

## HON. GARRET A. HOBART:

Republican Nominee for the Vice-Presidency.

GARRET AUGUSTUS HOBART, the distinguished son of New Jersey, who has been selected as the Republican candidate for Vice-President, is a big, rosy-checked gentleman known to most every Jerseyman as "Gus" Hobart. His face is as open as a book, and his clear eyes, dark hair and brown mustache, create the impression on first sight that he is a man of 40 or 45 years. His age is 52.

He is a man of much magnetism and amiability. He has displayed locomotive energy in all of his undertakings, and is both powerful and fearless. His career as a citizen, lawyer, business man and statesman justifies all of the claims for brilliancy his friends make for him.

Jerseymen speak of him as a "true blue" native of the State, and tell of it with pride that he was born on a Monmouth County farm in 1844, and was reared amid the breezes that blow off the shores of Long Branch.

He received a common school education, was

sent to Rutgers College at 15, and at 19 was given the degree of A. M. He is now a LL. D. The degree was given him on Tuesday, June 16, 1896, by his alma mater. His friend and associate, Governor Griggs, was honored at the same time with the same degree.

Mr. Hobart began the study of law with Socrates Tuttle, of Paterson, who was then the leading practitioner of East Jersey. He was admitted as an attorney in 1864 and as a counselor in 1869.

Mr. Hobart's entrance into politics was made in May, 1871, when the Board of Aldermen of the city of Paterson selected him as City Counsel. The next year he was made counsel for the Board of Chosen Freeholders of Passaic County. These two offices brought him in direct contact with all the prominent men of Passaic County and gave him almost daily opportunity to show his ability as a lawyer and politician.

These associations were directly beneficial, resulting in his selection in 1872 to the House of Assembly. He made a good record during his first year, taking an active part in all debates, and at once acquired a State reputation. Without scarcely turning a hand he was re-elected in 1873 and was made the caucus nominee for Speaker of the House, being unanimously elected.

He took the gavel untrammelled by promises or

pledges, and was enabled to select his committees and direct the work of the House as his judgment suggested.

In 1875 he declined a re-election. His clientage had become extensive, and he needed all his time and energy for his profession. In 1877 he was induced to accept the Senatorial nomination, and was elected. His success as Senator was even greater than that in the lower house.

#### Prominent in the Senate.

He served his three years with distinction, and was promptly re-elected by the largest majority Passaic County had ever given to any candidate. His extended experience, and the fact that he was a second-term man, returned by such a complimentary vote, made him a formidable candidate for the President of the Senate, and in 1881 he was accorded that honor. In 1882 he was again called to preside over the upper house.

His legislative career was a brilliant one. He made himself popular with all the prominent men of the State because of his ability, amiability and fairness. In 1884 he was the Republican caucus nominee for United States Senator.

He was also a candidate for United States Senator in 1882. The Senate was Republican, but the House was Democratic. Congressman John J. Gardner, of Atlantic City, was President of the

Senate. A successor to United States Senator McPherson was to be chosen. Mr. McPherson sought to succeed himself. Ex-Senator H. S. Little was leading a vigorous opposition against him.



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An effort was made to get a strong candidate, and among those selected was the late Chancellor, Theodore Runyon, the present Attorney General, John P. Stockton, and Leon Abbett. The Democrats were very much mixed, and the Republicans selected Garret A. Hobart as their candidate,

having assurances of a number of Democratic votes.

The Democrats had only a slim majority on joint ballot, and five of them were disaffected as to McPherson. Senator John W. Taylor and twenty Republicans gave assurances to Senator McPherson that they would assist him in the event of the Democratic plotters being successful. The Senate voted for Mr. Hobart, and he received altogether thirty-six votes, against forty-three given to Senator McPherson.

Senator Hobart made the same remarkable advance in State politics as in county matters, and he was readily recognized as a leader, and was selected a member of the State Committee while presiding over the Senate. In 1880 he was elected chairman, a place which he held until the selection of John Kean in 1890.

He has, however, always been a committeeman-at-large, and in all succeeding campaigns has given his undivided time to the work of the Republican party. His good judgment in political matters, as well as his aggressiveness, caused him to be selected in 1884 as a member of the National Committee from New Jersey.

He gave to National politics the same energy, and did his work with the same affability. He speedily won distinction as a leader in national politics, and was made vice-chairman. The duties

imposed upon him in the National Committee did not, however, cause him to lose interest in New Jersey affairs, even to a personal direction of the policy of his party in the Fifth New Jersey Congressional District, where he resided.

**Mentioned for Governor.**

Mr. Hobart has several times been mentioned as a candidate for Governor, and he was prominent in the public mind at the time John W. Griggs declared himself a candidate.

It is well known that Garret A. Hobart secured the nomination of the present Republican Governor. They were fast friends, and associated together in a number of enterprises, had studied law in the same office, and the Governor became Mr. Hobart's political successor, following him in the House of Assembly and in the Senate.

When it was announced that Garret A. Hobart was a candidate for Governor, Senator Griggs called upon him, and in a friendly conversation asked him for a definite expression on the subject, which was then somewhat in doubt. He received from Mr. Hobart the assurance that the announcement of his candidacy for Governor was only a newspaper joke. It was then that Senator Griggs declared himself as a candidate and secured the promise of Mr. Hobart's active support.

He personally conducted the campaign, and not-

withstanding the fact that there were six candidates in the field, he secured the nomination for Griggs and then assumed the duties of Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Republican State Committee, and devoted every hour of his time until he secured Griggs' election by over 26,000 plurality. This was a climax to all his political successes in the State, which made him a leader indorsed and respected.

Mr. Hobart is considered a wealthy man, but is not a millionaire, but a man comfortably fixed, keenly enjoying the friends that he has made and the success that has come to him because of his energy and ability. He is active in benevolent enterprises.

Garret A. Hobart was never a boss, but always a persuader of men. He has been a leader and an adviser all through his political career. His influence has always been for good in New Jersey politics. His enthusiastic admirers advocated him as the proper man to represent the East on the national ticket. They attributed to him the success of last Fall, which was the climax of the fight of twenty years to ditch the Democratic machine.

All the Republicans in the State joined in the Vice-Presidential boom, somewhat to the annoyance of Mr. Hobart himself. It grew so fast that when he did attempt to check it he found it impossible. Democrats as well as Republicans shouted his

praises. No man is more approachable, and the poorest laborer in Paterson finds him as easy of access as the banker or the politician.

Mr. Hobart lives in a large frame house on the corner of Carroll and Van Houten streets.

Mrs. Hobart was Miss Jennie Tuttle, daughter of Mr. Hobart's preceptor and a sister of Hobart Tuttle, private Secretary to Governor Griggs. She is a woman of many accomplishments, having inherited much of the keen intellect and wit of her famous father.

Mr. Hobart's family consists of Garret A. Hobart, Jr., now 12 years old. His daughter, who was a great favorite in New Jersey and New York society, died in 1895 in Italy while the family was abroad.