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OBSERVATIONS

Ten days more and the republican party of this state will meet in convention for the purpose of nominating a full state ticket. A grave responsibility is upon the party. It is a matter of great importance that the electoral vote of Nebraska be cast for William McKinley. The way to insure that result is to closely scan the list of candidates and select as the standard bearers of the party in this year's campaign the biggest, brainiest, cleanest, ablest men who can be found. It is important that men of this sort should hold state offices and it is important that proper candidates be nominated for the purpose of keeping Nebraska in the great republican column.

Every republican in this state whose ideas are formed in places other than saloons or sink holes of political corruption, whose impulses and aspirations are still susceptible to the bugle call of patriotism and the highest form of partisanship, should consider well the danger that menaces the party. Every republican with a character above charlatanry and a hope above higgling owes it to himself and the party to insist on a line of policy at the state convention that will press back the oil room manipulators, the barroom loungers, the cheap politicians, the small bore, grinning, hand shaking, bibulous candidates, and select as the standard bearers of the party men whose names are something more than an apology, men who stand for Nebraska manhood and dignity, who are able and honest and of good repute, who may be depended upon to lead the party to certain victory.

Among the candidates for state offices this year are some of the strongest and best men who have ever appeared before a state convention and some of the smallest, weakest, most trivial men who have dragged their paltry schemes through the back door into the

party councils. And there are some unprincipled, daring, dangerous manipulators who would not hesitate to involve the party in defeat to attain their own ends. From which class shall the candidates be chosen? There is a deep and widespread sentiment among republicans that calls for the highest effort and the best results at the convention. Will the delegates yield to that demand and select as the candidates for governor and treasurer and supreme judge and other offices honorable, able, dignified men? Or will they become mere puppets in the control of base tricksters and cheap bosses, and name as the candidate for governor a grinning, storytelling, hand shaking, gim-mill hero, and as treasurer a man brought out and backed by the present treasurer and pledged to go easy on the day of reckoning? Absolute safety,

natural gift. It comes to him by inheritance, and has been cultivated with all the assiduity of a lawyer ambitious to excel on the rostrum and in the court room. In addition to the mere flow of language he has the culture that pleases and the earnestness that convinces.

"Mr. Estabrook comes from noted stock, being the ninth lineal descent from John Alden, whom Longfellow has immortalized as one of the staunchest of the Mayflower pioneers in the new world. He was born in the little town of Alden, in New York, forty-one years ago. The town, by the way, was named after the orator's ancestor. His mother had left her home in Omaha for a visit in the quaint little town, and fortune ruled that a Nebraskan to all intents and purposes should be born a New Yorker.

"So today Mr. Estabrook does not

child, a daughter of fifteen. Mr. Estabrook's only sister is the wife of Col. R. C. Clowry, vice-president and general manager of the Western Union Telegraph company. The move to Chicago was made that the attorney might have a broader field. Mr. Estabrook is living in La Salle avenue, near Schiller, with his family, and has law offices in the chamber of commerce building.

"The story of Mr. Estabrook's successes in oratory is briefly told—he is a new man. Attention was first attracted to his powers of eloquence a few years ago when he delivered an oration at the union league club in this city on "The Vengeance of the Flag." It was a Washington's birthday celebration and the incident that attracted most notice was the clever use of an accident to Wilkes Booth when he assassinated Lincoln in the theatre in Washington.

"It will be remembered there was a flag on the stage when the fatal shot was fired and that Booth tripped over this in his effort to escape, laming himself in such a way as to make his capture possibly more easy than it would have been if it had not been for the accident. This was the vengeance of the flag, and the orator dwelt upon the circumstance in such a way as to make a lasting impression on the minds of his auditors. The same address was delivered in New York with equal success and was much commented on throughout the country.

"In 1895 Mr. Estabrook delivered the Washington's birthday oration in Detroit. This was another victory for the speaker, and was quickly followed by still another, that at Galena, when he was called upon by H. H. Kohlsaat to deliver the oration on the celebration of Grant's birthday. This was when Thomas Nast's celebrated picture of the surrender of Appomattox was presented to the town. The reputation Mr. Estabrook had achieved was then the reason for selecting him as the orator of the day, and the address delivered was thought to be sufficient proof of the wisdom of the choice.

"Mr. Estabrook is modest in his regard of his ability as a speaker. He never refers to it and never thrusts himself forward on occasions when he has every opportunity to profit by such a course of action. He has had various offers made him of prominent positions in the political field, but has uniformly refused them. The only political office he has held is that of regent of the university of Nebraska."

For a week or more the ablest newspaper writers of the country have been in St. Louis giving their impressions of Mr. Hanna's convention. One of the most notable features of this week's great gathering has been the brilliant manner in which it has been reported in the daily press.

The New York newspaper that offered ex-President Benjamin Harrison \$10,000 to go to St. Louis and send a daily telegram of 1,000 words hardly expected its proposition to be accepted, though its acceptance would not have involved any greater sacrifice of dignity than has attended the distinguished ex-president's performances between the beautiful covers of



state credit and honor, the advancement of the party are to be found in one direction, and possible defeat, humiliation, scandal must be met if the other road is taken. Which?

Henry D. Estabrook arrived in Chicago after delivering the university commencement address in this city in time to see a large double-column portrait of himself in the Tribune and read a column of compliment well calculated to turn the head of a man less evenly balanced. Mr. Estabrook, who has many admirers among the newspapers of Chicago, is compared to Emory A. Storrs in the Tribune article and it is the opinion of the writer that the mantle of the great Chicagoan is about to descend on the graceful shoulders of "our Henry." Here are some of the nice things said about Mr. Estabrook:

"Oratory is with Mr. Estabrook a

say much about his birthplace. He simply says he hails from Nebraska. As to his father it is a different thing. He tells with pride that he was Experience Estabrook, the first attorney-general of Nebraska, and at one time the attorney-general of Wisconsin.

"Mr Estabrook received his early education in Omaha, and after graduating from the high school in that city went to St. Louis, where he studied law in the Washington university, graduating with honors. He then returned to Omaha and began the practice of the law as a partner of Judge H. J. Davis, who is at the present time his partner in Chicago. An impression prevails that he was once the partner of Senator Thurston, and that he dissolved his partnership owing to Thurston's being engrossed in politics. This, however, is said to be untrue.

"Soon after his return to Omaha Mr. Estabrook married Miss Clara Campbell of that city. The couple have one