CONKLING.

The New York Delegation to Cincinnati and What They Intend to Do.

CONKLING'S STRENGTH UNDOUBTED

Views of Those Who Have a Second Choice and Who Have Not.

THE WAY TO WIN.

What the Opponents of Roscoe Would Do if They Could.

The Empire State's Importance in the Election.

Ever since the Syracuse Convention was held which nominated delegates to the Cincinnati Convention there has been no small difference of opinion among even the shrewdest politicians of this State as to what the Convention really intended by its action. Was it in favor of Conkling or was it not? With a view of ascertaining exactly whether there was or not a serious opposition to Mr Conkling in the Convention, and whether the large vote given to the Curtis resolution which was offered for the purpose of preventing a "pledged" delegation being sent to Cincinnati, was really a vote against Mr. Conkling, several trusty HERALD correspondents have for the past three weeks made it their duty to sound the delegates in the various districts from one end of the State to the other. The result is certainly a very gratifying one to Mr. Conkling. Out of the seventy delegates it will be seen that there are only four who are not out and out on his side. The interviews, however, given below will speak for themselves.

DELEGATES AT LARGE.

JAMES M. MATTHEWS, of Buffalo—Mr. Conkling will get every vote of the New York delegation to begin with, with two possible exceptions, and in all probability after the delegation has got together and conferred with one another the vote will be solid, with only one exception, Mr. Curtis. And yet if Mr. Curtis does vote against Mr. Conkling he will be doing just that which in the Convention he asserted he could not do under certain contingencies. He there asserted that if the resolution which was passed, and his amendment to which was defeated by a large majority, should be passed, every delegate would be in honor bound to support Mr. Conkling in the Convention. That resolution passed, and Mr. Curtis' amendment to it did not pass; so if Mr. Curtis goes to the Convention "in honor bound" he will vote for Mr. Conkling. In my opinion, Mr. Conkling will be nominated. His strength is growing every day, and that without his lifting his hand to help himself. Undoubtedly he would like to be nominated; but I do not believe, if he was sure that to secure the nomination he would only have to go round begging votes, that he would do it. To those who know him he is anything but the unapproachable man that some people have an idea he is. He has a hold on the people in this State, despite here and there the opposition of a few men of his own party, that is really wonderful; and even their opposition has worn away since they have come to know the man better. There is no man that I can think of who would prove a stronger candidate before the people than he, or as strong. I am sure that Blaine cannot carry this State, and yet it is conceded that it is necessary to carry this State for the party to carry the election—not, indeed, that the party would not work faithfully for Blaine if he were nominated, but the workers, who roll up their sleeves and work day and night during a campaign, and who are, after all, such a powerful mean to get out the full vote of the party, could not go into the campaign for him with that enthusiasm they would for Mr. Conkling. As to holding Mr. Conkling responsible for the blunders of the administration, that is an absurdity. By parity of reasoning everything good that has been done by the administration should be set to his credit. If he has the great influence some say he has with the President he must, to follow the line of argument of his opponents, have influenced the nomination of Richard A. Dana, and not his rejection, as it is well known he voted for Mr. Dana's confirmation. I shall, as a delegate, do all I can to secure the nomination of Mr. Conkling, and I believe when the time comes for action at Cincinnati there will be a stronger feeling for him than there is even now. It is growing every day stronger and stronger.

THEODORE M. POMEROY, of Auburn—I intend to vote for Mr. Conkling at Cincinnati so long as there is a shadow of a chance of his nomination. I regard him as a man in every way qualified for the Presidency. His nomination, in my opinion, would be a certain guarantee that the State of New York would be carried by the republicans. It is conceded that this State is to be the great battle ground. Upon this State the fire of the batteries of both parties is to be concentrated, and whichever party captures it wins the Presidency. It is necessary, then, that the republican party should put in nomination some man whose strength with the party is such as to guarantee victory, and Conkling, I think, is that man. I do not mean to say that there is no other man in New York among the republicans who could carry the State; but Mr. Conkling is in the field, and as one of the delegates to Cincinnati I shall give him my hearty support. If we fail to secure his nomination it will be the duty of the delegation still to maintain the claims of New York and to do all that is possible to have them recognized. I have no second choice, and until Mr. Conkling's fate is decided at Cincinnati I doubt if any very great number of the delegation will give the question of second choice a thought. There has been some talk that Conkling's identification with Grant's administration will weaken him. To my mind that is an error. Why hold Conkling responsible for the blunders and misfortunes of the administration any more than any other Senator? For my part, I think Grant personally a pure man, and he has stood more firmly by the republican party in a party sense than was at first expected of him. He has faithfully carried out every policy that was known to meet with the party sanction or that was demanded by the party. Conkling's great fault with some is that he was too steadfast as a party man—too devoted to Grant for the party's sake. Yet, was that a fault? Personally some take umbrage at what they call his haughtiness, but to those who know him there is not a more approachable man in existence; always dignified, yet ever courteous and urbane to everybody, no matter what his condition. His integrity is unimpeachable, his private character has never been sullied by even the breath of suspicion. As a republican he has ever been a republican, brooking no interference with well settled lines of party policy, ever jealous of the party's welfare and interests, and never compromising with the foe. If that kind of a republican is not a good candidate for the republican party I know not what is.

