

SINGING FOR BLAINE AND FOR LOGAN!  
REPUBLICAN SONGS AS CAMPAIGN LITERATURE  
IN THE 1884 PRESIDENTIAL RACE

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During the presidential contest of 1884, Republicans used singing as a campaign tactic at rallies, meetings, and parades. Their songs may be divided into several categories, such as rally songs, songs of praise for the party and its candidate, bloody shirt songs, mudslinging songs, and issue-based songs.

Songs provide a perspective on the overall tenor of the campaign, while a lack of songs on certain topics, such as temperance, reflects the party's reluctance to alienate voters by taking a strong stand on controversial issues. Although the campaign has often been called one of the dirtiest in American history, this negativity is not reflected in the majority of the songs.

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## INTRODUCTION

Hark! hark! hark! the chorus swelling,  
From the seaboard over mountain and o'er plain,  
The people can't be wrong, for they all join in one song,  
Hurrah for our next President, James G. Blaine.<sup>1</sup>

In the late nineteenth century, the two major political parties were so evenly balanced that every vote mattered. Voting patterns were stable and elections were often quite close, causing a reluctance in both parties to take a firm stand on issues. In New England, where the abolition movement had been strongest, voters supported the Republican Party, as did veterans of the Union Army. Those African Americans who voted also staunchly supported the party of Lincoln. Upper and middle class voters in the Midwest and North tended to consider the Republican Party to be more respectable than the Democrats with their political machines and bosses. The former Confederate States consistently voted for Democratic candidates. With the exceptions of black voters and white Unionists from the South's mountain regions, the Democrats could claim the support of the Solid South. Voters in most large cities endorsed the Democrats, primarily because of the Democratic machines' intensive work among the immigrant classes. Thus, the decision in presidential contests often came down to a few states, notably New York, Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana. It is not surprising that a disproportionate

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<sup>1</sup> Song for Blaine, *Blaine and Logan Campaign Song-Book* (New York: Republican National Convention, 1884), 4.

number of candidates for the presidency and vice presidency were from these swing states.<sup>2</sup>

The result of this balance was a difficulty in passing laws because neither party was able to control the White House and both houses of Congress simultaneously. Parties were forced to make broader appeals to the voters rather than take definitive stands on controversial issues. Combined with the rapid changes brought about by industrialization, immigration, and urbanization, this division within the government has caused the era to be studied and written about extensively. Contemporary writers tended to concentrate on corruption and an alleged lack of effective governing. A significant part of this was due to the strong partisan stance of newspapers of the day. Even the name Gilded Age comes from a satirical novel of the period written by Mark Twain and Charles Dudley Warner. Their story portrays the politics of the day as exploitation, speculation, and spoils.<sup>3</sup>

Although some more recent historians have questioned this negative image of the period, one can still find among more current writings many essays and books that depict

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<sup>2</sup>A. James Reichley, *The Life of the Parties: A History of American Political Parties*. (New York: Free Press, 1992), 152; Richard A. Welch, Jr., *The Presidencies of Grover Cleveland* (Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 1988), 33. New Jersey and Connecticut may also be considered swing states; however, their influence on election results is less significant because of their smaller number of electoral votes.

<sup>3</sup>Charles W. Calhoun, ed., *The Gilded Age: Essays on the Origins of Modern America* (Wilmington, Del.: Scholarly Resources, 1996), 188; Robert W. Cherny, *American Politics in the Gilded Age: 1868-1900*, The American History Series (Wheeling, Ill.: Harlan Davidson, 1997), 3; Calhoun, *The Gilded Age*, xi.

an era of stagnation, factions, and dishonesty. Keith Ian Polakoff wrote that the two major parties were so divided by factions that the very act of legislating often caused more harm than good... After suggesting that the tariff was the only issue that divided the parties from each other, Polakoff added that sectional conflict over racial policies was the only issue that created unity within the parties. He used terms such as fraud, instability, and intimidation to describe the era.<sup>4</sup>

A. James Reichley agreed that the tariff was the main difference between the two parties, while Charles C. Euchner contended that civil service reform was also an issue but in the race for the White House in 1884, the bloody shirt and personal attacks made the Republican campaign one of the dirtiest in American history, overshadowing the few substantive issues that existed. Eileen Shields-West called the campaign of 1884 one of the worst mudslinging campaigns ever and stated that besides the tariff, there was little difference between the party platforms. Gil Troy insisted that the dominant issue of 1884 was not the tariff, but the influence peddling, bribery, cover-ups of the Republican candidate, whom Troy called a political prostitute.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup>Welch, *Grover Cleveland*, 2-3; Keith Ian Polakoff, *Political Parties in American History* (New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1980), 247, 250.

<sup>5</sup>Reichley, *The Life of the Parties*, 161; Charles C. Euchner and John Anthony Maltese, *Selecting the President: From Washington to Bush* (Washington: Congressional Quarterly, 1992), 236-37; Eileen Shields-West, *The World Almanac of Presidential Campaigns: All the Facts, Anecdotes, Scandals, and Mudslinging in the History of the Race for the White House* (New York: World Almanac, 1992), 113-14; Gil Troy, *See How They Ran: The Changing Role of the Presidential Candidate* (New York: Free Press, 1991), 91.

Since so many historians characterize the Gilded Age as an era lacking in any true issue-based differentiation between the major parties, and the campaign of 1884 as a vicious exercise in mudslinging and waving of the bloody shirt, a question arises as to whether Republican campaign songs confirm the extreme nastiness attributed to this presidential race. Though the songs' impact on the outcome of the election is impossible to measure, songs were probably more reflective than influential. A careful examination of song lyrics may reveal the extent to which scandal and insults became a part of the informal campaign, and whether any real political issues are mentioned in song.

While the formal campaign consists of party platforms and appearances by the candidates, the informal part of electioneering, according to Roger A. Fischer, embodies the material culture of banners, medallions, photos of the candidates, badges, cartoons, and songs. In 1884, it also included pine cones, frosted plates, and helmets with white plumes. Apart from some very derogatory cartoons, few of these items show the sordid nature associated with this campaign, leaving songs as the sole part of the informal campaign in which to search for evidence of mudslinging.<sup>6</sup>

In a bibliography of songbooks for presidential campaigns, there are twenty-five books listed for 1884. Five of these were published for the Democrats, and twenty were Republican. Six Republican songbooks published prior to the election of 1884 were used for this study. In addition, three songs were used that were published as sheet music

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<sup>6</sup>Roger A. Fischer, *Tippecanoe and Trinkets, Too; The Material Culture of American Presidential Campaigns, 1828-1984* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1988), 38-39.



rather than as a part of a collection. The smallest, a pocket-sized edition titled *Republican Pocket Monitor and Campaign Song-Book*, was published in New York by F.S. and C.B. Bertram. It contains only eighteen songs; however, it also has the Republican platform and a copy of the nominee's acceptance letter. In addition, it contains an amusing piece entitled "Burdette's Advice to Young Voters." The short title used for citations in this paper is *Pocket Monitor*.

