which time his health has become restored.

H. E. Taubeneck.

Of all the new men brought into sudden prominence by the farmers alliance vote in 1890 not one occupied at first so picturesque and painful a position as Hon. H. E. Taubeneck of the Illinois state senate. The election of a United States senator practically depended on him at the very time he was compelled to go to a deal of trouble to prove he was not an escaped convict.

In the legislature 101 Democrats voted 150 times for General John M. Palmer, not counting an exceptional ballot when a democrat traded with an alliance man. Similarly 100 republicans voted for the reelection of Charles B. Farwell. This left

the decision in the hands of three alliance men—Moore, Cockrell and Taubeneck. It is scarcely necessary to add that there was some very energetic labor to enlighten the understanding of these three gentlemen, who persisted in voting for A. J. Streeter. In the hottest part of the conflict the story was circulated and published in various papers that H. E. Taubeneck was one Carr, alias Rogers, who had been in the Ohio penitentiary for forgery and had escaped by a curious fraud.

Mr. Taubeneck proved that he was born at Terre Haute, Ind., in 1855; that he was reared on a farm near Marshall, Ill., and had never been east of Terre Haute before his election, and incidentally that he was a bachelor in good standing and had been engaged all his life in farming and the lumber business. Nevertheless certain politicians of his county of Clarke sent his photograph to Columbus, O., and got from officials of the prison a statement that it was wonderfully like the escaped Rogers. Then there was a first class row in the Illinois legislature; a committee was sent to the Columbus penitentiary and Mr. Taubeneck went with it.

Judge William A. McKeighan.

The more one investigates the political cyclone of 1890 the more surprises he finds in it. That many old standbys, like Ingalls, Cannon & Co., should be laid aside is less surprising than that so many very new men should have come in—such as Peffer, Simpson, Kyle & Co. But a closer examination shows that these so called new men really had records in their states before entering on the national arena.

There, for instance, is Judge William Arthur McKeighan, congressman from the Second Nebraska district by virtue of 36,104 votes, against 21,776 for the republican and 1,220 for the prohibitionist. He is jocularly referred to as the homeliest man in congress and doesn't mind it at all, for he is a philosopher. It is said at his home that there are but three thoroughly homely men in Nebraska, "Dan Nettleton is one and Will McKeighan is the other two." He has displayed the usual good taste of homely men by marrying a smart and pretty woman, Miss Lois E. Brown of Fulton county, Illinois.

He was born in Cumberland county, New Jersey, January 19, 1842, went with his parents to Fulton county, Illinois, in 1848, and gained an unusually good common school education there, becoming noted even

in boyhood for general information. Early in the war he enlisted in the Eleventh Illinois cavalry, of which Bob Ingersoll was colonel, and served till near the close. He then settled on a farm near Pontiac, Ill., took an active part in organizing the farmers, and ran once for congress, but was defeated. In 1880 he located in Nebraska, settling near Red Cloud, was made county judge of Webster county in 1885, and the next year was the democratic candidate for congress against Hon. James Laird.

He was defeated, but acquired a reputation as a "stump speaker" equaled by very few. His supporters love to tell how successive champions of the republican policy were called to meet him, and how none of them was anxious to meet him the second time. His career in Nebraska is a sort of comedy in itself, as he was living in a sod house when elected to congress—one he put up immediately after the grasshoppers evacuated, as he says. It is much more comfortable than an eastern reader would think, as it has three rooms, and the sod walls are built to a plank frame. Politically Mr. McKeighan accepts the people's party platform as an entirety. He was recently nominated for congress in the Fifth Nebraska district, comprising the west three-fourths of his old district.

Jerry Simpson.