ALONZO B. CORNELL, of New York—I have no second choice. Mr. Conkling is my first choice, and we intend to win with him. About the second man on the ticket I have little concern. The constitution says the President and Vice President must come from different States, and I suppose he will be a Western man.

ANDREW D. WHITE, of Ithaca—Senator Conkling stands well on two of our most prominent national issues—treatment of the South and the financial question. I should like to have seen him take up the third issue of civil service reform, which would complete a very brilliant public record. As a candidate for President he is my first choice at Cincinnati. He possesses the vigorous elements of intellect and character which fit him admirably for the position of President of the United States. It is doubtful whether I can attend the National Convention, but my alternate, Rev. Highland Garnett, will carry out the policy that I desire. Mr. Conkling's steadfast and unflattering adherence to party principles and a certain line of policy have undoubtedly created enemies for him in this State. But such a result could not be well avoided. It would have been much better for Mr Conkling if he had never had anything to do with the dispensing of patronage, as the disappointed are sure to entertain feelings of enmity. I regret very much the differences between Mr. Curtis and the Senator. I know the former to be sincere in his opposition, and Mr. Conkling is just the man he would like to support if he thought his candidacy best for the country and the republican party. I would be inclined to favor General Hayes next to Senator Conkling. Mr. Morton's war record is magnificent, but his position on the finances would weaken him very much."

DISTRICT DELEGATES.

FIRST DISTRICT.

L. BRADFORD PRINCE—If the general sense of the delegation at Cincinnati is for Mr. Conkling I shall of course vote for him; but I certainly would not vote for him if I thought that he could be nominated. I do not think he could carry this State. I shall do what seems to me the best thing for the party. I have not made up my mind as to what candidate I should prefer. My choice will depend upon the outlook as I find it at Cincinnati.

GEORGE W. CURTIS—I shall not vote for Mr. Conkling under any circumstances.

SECOND DISTRICT.

SILAS B. DUTCHER—Mr. Conkling is my first choice. I shall do all I can to secure his nomination. So long as he has a chance of being nominated just so long shall I stand by him on every ballot. In my opinion he is the strongest candidate that the party could nominate. New York State must be carried in order that the republican party may win the election. Conkling's nomination would be a guarantee that this State would be carried by at least 50,000 majority against any democratic candidate.

A. A. LOW was not in town when the HERALD representative called at his place of business. Mr. Dutcher and others who know him say that he will vote for Conkling.

THIRD DISTRICT.

STEWART L. WOODFORD—I will go to Cincinnati to give Mr. Conkling a fair, hearty, manly support. I am committed to no man; would not have consented to go into the Convention as a delegate had the delegation been pledged to any particular candidate. I believe that the people want a man for President who is sound on the financial question; who will, as it were, lay the corner stone of the future financial situation—so stand as to give confidence to every one. Mr. Conkling has always been sound on the financial question. There is yet another question that the people are bearing in mind, the Southern question. They want a man as President whose loyalty is unimpeachable. Conkling would be a President generous to the South as he would be firm and determined that all the results of the war should remain inviolate. If, on going to Cincinnati, I should find that Conkling was not the best man, in the opinion of the delegates, to be nominated, I should act accordingly, and vote for the man who would be able to give the best guarantees of success. We must have no faltering at Cincinnati. The good of the whole country must be borne in mind. Conkling, in my opinion, will himself be willing to sacrifice his personal ambition for the common good if he finds that his nomination would endanger the success of the party. He is strong with the people, and, as I look at matters now, the strongest candidate in the field.

BENJAMIN J. SILLIMAN—While I am not pledged to vote for any particular candidate at Cincinnati I will frankly say this—That my first choice is Mr. Conkling. I shall vote for him so long as there is a possibility of his nomination. If nominated I think he could be elected easily; otherwise I would not vote for him. I have no idea now what I should do if it turns out in the Convention that Mr. Conkling cannot be nominated.

FOURTH DISTRICT.

JACOB WORTH was not in his district when the HERALD representative called at his house in Boerum street. But his political associates as well as his political opponents say that he is a warm friend of Mr. Conkling; that, while rather independent, he is of the opinion that Conkling is the best possible candidate for the party.

DAVID WILLIAMS was busily engaged in a reference case at his office when visited. His brother informed the HERALD correspondent that he (David) would go to Cincinnati uncommitted, but that he would give Conkling a very hearty support. "Though," said his brother, "he was at Syracuse opposed to a pledged delegation, he was not then nor is he now unfriendly to Mr. Conkling. On the contrary, he is very friendly, and will do all that lies in his power to secure our Senator the nomination."

FIFTH DISTRICT.