*The Blaine and Logan Collection of Campaign Songs, All Set to Familiar Tunes* has thirty songs and a "Special Notice" claiming that they are all new songs, not old songs with a few word changes. The publishers, J.M. Fernald and W.G. Haskell of Lewiston, Maine, further state that by using melodies familiar to the "mass of people" instead of including music that might be difficult for many to learn, the book can be made small enough to carry easily, so that "the multitude" can sing. This songbook has the Republican platform and an advertisement for badges, flags, and magazines. It also offers, at the top of the first page, inexpensive portraits of the candidates. Ironically, the lower three-fourths of that page is an apothecary advertisement for medicines to cure diarrhea, constipation, and "Pain of every kind." The short title is *B & L Collection*.

Four songbooks contain short biographies of the candidates. One of these, *The Blaine and Logan Songster: Popular Campaign Songs* is also the longest of the songbooks used. It contains sixty-three songs, some of which were sung to well known tunes. Published in Philadelphia by Thomas Hunter, this book has sketches of the

candidates and excerpts from congratulatory letters and telegrams received by Blaine. Its short title is *B & L Songster*.

One of the songbooks that has biographies has the cover title *Blaine and Logan Campaign Songster, Including Biographical Sketches & Constitution for Campaign Clubs*, but its caption title is *Blaine and Logan Campaign Carols*, and its running title is simply *Campaign Carols*. To avoid confusion, its short title is simply *Campaign Carols*. It has forty-three songs, several of which rank among the most morbid and graphic of the bloody shirt songs. It was published by John Church and Company of Cincinnati and includes a form for starting a Blaine and Logan Club, with blanks for the club's location and member names.<sup>7</sup>

*P.T. Schultz and Co.'s Blaine and Logan Bugle Call*, another book with biographies, has the same form for a club constitution as is found in *Campaign Carols*. Although it contains forty-two songs, eleven of these are not campaign songs. Rather, they are included for their music, for following each of the eleven are at least two songs that use the same tune. Published in Cincinnati by P.T. Schultz and Co., as indicated in the title, this songbook has an alphabetical index and a drawing of the candidates with American flags crossed in the background, separated by a bundle of dynamite crowned

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<sup>7</sup>That *Campaign Carols* contains so many gruesome songs is ironic because carol means a joyful song, and these songs are quite the reverse.

with olive leaves. This is obviously intended to remind voters that the Republican Party preserved the Union. The short title is *Bugle Call*.<sup>8</sup>

Published in New York by the Republican National Committee, the *Blaine and Logan Campaign Song-Book, Compiled and Edited by Professor F. Widdows* has biographies and an index. It also includes a poem to be read aloud at rallies and a chart of the electoral votes for each state in 1884, as well as the candidates' pictures with the dynamite motif previously mentioned. It has forty-two songs, most of which are set to popular melodies. The short title is *Campaign Song-Book*.

These six songbooks contain a total of 238 campaign songs. With the three songs published as sheet music, it would seem that there are 241 songs; however, four songs appear in two songbooks each, and one song is in three books. Thus, excluding the non-campaign songs, there are actually only 226 different campaign songs. It may seem surprising that so many songs could be written in a very short time; however, many of these songs are little more than jingles, with repetitive phrasing and simple tunes. There was little recycling of lyrics from previous campaigns, with the exception of a few songs that recall the Civil War.

To assist the reader, an appendix at the end of this paper lists each of the songs and the book in which it appears. As some of the duplicated songs have slight changes in the lyrics and a few songs that are different have the same title, the first two lines of each

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<sup>8</sup>P.T.Schultz & Co. was evidently a nonpartisan publisher, as the company also published the *Cleveland and Hendricks Songster*.

song are also included in the appendix. Songs are quoted exactly as they appear in the songbooks, without the distraction of {sic} in the numerous instances of nonstandard spelling, poetic license, or use of dialect. Variations in duplicated songs are discussed in the footnotes.

## CHAPTER ONE

### THE EARLY MONTHS OF THE CAMPAIGN

We'll set the Campaign moving, Boys!  
With speech and shout and song!  
We'll start it with a spirit,  
That will rush the cause along;  
We will gather round our leaders,  
Many a thousand strong,  
And sound the cry for Blaine and Logan.<sup>1</sup>

The Republicans held their national convention in early June in Chicago's Interstate Industrial Exposition Building. Eight hundred and twenty delegates along with thousands of dignitaries and party leaders crowded into the gigantic hall known as the Glass Palace. So many spectators requested seats that tickets with stubs for each day had to be issued to prevent overcrowding. Ladies sat in the upper gallery to observe the proceedings, and tables were available for members of the press. Some two hundred ushers were responsible for escorting attendees to their seats and keeping out those who did not have tickets.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Campaign! *Republican Pocket Monitor and Campaign Song-Book* (New York: F.S. and C.B. Bertram, 1884), 6.

<sup>2</sup>R. Craig Sautter and Edward M. Burke, *Inside the Wigwam: Chicago Presidential Conventions, 1860-1996*, with a Foreword by Richard M. Daley (Chicago: Loyola Books, Wild Onion Press, 1996), 57; *New-York Daily Tribune*, 27 May 1884.

After a prayer for a decent and clean campaign, the convention chose John R. Lynch, an African American from Mississippi, as temporary chairman, then settled into the business of hearing reports from various committees. Blaine supporters made an attempt to require all delegates to promise to endorse the party's nominee or risk expulsion from the party. George W. Curtis of New York protested vigorously amid resounding cheers and the motion was withdrawn. Then William McKinley read the proposed platform, which was approved by acclamation. That evening, after a recess, the names of eight men were offered to the convention as potential nominees, but the following morning when the first ballot was taken, it was apparent that only two men were contenders.<sup>3</sup>

President Chester A. Arthur, who moved up from the vice presidency when James A. Garfield died, made a lukewarm effort at seeking the nomination. However, James Gillespie Blaine, leader of the Half-Breed faction of the party, received the required simple majority on the fourth ballot. Blaine was a professional politician. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1830 and spent his youth in Ohio. He taught at a country school in Kentucky for three years and at the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind for two years before marrying. He and his bride settled in Maine in 1854, where he edited two newspapers, the *Kennebec Journal* and the *Portland Advertiser*, before beginning his political career in 1858. He was elected to four terms in the state

