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## GEORGE W. DELAMATER.

HON. GEORGE W. DELAMATER, State Senator from Crawford County, Pennsylvania, and prominent Republican candidate for the Governorship of the State, was born in Meadville, Pennsylvania, March 31, 1849. After receiving preliminary tuition in the common schools in that city, he took a course in Allegheny College, where he graduated with honor, after which he entered the Harvard Law School and there acquitted himself with great credit. Mr. Delamater came of the De La Maitres, being the eighth generation of the family in this country, Claude De La Maitre and his wife Hester, daughter of Pierre Du Bois, from whom Mr. Delamater is descended, having been married in Holland, whither they had fled in 1652 in order to escape religious persecution, emigrating in the same year to New Amsterdam, now New York. On his mother's side Mr. Delamater traces his ancestry for nine generations to William Towne, who settled in Massachusetts in 1640. From this branch of the family descended the well known educator, Salem Towne, while the late Schuyler Colfax was descended from the Delamaters. A family which on both sides has thus, as one may say, been contemporary with the entire history of the country, will necessarily have been largely connected with its public affairs, and this has been the case, as in all its struggles for free institutions and their perpetuation, the rolls of the army, in every contest in which the country has been engaged, have borne the name of Delamater. Mr. Delamater's father, Hon. George B. Delamater, has been well known throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, having represented the Crawford and Erie District in the State Senate, and proved himself one of the ablest and most successful business men in the country. He is a man to whom the largest interests have been intrusted with implicit confidence, a trust which has never been abused. George W. Delamater passed one year at the law school when he began the required period of preparation for the bar, and, that completed, was admitted to practice in the courts of his native county. He was fortunate in the possession of a library which, not only in law but in science and polite literature, was one of the largest and most valuable in his State. He thus entered upon the practice of his

profession amply supplied with tools and under the very best auspices. He was possessed of professional tastes, and he had gone through a thorough and severe training. And yet, after devoting three years to the practice of the law, his mind became turned in the direction of commercial business. Several enterprises presented themselves before him, with the result that he changed his course in life and became a business man. In this direction he has been successful beyond his most generous anticipations. He is at the head of the banking house of Delamater & Co., and Director of the Merchants National Bank of Meadville, Pennsylvania, President of and owner of a controlling interest in, the Meadville and Linesville Railroad, President of the Meadville Fuel Gas Company, besides being connected with other local enterprises. All this shows the possession of varied and remarkable talents and ability of a high order. And it is extraordinary that in company with these qualities, Mr. Delamater should also be possessed of other characteristics qualifying him for eminence in still other and more important directions. Entering into political life and possessing political ambition while still a young man, he became Mayor of Meadville in 1876, two years later Senatorial Delegate to the State Convention, and the following winter Chairman of the Republican County Committee. In 1880 he was chosen a Republican Presidential Elector for Pennsylvania. In 1886 he was elected to the State Senate. In all these positions he has proven himself to be a safe and sagacious and judicious leader, understanding politics, perfectly qualified to harmonize conflicting interests, and moving steadily along toward success without producing antagonisms, and with the important result of keeping his party in his own locality in a perfectly united and healthy condition. Mr. Delamater was just entering into young manhood when the Republican party was born, and its youth and vigor appealed strongly to his imagination, with the result of naturally making him a strong Republican. The Kansas and Nebraska struggle excited him to the utmost, while the fact that the famous "Ossawatimie" Brown was a neighbor of the Delamaters, carrying on the business of tanning in Richmond Township, Crawford County, near the old Delamater homestead, may have had something to do with it. Long before the troubles in Kansas, Brown was accustomed to discuss the rights of the slave, and the powers and prerogatives of the General Government as against State rights, and as these things were argued with Mr. Delamater's father, and often in his own presence, it happened that not only he, but all the members of his family, sympathized with the old man,

and lamented his final rash act and tragic end. All of this shows that Mr. Delamater came honestly by his Republican principles, and from these principles he has never deviated. He is a thorough protectionist, believing that this policy secures for the laboring man higher wages than he otherwise would obtain. During his term in the Senate he showed marked ability and honesty, and achieved the position of a leader in that body, although surrounded by men much older and more experienced than himself. He was made Chairman of the Committee on Banks and Banking, and a member of the Committees on Finance, Judiciary and Railroads. Meanwhile in State politics he has been an efficient party leader, and has incurred a debt on the part of the Republican party, including very powerful and very effective work for General Harrison during the Presidential campaign of 1888. Having proved himself a wise counsellor and an able lieutenant in the most important party conflicts, the fact of his being a prominent candidate for the gubernatorial nomination in 1890 is not surprising. Mr. Delamater was made permanent Chairman of the Republican State Convention which met at Harrisburg, August 7, 1889. Illustrative of the esteem in which Mr. Delamater is held in his own locality, may properly be given the preamble and resolutions offered by Hon. Stewart H. Wilson, of Linesville, at the meeting of the Republican County Committee, on March 4, 1890, at Meadville:

"Whereas, Crawford County's representative in the State Senate, the Hon. G. W. Delamater, is the leading candidate for nomination for Governor at the approaching Republican State Convention; and

"Whereas, Because of his sterling qualities and long valuable party service, we deem him eminently fitted and deserving such recognition; therefore

"Resolved, That it is due him that the Republican party of Crawford County take early action for the promotion of his nomination, and to that end we hereby order a special primary for the election of three delegates to the State Convention, said primary to be held March 25, 1890;

"Resolved, That we urge upon the Republicans of Crawford County to unite as one man in the support of the candidacy of our fellow citizen, and suggest that the following three representative citizens be presented under the rules for the suffrage of the people as candidates for delegates, viz.: Col. John J. Carter, of Titusville, Hon. J. C. Sturtevant, of Conneautville, and Oliver Saeger, Esq., of Saegertown, it being understood that they will support and use every honorable means to secure the nomination of Senator Delamater for Governor."