WILLIAM ORTON says he is a strong Conkling man, and does not entertain the shadow of a doubt regarding the success of his candidate. He asserts that "it is not politic to make any elaborate calculation when you are going into battle about your probable action in a contingency which is very far remote," and consequently has not considered what he would do in the event of Mr. Conkling's failure, it being to his mind "far remote." He has no choice about the Vice Presidency, has consulted no one, and is of opinion that it will not be discussed until the delegates get together at Cincinnati before the Convention is called to order.

ABRAHAM LENT is out of town, having gone to San Francisco a week since. He is known to be an advocate of the nomination of Mr. Conkling, having so expressed himself to many of his friends political and otherwise.

SIXTH DISTRICT.

BENJAMIN K. PHELPS was found by a HERALD reporter at the Court of General Sessions, where he was busily engaged in prosecuting a malefactor in tight pants with expansive "spring bottoms." The counsel of the gentleman whose legs were confined in the narrow precincts before mentioned, having taken a witness in hand to cross-examine him, Mr. Phelps disengaged himself and retired to an open window, where the following conference took place.

"If rumor speaks truly, Mr. Phelps, you are a warm advocate of Senator Conkling's pretensions."

"Rumor is quite correct; I am a warm advocate of Mr. Conkling."

"Well, Mr. Phelps, the question of your first choice being settled, who would be your second choice if he should fail to succeed?"

"That is a question I have not propounded to myself, for the reason, perhaps, that I do not like to think of his failure. In fact, I don't believe he will fail, for, in my estimation, he is the strongest man that could be nominated."

"Of course you know there is nothing certain in politics, and Mr. Conkling may be defeated. Who would be your choice in that event?"

"Well, it is hard to say. I would be governed, in a great measure, by circumstances. I think, as things appear at present, that Washburne would be a very strong man."

"About the second man on the ticket, who do you think he will be?"

"That is another new proposition to me. Hayes would be a good man, so would Bristow."

"Do you think there is any likelihood of Bristow making a strong showing as a choice for first place?"

"Well, no; he has no organization to promote his interest, but he is a very strong man."

ABRAM J. DITTENHOEFER is a very warm Conkling man. Mr. Dittenhoefer says he regards Conkling as the most available man in the party, and one who by his conduct deserves well of his party. On the broad ground of availability he thinks Conkling will bring to his support a large percentage of the delegates who do not particularly care for him personally. Mr. Dittenhoefer has not for a moment entertained a suspicion that Mr. Conkling would fail, and consequently has formed no opinion as to who would be a good man after Conkling. For the nominee Conkling is the best man, and Mr. Dittenhoefer is satisfied with him.

SEVENTH DISTRICT.

THOMAS MURPHY is an uncompromising Conkling man and says he is assured of his success, for the reason that there is no man in the party who has such a record as Conkling. Said he:—"As far as corruption or jobbery is concerned Roscoe Conkling is the great unknown, and the wise ones tell us the great unknown is going to be nominated. He knows nothing of either of them nor they of him. They are utter strangers."

"Then, Mr. Murphy, you have not thought of whom you would support in the event of a failure of the Conkling movement?"

"No, I have not; I never give a man support unless it is genuine. I would consider it treachery to harbor the idea of supporting two men, while giving one of them to understand you are his friend. And again, it would be a useless waste of brain power (and I see by the papers that brain power is very valuable in the market just now), for it would be providing for a result which is not at all probable."

DEWITT C. WHEELER—I am going to the Convention with the intention of giving my entire support to Mr. Conkling. I believe him to be a man suited above most others to meet the political exigencies of the hour, and one in whom popular confidence and esteem is largely placed, and I think that his claims upon the party entitle him to a recognition at their hands which will not be withheld. He is unquestionably the strongest man in New York, and outside of this State there are many politicians who think well of him, and will, no doubt, be willing to vote for him as soon as sufficient complimentary notice is taken of their own local favorites.

In reply to the reporter's inquiry as to whom Mr. Wheeler would make his choice in case of the failure of Conkling; he said:—"That is a matter I have given no consideration whatever, and one which I think has received but little thought from any of the delegates from this State. While I admit the possibility of Conkling's failure to receive the nomination, I do not anticipate it; and for my part I can say that no other candidate will receive my vote until Mr. Conkling's chances are lost beyond all hope. Besides, there are circumstances likely to occur which might dictate my second choice, and the nature of these can hardly be foreseen already."

EIGHTH DISTRICT.

GEORGE F. MERKLEE says that he is in favor of Conkling; he knows nothing of any other candidate, and don't want to know of any. Conkling is quite enough for him. He says he don't know and he don't care who is nominated as Vice President.

JOHN D. LAWSON, who has been spoken of as an anti-Conkling man, is one of the warmest supporters Conkling has in the New York delegation. He says there is no use in talking about a second choice, for when Conkling's name is presented he is confident he will take like wildfire, and that after a little skirmishing the thing will be settled in favor of New York's Senator. He intends to vote for Mr. Conkling until the last, and he is of opinion that the last will not be long coming when the Convention settles down to work.

NINTH DISTRICT.