The representative of the Seventh Kansas district in the Fifty-second congress is indeed a remarkable American, but not by birth a United Statesian, for he is a native of New Brunswick. He entered congress by reason of a political cyclone, and it is an odd coincidence that the first complimentary notice of him which can be found in print was in connection with a storm. Here are the original entries from which the notice was made up:

"Barge J. H. Rutter, Commander Jerry Simpson, towed by steamer H. V. Ketcham, left port for Chicago 29th of October, 1878; storm off Point Betsey and parted from Ketcham 31st; anchored off Luddington leaking badly; severe storm from southwest November 1; foundered; crew rescued by life saving station off Point Betsey; cargo, 46,249 bushels corn, 18,750 bushels rye."

Commander Jerry Simpson received great praise for his skill as a sailor, especially while in command of the Rutter and other vessels

owned by Curtis & Brainard of Toledo. But this shipwreck let him out. He abandoned the raging main of the lakes and located in windy Kansas. The result is he is now famous as the statesman of Medicine Lodge and figures in current satire as the "Sockless Cicero of the Sunflower State." But a few popular errors should be corrected at the start. Jerry is his real name and not a nickname. He is not at all an illiterate man, but above the average of laboring men in education. And finally, he not only wears socks, but dresses like any other gentleman, according to his means and the work he is engaged in, and he is a devotee of the bicycle and one of the most skillful wheelers in Washington.

He was born in New Brunswick March 31, 1842, but was taken by his parents to Oneida county, New York, at the age of 6. At 14 he became a sailor on the lakes and remained in that work about twenty-three years, excepting the time he served in the Twelfth Illinois infantry. In 1878 he reached Kansas, and in due time pitched his tent about six miles from Medicine Lodge, in Barber county, where he has subsequently been engaged in farming and stock raising.

His political experience has been truly tempestuous—quite as stormy as his life on the lakes. An original abolitionist, so far as a boy could be one, he cast his first vote in 1864 for Abraham Lincoln. He adhered to the republican party till the great financial overturn of 1873, thence became a greenbacker, and in due course of evolution an alliance and people's party man. He ran twice for the legislature as an independent and lost the election both times by very small pluralities. In 1890 he received 32,683 votes to 25,181 for James R. Hollowell, republican.

Dr. C. W. Macune.

Since the death of President Polk, the man occupying the most important place in the National Farmers Alliance and Industrial Union has been Dr. C. W. Macune. He is chairman of the national executive board and editor-in-chief of the National Economist, the official organ of the national alliance, published at the national headquarters, Washington, D. C. He is also at the head of the large alliance publishing house at the same place.

Dr. Macune was born on a Wisconsin farm in 1851, and is of Scotch-Irish descent. His common school education, at Freeport, Ill., was supplemented by a course of law study and afterward of medicine. In 1887 he set-

ed down to practice medicine in Milam county, Texas. His early life having been passed on a farm, he was entirely familiar with the conditions which gave rise to the farmers alliance; and after becoming a member his services were soon in demand to further the work of that organization in Texas. He was first chairman of the state executive board, then president of the state alliance, and later, president of the national alliance, which position he held until 1889.

For some years previous to the St. Louis convention, Dr. Macune had given close study to our financial system, out of which thought he formulated a report, which has since become famous as "the subtreasury plan," the most vital feature of which he believes to be the provision for a flexible currency, conforming to the annual fluctuations in the money market caused by the moving of the great crops, cotton, corn and wheat.

W. A. Peffer.

There is a remarkable contrast between John James Ingalls and his senatorial successor, William Alfred Peffer. True, both are tall and thin, but Ingalls is thin like a yardstick, or an iron ramrod, while Peffer is thin like a string. One somehow gets the impression that if Peffer should sit down hard he would collapse, while if Ingalls should do the same he would go through an ordinary chair like a spike. His words come out like arrows from a strong bow, while those of his successor seem to flow with a sort of soft ministerial murmur. The difference is organic—it runs through the whole physical and mental structure, the one being sarcastic and cutting, the other singularly mild, downy and unaggressive in general style.