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<sup>3</sup>Sautter, *Inside the Wigwam*, 50-51; Paul F. Boller, Jr., *Presidential Campaigns*, rev. ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1996), 146. Lynch was the first African-American to chair a national political convention in the United States.

legislature, serving two terms as Speaker. From 1862 to 1876, Blaine served seven terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, three as Speaker, then was elected to the Senate. President Garfield appointed him Secretary of State and the Senate confirmed his nomination unanimously. Eight months later, Garfield died and Blaine resigned, returning to his home in Maine to write his memoirs.<sup>4</sup>

John A. Logan received the nomination for vice president by acclamation. Logan was born in Illinois in 1826. He served in the war with Mexico, rising from the rank of private to that of first lieutenant. Upon his return to Illinois after the war, he was elected to the state legislature. In 1858 he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, but left in 1861 to join the Union Army as colonel of a regiment from Illinois. After being seriously wounded at Fort Donelson, Logan received a promotion to general. He served as military governor of Vicksburg and commanded the army of the Tennessee. After the war, he returned for two terms in the House of Representatives. In 1870, he was elected to the U.S. Senate.<sup>5</sup>

The convention was the scene of boisterous cheering and noisy bursts of excitement which sometimes continued for several minutes before order could be

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<sup>4</sup>*New-York Daily Tribune*, 7 June 1884; Polakoff, *Political Parties*, 241. Allen Johnson and Dumas Malone, eds. *Dictionary of American Biography*, vol. II (New York: Charles Scribner s Sons, 1930), s.v. Blaine, James Gillespie. Arthur was suffering from Bright s disease, a fatal liver condition.

<sup>5</sup>*Campaign Song-Book*, 49; Steven G. O Brien, *American Political Leaders: From Colonial Times to the Present* (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 1991), 36; *Dictionary of American Biography*, vol. XI, s.v. Logan, John Alexander.

restored. The *New-York Tribune* reported great enthusiasm for the nominees with only good feelings and no sullen dissatisfaction nor any mention of bolting. Even though anti-Blaine clubs were formed in several cities within a month of the convention, Republican lyricists insisted that the party remained unified.<sup>6</sup>

Hail! boys! To the chief of the nation!  
Chicago has sent forth his name;  
He comes with a record untarnished,  
Encircled with glory and fame;  
A tower of strength in the nation,  
In time of the dark civil war;  
Then hail! to the Plumed Knight and Logan!  
Three cheers! with a hip-whoop-hurrah!  
Then hail! to the Plumed Knight and Logan!  
Three cheers! with a hip-whoop-hurrah!

The fight in the party is over,  
We all join with one heart and hand,  
And now we unfold the old banner,  
That has waved for years in the land;  
With a record good and enduring,  
Our future no fierce foe shall mar;  
Then hail! to the Plumed Knight and Logan!  
Three cheers! with a hip-whoop-hurrah!  
Then hail! to the Plumed Knight and Logan!  
Three cheers! with a hip-whoop-hurrah!<sup>7</sup>

One songwriter used the exuberance of the convention as a background for a visit from Yankee Doodle, who donned his new togs and went to Chicago where he was asked for advice on choosing the party's nominees. Yankee Doodle described the man the delegates should select, concluding in verses seven and eight:

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<sup>6</sup>*New-York Tribune*, 7 June 1884.

<sup>7</sup> Hail to the Plumed Knight! And Logan! *Campaign Song-Book*, 8.



Pres and Vice, who re solid men,  
Platform short and spicy;  
Gold in issue free again,  
Greenbacks *versy vicy* ;  
Schools upon the good old plan,  
Built from town and thicket;  
Office for the honest man,--  
That s your winning ticket!

Yankee Doodle then withdrew  
From the great convention,  
Leaving there emotions too  
Numerous to mention;  
But the delegates arose,  
And by acclamation,  
Blaine, of Maine, and Logan chose,  
For their nomination!<sup>8</sup>

Another writer explained how fortunate the Republicans were in choosing Blaine and Logan as candidates, while disassociating their names from the Whisky Ring.

At our National Convention,  
We met with firm intention,  
To choose a man who stood outside the ring, ring, ring;  
And we ve been so very lucky,

We can t help feeling happy,  
To speak of Blaine and Logan makes us Sing, Boys, Sing.<sup>9</sup>

In the following verse, the writer expressed the party s confidence in its nominees:

The most honored son of Maine

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<sup>8</sup> Yankee Doodle at Chicago, *Blaine & Logan Songster: Popular Campaign Songs*, (n.p., 1884), 46.

<sup>9</sup> Work for Blaine and Logan, *Campaign Song-Book*, 10.

The Grand old statesman Blaine;  
The bravest and most brilliant scholar of them all;  
With the gallant Soldier boy,  
Black Jack, from Illinois,  
They will lead us on to vict ry sure next fall.<sup>10</sup>

Because Blaine was from the Pine Tree State, many of his supporters began wearing badges adorned with small pine cones. His nickname was White Plumed Knight, prompting marchers in parades to wear suits of armor made of papier-mache. Logan was called Black Jack and the Prairie Eagle, but one writer evidently wanted to use the imagery of seeds instead of birds.<sup>11</sup>

The Old Pine Tree and Prairie Flower,  
Hurrah! Hurrah!  
United they will be a power,  
Hurrah! Hurrah!  
For victory now we will march on,  
And plant them both in Washington,

And all be loyal and true  
Till both come marching home.<sup>12</sup>

One lyricist claimed that Our first, our last, our only choice was James G. Blaine, because he ll not join hands with any force and he had sufficient experience,

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<sup>10</sup>Ibid.

<sup>11</sup>Shields-West, *World Almanac of Presidential Campaigns*, 112-113; Marvin Rosenberg and Dorothy Rosenberg, The Dirtiest Election, *American Heritage*, 13, no. 5 (Aug. 1962), 5. Blaine s nickname came from a speech by Col. Robert Ingersoll.

<sup>12</sup> Dinna Ye Hear the Slogan? *Campaign Song-Book*, 11.

with over twenty years before the public eye. Blaine did indeed have many years of experience in national politics but his career was not without the stain of scandal.<sup>13</sup>

Upon being notified of his nomination, Blaine wrote a very lengthy letter of acceptance. Many Republican newspapers printed excerpts and a few printed the entire letter. The *New-York Tribune* then reprinted from papers in other cities portions of editorials praising the letter in extravagant terms. Pennsylvania's *Easton Free Press* called Blaine's letter "the production of a brain more powerful, sagacious, clear...." The *Washington Times* reported that Blaine was "thoroughly Republican in principle and fully abreast with Republican ideals for the preservation of American interests and popular rights...." Blaine made a "masterful argument for protection, according to the *Trenton Gazette*. The *Detroit Journal* claimed that new revelations in Blaine's letter provided proof that Blaine has "a Civil Service reform record of which the most pronounced...reformers might well be proud."<sup>14</sup>

The acceptance letter also received praise in song. Songwriter F. S. Bartram boasted that the letter stirred many strong emotions.