JOEL W. MASON says he regularly reads the morning papers, from which he says he learns all he knows about the Cincinnati Convention outside of the fact that he is a delegate. They tell him nothing new, and things look as though Conkling stock was being bulled by developments from Washington. Even though the stock did not appreciate he would vote for Conkling, and even allowing the figure at which Conkling stock stood before the developments it was a very valuable investment for the party.

Conkling occupied so much of Mr. Mason's mental time that he did not think of any one else in connection with the Presidency. The Vice Presidency has not entered the mind of Mason.

MARSHALL O. ROBERTS—I shall do what I think the best for the party at Cincinnati. I am friendly to Mr. Conkling and shall vote for him on the first ballot. If he after the first ballot shall not be deemed the most available candidate I shall take counsel with my colleagues and do what will be to our mind the best possible thing.

TENTH DISTRICT.

RUFUS B. COWING is a strong partisan of Mr. Conkling and one who has thought of no one else in connection with the Presidency. He says he is convinced that New York's Senator will succeed. He thinks Hayes, of Ohio, would make a strong candidate for Vice President, and also that Bristow would be available, the latter, however, only for second place.

CLARENCE A. SEWARD, when called upon, said he could give any amount of information about law topics, but about who would come as a choice after Mr. Conkling he could not say. The library of his mind had no references to the subject, and for that reason he supposes it is not within the scope of possibility. He will vote for Mr. Conkling until he sees there is no possible chance of his nomination; but what will occur then he does not know.

ELEVENTH DISTRICT.

E. D. MORGAN, ex-Governor of the State, says he is in favor of Mr. Conkling, but beyond that nothing can be learned from him. The HERALD reporter met the genial old gentleman at his office in Exchange place and endeavored to ascertain whom he would support should Mr Conkling's strength be insufficient. However, he does not say, as Mr. Cornell did, that Mr. Conkling was the only man or that he regarded his fate in the Convention as assured. In fact, he said nothing on the subject at hand, though he talked for a long time. He is not amenable to the ordinary test of the "interview," and has the rare faculty of talking all around his subject without touching it.

GEORGE OPDYKE, co-delegate with ex-Governor Morgan, is a personal friend of Mr. Conkling. He has personal knowledge of Mr. Conkling's conscientiousness and the scrupulous care with which he has guarded his reputation from even a suspicion of dishonor. Mr. Opdyke says he has had no conference with any of the delegates and knows nothing of what they think of a second choice. He himself has been so much engrossed with this private business that he has not entertained the proposition. He thinks there will be no difficulty in nominating Mr. Conkling at Cincinnati and no difficulty in electing him if he is nominated. About the second man on the ticket Mr. Opdyke is also at sea, he think Mr. Hayes an available man, has thought of Bristow and even Mr. Hartranft.

TWELFTH DISTRICT.

WILLIAM H. ROBERTSON—In my opinion the New York delegation will on the first ballot vote solid for Mr. Conkling, with the exception of Mr. Curtis. After that ballot whether they will all stand together would be hard to say now. I have had no consultation with any of the delegates, and so do not know how they feel about their action after the first ballot. I think they will act for the best interests of the party, sacrifice their individual preferences when necessary for the common good and stand by the man who will seem to them the most desirable candidate to present to the people. If Mr. Conkling's strength is such as to convince the delegation from this State that he has a good chance of being nominated I have no doubt the delegation will do all they can for him and sustain him heartily. In case Mr. Conkling cannot be nominated I do not think Mr. Blaine could be, although as matters now look Mr. Conkling's friends have need to keep their eyes open and to work carefully to keep Blaine's friends from getting the best of the situation. Blaine will show strongly on the first ballot, and that may influence many weak kneed men in some delegations to go over to him on subsequent ballots. As a compromise candidate I think Hayes, of Ohio, appears to be the strongest. With Mr. Wheeler, of this State, as candidate for Vice President on the ticket, with Hayes as a candidate for President, the republicans would have a strong ticket. But it is rather too early now to speculate about compromise candidates. Mr. Conkling, if nominated, would carry this State to a certainty, and New York State must be carried, in the opinion of most people who have studied the situation, in order that the party may win the election. If elected he and no one else would be President. There would be no power behind the throne. The delegation from this State, I repeat, will give him a hearty support so long as it is apparent that to do so is for the best interests of the party, and if they have finally to seek for some other candidate they will be guided solely by a desire to aid in the nomination of some man who will in every way command the respect and support of the people. With a candidate with a clean record I feel certain the republicans will carry the election. In fact I have no doubt of it. But the people are in dead earnest about putting an end to abuse of power and place in high stations and the Convention at Cincinnati must act with great caution and wisdom so as not to make a mistake, for it does not follow that any man simply because he is nominated by the republicans can be elected. A good, strong candidate, with a clean record, will win, but a doubtful man will not. As for Tilden, I think the republicans in this State underestimate his strength.

