The Forty-fourth Congress, with a Democratic House and a Republican Senate and President, accomplished little actual legislation. It was a busy Congress, however. It impeached General Schenck, Secretary of War, who escaped conviction by resigning. George F. Hoar was one of the managers on the part of the House.

The raids in the navy were exposed, and appropriations reduced $30,000,000. The Senate prevented further reduction.

In strong contrast to his two immediate predecessors was Michael C. Kerr of Indiana, the Democratic Speaker. He defeated Blaine, 173 to 106, which fairly indicates the political complexion of the House.

One resolution of ever-recurring interest was passed by the House, 234 to 18, the overwhelming vote in its favor ending the agitation for a third term to General Grant, 70 out of 88 Republicans voting nay. The resolution read:

"In the opinion of this House the precedent established by Washington and other Presidents of the United States in retiring from the Presidency after their second term, has become by universal concurrence, a part of our Republican system of government, and any departure from this time-honored custom would be unwise, unpatriotic and fraught with peril to our free institutions."

Speaker Kerr dying, Samuel J. Randall was Speaker during the last session of this Congress. Practically its entire attention was devoted to the disputed Tilden-Hayes election.

In the January 16, 1875, number, Appleton's Journal editorially comments on an interesting innovation lately introduced into English politics. Two Liberal candidates agreed to an informal poll of the Liberal electors a week before the real election, and the loser withdrew allowing the favorite to poll the full party vote. The adoption of the practice was recommended to America. This seems to have been the inception of primary elections. Some localities in this country did soon adopt it, but the primary system did not become general until in the Nineties. As both parties adopted it, where it was adopted, its effects were intra-party, and seems to have helped one party no more than the other.

The Presidential year 1876 found the Democratic Party in splendid condition. The Democratic House, and Speaker Kerr had made a good impression on the nation. The scandals of the administration were resented by the majority of the Republican rank and file. Hopes for victory and a Democratic President were soundly based.

CHAPTER XXII
TILDEN-HAYES DISPUTED ELECTION
1876-1880


The Twelfth Democratic National Convention was held at St. Louis, June 27, 1876, two weeks after the nomination of Hayes and Wheeler by the Republicans. The call had been addressed to "Democrats, Conservatives and all other citizens irrespective of past political associations desiring to cooperate with the Democratic Party." The convention chose Henry Watterson for temporary, General John A. McClernand for permanent, president. The speeches made in the convention stressed reform, and enthusiasm and applause marked the proceedings from first to last. The popularity of Tilden, Hancock and Hendricks was evinced whenever any opportunity was given. The rules of the preceding convention were adopted, and mention of the two-thirds rule applauded. The delegates from the District of Columbia and the territories were given seats in the hall but no voice.

Two minority reports were submitted with the platform, one by Eastern men wishing to strengthen the hard money plank, and the other by the soft money advocates who desired to weaken it. The soft money amendment was voted down 515 to 219, the Ohio and neighboring states voting ay, the East and South mainly voting nay. The platform as submitted was then adopted, 661 to 83, Ohio and Indiana supplying 50 of the negative votes.

Thomas F. Bayard, Thomas A. Hendricks, Leon Abbeet, Joel Parker, Wm. Allen, General Hancock and Samuel J. Tilden were nominated. Senator Kean of New York nominated Tilden and John Kelly made a speech against the nomination. There was disposition on the part of many delegates to shout down the
THE STORY OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

1910

Tilden-Hayes Disputed Election

THE DOMINANT POSITION OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN THE ELECTION OF 1876

The Democratic Party, on the other hand, had little to offer. Their candidate, Rutherford B. Hayes, was a compromise choice, and his victory was questionable due to the disputed election.

The controversy over the election results led to a constitutional crisis, with the House of Representatives voting to decide the outcome. The final vote was 25 votes for Hayes and 23 for Samuel Tilden, the Democratic candidate. The decision was made in favor of Hayes, who became the 19th President of the United States.

This disputed election left a lasting impact on American politics, as it highlighted the need for a more formal system to resolve such disputes. It also set a precedent for the use of political patronage in federal appointments, which would continue to be a major source of controversy for decades to come.

In the aftermath of the election, the country was divided, with the Democrats calling for a recount and the Republicans asserting the validity of the vote. The controversy over the election results led to a constitutional crisis, with the House of Representatives voting to decide the outcome. The final vote was 25 votes for Hayes and 23 for Samuel Tilden, the Democratic candidate. The decision was made in favor of Hayes, who became the 19th President of the United States.

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The political parties have a role in the functioning of the democratic system. They represent different political ideologies and serve as platforms for candidates to run for office. The party system helps to organize political power and provides a framework for political competition. The strong position of the Democratic Party in the United States is due in part to its ability to adapt to changing political landscape and to effectively mobilize its base.

The Democratic Party was founded in the 1820s as a reaction to the Jacksonian Democrats, who were critical of President Andrew Jackson's policies. The party initially supported the expansion of the Union and the acquisition of new territories. Over time, the party has evolved to reflect the changing political climate of the United States. The Democratic Party has been a driving force in the development of social welfare programs, civil rights, and environmental protections. It has been a champion of the working class and has been instrumental in the passage of legislation that has improved the lives of millions of Americans.

The Democratic Party's strength in the South is due in part to its support of civil rights and its opposition to segregation. It has been a leader in the fight for racial equality and has been instrumental in the passage of laws that have ended racial discrimination. The party has also been a leader in the fight for workers' rights and has been a champion of labor unions.

The Democratic Party is committed to maintaining a strong military and to protecting the nation's security. It has been a leader in the fight against terrorism and has been instrumental in the development of policies that have helped to keep our country safe.

The Democratic Party is committed to ensuring that all Americans have access to high-quality education. It has been a leader in the fight for educational equity and has been instrumental in the development of policies that have helped to improve the quality of education for all students.

The Democratic Party is committed to protecting the environment and to ensuring that our natural resources are used responsibly. It has been a leader in the fight against climate change and has been instrumental in the development of policies that have helped to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Democratic Party is committed to ensuring that all Americans have access to affordable health care. It has been a leader in the fight for universal health care and has been instrumental in the development of policies that have helped to improve the quality of health care for all Americans.

The Democratic Party is committed to ensuring that all Americans have access to affordable housing. It has been a leader in the fight for affordable housing and has been instrumental in the development of policies that have helped to reduce housing discrimination and to ensure that all Americans have access to safe and affordable housing.

The Democratic Party is committed to ensuring that all Americans have access to affordable energy. It has been a leader in the fight for clean energy and has been instrumental in the development of policies that have helped to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and to promote the use of renewable energy.
The story of the Democratic Party

Tilden-Hayes Disputed Election

231
The truth of the proverb "bad news makes a good man wise" was verified in Hay's administration. One of the first acts of the new President was to remove the federal troops from Harpers Ferry. On the night of the 3rd of November, General Regulars, who had been in residence since the war, were ordered to leave the town. The order was carried out without a struggle, and the troops took up their quarters elsewhere.

Hay's administration was marked by a spirit of economy and efficiency. He removed many of the inefficient officials, and replaced them with men of ability and integrity. The Civil Service was reformed, and a system of civil service examination was established. The Post Office Department was also reformed, and a system of competitive examination was introduced for the appointment of clerks and other positions.

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CHAPTER XXII

THE STORY OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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