William Alfred Peffer was born on a farm in Cumberland county Pennsylvania, September 10, 1831, his parents being of German blood. He gained his education at the common schools, and became a teacher at the early age of 15, teaching in winter and working on a farm in the summer. In 1852 he

married a lady whose good judgment has been of very material use to him. Her father was William Barber, an English immigrant, who built the first paper mill in Cumberland county. Around his mill a village grew up, now called Mount Holly Springs, and there they were married when she was 20 years old.

In 1853 they removed to St. Joseph county, Ind.; in 1859 to Morgan county, Mo., and in 1862 to Illinois, where he enlisted in company F of the Eighty-third Illinois infantry. He became in turn lieutenant, adjutant, regimental quartermaster, judge advocate of a military commission and depot quartermaster at Nashville. During all this time he sent home most of his salary, and his wife invested it so judiciously that they were in good fix financially at the close of the war. He had also studied law in the intervals of camp duty and practiced at Clarksville, Tenn., from 1865 to 1870, when he removed to Kansas.

It is an odd fact that he published a "Tariff Manual" in 1888, which the republicans thought good enough to use as a text book, though he is a very moderate protectionist. His article in The Forum on the general condition of farmers attracted a great deal of attention, and his economic work entitled "The Way Out," published in 1890, has had a wide circulation. He flatly declares that when he was a boy on his father's 160 acre farm in Pennsylvania, when almost everything was done by hand, the farmers were really better off than now. In short, he claims that owing to bad politics the farmers have lost the benefits of progress and invention, and so he advocates the measures proposed by the alliance. He is also a prohibitionist in principle and a consistent member of the church.

A very curious complication was developed. Mr. Taubeneck certainly did resemble Carr, alias Rogers, except that he was very much taller, and it so happened that he had gone to Dakota some time before Carr, alias Rogers, was arrested, and returned after the latter's release. He was nominated as an independent candidate, and then the penitentiary story was started, and good judges think this caused his election, as many of his old neighbors and friends got indignant on his behalf. Suffice it to add that his innocence was conclusively proved, and on the 154th ballot the independents in the legislature united with the democrats, and General Palmer was made senator. Mr. Taubeneck is an alliance man from away back and enthusiastic for the people's party.

Alonzo Wardall.

If, in this composite nation of ours, there be a type distinctively American, then Mr. Alonzo Wardall is one of its clear-cut representatives. Born in 1845, in a Wisconsin log cabin, before Wisconsin was a state, Mr. Wardall has lived a frontiersman all his life. Farm work at early morning and late night, with country school sandwiched between

took up the winters of his boyhood until he went a soldiering. All through the war he went without a scratch or one sick day. His superabundant flow of animal spirits, his quick perception of the humorous, imparted strength and lent support in many a doleful situation. Always as full of jollity and jokes, quaint and original, as of brave endurance and strong-armed helpfulness for a sick or wounded comrade, no long march fagged him. No lack of hard tack checked his cheeriness.

Home from the war before he was 20, he entered Cedar Valley seminary, Wisconsin, where he graduated after four years. Mr. Wardall's splendid health has enabled him to do hard farm work that would have broken down most men; yet, withal, his reading was kept up, and his earnest thought was constantly seeking ways and means to lend a hand to such as had fallen behind in the life struggle.

When the old Wisconsin home became too closely environed by civilization, the pioneer spirit of Mr. Wardall took him to a newer section of country in Iowa. About this time the grange movement sprung up and in its activities he found elbow room for large, helpful work. He was one of the chief leaders in the people's revolt in Iowa which changed the political complexion of that state several years ago, and compelled attention to the needs and wishes of the farmers.

The accomplished work of civilization crowded once again and love of pioneering drew Mr. Wardall Dakotaward. The grange, as a forerunner and preparation for a larger scope of thought touching the problems and maladjustments of the business side of agriculture, had performed its mission and declined, but the evolution of thought went on and found expression in the newer organization of the farmers alliance.

