

arrived, the speech was delivered, the convention stamped in his direction, his nomination was made unanimous, and the Democratic party entered on a new era of its existence. Then followed months of campaigning in which he visited nearly every State in the Union, speaking for five or six hours a day and at nearly all hours of the day and night. His defeat at the Presidential elections apparently did not discourage him. To a book which he



THEODORE ROOSEVELT, REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR THE VICE-PRESIDENCY.

published a few months afterwards he gave the significant title of "The First Battle." Neither did his defeat affect the allegiance of his followers. His supremacy in his own party remained unquestioned, insomuch that, though only a private citizen, he was able to influence powerfully legislation at Washington. To-day he is in the eyes of partisan Republicans an unprincipled demagogue. The more liberal members of that party regard him as a well-meaning but narrow-minded man, of undoubted ability, but possessing, in matters of statesmanship, more voice than brains. To those of his own party (or rather, parties, for he is the nominee of the Democrats, of the Silver Republicans and of one wing of the Populist party), he is a second Moses, who is to frustrate the tyrannical designs of the Pharaohs of the modern monopoly, and to lead the American people out of the bondage of industrial servitude into a Promised Land where there shall be "equal rights to all and special privileges to none." He and his party hope to accomplish this deliverance not by revolutionary means, but by legislation and executive action directed against three great evils which have grown up under Republican administration and which, in the opinion of Mr. Bryan and his followers, threaten the very life of the nation. These are, (1) militarism, as exemplified in the increase of the regular army from twenty-five thousand to over one hundred thousand; (2) imperialism, as shown by the manifest intention of the administration of Mr. McKinley to keep the Philippines as a permanent colony, and (3) the trusts, of which the Standard Oil Company is the most conspicuous example.

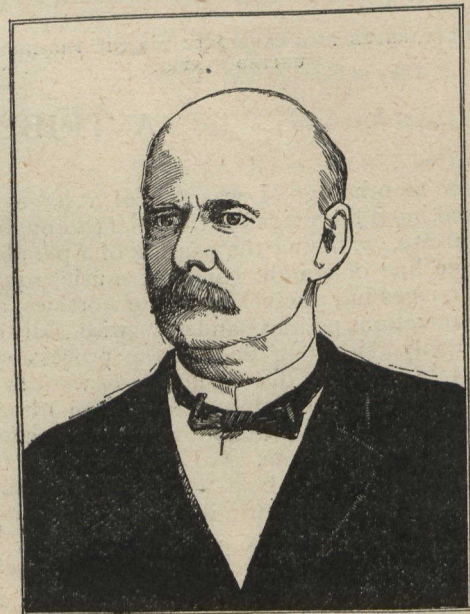
It would, I think, be unwise for me to devote any space to a discussion of the general issues of the contest in which the American people are at present engaged. One may find able expositions of these in the various American magazines and in a recent number of our own *Canadian*

*Magazine*. I prefer to speak of Mr. Bryan himself rather than of the principles which he so enthusiastically champions.

In Mr. Bryan's library in his home in Lincoln, Neb., the place of honor is given to a picture of Thomas Jefferson. This fact seems to me to have a significance. Jefferson is Mr. Bryan's favorite authority, both as to political doctrines and as to habits of life. The American school-boy reads in his history that Jefferson, on the occasion of his inauguration as third President of the United States, rode up to the Capitol, dismounted, tied his horse to a paling, went inside, read a five minutes' inaugural address, went out, re-mounted his horse and rode home. A similar simplicity is noticeable in Mr. Bryan's surroundings and habits of life. His home is a quite unpretentious frame structure, fitted up with few pretensions to luxury. In many of his political speeches he tells his audiences of his five-acre farm just outside of the city of Lincoln. In discussing agricultural problems he alludes to his experience in raising oats, and while hesitating to call himself a farmer, asserts that he is an agriculturist. The distinction he draws between these two classes is that a farmer makes his money in the country and spends it in the town, while an agriculturist makes his money in town and spends it in the country.

Few will deny that singleness of purpose has been a prominent characteristic of Mr. Bryan's career. It is quite probable that early in life he realized the inalienable right of the American boy to a chance for the presidency. At any rate, while in college he paid great attention to the cultivation of his powers of public speech, was a prominent member of several debating clubs, and on one occasion won second place in an oratorical contest.

Although qualified for the practice of law, political life



ADLAI STEVENSON, DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE FOR THE VICE-PRESIDENCY.

has had such strong charms for him, and the demands for his services as a campaign speaker have been so numerous and urgent, that his legal experience is necessarily somewhat limited. His version of the matter is that he has been so busy prosecuting the Republican party for grand larceny that he has had no time for the details of his profession.

Since the beginning of his public life, Mr. Bryan has been prominently identified with the movement in favor of