We've a letter now from Maine!  
Countrymen! Countrymen!  
And it's from our Leader Blaine!  
Countrymen! Countrymen!  
It has met our hearts desire,  
It has roused the bitter ire

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<sup>13</sup> The People Name the Man, *Blaine & Logan Collection of Campaign Songs, all set to familiar tunes* (Lewiston, Maine: J.M. Fernald and W.G. Haskell, 1884), 31.

<sup>14</sup>*New-York Daily Tribune*, 20 July 1884.

Of all the rebel liars!  
Countrymen!

There is magic in its voice!  
Countrymen! Countrymen!  
And it justifies our choice,  
Countrymen! Countrymen!  
Tis the star amid the gloom!  
Tis the rose of June in bloom!  
Tis the sunshine at high noon!  
Countrymen!

It has drawn the British fire!  
Countrymen! Countrymen!  
Like our patriotic Sires!  
Countrymen! Countrymen!  
Tis *American all through!*  
Tis an able Statesman's view!  
To his Country, he is true!  
Countrymen!

Twill go with us on our way!  
Countrymen! Countrymen!  
In the workshop! at our play!  
Countrymen! Countrymen!  
Through our Land and on the Sea,  
Tis the watchword of the free!  
Tis the *Hope* for you and me!  
Countrymen! Countrymen!

Tis the *Hope* for you and me!  
Countrymen!<sup>15</sup>

Between the Republican National Convention in June and the Democratic National Convention in July, Republican songwriters were busy disparaging any Democrat who might be nominated to run against Blaine. Among the possible contenders

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<sup>15</sup> Blaine's Letter of Acceptance, *Pocket Monitor*, 16.

for the Democratic nomination were several prominent political figures, including Senator Thomas F. Bayard from Delaware, Roswell P. Flowers of New York, John G. Carlisle of Kentucky, and Samuel Randall from Pennsylvania., as well as former U.S. Senator Allen G. Thurman, Governor George Hoadly, and U.S. Senator Henry Payne, all from Ohio. Hoadly was noted for using the Ohio militia to break up a strike by coal miners and to stop a riot in Cincinnati. Payne once stood accused of using money from Standard Oil to buy votes.<sup>16</sup>

Formerly the governor of Massachusetts, Benjamin F. Butler wanted the nomination, but was deeply hated in the South for his actions while military governor of New Orleans and occupation commander of Norfolk. He was originally a Democrat, but switched to the Republican Party after the war and served in the U.S. House of Representatives. He joined the Greenback Party briefly in the late 1870s, then returned to the Democratic Party. When Butler failed to get the nomination in 1884, he ran as the Greenback/Anti-Monopoly candidate.<sup>17</sup>

Samuel Tilden announced in a letter to the New York Democratic State Committee that he did not have the physical strength to carry through a term as

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<sup>16</sup>*New-York Times*, 2, 4, 10, 11 July 1884; *New-York Tribune*, 13 June 1884.

<sup>17</sup>Smithsonian Institution, National Portrait Gallery, Staff of the Historian's Office, *If Elected... : Unsuccessful Candidates for the Presidency, 1796-1968* (Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1972), 252; Richard Harmon, *The Beast in Boston: Benjamin F. Butler as Governor of Massachusetts*, *Journal of American History* 55 (Sept. 1968): 269. Butler ordered his men to treat the ladies of New Orleans as women of ill repute if they insulted a Union soldier. He confiscated property belonging to Southerners and earned the derisive nickname "Spoons" for allowing his men to loot.

president; although he was grateful beyond words for the honor, he must refuse and submit to the will of God by closing his career of public service. His withdrawal caused a shift in several delegations because it came the same day that many delegates publicly pledged themselves to his support. Tilden cited his advanced age as a reason for declining consideration as a candidate.<sup>18</sup>

Three other men, all from swing states, were also mentioned for the Democratic nomination. Joseph E. McDonald was a former U.S. Senator for Indiana. Thomas A. Hendricks was a former governor of Indiana who was Tilden's running mate in the election of 1876 when an electoral commission decided that although the Democratic candidates won the popular vote, they lost the election. Grover Cleveland, a relative newcomer to the political scene, was governor of New York.<sup>19</sup>

Before the Democratic convention, the *New-York Tribune* advised the Democrats to make the most of their opportunities for a good time, since they wouldn't find much to enjoy during the campaign or after the election. Republican songwriters did not wait to have a specific opponent to criticize; instead, they ridiculed all of the contenders for the Democratic nomination. In the following song, the writer dispensed advice to gamblers

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<sup>18</sup>*New-York Tribune*, 12 June 1884.

<sup>19</sup>*New-York Tribune*, 9 July 1884; Robert Allen Rutland, *The Republicans: From Lincoln to Bush* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1996), 83-84.

about placing their bets on the election. The song is included in its entirety, for although it is rather lengthy it mentions each of the Democratic possibilities.<sup>20</sup>

This seems a time for betting, and a time for losing, too,  
For everyone will try his hand to see what he can do;  
So I'll give you all a pointer, and if advice you'll heed,  
Just save you shekels lay them by for time of greater need.  
'Tis very plain, when one man wins, another chap must lose,  
And it is very difficult the winning side to choose,  
But if you on election bet, my pointer's very plain;  
Put up your ducats, every time, on James Gillespie Blaine.

Chorus:

There's Tilden and there's Hendricks, too, both ready for the race,  
The difficulty seems to be, they both can't have first place,  
There's Bayard, Thurman, Cleveland, Payne, and lots of other stock,  
To dissipate the dollars of the betters on our block.

Old Tilden, he has lots of years, and lots of dollars, too.  
He tried it once and from his barrel heaps of coins he drew,  
He is no hog, he's had enough, and so the Democrats,  
Are looking for an anchorage high up Salt River flats.  
Don't bet on Sammy Tilden, for he is not in the race,  
Don't waste your wealth on Hendricks, for he will not have a place,  
And take no risk on Cleveland, he's a little bit too new,  
In short, don't risk your ducats on the Democratic crew.

Chorus:

There's Tilden, Hendricks, Cleveland, Thurman, ready for the race,  
Bayard for Delaware, and Payne, all anxious for the place.  
But when they find they're distanced, won't it be an awful shock,  
To all the Democrats, and to the betters on our block.