Mr. Wardall was one of the four or five men whose energy and ability organized the alliance in Dakota, and gained for it that footing which made it something of a dictator in political matters in that state. He is a member of the executive board of the National Farmers Alliance and Industrial Union, with headquarters at Washington, D. C. His time is chiefly devoted to the insurance feature of the organization. Mr. Wardall is a strong advocate of woman suffrage, and is also inclined to be something of a prohibitionist, but he is content to let those ideas rest temporarily and devote his efforts to putting the new party on its feet.

O. M. Kem.

The political revolution of 1890 was prolific of surprises, but in no district was the surprise greater than in the Third Nebraska. Messrs. Simpson, Peffer and Kyle are indeed new men, but the Hon. Omer Madison Kem is, if possible, a little bit newer than either of them. A very practical farmer and unknown outside of his county, he received the independent nomination for congress, put in twelve weeks at campaigning, with a supposed republican majority of 12,000 in the district, and defeated the popular George W. Dorsey by 31,831 votes to 22,353.

Such facts would make a man prominent in spite of himself, and Mr. Kem has so far borne his honors well. He was born November 13, 1855, in Wayne county, Indiana, in the most radical section of the famous old "Burnt District," so called because it was the original abolition belt of Indiana, the district which sustained George W. Julian so long and faithfully. Mr. Kem was reared on a farm, received a common school education, married at the age of 20, and in 1882 went to Custer county, Nebraska, and homesteaded 160 acres three and a half miles from "the now thriving town of Broken Bow," as the local account puts it.

In January, 1889, he was appointed deputy of the county treasurer and removed to Broken Bow, was nominated as a farmers' man and elected to the Fifty-second congress as aforesaid. His supporters proudly announce that he spoke in every one of the fifty-six counties of his district, made friends everywhere, and did not purchase a single glass of liquor for himself or any one else. He has long been an advocate in a quiet way of many of the reforms demanded by the new party, assisted in organizing the alliance and has been an active and prominent member of it.

Senator J. H. Kyle.

Senator James Henderson Kyle of South Dakota represents the possibilities of young America. He is the incarnation of western capacity for sudden change and phenomenal skill in seizing opportunities. A little over two years ago he was as thoroughly obscure as any young missionary in the west. In February, 1891, the South Dakota legislature sent him to the United States senate for six years, and better than all, perhaps, he is absolutely unpledged to any man or platform, and has free course to run and be glorified.

He has views, however, and very decided ones. He calls himself and indecrat—that is half democrat and wholly independent—believes in the general principles of the farmers alliance, wants a heavy reduction of the tariff, no national banks and a system of taxation which will check the present tendency toward the concentration of wealth. He was born near Xenia, O., February 24, 1854, of Scotch parents, and was graduated from Oberlin college in 1878, studied law awhile, but changed his mind and took a course at the Western Theological seminary at Allegheny, Pa., from which he was graduated in 1882. After three years in Utah he located at Aberdeen, S. D., in 1885.

On July 4, 1890, his hour struck, his star arose, his good genius got on deck, or any other metaphor you care to use. The people had gathered to a big Fourth of July celebration, the orator of the day failed to arrive and the managers asked the preacher who had invoked the divine blessing on the exercises to say a few words. He spoke just half an hour and captured the audience. His theme was briefly this: The concentration of wealth is the ruin of a republic; it has destroyed all free governments where it has prevailed, and at present rates will soon destroy this; therefore the farmers and other laborers must act together and devise a fiscal and industrial system which will reverse the present process.

The applause was great and in a few days the orator was the most talked about man in that section. At the next election he was chosen state senator. The legislature had a deadlock just like that in Illinois. Whether any "arrangement" was made as charged need not be discussed here. Suffice it that the democrats in South Dakota gave way and joined in electing a third party man, and the third party man in the Illinois legislature joined in electing General Palmer, democrat.