JAMES W. HUSTED—I am for Conkling. For my own part, I have been for Conkling since 1873, and I am quite confident that I don't regret my selection. I think I am safe in saying that every delegate from this State will vote for him. I must say, however, that in case I am mistaken I would vote in accordance with the sentiment of my New York colleagues. We no doubt will hold a caucus before the Convention and compare notes, that we may vote as a unit.

THIRTEENTH DISTRICT.

JACOB H. HOYRADT—If the contest was so close as to have but the vote of one district to make the determination, and that vote belonged to the Thirteenth and was cast for Conkling, the casters of the vote might move out of the district, for politically they would be done for.

The people of the district, which notoriously is one of the most corrupt in the State, are anxious for a radical change in the national administration. This they believe cannot be had if Conkling is elected to the Presidency. They regard him as the machine man of the party, and think he is slightly soiled with grease spots. Grease spots of course do not affect a man individually, but a man thus adorned is much less presentable to the public eye than a man of unsoiled raiment. They think Conkling is trained and grounded in the methods of the present administration, and that those methods would, with perhaps slight modifications, be continued during his term of office. Then he has been the apologist in the Senate and before the people for the shortcomings of the administration, and as such he is liable to suspicion among independent men.

Knowing the sentiment of the people of the district, I called upon Mr. Hoysradt, expecting to find in him an exponent of their principles and opinions, he being a delegate to the Cincinnati Convention. I was not altogether disappointed; for, although Mr. Hoysradt was very guarded in his speech at first, it was plain he was not a Conkling man. I mentioned to him what I have just stated regarding the feeling among the people, and he assured me I could not have had a better understanding of matters if I had been living in the county for six months. He could not say who he would vote for at Cincinnati, but acknowledged he was friendly to Blaine, whom he regards as a tried man and one worthy of the confidence of the people. He is an executive man, and one who has extricated himself and his party from very disagreeable places; quite as skilled in government as Conkling and rather more independent.

I asked Mr. Hoysradt if he did not feel bound by the platform of the State Convention, and he said he did not. If his understanding of the matter was correct no one was bound by the platform. "If you remember," said he, "that portion of the platform which you regard as binding reads thus:—'We present Roscoe Conkling to the National Republican Convention as our choice for President, and we give especial assurance that the nomination of our candidate will secure, beyond question, the thirty-five electoral votes of New York for the republican ticket.' Now, there is nothing binding in that that I can see. The New York delegation, like all others, will have a choice, and that choice will, of course, be a man from New York. I do not feel bound in any sense by that resolution, and there are others who take the same view of it as I do."

Mr. Hoysradt was anxious to know from me whether or not I thought George William Curtis would make a stand in the Convention against Conkling, and I inferred from his manner of questioning that his action in the premises would be in a great measure governed by the conduct of Curtis.

When I questioned Mr. Hoysradt regarding the second choice of the ticket he assured me he had not heard of any one yet and was, in fact, indifferent as to who was named on the ticket.

I asked if the New York delegation would as a unit support Blaine in case it became impossible to nominate Conkling. Mr. Hoysradt declared that if Conkling was not nominated the New York delegation would split as it pleased. From his knowledge of the delegates they were not the men to be transferred from one man to another like cattle; they had wills and heads of their own and would use them. The delegation, he said, was in no sense a machine one, as it comprised some of the best men in the party within the State, and could not be used like a ward representation.

I asked for Mr. Hoysradt's opinion of Mr. Bristow. He assured me he had great respect for Mr. Bristow, but did not think he was sufficiently experienced in government to be trusted with such an important charge as the Presidency. I asked him how the people of the district regarded Bristow, and he said he was viewed by them pretty much in the same light as he was viewed from republican standpoints elsewhere. The people are a little afraid of him, afraid lest he "Johnsonize" them. The neologism is native of Columbia, but the sentiment obtains in many of the counties I have visited.

FOURTEENTH DISTRICT.

EDWARD M. MADDEN—Conkling is the strongest man in the party. The opposition which is manifested to him in his own State does not amount to anything, and will disappear in convention. Mr. Madden approaches the subject of Bristow with great caution. He thinks it would, in a sense, be profitable to put Bristow on the ticket, but doubts the policy of so doing. He thinks he would run well and take with the masses.

Mr. Madden further says he goes to Cincinnati as an outspoken and determined friend of Senator Conkling, in whose interest he will work day and night until the nomination is lost or won.

J. W. FERDON is not exactly decided on whom he will bestow his vote at Cincinnati. He knows and admires Senator Conkling and will give him his first vote, but he does not consider himself bound by the resolution of the Syracuse Convention, and will do as he chooses when he gets to the Convention. He says it is quite likely he will support Senator Conkling, but is not inclined to commit himself in any way, for he has seen so many men go to conventions with their minds made up and change all their opinions after an hour or so. He thinks well of Conkling, and unless something which he does not at present foresee happens he will support him for the nomination.

FIFTEENTH DISTRICT.

