

ance of his earnestness. Monday night the new telephone ordinance was read a second and third time and passed. Mr. Webster attempted to amend the ordinance, but the council, as a whole, wouldn't permit any tampering with the measure, and it was made a law as read, or rather it was made a law without being read. For the clerk was only permitted to read two sections. Now Sheibley is given credit for being an enterprising man, and some people say it will be a fine thing to have a new exchange. I do not think anyone will deny that Sheibley is enterprising; but there is room to doubt that he will put in a new exchange. There is reason to believe that he never intended to put in an exchange. The contracts which subscribers have signed do not obligate him in any respect. He is not bound to do anything and his business is all done in his own name "and assigns." The Harrison company does not appear in it at all, and people who have taken the trouble to inquire have learned that if the Harrison company is back of Mr. Sheibley's enterprise it is a very long back. I am safe in predicting that it will be a long time before there is a second telephone exchange in this city. Mr. Sheibley has been running a strong game of bluff. Pretty soon he may be in the market with his proposed exchange. Maybe he will work the Nebraska Telephone company and maybe he won't. But he has done some good anyway; for telephone rates have been reduced. The city council should be careful in cases of this kind. It should be thoroughly convinced of the sincerity of the promoter before it lends itself to his scheme, and commits the city to useless expense.

General Brooke, who for some years has been stationed at Omaha has been ordered to St Paul, and General Coppinger, one of the recently appointed brigadiers, is to take his place. The newspapers are full of more or less sensational accounts of how Colonel Coppinger secured promotion to a brigadier-generalship. According to one correspondent, Mrs. Blaine asked the president to promote her son-in-law, and the president acceded to her request on grounds wholly creditable to his heart, if not to his head. Now comes Mrs. Blaine's friends, or those who pretend to speak for her, with denial of the accuracy of this statement. "Mrs. Blaine had nothing to do with Coppinger's promotion," it was said by one of these friends, and it is probable that she was very much surprised upon learning of Coppinger's advancement. This denial would be more satisfactory if President Cleveland's testimony could be taken, as he is the only man able to set the matter at rest. Certain facts bearing upon the case are worth citing in this connection; for, if it was not Mrs. Blaine's influence that secured Colonel Coppinger's promotion, army officers would like to know whence the pressure came to induce President Cleveland to push Coppinger over the heads of five or six senior officers. Inquiry at the war department developed that not a single paper in favor of Coppinger's promotion was on file there, and there is plenty of authority in army circles that Coppinger could not have secured the endorsement of any officer of that line if he had asked for it. Again, it is known that Mrs. Blaine, during the past six weeks, has gone far out of her way to cultivate the friendship of certain members of the cabinet and certain officials of the war department. Finally, it is also known that Mrs. Blaine called on President Cleveland at his country seat a few days before Coppinger's promotion was announced.

"We are well satisfied concerning the influence which secured Coppinger's promotion," said an exceedingly well-informed army officer. "Mrs. Blaine call-

ed upon the president at Woodley and made a speech to him. She urged that General Harrison refused to promote her son-in-law notwithstanding her and her husband's most urgent appeals; that Mr. Blaine was dead; that her two sons were gone, and that in other ways death had entered her family; that the only request she had to make of the man who had beaten her dead husband for the presidency was the appointment of the husband of her daughter to a brigadier generalship. Mr. Cleveland is not the man to refuse such an appeal as this. He could not decline to grant a request put upon a basis of sentiment and gallantry in this manner. Harrison had refused her the same thing, although he well understood what the penalty would be. He knew Mrs. Blaine would stir her husband to opposition to the president's renomination—an expectation which was quickly verified. President Harrison told Secretary of War Elkins that he could not promote Coppinger because that officer was not competent to fill the post of brigadier general, and, having reached that conclusion Harrison was the man to stand to it in the face of all opposition and dispute, despite appeals."

When Benjamin Harrison comes to write his autobiography this Coppinger incident will make one of his most interesting chapters. The present controversy concerning the nature of the influence which induced President Cleveland to promote that officer seems trivial in comparison with the effects of General Harrison's refusal to do the same thing. General Harrison, if he wishes, will be able to tell how Mrs. Blaine lost her temper when he last refused her appeals, threatened him with defeat, slammed the door of the cabinet room and flew down stairs and across the park to the Blaine mansion. Mr. Harrison will be able to tell that within two hours Mr. Blaine's friends knew that his name could be used as a candidate for the presidential nomination in a last desperate effort to defeat the renomination of Harrison. If General Harrison chooses to carry his description of the episode to its logical conclusion he may attribute his defeat for a second term to his failure to accede to Mrs. Blaine's request in behalf of her much discussed but really very commonplace son-in-law. A good many astute politicians believe Harrison might have been re-elected but for the trouble which arose between him and Blaine, due to the machinations of Mrs. Blaine, and which had its effect upon a large number of voters in New York and other states.

#### IN THE FRIGID ZONES.

It was in the far and frigid north, where the aurora borealis lights up the icy wastes.

"Say!"—the voice of the elder Eskimo carried a world of menace in its tone.

"Does that young fellow from Upper Navik intend to stay all night?"

The eldest daughter of the house of Husky tossed her head.

"Pa!"

