

BEED OF MAINE AND M'KINLEY OF OHIO

The Real Issue in the Speakership Contest.

Overpowering Claims of the Man from Maine.

The Necessities and the Logic of an Important Situation.

[*Washington Special to the Boston Advertiser.*]
The real issue, the vital struggle, is nar-

rowing down to MCKINNEY or OHIO and Reed of Maine, the two men of greatest national reputation on the Republican side, the two who deserve most at the hands of their party. It is a struggle that has been in the air for months—from the day, in fact, when the sturdy little Ohio major came back from Chicago with the glamour of a national enthusiasm upon him. These two men came into Congress at the same date, and the demands

of their service they have fought the party's battles and their own, until they stand out together distinctly today, the conspicuous representatives of the Republican idea. To be sure the Maine leader has stood well to the front and has taken the hardest blows and paid them back, but he has always had McKinley close at hand.

And now their ambitions clash. The bat-

tie has been fought out, the enemy have been forced back upon their supplies, and in the hour of victory comes the dispute to whom the principal laurels shall go. There is not the slightest trace of bitterness in the rivalry between these two. They have been friends, and so they will remain to the end. But which is to win the prize? Tom Reed has incontestably the advantage of position.

He is the acknowledged leader of the Republican side, and has been at a time when leadership was not so enviable a recognition as it is today.

As such, he is the man to whom the speaker's reason would come, and some convincing reason should be shown if he is to be set aside. He has not been a failure in his place. He has been chosen twice to lead the minority in the hardest kind of an up-hill fight, and he has led it adroitly and wisely through skill and courage.

He is not to be set aside on sectional grounds. This is not a sectional fight in any sense. The issue of this kind of geographical lines should have no place in it. The sectional issue is to be forced to the front, it is not easy to see, say Mr. Reed's friends, why the presidency should go to the West and the speakership as well.

ern one than that of McKinley himself. He will go into a canvass, to be sure, with a solid New England delegation and three-fourths of the vote of the Middle States, but the Pacific slope is unanimous for him at the same time, and he has made serious inroads into the territory of Mr. McKinley. The bulk of his support today is from the Wabash River, in Pennsylvania and Ohio. These are the facts of the situation, but it is safe to predict that sectionalism will not

The next House will be dangerously close, by far the closest in which the Republican party has yet had control, and it will be essential that the very strongest vigilance be maintained at all critical points. A peculiarity of the closeness is that the opposition will receive the brunt of the Democratic attack. The rules of the House today are in a deplorable shape. They are so framed as

A first necessity will be to alter them in such a way that legislation in which the great body of the Congress and the people have an interest shall at least come in for fair consideration.

There will be dilatory motions to prevent the adoption of such a change, and there may come a time in the course of these proceedings when the presence in the chair of a

There is only one man on the Republican side who combines all these qualities, and that is Tom Reed. His long apprenticeship as leader of the minority has rendered him by all odds the finest parliamentarian in his party. He has the most sufficient common sense and intellectual strength to launch a prompt decision at a critical time, and back

We shall have an extra session of the House in March or April. That is generally recognized now for a month. Major McKinley and Judge Kelley are the persons proposed to the thing, it is believed that the popular demand for effective tariff legislation of some kind will prove irresistible.

Besides, there are the Territories to admit as States a question on which the Democratic majority in the House has been signally displayed their inability

to grapple; and it is hardly probable that President Harrison will care to run the risk of having the narrow Republican margin reduced by death or illness. It may be set down, therefore, as a sure thing that there will be an extra session, and that its principal business will be the revision of the tariff.

Here again appears the necessity for the strongest men at the front—one in the speaker's chair, the other leading the masses on the floor at the head of men and

means. And in spite of Mr. McKinley's present hesitancy in regard to the necessity of immediate tariff legislation, it is universally known that no man at either end of the Capitol is so thoroughly equipped for introducing a wise bill and defending its details on the floor.

With Reed for speaker this result would be assured. The venerable Judge Kelley is anxious to see the honor of the chairmanship of ways and means go to a younger man before appointed by Mr. Kelfer. But he

and a considerable number of the Keystone delegation following in his wake are outspoken for Mr. McKinley as presiding officer of the convention.

Altogether, this is the situation as it looks today, and it is not surprising that the Portland leader's friends are confident and aggressive.

Gov. Dingley is well assured that the speakership will go to Maine, and the governor is one of the most shrewd and careful observers in Washington. The news

pective storminess of the approaching session will continue to tell in Reed's favor. Only 88 Republican members of the present House will have seats in the next, but that state of the new men will not be long in developing. A majority in the caucus may be no more than 83, and it is believed that Mr. Reed already has support assured whose momentum would carry his vote beyond that figure were a decision to be made today.

It is equally impossible to figure out a plurality for the Ohio candidate in any way if the men who are known to favor other aspirants remain true to their present choice. No combination seems possible by which any one of the minor candidates can transfer his strength unbroken to another.

These are the facts as they stand today. It would be a glaring injustice to Tom Reed if, after his party have put him forward as their leader in a time of need, he should now be

(Hail,
 York
 and 21:
 N. Y.
 an. 9:
 h and
 year):
 and 18,
 the
 slight of rejection upon him. The noble with the
 the situation and a sense of justice alike de-
 mand his election, and that is why it looks
 like Speaker Reed of Maine, with McKinley
 forging his way to the presidency at the head
 of the Republican column in the House.

Even the Minister Signed It.
 [Oxford County Advertiser.]
 To all whom Andrew Smith of Andover

meets he produces a paper from his pocket and asks to sign it. He duns both the masculine and feminine gender, and tells the latter that it is for their interest to sign it. The following is a copy of the petition, which is so called:

NOTICE.

This is a petition, and it certifies that we Republicans will walk the quarter deck after March 4th next, and the business of this government will run on Republican principles, viz: 'To the

The petition has more than 100 signatures. Among them we came across our minister's name.

Steamboat Company was held yesterday. The report of the treasurer showed receipts of about \$30,000, and expenditures about the same. Owing to the cold weather which prevailed, the traffic was not as good as usual. These officers were elected: President—Chas. B. Rogers. Treasurer—J. F. Liscomb. Directors—C. B. Rogers, J. B. Coyle, Benjamen Willard, C. W. T. Gooding, J. B. Curtis.

A Cupfull of Joy.
[Pittsfield Advertiser.]

Mr. O. Leathers and Miss Ella Torrey were married Saturday. Mr. Leathers was but five days a grandfather at the time of his marriage, and his cup of joy may be said to be full.