Ben Butler sits upon the fence with ever watchful eye,  
And if the proper time arrives his castor he will shy,  
Into the Democratic ring, and scattering his notes,  
He'll cast an eye both East and West, and look both ways for votes.  
Sam. Randall keeps a thinking, and does not say a word,

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<sup>20</sup>*New-York Tribune*, 10 June 1884.

And Hoadly, too, and Carlisle may someday, perhaps, be heard,  
For the lightning is peculiar and you can't tell where 'twill fall,  
So my advice to betters is, now do not bet at all.

Chorus:

There's Tilden, Hendricks, Bayard, always ready for a dash,  
They haven't much of youth or grace, but then they've lots of cash,  
With Hoadly, Payne, and Thurman, too, all good Ohio stock,  
To take your chance and lose your wealth, ye betters on our block.  
Within his wigwam, Sachem Kelly keeps himself concealed,  
But at the proper time his little game will be revealed;  
John Kelly is a wary sharp whose cards are always stacked,  
And Tammany's a mighty power when all its force is packed;  
But all the aid of every sort Democracy can find,  
Will not prevent its candidate from being left behind,  
So better, if you're bound to bet, your course is very plain,  
Invest your little dollars in one James Gillespie Blaine.

Chorus:

There's Tilden, Hendricks, Bayard, Cleveland, Thurman, Hoadly, Payne,  
All entered to contest the field with James Gillespie Blaine.

Carlisle, Randall, Butler, Kelly, all will feel the shock,  
When they stand amongst the losing throng, the betters on our block.<sup>21</sup>

Though not a candidate, John Kelly was the Boss of Tammany Hall and an enemy of Grover Cleveland because Cleveland refused to cooperate with the party machine by granting Tammany's requests for patronage. Cleveland also angered Kelly when he asked Kelly to block a certain state senator's reelection because the senator had interfered with Cleveland's legislative agenda. Kelly used rumor and innuendo in an

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<sup>21</sup> The *Betters on Our Block*, *Blaine and Logan Bugle Call* (Cincinnati: P.T. Schultz and Co., 1884), 8; Sautter, *Inside the Wigwam*, xix, 58. Butler was noticeably cock-eyed. Sachem is an Algonquin word meaning member of the council of tribal leaders, and wigwam, also Algonquin, is a name frequently used to refer to halls in Chicago used for national conventions. It means temporary shelter.



attempt to ruin Cleveland's chances of being nominated, even going so far as to send Thomas Grady and other Tammany supporters to Chicago early. There they spread stories that Cleveland was anti-Catholic and anti-Irish.<sup>22</sup>

Traditionally, Democratic conventions voted using the unit rule under which a delegation cast its entire vote as a unit determined by a majority vote within the delegation. Tammany delegates tried to have the unit rule changed so that when a delegation's vote was challenged by one of its members, the delegates would then vote independently. Passage of this amendment to the unit rule could have cost Cleveland as many as twenty-three votes, but the proposed change was defeated by a vote of 463 to 332. One writer developed a song about the convention using this incident, along with betting, Cleveland's weight, and his reputation for frequently using the veto power.<sup>23</sup>

Stephen Grover Cleveland's got a heavy load;  
Want good Democrats to follow us,  
He'll never reach Washington on the Elevated Road;  
Halle, Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!  
We'll bet five dollars he'll never get there;  
Want good Democrats to follow us,  
He takes no stock in a five-cent fare;  
Halle, Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

John Kelly to Chicago went;  
Want good Democrats to follow us,  
Ask *him* who'll be the President;  
Halle, Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

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<sup>22</sup>Oliver E. Allen, *The Tiger: The Rise and Fall of Tammany Hall* (Reading, Mass.: Addison Wesley, 1993), 168; Sautter, *Inside the Wigwam*, 58.

<sup>23</sup>*New-York Times*, 9 July 1884. The Republicans, in an effort to make their conventions more representative, had already done away with the unit rule.

Cleveland will find the autumn nights cool,  
Want good Democrats to follow us,  
When he gets left on the Unit Rule,  
Halle, Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!<sup>24</sup>

Kelly's efforts to influence the convention were unsuccessful, and Republican songwriters gloated over his misfortune. The following verses illustrate their enjoyment of Kelly's defeat:

Now boys stand round and pay attention,  
I'll tell you of the late convention,  
Away, away, away, away;  
Down in Chicago, Illinois,  
There came John Kelly and boys,  
Hurrah, hurrah, hurrah, hurrah!  
From Tilden first there came the news,  
He couldn't run he had the blues,  
Away, away, away, away!  
The Tammany boys, though in the boat,  
Were wrecked upon the unit vote.  
Hurrah, hurrah, hurrah, hurrah!<sup>25</sup>

Using a horse racing theme, one writer managed to poke fun at several Democratic contestants—dark and light; groomed for the Chicago race; their pedigree, etc.—in what is perhaps the best of the songs about the Democratic hopefuls. In the first section of the song, the songwriter ridiculed John Kelly, who was of Irish descent. Kelly was known for his vindictive attitude, stubbornness, and for holding life-long grudges.<sup>26</sup>

A bull-terrier kind of man,

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<sup>24</sup> Cleveland's Vetoes! *Pocket Monitor*, 8.

<sup>25</sup> The Workingman's Campaign Song, *Campaign Song-Book*, 24.

<sup>26</sup>*New-York Times*, 10 July 1884.

Who will gobble you if he can,  
With pipe and shillela,  
Will shlaughther you gaily  
He s the rale Tipperary clan.  
A blatherskite kind of man,  
Who will truckle, and knuckle, and plan,  
A bold politician,  
For self he is fishin  
A Kape-all-I-git old man.

Chorus:  
Conceive me if you can,  
A Hibernian kind of man,  
An O Flannigan, Flannery  
Sachem of Tammany  
A rule-or-ruin old man.<sup>27</sup>

The second part of the song mocks Benjamin Butler for being unable to win reelection as governor of Massachusetts and for having a volcanic temper. It also mocks his off-center vision.

A Massachusetts man,  
A political black and tan,  
An Aetna Vesuvian,  
Anti-diluvian,  
On the explosive plan;  
A one-term govern-ore,  
Who wanted an encore,  
But they said, Ben-jam-in,  
You d better go clammin ,  
And showed him the State-House door.

Chorus:  
A military man,  
On the self-protection plan,  
A thing non-descriptical,  
Vision elliptical,

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<sup>27</sup> Democratic Horses, *Bugle Call*, 25.

Can-look-round-the-corner old man.<sup>28</sup>

Samuel Tilden was the target of the third portion of this song. The writer implied that although Tilden declined to run for president, he secretly wanted the nomination. Tilden's age and drinking habits also came under attack.