To call it a surprise would be too mild a term. A majority of the politicians of his state did not even know him by sight. His colleague for the next four years, Senator Pettigrew, and the man whose place he takes, Senator Moody, had seen him but once before he entered congress, and then but for a few minutes. He is quite unconventional, but fell in readily with the ways of the senate. And finally he is six feet high and well muscled, a Congregationalist preacher and an advocate of prohibition and woman suffrage.

J. B. Weaver.

"Who can be found to beat Weaver?" This was the long standing conundrum for the republicans of the Sixth Iowa district, and at the first they did not solve it for themselves. The democrats did it for them by nominating another man. After this, however, General Weaver came again, and only the flood of 1888 enabled the republicans to elect Hon. John F. Lacey of Oskaloosa.

General Weaver's success is due to his native abilities, his brilliant army record, the popular confidence in his integrity, to his winning manners and to a great extent, it must be admitted, to the weakness of his opponents. He was born in Dayton, O., June 12, 1833, was graduated at the law school of the Ohio university at Cincinnati in 1854, enlisted as a private at the beginning of the war, and advanced in rank with a rapidity equaled in very few cases. He was elected first lieutenant of company G of the Second Iowa infantry, attained the rank of major October 3, 1862, and as both his colonel and lieutenant were killed at the battle of Corinth, he was made colonel. Finally he was brevetted brigadier general "for gallantry on the field—to date from March 13, 1863."

In 1866 he was elected district attorney of the Second judicial district of Iowa, and in 1867 was appointed assessor of internal revenue for the Fifth district of the state, an office he held for six years. He then edited the Iowa Tribune of Des Moines, and was elected as an independent republican to the Forty-sixth congress. Men of his way of thinking, however, were even then organizing a new party, and in 1880 he became the greenbackers' candidate for president. Excluding doubtful and fusion tickets he received 307,740 votes. He then resumed private life and professional duties for a time, but in 1884-6 was re-elected to congress, as aforesaid.

No man in the Fiftieth congress was better informed on parliamentary rules, as he conclusively proved by holding the house in a deadlock for several days on a question regarding the Oklahoma reservation. Even then he was regarded as a sort of stormy petrel in politics, not a straightout democrat, and certainly not a republican. In his first campaign he scarcely had the backing of any party, and his nomination was, in the politician's phrase, "decidedly irregular," yet he made a crossroads canvass among the farmers and defeated one of the brainiest republicans in the state.

In 1884 the republican candidate, Captain Frank T. Campbell, was a national banker; so the old greenbackers rallied to General Weaver, and in 1886 something else handicapped the republicans. Seeing him thus victorious in a confessedly republican district, the country began to look on General Weaver as a mascot, but in 1888 the republicans succeeded in uniting on a strong man, and remanded the general to private life and people's party politics.

Mrs. M. E. Lease.

Kansas has a trio of whom all the world has heard—Peffer, Simpson and Lease. Perhaps this is not a very polite way of stating it, for the last named is a lady, but as she is as good a politician as either of the others, and a far more effective orator, let it stand. She is of Irish birth and about 40 years old, yet she was as obscure as any other farmer's wife, when she suddenly blazed forth and astonished the country in the campaign of 1890. Women do such things in Kansas.

The parents of Mrs. Mary E. Lease emigrated to the United States when she was a child, and her father and two brothers gave their lives for the cause of the union. One brother died in Andersonville prison. She married quite young, has several children, and her home is in Wichita, where her husband is a druggist. When her children got old enough not to need constant attention, or, more correctly speaking, when the older ones got able to take care of the younger, she resumed the studies which her early marriage had stopped.

From her experience she had concluded that the life of the average wife and mother is too narrow and therefore has a tendency to belittle the intellect. Deeming law the best science to develop the intellect, she studied it long and earnestly and was admitted to the bar. She is still a member of the Wichita bar, but her eloquence is now exerted in a much wider field. Many enthusiastic admirers say she is the smartest woman in America, while as many critics say that her style is painfully masculine and vituperative, and her expressions of vengeance unwomanly. She was a great factor in defeating Senator Ingalls, and his comment is highly relished by her opponents. He said, when she spoke of him after his defeat, "Tell her that men's enmity ends with the battle; only women and savages scalp the dead."

