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 Bell- knap, Secretary of War, who escaped conviction by resigning. George F. Hoar was one of the managers on the part of the House.

The frauds 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, 254 to 18, the overwhelming vote in favor ending the agitation for a third term to General Grant, 70 out of 88 Republicans voting aye. 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 Presidential office after their second term, has become by universal consent, 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 18, 1876, 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 withdrawing allowed 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 pleased 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.

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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 vote.

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 aye, the East and South mainly voting nay. The platform as submitted was then adopted, 551 to 83, Ohio and Indiana supplying 50 of the negative votes.

Thomas F. Bayard, Thomas A. Hendricks, Leon Abbot, Joe Parker, Wm. Allen, General Hancock and Samuel J. Tilden were nominated. Senator Kernan of New York nominated Tilden and John Kelby made a speech against the nomination. There was a disposition on the part of many delegates to shout down
The plot that restored our confidence, began with the discovery of the fraud evidence that the election was rigged. The fraud was uncovered by a special investigation committee, which found extensive evidence of vote manipulation.

In the beginning, the committee was met with resistance, but with the help of various allies, including the media and opposition parties, they were able to gather enough support to push the issue forward. The committee's findings were submitted to the court, and a trial was scheduled.

The trial was a turning point, with witnesses coming forward to testify about the fraud. The evidence was overwhelming, and the judge ruled in favor of the opposition, ordering a new election.

The news of the new election was met with joy and relief, and people across the country celebrated the end of corruption. The new election was held without incident, and a new government was formed.

Since then, there has been a renewed sense of hope and possibility. The country is working to recover from the damage caused by the corruption, and there is a greater focus on transparency and accountability in government.
The story of the Democratic Party

Chapter 1: Origins of the Democratic Party

In the years following the Revolution, the country was divided into two main political parties: the Federalists and the Democratic-Republicans. The Federalists were led by Alexander Hamilton and John Adams, while the Democratic-Republicans were led by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. The Democratic-Republicans were known as the Democratic Party today.

Chapter 2: The Early Years

The Democratic Party was established in 1828 when Andrew Jackson ran for president on the Democratic-Republican ticket. Jackson's campaign was a massive success, and he won the election by a wide margin. Jackson's victory marked the beginning of the Democratic Party's dominance in American politics.

Chapter 3: The Civil War

The Civil War was a defining moment for the Democratic Party. While the party was split on the issue of slavery, it ultimately sided with the South. However, many in the party were opposed to the war and sought to end it as quickly as possible.

Chapter 4: Reconstruction

After the Civil War, the Democratic Party attempted to regain power. However, the party was condemned for its role in the suppression of the Reconstruction effort. The Democratic Party was further weakened by the scandals surrounding the corruption of President Andrew Jackson.

Chapter 5: The Rise of the Republican Party

The Democratic Party continued to decline in popularity, and by the late 19th century, the Republican Party had become the dominant force in American politics. The Democratic Party was largely relegated to the role of a minority party for much of the 20th century.
CHAPTER XXII

THE PARTIES OF THE CONFEDERATE ADMINISTRATION