I'm boss of all my clan,  
A Grammarcy Park old man,  
A political smarty,  
The hope of my party,  
The Democrat Moses old man,  
I-don't-want-it, kind of man,  
I-wont-have-it, unless I can;  
A relic of history,  
Embodied mystery,  
Barrel and spigot old man,

Chorus:  
Conceive me if you can,  
A worn out, decrepit old man,  
Ultra-statistical,  
Fossil political,  
Octogenarian man.<sup>29</sup>

The fourth section of the song refers to Thomas Hendricks, the unsuccessful candidate for vice president in 1876. The songwriter belittled his moralistic outlook as well as his unwillingness to take a stand on the issues.

A man from the Hoosier state,  
Who would, if he could, be great,  
Teaching didactical,  
Matters impractical,  
And watching his party's slate,

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<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

He would be first if he could,  
But it seemed not best that he should,  
So he said he reckoned,  
He d better be second,  
And all for the party s good.

Chorus:  
All things to all men, is his plan,  
Both sides-of-the-fence, if he can;  
For his efforts to straddle  
The political saddle,  
He s a never-get-there old man.<sup>30</sup>

The writer used the next part of the song to deride Grover Cleveland s youth and inexperience. The Republican newspapers accused Cleveland of overcharging the city of Buffalo for his services as sheriff, a charge which is no doubt the reason for calling him high priced. <sup>31</sup>

A very duck of a man,  
For New York s governor ran,  
A pink-of-propriety,  
Pet-of-Society,  
City of Bison young man.  
As-sweet-as-a-peach young man.  
He stands in the very van;  
A lawyer and scholar,  
A two-for-a-dollar,  
A rather high priced young man.

Chorus:  
Conceive him if you can.  
This dudish, nice young man.  
This cunning Plutonian,  
Shrewd Buffalonian,

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<sup>30</sup>Ibid.

<sup>31</sup>*New-York Tribune*, 3 November 1884.

Who for the White House ran.<sup>32</sup>

The Democratic convention was held in Chicago in the same building as the Republican convention. The 820 delegates chose Richard B. Hubbard of Texas as their temporary chairman and after his speech, were about to vote on rules of procedure when John Kelly sent Thomas Grady forward to make his motion to change the unit rule.<sup>33</sup>

The next morning, after electing Wisconsin's William Freeman Vilas as permanent chairman, the nominating process began and continued the next day until noon. Before voting on the nomination, the platform (which had been delayed in committee) was adopted. Tammany delegates attempted to delay the presidential roll call by asking for an adjournment, but the motion failed. On the first ballot Cleveland surged ahead with 392 votes. But the delegates were exhausted, the time being almost two o'clock in the morning, and several Cleveland supporters left the hall. Fearing that another ballot at that time would show a decline for Cleveland, Daniel Manning, chairman of the New York delegation, made a motion to adjourn. His motion carried.<sup>34</sup>

During what remained of the night, considerable backroom maneuvering and dealing took place. Kelly paid for the hiring of a crowd of Chicago's poor to fill the balconies and shout when given a signal. At one point, their cheering for Hendricks went

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<sup>32</sup> Democratic Horses, *Bugle Call*, 25.

<sup>33</sup>Sautter, *Inside the Wigwam*, 57-58; *New-York Tribune*, 9 July 1884.

<sup>34</sup>Sautter, *Inside the Wigwam*, 59, 61; Boller, *Presidential Campaigns*, 147; *New-York Times*, 12 July 1884.

on for almost fifteen minutes. The plan was to let the sham enthusiasm trigger an onrush of support for Hendricks, but though Hendricks did get a hundred additional votes, Cleveland also gained as state after state shifted votes to him. He finished with 692 votes, well over the 547 that would constitute the required two-thirds majority. After much cheering and singing, the convention adjourned until evening. At that time they met to select Hendricks as their vice presidential candidate.<sup>35</sup>

Calling the democrats a white man s party, the *New-York Tribune* criticized the convention for having several well known former Confederates present, yet not one black delegate. The *Tribune* also accused the Democrats of using brutality and coercion to prevent Negroes from voting. Several Republican songs supported this accusation, including one about a fictional hard-drinking murderer named Mike Dolan who was pardoned by a Democratic governor so he could harass Republicans and vote repeatedly for the Democratic Party. This song also illustrates a persistent anti-Irish theme in Republican songs.

I voted for Tilden from morning till night,  
I killed a dutch tailor that day in a fight;  
I scared the black nagers most out of their coats,  
While Johnny McCready, myself, and Pat Flynn,  
Stood close by the ballot box stuffin then in;  
But all of our labor went up in a blaze,  
For blasted Republicans counted in Hays.

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<sup>35</sup>*New-York Tribune*, 12 July 1884; *New-York Times*, 12 July 1884; Sautter, *Inside the Wigwam*, 62. The sergeant-at-arms of the convention was from Indiana, Hendricks home state. He used his position to help Hendricks by distributing admittance tickets to Kelly s throng of paid screamers.

Four years after that we had Hancock to lead,  
Oh he was a jewel, a daisy indeed.  
And though we repeated, we couldn't do much,  
For we were outnumbered with nagers and dutch.  
Our beautiful Solger was left in the lurch,  
By a man from Ohio, a deacon in church,

And so they've defeated us year after year,  
But sure there was plenty of whiskey and beer.<sup>36</sup>

Cleveland's status as a relative newcomer to politics was undoubtedly a large part of his appeal, contrasting as it did with Blaine's insider reputation. Son of a Presbyterian minister, he was born in New Jersey in 1837. Though he lacked any advanced formal education, Cleveland became a lawyer in Buffalo, New York. His political experience was limited to local and state offices. During the Civil War he was assistant district attorney for Erie County. As sheriff of the County, he became known as the "Buffalo Hangman" because he chose to handle two hangings himself instead of assigning the task to his deputies. He also served as mayor of Buffalo, earning the nickname "Veto Mayor" for his frequent use of that power. He often pushed for reforms much too quickly for the comfort of the party bosses.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> I'm a Roaring Repeater, *B & L Songster*, 30.

<sup>37</sup>Robert Kelley, "Presbyterianism, Jacksonianism, and Grover Cleveland," *American Quarterly* 18, no. 4 (1966), 615; Allen, *The Tiger*, 167; Henry E. Graff, ed., *The Presidents: A Reference History* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1984), 338; *New-York Tribune*, 3 November 1884. A *Tribune* editorial stated that Cleveland performed this duty to collect the fees, thus depriving his deputies of a chance to make extra money.