Her speech before the Women's Christian Temperance union at Washington created something very like a riot—indeed, it would have been a riot in a meeting of men. She was the last speaker on the program for the day and had not proceeded far before there was hissing. She declared that she was used to that and went on. She shouted that as to the farmers alliance congressmen, "neither the liquor traffic, Wall street nor the gates of hell shall prevail against them!" and several of the ladies left the hall. It was scripture, but they were not used to it in such a connection.

She is not pretty, and neither is she bad looking. In build she is what a man would be called "wiry"—that is, delicate looking, but vigorous. Her voice is splendid and her endurance is very great. She is of course an ardent advocate of the people's party doctrines. She may be styled the Miriam of the exodus, the Joan of Arc of the opening war, the stormy petrel of Kansas politics, or any other title that indicates daring, devotion and a certain divine fury.

Ignatius Donnelly.

Ignatius Donnelly may be portrayed as lawyer or congressman, reformer, literary man or politician, and in each and all these roles he is the same brilliant and erratic, sometimes provoking and always interesting character. His first battle royal was with "the Washburnes," and it is scarcely necessary to add that he was badly defeated. His last, with the Pioneer Press of St. Paul, was not less disastrous. In the meantime he has tackled the geologists, the antiquarians and believers in Shakespeare, the bankers and the railroads, has been occasionally successful, and has always furnished a good deal of fun.

Even his name is suggestive of trouble, for the Donnellys of Ireland were fighters from away back, while St. Ignatius, as all readers of church history remember, lived at war with the party in power and died by the tooth of wild beasts in a Roman amphitheater. It is only a coincidence, but an odd one, that the dispute about the genuineness of Ignatius' epistles has been ten times hotter and forty times longer than that about Shakespeare. This modern Ignatius was born in Philadelphia November 3, 1831, graduated from the high school there, studied law and was admitted to practice in 1853. He married in 1855 and located in St. Paul in 1856, since which time his political career has been varied and yet on the whole successful.

He began life as an ardent democrat, and as such ran for the legislature in Pennsylvania, but was defeated. His first success was in being elected lieutenant governor of Minnesota. He was re-elected in 1861, and having become a pronounced republican on war and slavery issues, was elected to the Thirty-eighth, Thirty-ninth and Fortieth congresses. His verbal set-to with a fellow member in 1868 was one of the congressional scandals of the time. Both gentlemen were severely censured by other speakers, and Mr. Donnelly was at one time thought to be in danger of expulsion, but a humorous suggestion that the disputants "imitate the two secretaries (Thomas and Stanton) and go out and take a drink," restored the house to good humor and the proceedings were dropped.

He was pronounced "politically dead" and went into literature. After various minor works, among them an "Essay on the Sonnets of Shakespeare," he produced "Atlantis, the Antediluvian World," an attempt to show that an immense island continent once extended from the West Indies almost to Europe; that civilization originated there and spread to both the adjacent continents; that this land sank, and that the islands are merely such parts of it as were too high to be submerged. Antiquarians unanimously looked on this book as a mere intellectual "sport," like those works written ostensibly to prove that there was no such man as Bonaparte, Cæsar, etc. Although convinced in time that the author really meant it, they declined to consider it seriously.

Next came his "Ragnarok," in which he attempts to prove that the clay, gravel, etc., of the drift resulted from the contact of a comet or some wandering planet with the earth. In the meantime he had engaged in farming in the northern part of Minnesota, and, according to his account, lost all he put into it, which prepared him for taking an active part in the farmers alliance movement. He has since secured a competency by professional and literary labor and lives in the enjoyment of rural life in a mansion overlooking the Mississippi at Nininger, Minn.

John H. Powers.