Her pretty lips formed into a pout.

"How can you talk so? He hasn't been here more than two months, and you know it?"

The old man remembered the four months of darkness yet to be, and as he heard the courting couple put more blubber on the fire, groaned, but said no more.

#### In New York.

Mme. Gotrocks—Tell me, how did he propose to you?

Mrs. Muchcash—Why he asked me to get a divorce from my present husband, of course.

#### POINTS IN POLITICS.

A. J. Cornish is a candidate for judge of the district court. Mr. Cornish is said to be having considerable luck in finding people who think he would make a good judge.

Jim Caldwell is another man who aspires to sit on the district bench. Both Cornish and Caldwell have served in the legislature; but they have reformed. They are both active republicans.

Charley Waite says there is no truth in the story that he will withdraw as a candidate for clerk of the district court.

J. D. Woods, who has served two terms as county clerk, has a good record as an official. Mr. Woods has given strict attention to the duties of his office.

A Fourth Ward Politician—"I don't believe there will be any contest between Hall and Holmes in the Fourth. I look to see both of these gentlemen get into the convention. A good many people are in favor of letting them name a delegation between them, the rest of the candidates in the ward to take their chances with the delegation."

Notwithstanding the fact that he lives in the Fourth ward there are people who believe Judge Lansing will be renominated.

One of the strongest candidates for county judge is John B. Cunningham of the Sixth ward.

There is a report that the deal is to nominate Long Legs Trompen for sheriff. It is by no means certain that Trompen could be elected. The republican candidate for this office should be a strong man.

Fritz Westermann, of the Third ward, has been talked of as a candidate for county judge.

Tom Munger has moved out of the Fifth Ward—at a time when there is a general movement of politicians toward this ward.

Most people regard the Civic Federation as hopelessly extinct, and there are not many who believe there will be a mugwump movement this fall.

A meeting of the executive committee of the state league of republican clubs will be held in this city the last of the month for the purpose of selecting delegates to the national convention.

Tom Pratt, of the Fourth ward, is a candidate for clerk of the district court.

A. M. Trimble, of Grant precinct, is a candidate for county clerk.

Kimmell, of the Fifth ward, is a candidate for clerk of the district court.

Hartley, of Bennett, is a candidate for county clerk.

John M. Stewart, of the Sixth ward, is a candidate for district judge.

So is A. W. Scott, of the same ward.

Judge Tibbets will be renominated by the democrats.

J. W. Kearns, of Bennett, is a candidate for county superintendent of schools. He has been principal of the school at Bennett for three years, and was formerly principal at Raymond.

The republican convention will probably be held in August, sometime between the 15th and the last of the month.

Charley Caldwell is said to have withdrawn as a candidate for sheriff.

E. Baker will run for clerk of the district court again. And his pace, like that of Fred Miller's, will not be slow.

#### CHARACTER SKETCH.

SECOND SERIES.

No. 6.

For some years he has exercised a wonderfully potent influence as a politician. He has enjoyed uninterrupted supremacy in his own ward, and very often he is the dominating element in the city ante-convention campaign. He is generally known as the political boss.

This man is an odd character. He has no social position. His business and surroundings have been such that men who willing are to pay him the most abject tribute in the street, could not well meet him in their homes. Withal, he is a better man than many of his associates. He makes no pretensions, and he doesn't extort money from those to whom he gives his influence, like some of the politicians who move in his class; and herein is one of the strange things that are occasionally found in politics. This man gives three-fourths of his time to politics. He makes politics his chief business. He interests himself in behalf of some men and works night and day for them. He opposes other men and works just as hard against them. And for what, it may be asked, is he so active as a politician. It is not charged that there is a price on his friendship and co-operation. There are no stories of his holding up candidates. "All I want," he says, "is to be treated square. I don't want anybody that I help to go back on me. I want them to use me right." Treating him "square," and using him "right" consists in bolstering up his political power—in helping those whom he wants helped. The man seems to take great satisfaction in the fact that men are forced to come to him. This satisfaction is, largely, the compensation he gets out of politics.

He uses men to further his ambitions. Sometimes he gives little consideration to the individual preferences of those whom he would use. His will must be paramount. In a ward meeting he rules with absolute power. He is not a parliamentarian; but he gets there just the same. He allows men to talk and shuts them off at will. He states his wishes and he gives the meeting to understand that what he says goes. And it does. In the last city republican convention he exerted his power to the uttermost, and when he raised the pole the persimmons dropped. It was a sight to see him! He moved around among the delegates, passing the word along. He made men get up and make speeches. He pulled men off their feet who had, in his opinion, talked long enough. He approached the solid citizen and calmly told him how to vote. And he saw that the vote was cast as he desired. His personality dominated the convention. The men he wanted nominated were nominated. But there was not any actual money in his success. It is doubtful if he is any richer now than he was a year ago. Indeed, it is probable that he is poorer. Misfortune has lately knocked at his door.

He has, as I have said, no social position, and his moorings are not such as to make him responsible. But when he says he will do a thing he does it. His word is good. Men who build on his friendship build on something tangible and solid. He is frank and open in his methods. He may be lots of other things, but he is not a hypocrite. He is what he is, and he doesn't try to conceal the fact. He doesn't