After only two years as mayor, Cleveland ran for governor of New York, winning by a huge margin. As governor, Cleveland continued to use the veto power vigorously, making several enemies among state Democratic leaders. He was soundly criticized by Republican papers and accused of being ignorant of the grave National question underlying the labor movement when he vetoed a bill limiting car drivers' hours to twelve per day. The *Times* defended the veto by pointing out that wages as well as hours would be cut and that other occupations were not included in the bill. In the first and third verses of 'The Car Drivers' Chorus!' the writer reminded workingmen to oppose Cleveland.<sup>38</sup>

Just before the Battle, Grover!  
We are thinking most of you;  
And about your little Vetoes,  
Which the canvass brings to view;  
Comrades all around us driving,  
Filled with thoughts of home and food,  
While they put the seventeen hours in  
For the Corporation's good.

Soon the whistles will be sounding,  
Ho! The signal for the fight,  
Then beware the Drivers' legions,  
They will all your minions smite,  
Hear the Battle Cry of Freedom,  
As it swells through field and lane,  
We are rallying round the standard,  
Of the Faithful Leader, Blaine!<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>38</sup>*New-York Tribune*, 12 July 1884; *New-York Times*, 24 July 1884; Sautter, *Inside the Wigwam*, 62.

<sup>39</sup> 'The Car Drivers' Chorus!' *Pocket Monitor*, 9.

Cleveland also vetoed a bill limiting fares on New York's elevated trains to five cents, so the Republicans accused him of keeping the common laborers in tenement housing since they wouldn't be able to afford to commute from suburban areas. Painting Cleveland as the foe of the worker, one poet wrote "Down with *The Vetoer* of all laws for Labor's gain.... Another mentioned a few of Cleveland's vetoes that affected families and the workingman."<sup>40</sup>

But Grover Cleveland will find out,  
The workingmen have turn about,  
Away, away, away, away;  
His vetoes are remembered still,  
The five cent fare and long hour bill,  
Hurrah, hurrah, hurrah, hurrah!

The children's bill, mechanics' lien,  
Killed by his veto they have been:  
Away, away, away, away;  
But in the coming fall he'll know,  
The workingmen give blow for blow,  
Hurrah, hurrah, hurrah, hurrah!<sup>41</sup>

Cleveland finally accepted the nomination, taking several weeks to complete his letter of acceptance. He considered self-promotion to be undignified and refused to campaign actively, preferring to continue in his duties as governor. He left Albany only

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<sup>40</sup>*New-York Tribune*, 24 July 1884; Blaine, Blaine, Hurrah! *Campaign Song-Book*, 48.

<sup>41</sup> The Workingman's Campaign Song, *Campaign Song-Book*, 24-25.

to tend to personal business in Buffalo. Blaine, however, took to the stump, visiting various states and making over four hundred short speeches.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>42</sup>*New-York Times*, 2, 20 August; 13 September 1884; Shields-West, *Presidential Campaigns*, 111.

## CHAPTER 2

### RALLY AND PRAISE SONGS

Blaine and Logan! There they stand,  
Hear their praise on ev ry hand!  
For truth to Honor s cause and right,  
For purpose pure and manly might,  
For deeds of valor, precepts grand,  
Where find their like in all the land?  
Ranks unbroken, let us show,  
As we did four years ago;  
And our swelling cry shall be,  
Blaine and Logan! Victory!<sup>1</sup>

Over one hundred Republican campaign songs were written to praise Blaine and Logan and to rally party members to work hard for success in the election. Some of these songs encouraged rank-and-file Republicans to bring out your banners and work for our leaders the best of good men! and complimented various aspects of Blaine s character. One song reminded loyal party members to join the chorus and shout the glad refrain, a message designed to build pride in the party, its platform, and its candidates. Several rally songs promoted party unity and expressed the ideal of equality among all voters on election day, probably in an effort to make party members feel important. Others proclaimed We ll sing our songs right merrily, voices pealing full and free! and we ll work until the last. Though some rally songs berate the Democrats, many of the

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<sup>1</sup> Blaine and Logan, *B & L Songster*, 52.

songs in this category do not mention the opposition; instead, they concentrate on praising the worthiness of Blaine and Logan.<sup>2</sup>

Choice of the fearless free!  
Champions of liberty!  
In them we trust;  
Let every patriot voice  
Shout for our honest choice  
And in their names rejoice,  
For they are just.

Honor and purity,  
Loyal integrity  
Dear to thy sight!  
True men will vote for you,  
Pure hearts will pray for you;  
For Blaine and Logan, too,  
Champions of right!<sup>3</sup>

Many songs of this type attribute sterling qualities to Blaine. He is described as the true son of free Columbia, a noble statesman, the bravest and the best, and along with Logan, heroes that for liberty have fought. Songwriters declared that Blaine and Logan were the friends of people everywhere, being of humble birth and having gained by noble deeds the fame they deserved.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> O Bring Out Your Banners, *B & L Songster*, 19; For Victory Again, *B & L Songster*, 20; Come, ye Freemen, *Pocket Monitor*, 19; Shouting for Blaine and Logan, *Blaine and Logan Campaign Carols* (Cincinnati: John Church and Co., 1884), 16.

<sup>3</sup> Choice of the Fearless Free, *Campaign Carols*, 22. This song also appeared in *B & L Songster*, 3, under the title Champions of Liberty, and with the first two lines of each stanza reversed.

<sup>4</sup> Away to the Polls, *B & L Songster*, 7; Our Chosen Leader, *B & L Songster*, 39. This

Both Republican songwriters and Republican newspapers defended Blaine against accusations of corruption, although these charges of dishonesty were long-standing and reasonably well-documented. At a time when railroad expansion was at its greatest and trains were essential to the continued growth of the economy, Blaine was able to use his influence as Speaker of the House to assist railroad companies in getting huge subsidies from the government. He also managed to accumulate a sizable fortune in the process. Blaine was implicated in the infamous Crédit Mobilier scandal in which several Republican officials, including Vice President Schuyler Colfax, received stock in a construction company founded to build the eastern part of the transcontinental railroad. In return, Blaine and other Republican leaders helped the Crédit Mobilier avoid investigation for stock swindles and fraudulent contracts in which the company overcharged the government millions of dollars.<sup>5</sup>

Blaine reportedly accepted bribes in return for his vote on behalf of the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad and participated in the sale of over-priced bonds, receiving a commission on each sale. Blaine's correspondence concerning this swindle became public along with a letter in which he requested that railroad executive Warren Fisher

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song also appears in *Campaign Song-Book*, 9; Blaine and Logan Song, *B & L Collection*, 18.