JOSHUA FIERO, JR.—He said that Conkling's services to the party were such that he deserved at least the complimentary vote of his party from this State, and he hoped he would get it. He had just received a letter from Mr. Cornell, in which were set forth the reasons why Conkling should be nominated. He had not yet had time to read the letter, and consequently could not tell of the actual contents, but he believed it to be full of good reasons why Conkling should be nominated. "Both Conkling and Blaine have their friends and supporters," said he, "but I think that Conkling is the more popular man." Mr. Fiero has not heard any one spoken of in connection with the second place on the ticket, and does not know who the second man will be.

Mr. W. S. KENYON says that the opposition to Conkling can be smoothed over, and that the "soreheads" can be brought around to see things in an entirely different light from the one in which they now regard them. The friends of Conkling, he said, did not want to make too loud a noise for fear of exciting opposition, and that Conkling's full strength would not be known until the Convention met.

"New York state," said Mr. Kenyon, "with its thirty-five electoral votes, is too important an element in the politics of the country to be lost to the republicans. We cannot afford to lose many large States in this Presidential canvass, and there is no man we can do as well with in New York as we can with Conkling." Mr. Kenyon has heard none spoken of as candidates for Vice President, not even in the event of Conkling succeeding to the first place. Mr. Kenyon thinks that the opposition to Mr. Conkling has been incited by Mr. Wheeler's friends.

SIXTEENTH DISTRICT.

Mr. CHARLES E. SMITH—I am for Conkling first, last and all the time. I conscientiously believe he is the most available candidate the republican party can put in the field. He is in every way qualified to fill the Presidential chair with honor to the nation. He is able, honest and a republican who deserves the support of every republican who values eminent service to the party in the past and fidelity to the interests of the entire people regardless of party or party men in public station. In my opinion he will be nominated. The feeling in his favor, it is evident, is growing stronger every day throughout the country. I have no second choice; have not thought of such a thing, believing as firmly as I do that Mr. Conkling will be nominated.

JOHN F. SMYTHE said:—Conkling is my first and last choice, and for the life of me I could not now tell what other candidate I should be ready to vote for in case Mr. Conkling should be unable to secure the nomination. But he will be nominated—that is my candid opinion. It is necessary to carry New York State in order that the republican party should win the Presidency next fall. The only man I know who can do it on our side is Conkling. His nomination would debar Seymour, his brother-in-law, from entering the field, and with any other man as the candidate of the republicans than Conkling the nomination of Seymour would give this State certainly to the democrats. That would make him the next President. I have no doubt that the common sense of the Cincinnati Convention will secure Mr. Conkling's nomination. This county is about 2,500 strong democratic. With Mr. Conkling as our candidate the republicans will carry it; otherwise I think the democrats would carry it by 3,000 or 4,000—at least they would with Seymour.

SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT.

Mr. I. V. BAKER was not at Comstock's Landing when the HERALD correspondent called there, but his father got on the cars at Whitehall, and from him it was ascertained that Mr. Baker in the delegation is out and out for Mr. Conkling, first, last and all the time. Mr. Baker, Sr., asserts that Mr. Conkling will have no warmer supporter at the Convention than his son, and that, convinced that Mr. Conkling will be nominated, he has not dreamed of such a thing as a second choice.

GILBERT ROBERTSON—As a republican and a delegate, who believes firmly that Mr. Conkling is by long odds the best man of all men mentioned in connection with the Presidency, I shall vote for him and work for him untiringly. He has every necessary qualification for a good President. There has never been a breath of suspicion breathed against his good name as a public man; he has ever been devoted to the party, never flinching when other men grew weak. He would sweep this State like a whirlwind against any man the democrats might name against him. His eminent services to the party entitle him to the nomination, and if the party wants to be sure of victory they will nominate him, as I feel certain they will.

EIGHTEENTH DISTRICT.

FRANKLIN W. TOBEY said:—I am for Conkling first, last and all the time, and I think by the time the Convention meets it will be found that the "Conkling feeling," as it is called, will be at fever heat. I am for him because I believe him to be a good, "square" candidate, a party man and of undoubted integrity and unquestionable ability. I do not go to Cincinnati simply to vote for him at the start as a matter of form. I shall stick to him to the last and so will the majority of the delegation, who, I feel assured, go there to give him a warm, hearty support; to stand by him firmly and determinedly so long as he has a chance of the nomination. I think myself he will win the day.

GEORGE C. CAHOONE is out and out for Conkling, and will be among his heartiest supporters at the Convention. "The delegation," said he, "with very few exceptions, will work cheerfully for Mr. Conkling. I do not propose to vote for him on the first ballot and then abandon him. On the contrary, I think he is the best candidate in the field, the strongest the republican party can nominate, and I intend, therefore, to vote for him from first to last, just so long as there is the slightest prospect of his nomination."

NINETEENTH DISTRICT.

WELLS S. DICKINSON had been so busy since the Syracuse Convention closed its deliberations that he had not had much time to run politics through his head. He said that Conkling was not a strong man with the people of Northern New York. I asked him if he considered the resolution passed at Syracuse as binding upon him, and he said he did, in a measure. Of course he did not believe it, nor would he give blind adhesion to any pledge of the kind. While he is a personal friend of Conkling's, he does not think he is the most available man in the party, and thinks the campaign with him as its leader would be rather up hill work.

