

WHO'LL INHERIT CLEVELAND VOTE?

Speculation Upon Consequence of Ex-President's Statement—Never was any Likelihood of His Candidacy.

A dispatch from Washington says that the only interest excited in Congressional and political circles there over Mr. Cleveland's latter of declination is as to the question, to whom will the so-called Cleveland strength be now thrown.

Politicians informed on the situation have long known that the talk about Mr. Cleveland's candidacy was for one purpose alone—to arouse the interest of the Eastern Democrats, and the conservatives of the West, in a Democratic candidate. Since 1896 many of these Democrats have associated themselves entirely with the Republicans, until the contemplation of Republican policies has become, with them, a habit of mind, and from that to the casting of a vote for a Republican candidate was a logical transition.

So to get these men back into a train of thought, the objective of which was a Democratic candidate for President, the party managers have been talking Cleveland. It is not to be denied that the name has been something with which to conjure. Mr. Cleveland lent himself to the plan until the passage of time brought him face to face with a "show down."

The question now is to whom will the Cleveland strength go? St. Clair McKelway would make Judge Parker of New York the legatee. He may be able to divert the Cleveland sentiment in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania to Judge Parker, but politicians say that he can not so easily swing the South, and New Englanders say there is Olney to be taken into account.

Southern Democrats say that if Judge Parker comes into the convention under escort of the Cleveland sentiment and the old Cleveland crowd, it will be a distinct drawback to him so far as the cooperation of the Southern delegates is concerned. And yet, these same men, in the very next breath admit that any candidate who is unanimously supported by New York, and has a chance of carrying the Empire State, will be acceptable to the South.

Of course, the plan which Mr. McKelway suggests would require the sanction of Tammany Leader Murphy, to make it effective. If Tammany backs Judge Parker, and there are no revolts of other factions of Democrats in the State, it is undeniable, politicians say, that Judge Parker will be a formidable candidate and the prestige of Tammany's support might go far with the Southerners toward neutralizing the tinge of Clevelandism which might cling to him.

Now that the Cleveland boom has served its purpose, and the aroused Democratic sentiment, like hive of swarming bees, is ready to "light" there are several lively tomtoms inviting the cluster. They are Mr. Gorman of Maryland; Judge Parker of New York; Judge Gray of Delaware; Mr. Olney of Massachusetts; and a well filled pad dock of "dark horses" from the West.

William R. Hearst will not absorb any of the Cleveland strength, it is said. He is not seeking it. His game lies in another direction and his recruits do not breathe the same atmosphere as the sage of Princeton. Tom L. Johnson is down and out. Carter Harrison has not been discussed outside of Cook county.

The best judgment of Democratic politicians is that Judge Gray and Judge Parker will fight it out between them and that the survivor will tackle Mr. Gorman, and then a real battle will commence.

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