Charles J. Andrews, of Titusville, seconded the resolutions, and the vote on their adoption was unanimous. The response of Mr. Delamater to the introductory speech of the Chairman of this meeting, though brief, was eloquent and effective. A

Meadville daily paper, commenting at this time upon the Senator, uses the following language :

"As he is to-day, so he will prove to be in whatever station he may be called, a warm-hearted friend, a faithful servitor of the people; in short, a man whom the people can implicitly trust at all times and on all occasions to do that which seems to him to be right, cost what it may. It is too early to speak of him as Chief Executive of this great Commonwealth, but those who have carefully noted the beats of the pulse of public opinion are free to admit that he is far in the lead, and his success appears to be fully assured."

On assuming the Chairmanship of the Republican State Convention, Mr. Delamater made a speech of some length, in which occurs the following :

"The moment the solid South ceases to be the ruling faction in national elections, it will disintegrate, and Republican control of the four new States will virtually decide this." The degree of prosperity of any Government depends upon the intelligence of its citizens. For a time other and incidental causes may produce thrift, but permanence and stability can only be assured by education. The great and diverse business enterprises which will be encouraged to start in the South by the protective tariff, will themselves tend to educate the people, but in addition there must be some system of education which, under the supervision of proper authorities, will educate the masses. This is not only a measure of safety, but an act of simple justice. We can never hope to repay our colored wards for the injury resulting from slavery. We can only hope to put them in the way of a gradual growth to a higher manhood. Thus supplementing the effects of protection and the admission of the four new States with education, sectionalism, as exemplified in the solid South, will cease to threaten us."

The New York *Tablet*, a Roman Catholic weekly publication, in its issue of February 1, 1890, had the following editorial reference to Mr. Delamater :

"Senator Delamater has won a high reputation as a statesman, and certainly no more fitting candidate can be selected to fill the gubernatorial chair. His unblemished record is known to every citizen of the Keystone State. A Pennsylvanian himself by birth, he has ever closely identified himself with the interests of his native State. To the energy of youthful manhood he adds the calm judicial temperament and the administrative capacity of the experienced man of affairs. He has been loyal to every trust, both public and private, while his many admirable qualities of head and heart have won for him hosts of friends, not alone throughout his own State, but far beyond its confines. Pennsylvania will make no mistake when she confers upon such a man the highest honor in her gift."

Secretary Leach, of the Republican State Committee, being asked his opinion of the contest for Governor in the State of Pennsylvania, said : "I see that Senator Delamater has announced himself as a candidate for the gubernatorial nomination. I hope he will be successful. I look upon Delamater as one of the brainiest men in the Repub-

lican party of Pennsylvania. He is a modest and unassuming man in his manners, but he is characterized by a reserve force of great power, which manifests itself upon closer acquaintance. The powerful factors in politics now-a-days are those who are wise and influential in the councils of the party. It is here that Senator Delamater's strength of character manifests itself." Deputy Attorney-General Snodgrass said of Senator Delamater that he had "worked his way to the front in party affairs by sheer force of character, and not through any discriminating favoritism. He not only represents the young element in the Republican party, but he also represents the business element. He is a level-headed business man and a thoroughly representative citizen. I do not know anybody who so completely fills the bill as an ideal candidate as Delamater. He has no false pride about him. I consider that his success in pushing himself to the front and becoming one of the safe advisers in the councils of the party is an encouragement to every young man who has any aspirations in politics. He did not come knocking at the doors of the State leaders as a suppliant for favors—he came with a good sized constituency behind him, with a party following which could not be ignored, and asked for a voice in party management, not as a favor, but as a right. Seven or eight years ago it would not have been so easy for a man like Senator Delamater to get to the front in the party organization, but, as I say, his success in getting a hand in the management of party affairs is encouraging to every young man ambitious for a place and a voice in his party organization." On Mr. Delamater's advent into the realm of State politics, he at once manifested qualities of leadership which attracted the attention of the older politicians, and it was this fact which brought him into the party conferences at the capital, and rendered that easy for him which would have been difficult for almost any other man. Moreover he very soon established claims upon the party which it was and is necessary to recognize. In 1888 Senator Delamater's friend, Hon. W. H. Andrews, became a candidate for the important position of Chairman of the Republican State Committee. State Senator Thomas V. Cooper, who had filled the office with ability for several years, was an aspirant for re-election, and had the earnest support of Hon. J. Donald Cameron, and Christopher L. Magee of Pittsburgh. Senator M. S. Quay declined to take an active part in the contest. The odds seemed to be very overwhelmingly against Mr. Andrews, but, undismayed by appearances, Senator Delamater became his champion and entered the field in his behalf. The press of the State with surprising unan-

imity supported Mr. Cooper. Nevertheless Messrs. Delamater and Andrews proceeded with the work, and, when the convention met, achieved a triumph that was the more gratifying because it was accomplished by intelligent effort and fair means. A notable service was performed during the Presidential campaign of 1888. It is well known that when General Harrison was nominated for the Presidency, there were grave doubts felt of the possibility of electing him, and when the National Committee of that party established their headquarters in New York and commenced work, the outlook was gloomy. Among the trusted men who were called to do work at this headquarters was Mr. Delamater, and all through that trying campaign, by night and by day, he was at his post doing most thorough and effective work for his party. Mr. Delamater was married, November 23, 1871, to Miss Mary McFarland, daughter of James E. McFarland, of Meadville, Penn., and has two children: a daughter, Susie Louise, and a son, James Scott Delamater.

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