"I'll vote for him at Cincinnati," said Mr. Dickinson, in his characteristic way, "but if we don't succeed in nominating him I won't sit down on a log and weep, always provided there is a log to sit down on. If I had the making of the President or a choice in the matter I'd send Conkling to the White House across lots; but that can't be done; the people have the matter in hand, and they are to be suited."

Seeing that he doubted Conkling's ability to rally the rank and file, I questioned him as to the ticket he thought would win. After much deliberation, for the Senator is a deliberate and cautious man, he said:—"Well, I have heard of two men who would run well and win, no matter which end went first—Wheeler and Bristow or Bristow and Wheeler. If Wheeler is nominated, which is very improbable, there is no chance for any other candidate. Mr. Wheeler, I may tell you, has positively refused to have his name brought forward or lend himself in any way to an effort to bring himself before the Convention."

NINETEENTH DISTRICT.

HENRY R. JAMES, one of the editors of the St. Lawrence *Republican*, and the second delegate from this district to the Cincinnati Convention, is not a very strong Conkling man. He thinks, however, that every member of the delegation from New York is in honor bound to respect the resolution passed at Syracuse. He says the adhesion to that resolution should be only reasonable, and he does not believe in the "thick and thin" doctrine of some of the delegates. In his opinion, if the rule is not observed, the power of the New York delegation will be frittered away and its force will fail to be appreciated in Convention.

The conversation turned quite naturally to "the man who would be agreed upon," and just here there was a hitch in Mr. James' usually easy flow of words. He had not himself entertained the question. "The people in this district are strongly in favor of Mr. Wheeler, as they know him to be a thoroughly honest man, and think he would poll a big vote outside of this State," said Mr. James.

He will vote for Conkling when his turn comes around, but to what extent he will follow Conkling's fortunes he does not know. The extent of this uncertainty is measured in the words "reasonable adhesion."

TWENTIETH DISTRICT.

JAMES M. MARVIN is one of the strongest supporters of Mr. Conkling. He says that he will go to Cincinnati to do all that he can to secure to the Senator the nomination for the Presidency. He has not thought of a second choice; and, in case Mr. Conkling should not obtain votes enough in the Convention to give him the nomination, he will do the next best thing for the party by voting for the next best man. He believes Mr. Conkling, however, will be nominated.

STEPHEN A. SANFORD will vote for Mr. Conkling and will continue to vote for him so long as he has a chance of success. For whom he would vote if Mr. Conkling fails to get nominated would be determined by circumstances. He is convinced that the delegation will act harmoniously, and that if some other candidate than Mr. Conkling should have to be taken up they will act for the best interests of the party, that, in fact, each delegate will consult not so much his own individual preferences as the good of the party as a whole.

TWENTY-FIRST DISTRICT.

HUGH G. CROZIER, formerly a democratic leader in this district, is one of the delegates to Cincinnati. I had a very short but satisfactory interview with Mr. Crozier last night at his residence in Smithville, N. J. When I asked him whether or not he considered himself bound by the resolution passed at the State Convention he said emphatically that he did not. "I don't know who I'll vote for; I'm not pledged to Mr. Conkling, and I very much like the idea of Mr. Blaine being nominated," said Mr. Crozier.

S. S. ERICK is outspoken in his advocacy of Conkling's claims upon the State delegation. Having studied law in the same office with Senator Conkling, Mr. Edick thinks he is properly qualified to pass an opinion on the man, having had, during his apprenticeship, abundant opportunity to know him and study his traits and peculiarities. In his opinion there is much more in Senator Conkling than he is given the credit of possessing. He is of the opinion that Mr. Conkling will be the nominee of the party, notwithstanding the outspoken opposition of so many of the delegates. Much of this opposition he accounts for. In the first place, he says that civil service reform did not suit Mr. Curtis, and Mr. Curtis made a fight at Syracuse against Conkling, and, being the first in the field, he drew around him all the opposing elements in the Convention. Westchester went to his aid because Westchester has, in the person of Judge Robinson, a very strong candidate for Governor, whose chance, by some strange reasoning, they suppose will be injured by Conkling succeeding to the Presidency. Then St. Lawrence and Franklin made a little fight because they had a very promising candidate for the Vice Presidency in Mr. W. A. Wheeler. This gentleman's chance for the place was, of course, gone in the event of Conkling's nomination, so they opposed the pledging business and went over to Curtis & Co. Even if Conkling fails, Mr. Edick says, there is no chance for Mr. Wheeler, for in that event Governor Morgan will go from New York State as candidate for Vice President. "We want," said Mr. Edick, "a man to look after Mr. Tilden, and the man to look after him is Governor Morgan, and we will give him the work to do."

Mr. Edick thinks that Conkling is daily gaining strength. A few weeks ago he was of the opinion that he would not be nominated, but now that result seems secure.