J. H. Powers was born in St. Clair county, Illinois, in 1831. A short time after his birth his parents moved to La Salle county, Illinois, where young Powers received a common school education and later became a district school teacher. At the breaking out of the war he enlisted in the One Hundred and Fourth Illinois infantry and fought throughout the conflict, returning to his home in La Salle county when peace was declared. In 1873, with his family he settled in the southern part of Hall county, Nebraska, where for fourteen years he was engaged in the business of farming. At the end of that time Mr. Powers removed to Hitchcock county, where he has since lived and followed farming as a profession.

In the anti-monopoly movement of 1881 Mr. Powers figured only as a local chief, but when the farmers alliance in Nebraska was organized Mr. Powers came to the front as one of its most trusted leaders. He drafted much of the constitution of the party as it now exists, and for four years has been president of the state organization, last year occupying the position of national president of the northwest association. He is a rugged, gray-whiskered man of 60, somewhat austere in manner, but thoroughly in earnest in his championship of the cause of the farmer.

Senator William M. Stewart.

The people's party may place in nomination for president, William Morris Stewart, United States senator from Nevada, and one of the best known men in the west. Mr. Stewart was born in Wayne county, New York, August 9, 1827, but was taken while a small child by his parents to Trumbull county, Ohio. He attended the Lyons Union school and the Farmington academy, and taught mathematics in the former school while yet a pupil. Hon. James C. Smith, one of the judges of the supreme court of New York, took a fancy to young Stewart and aided him in taking a course of study at Yale college. But the course was not completed. Young Stewart caught the gold fever and went to California, arriving in San Francisco in May, 1850. He immediately began work with a pick and shovel, and accumulated some cash. In 1852 he commenced the study of law, and in December following was appointed district attorney, re-elected to the office the following year, and in 1854 was appointed attorney general of California. He moved to Virginia City, Nevada, in 1860, and was interested in early mining litigation and the development of the Comstock lode. He was a member of the territorial council in 1861 and of the constitutional convention in 1863, was elected United States senator in 1864, and re-elected in 1869. In 1875 he resumed the practice of law in Nevada and California and was thus engaged when elected to the United States senate as a republican in 1887 to succeed James G. Fair, democrat. Senator Stewart lives at Carson City.

Thomas E. Watson.

Congressman Thomas E. Watson of Thompson, Ga., is likely to be the vice presidential nominee, whoever is named for the first place. He is 36 years of age, a native of Georgia and has been a schoolteacher, lawyer, farmer and politician. He was a member of the Georgia legislature in 1882 and a democratic elector in 1888. He was elected to congress as a democrat.

Denver Republican (rep.): Of course Judge Gresham will not make a national laughing stock of himself by consenting to become a candidate for president before the Omaha convention. He is a reformer, but he is not a blanked fool.

ORIGIN OF THE PARTY

History of the Steps Leading to a Coalition of the Reform Forces.

FIRST STEPS BY SOUTHERN FARMERS

Created in Texas to Prevent Further Spoliation of the Public Lands.

POLITICS BARRED OUT AT THE BAPTISM

Wonderful Rise and Growth and Woeful Fall of the Grange Movement.

NORTHERN FARMERS ESPOUSE THE CAUSE

Review of the Various Organizations and Their Final Union at Ocala and St. Louis—Platform on Which Omaha Delegates Stand.

A little more than twenty-five years ago the move was made that gave the farmers alliance its start.

Soon after the close of the war President Johnson sent an agent into the southern states to investigate the condition of the farmers in that section and report the result of his investigations. One of the results of that journey was the organization of what was known as the Patrons of Husbandry, commonly called the grange. It was organized in the city of Washington by seven persons, all but one of whom were employed in various departments of the government.

The object was to organize the farmers, not only of the south but of all parts of the country, for purposes of mutual protection against the encroachments of organized capital.

At that time the condition of the public mind in the south was suspicious and feverish; the people were distrustful of all propositions of a social or political character which did not originate among themselves; hence the new organization was not received kindly by the persons for whom it was chiefly intended.

