

EXTRACTS
ON HON. CARL SCHURER'S CINCINNATI
SPEECH.

Let me return to the other side: No noble man will deny that the reform which the exigencies of our condition demand can be accomplished only if a programme be carried out which is found in Gov. Hayes' letter of acceptance. But is Gov. Hayes the man put through such a programme? Will he possess courage and persistence enough to withstand and overcome the adverse influences in his own party? This is a legitimate and important question. I shall endeavor conscientiously to answer it. That Gov. Hayes has a very clear conception of what genuine civil service reform means, he has abundantly demonstrated by the specific proposition in his manifesto. Neither are these ideas new with him, or put forth merely to produce a momentary effect. You will find the same views stated, partly in the same language, in inaugural addresses and speeches delivered by him years ago, long before he was thought of as a candidate for the presidency. They are, therefore, the offspring of deliberate and well-matured conviction. But has he the courage necessary to such a task? Courage as a candidate entitles him to the presumption that he will have courage as a President. It would seem to be the natural interest and desire of a candidate to keep at least all the organized and strong influences in his own party in the best possible humor with him, by creating the impression that he will be all things to all men, so as to ensure the hearty co-operation of all. Mr. Tilden seems to understand that.

Now, have you considered how much strength of conviction, how much honest courage in a candidate it requires at the opening of a canvass to go before the people with a manifesto like Gov. Hayes' letter of acceptance, which, in its comprehensive and sharply-defined demands for reform, contains the most unparalyzing criticism of the usages of his own party? The candidate tells Congressmen that if he is elected President they must expect no patronage from him. He tells the officers of the Government that from them no party service is desired. He tells party workers that party service will not be regarded by him as a claim to reward; he frankly declares his inflexible purpose not to be a candidate for re-election, on the ground that a sincere reformer should not expose himself to the temptation of using the patronage for the promotion of his personal interests. Is not that courage, the honest courage of true conviction? Show me in the whole history of this republic a single candidate for the presidency who, in the face of uncertain chances, had the courage to issue so defiant a manifesto as this! You will find none. I ask you, my independent friends, to compare the manly, straightforward, unequivocal declarations of this manifesto with that artfully constructed tangle of words, Gov. Tilden's letter of acceptance, in which hard money appears soft and soft money hard, presenting a full dish of spoils for the Democrats, with a reform sauce for the Independents, so that Judge Stallo is pleased, Gen. Tom Ewing is pleased still more, and John Morrissy's manly bosom swells with pride at the profound statesmanship of his candidate. Compare the two, and then tell me on which side you find true moral courage. Let it not be said that Gov. Hayes was fearless only because he did not see the bearing of his utterances. Before his letter of acceptance was published he read it to a friend, and that friend observed, "It is not unlikely, Governor, that what you say there may very much displease some very powerful men in your own party." And what was the answer? "Yes, that may be so, but this is right." And the letter came out as it was written. I think I can support a reformer who has the courage thus to feel and thus to speak.

I do not pretend to call Gov. Hayes, as Mr. Tilden is called by some of his over-zealous friends, "the wisest man in the world." I do not put him in point of courage above all the heroes of antiquity and modern times. I do not predict that if elected President, he will cure in three months all the ills human society is heir to, and plunge us straight into the millennium of ideal existence. But he is a man who has nobody to fear, because he has nothing to cover up. He has nobody to reward, because he did not seek the presidency, and promised nothing. And he has no future favors to ask for, because he has no ambition to serve except to make, as president, his one administration a blessing to the country and an honor to himself. His reform plan is the product of experience wisely turned to account, of mature reflection, and of an unselfish desire to benefit the people. Behind that plan stands a clear, solid, cultivated intellect, the unostentatious but firm force of quiet, persistent energy and the inviolable pledge of a born gentleman. And, I repeat, that plan, as far as the power of the presidential office goes, will carry out. I speak with confidence, for that confidence I possess. I have his word for it, you have his word for it, the whole American people have his word for it; and, as Gov. Hayes is a man of honor, that word will be kept.

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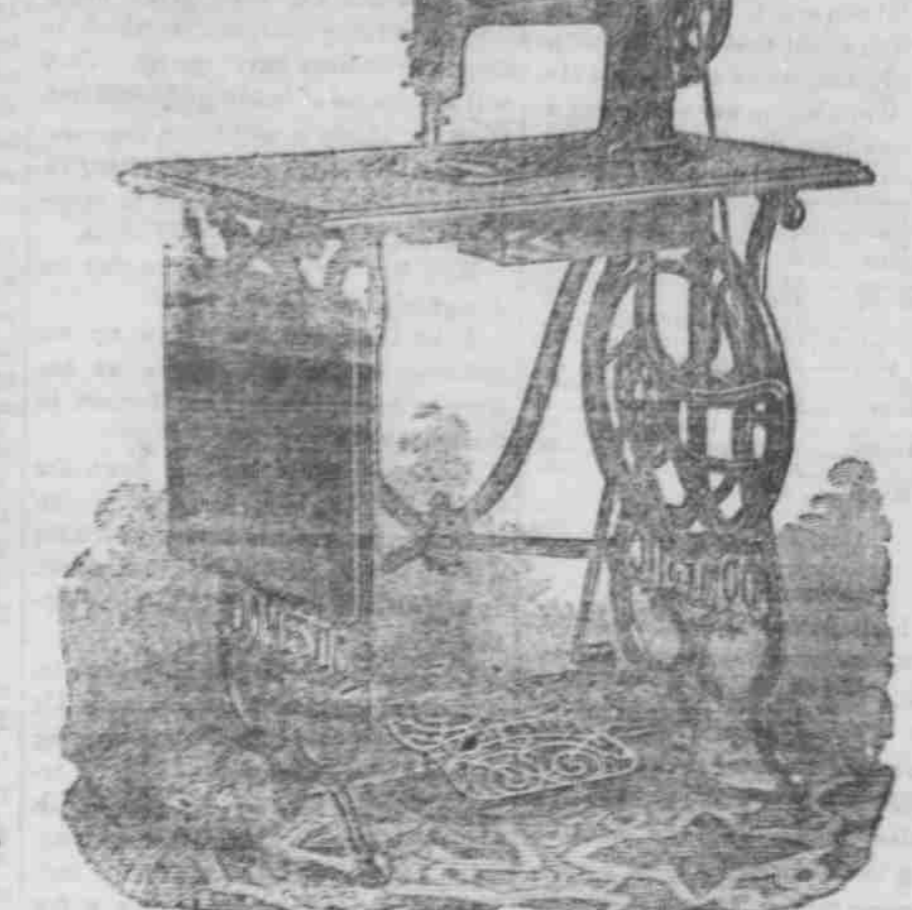
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