TWENTY-SECOND DISTRICT.

JAMES D. FEETER—I feel that we go uninstructed to Cincinnati. It is true that a resolution has been passed at Syracuse recommending the nomination of Senator Conkling, but I hold that we can vote for whom we please notwithstanding. I shall vote for Mr. Conkling, however, until I see there is no chance of his receiving the nomination. As to whom I shall select for second choice it is impossible for me now to tell you.

AMOS V. SMILEY—I think that it would be a great mistake to nominate Conkling. On the first ballot, however, I shall vote for him; but my second choice will be Wheeler or Bristow. I am under the impression that Mr. Conkling has no chance of the nomination. I know several republicans in this part of the State who would vote for Tilden in preference to the Senator if both these gentlemen happened to be placed in the field. We cannot afford to put up any man who has been closely identified with the present administration. Mr. Wheeler is not a great man, but he is one who would make a first class President, and just fitted for the emergencies of the country at the present time. In my opinion the republican delegation from this State goes perfectly free to Cincinnati.

TWENTY-THIRD DISTRICT.

CHARLES M. DENNISON—I am for Senator Conkling, first and last. Nothing can be said against such a candidate. He is the strongest republican that can be placed in the field. I have not made up my mind as to second choice, as I do not doubt for a moment but that Mr. Conkling will receive the nomination. If he does not, then the republican nominee will probably come from the West. The only other names mentioned among our party in this State are Hamilton Fish and William A. Wheeler. Bristow I look upon as a myth.

A. B. JOHNSON entered into an able and eloquent dissertation on Senator Conkling's abilities. He also said:—"He has been faithful to the republican party in all its stages and trials. No stain rests upon his character, either in public or private life. He is the only candidate around whom the young men will rally enthusiastically. If Governor Tilden is nominated at St. Louis Senator Conkling is just the man to beat him in this State. The theory of his enemies seems to be that party unfaithfulness should be rewarded in preference to stern adherence to political principles. I am positive that Mr. Conkling will be nominated by acclamation at Cincinnati. Feeling as I do it would be useless to speculate on a second choice, and I cannot give any opinion in this connection."

TWENTY-FOURTH DISTRICT.

JOHN C. CHURCHILL—I shall vote for Mr. Conkling in the Convention. I do not consider myself in any way bound to any particular man, but I think that Mr. Conkling ought to be properly and strongly supported from the very beginning by the delegation from his own State. There was a difference of opinion, I know, among some of the republicans in this district, and at one time a feeling not very friendly to Mr. Conkling, but the party is to all intents and purposes united now in the district, and the old feeling has worn away. As a delegate I shall vote for Mr. Conkling so long as there is a prospect of his nomination. As to my second choice I have not studied over the matter, and do not think I could safely say who I would vote for after Mr. Conkling until I go to Cincinnati. At all events I think there are one or two men in New York who then should not be forgotten or overlooked.

R. R. WENDELL will vote for Mr. Conkling and support him in good faith. As to second choice that, with him, is a matter yet to be thought about.

TWENTY-FIFTH DISTRICT.

GEORGE V. CROUSSE—I am an out and out Conkling man, first, last and all the time. I have no second choice, for the reason that I feel that Mr. Conkling is to be the nominee of the party at Cincinnati. I have not given a thought to any other man, and I do not think I shall have any occasion to. What I should do if such a contingency should arise that Mr. Conkling cannot secure a majority on some one of the ballots I do not know; for whom I should then vote I cannot say, for the reason, as I said before, that my conviction that Mr. Conkling is to secure the nomination is so strong that consideration of any other candidate has never entered my mind. I shall vote for him and work for him at Cincinnati untiringly, for he is the best man that could be nominated; he is, in my opinion, head and shoulders above every other candidate in respect to every qualification that is needed to make a good President.

FRANK HISCOCK—I shall go to the Convention to support Mr. Conkling in good faith. That is my intention now and I shall adhere to it firmly at Cincinnati. I shall support him because I believe him to be the only republican candidate who, if nominated, will be certain to carry the State of New York for the republican party and I am firmly convinced that a majority of the delegates at Cincinnati will be of this opinion in the Convention. The belief that he and he alone of all the candidates will be able to secure New York's thirty-five votes in the electoral college will of itself give him the nomination, even though there were not, as there are, many good reasons why he should be the choice of the Convention.

TWENTY-SIXTH DISTRICT.

W. B. WOODIS—I have no candidate and I am bound to none. I am perfectly free and independent to act as I please, and I propose to do so. What I intend to do is just this:—To go to the Convention to vote for the best man, for that candidate who, in my judgment, is the surest to win the fight, and, in my opinion, to win the fight New York State must not under any consideration be lost. That is my position; and as to Mr. Conkling I will say this: I shall vote for Mr. Conkling to start with, and I shall continue to vote for him just so long as the indications show that his nomination is a possibility. In case that possibility is wiped away then I shall cast my vote for the man, whoever he may be, who to my mind is the strongest and safest man for the party