Rise and Fall of the Grange.

The grange, however, grew with great rapidity, spreading all over the country, so that within the next seven years its membership was numbered by hundreds of thousands. But it lacked discipline, and after a wonderful growth of nine years it quite as rapidly receded from public view.

While it was the intention of the organizers that none but those directly interested in agriculture should be members, there was nothing in the constitution of the body to prevent any one from coming in, and in New York and Boston, and several other large cities, lawyers, bankers, loan agents, indeed, all classes of professional men, were members of the grange; in some instances, even stock gamblers posed as grangers. It was solely in order to relieve the body of this class of its members that a national meeting of the patrons was called at St. Louis in 1874, at which time and place a thorough revision of the constitution was effected, limiting the membership to the class that it was originally intended should form the working body of the order.

The action of that convention cut off every person who was not either practically engaged in the work of farming, or was so closely connected with it as to be to all intents and purposes a farmer. This included agricultural editors and those who were in any way directly interested in the practical work of farming. From that time forward the grange membership diminished yearly, and at the time of the celebration of the nation's centennial anniversary, two years later, the order had ceased to be strong, either socially or politically, and about that time the grange as an organization practically passed out of notice.

Birth of the Farmers Alliance.

As a child of the grange the farmers alliance was born. The first effort was made in Texas, the direct object of that first organization being to oppose the spoliation of the public lands of the Lone Star state. Bodies of speculators were gathering up those lands for the purpose of bringing to themselves wealth out of the increase in their value, and the farmers insisted that the public interests should take precedence of those of private individuals.

For two years the movement was purely local, and it was then deemed advisable to enlarge the scope and work of the alliance, so as to take in the farmers of the entire state and deal with public affairs generally. This extension of the purposes of the alliance occurred in 1879.

Politics Barred at the Baptism.

In organizing the state alliance everything of a partisan nature was excluded, its functions "being educational and its field of operations limited only by the boundaries of human exertion." Its purposes were declared to be as follows: (1) "To labor for the education of the agricultural classes in the science of economical government in a strictly nonpartisan spirit; (2) to develop a better state, mentally, morally, socially and financially; (3) to create a better understanding for sustaining civil officers in maintaining law and order; (4) constantly to strive to secure entire harmony and good will among all mankind and brotherly love among ourselves; (5) to suppress personal, local, sectional and national prejudice, all unhealthy rivalry and all selfish ambition." The declaration of purposes also declared that the laws of the farmers alliance "are reason and equity; its cardinal doctrines inspire purity of thought and life, and its intentions are peace on earth and good will toward men." These were the fundamental principles of the organization.

Drew the Color Line.

In 1882, the Texas state alliance was formally organized, and its membership was limited to white persons. In four years, eighty-two counties had become interested in and identified with the work of the new order.

A meeting was held at Waco, January 17, 1887, for the purpose of taking steps to bring into harmony with the alliance another organization of farmers in the state of Louisiana, known as the "Farmers Union." Delegates from the union were present and the two bodies united, taking the name of the "Farmers Alliance and Co-operative Union of America," with C. W. Macune as its president.

Spread to Other States.

Measures were taken at that meeting to extend the organization into other states, and in a short time the farmers alliance was operating in Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi.

At that time another farmers' organization known as the "Agricultural Wheel," was operating in the states of Arkansas, Missouri and Tennessee, the movement having begun in 1882.

A meeting was held at Shreveport, La., in October, 1887, for the purpose of merging the "wheel" into the farmers alliance, and the object was successfully accomplished. At that meeting, the states of Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee, Florida, Kentucky, North Carolina and Kansas were present and participated. This new organization, embracing the alliance, the union and the wheel, was finally named the "Farmers and Laborers Union of America."

Movement in the North and West.

It will be noticed that up to this time the farmers alliance was almost exclusively a southern institution. It was a secret order with grips and passwords. It had taken no action whatever in politics except by way of