<sup>5</sup>Polakoff, *Political Parties*, 241.

write a letter clearing Blaine of any complicity in the scandal. He ended his plea with an entreaty to Burn this letter.<sup>6</sup>

Democrats held torchlight parades, marching down the street chanting, Burn this letter, and six formerly Republican newspapers in New York City alone came out in support of Cleveland because they could no longer endorse Blaine. Yet in spite of all evidence to the contrary, most Republicans continued to defend Blaine as an honest, upright statesman. One songwriter even went so far as to say that Blaine had a record untarnished, and another claimed that Thieves and corruption before him will fly.<sup>7</sup>

While Republican newspapers praised Blaine and exhorted party workers to form a united front and avoid overconfidence, songs reinforced this by reminding them to stay true to Republican ideals. Faithfulness was the theme of many songs. One writer urged members to resist the temptation of novelty by remaining loyal to the party.<sup>8</sup>

March together, true and tried;  
Turn not from the ranks aside,  
Noble leaders for your guide,  
Noble aims in view.  
In this land of liberty,  
All are from coercion free;  
Let this still your motto be,  
We re to our party true.

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<sup>6</sup>Gil Troy, *See How They Ran*, 91-92; Robert J. Dinkin, *Campaigning in America: A History of Election Practices* (New York: Greenwood Press, 1989), 91; Welch, *Grover Cleveland*, 33.

<sup>7</sup>Smithsonian Institution, *If Elected...*, 249; Blaine and Logan, *B & L Songster*, 52; Hail to the Plumed Knight! And Logan! *Campaign Song-Book*, 8.

<sup>8</sup>*New-York Tribune*, 25 August; 27 October; 3 November 1884.

While you strive the power to wield  
On life's glorious battlefield,  
To the tempter never yield,  
    Seeking something new.  
But, as freemen ever stand,  
In a firm united band,  
To the welfare of the land,  
    And to your party true.<sup>9</sup>

Party unity is also the theme of *We'll Vote the Ticket Straight*. This song contains reminders to vote for all of the Republican candidates. It praises the party leadership, and denounces Democratic campaign tactics.

For Blaine is the man we want,  
    We're going to have him, too,  
And with him stands good Logan,  
    Both good men, tried and true.  
The stories that the Demmys tell,  
    Are all a trifle thin,  
We won't be scared by idle talk,  
    But go in warm and win!  
And so we sing and shout again,  
    For our leaders bold and true,  
Who call on us to win the day  
    And this we're bound to do;  
For wisdom, truth, and honesty,  
    Must guide the helm of State;  
We'll march to the polls, hurrah!  
    And vote the ticket straight.<sup>10</sup>

In contrast, another song actually criticizes following the party unthinkingly. This

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<sup>9</sup> Be to Your Party True, *Bugle Call*, 10.

<sup>10</sup> We'll Vote the Ticket Straight, *B & L Songster*, 10-11.



song combines encouragement for voters with hints of campaign fraud and praise for the Republican Party. Allusions to the Civil War are strengthened by the choice of the tune *Battle Cry of Freedom*, one of the most famous of Union songs from the Civil War.

We are mustering for victory, a million voters strong,  
Shouting the battle cry of Freemen!  
While the country joins her strength and pride, the city  
swells the throng,  
Shouting the battle cry of Freemen.

For many years we blindly served the politicians will,  
Shouting the battle cry of party,  
Whose only care has been to make the rich man richer still,  
Shouting the battle cry of party.

But now we'll use a Freeman's right, as thinking freemen should,  
Shouting the battle cry of Freemen,  
And we'll place our ballots where they'll do the toiling millions good,  
Shouting the battle cry of Freemen.

Chorus:

Hurrah! Boys, for the Union, for Blaine and Logan  
Down with the tricksters, up with the true,  
And we'll rally round the polls, yes, we'll rally once again,  
Shouting the battle cry of Freemen.<sup>11</sup>

Several songs stress equality and unity among the Republican faithful, asking workers in various occupations to "Come, rally from the workshop, the office, and the farm." Songwriters urged party members to work hard in support of the candidates, joining the *Tribune* and other Republican papers in admonishing workingmen to oppose Cleveland, while blaming low wages on the Democratic Congress; however, while some

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<sup>11</sup> Shouting the Battle Cry of Freemen, *Campaign Carols*, 36; *New-York Tribune*, 13, 24, July, 1 November 1884.

songs offer logic and reasoning, most of the songs of this type appeal to emotions rather than to intellect.<sup>12</sup>

The bugle calls, the hour is nigh,  
When freemen true and tried  
Unfurl their banners to the sky  
And march on side by side,  
To victory! To victory!  
Hurrah! hurrah! hurrah!

Heart beats with heart, hand clasps with hand,  
The right and might unite  
To fill with hope the faithful band  
Who lead the people's fight.  
To victory! To victory!

Come, show your hand, and choose your side,  
You all are needed now  
The day's great issue to decide;  
No shirking we'll allow.  
To victory! To victory!  
Hurrah! hurrah! hurrah!<sup>13</sup>

The Republicans claimed unity throughout the nation, insisting that Blaine was the choice of the vast majority of people in every section, and even professing party solidarity with Southern voters.

All the discord and the blight  
Have forever taken flight;  
Peace has spread her snowy pinions o'er the land;  
All our Southern brethren now  
At the self-same altar bow,

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<sup>12</sup> Shouting the Cry of Blaine and Logan, *Bugle Call*, 17.

<sup>13</sup> Campaign Call, *Campaign Carols*, 30.

And together for the Union we will stand.<sup>14</sup>

While most songs of this type claim unity for North and South, at least one song asserts unity for the other two directions:

From the East there comes a cry,  
Heralding a victory,  
And the mighty West sends back the joyful strain;  
Far and near the welkin rings,  
For the glorious news it brings,  
That the boys in blue and gray are out again.<sup>15</sup>

A few songs stress unity in all sections of the country, taking advantage of the ease of finding words to rhyme with the four cardinal directions. One song calls for men to join in, from the North and South, East and West, to ensure a free, fair election. Others encourage diligence and enthusiasm, with three rousing cheers for Blaine and Logan. One particularly cheerful song, addressed to the Democrats, uses all the directions and also praises Blaine.<sup>16</sup>

We will do our level best, all the East and all the West,  
And we don't believe we'll do it all in vain;  
North and South will work as one, and we ask not for the rest,  
Our next President is surely Mister Blaine.

Chorus:  
Don't, don't, don't you try to scare us,

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<sup>14</sup> To the Music of the Bells, *Bugle Call*, 26.

<sup>15</sup> Tramp! Tramp! *Bugle Call*, 26. Welkin refers to the heavens.

<sup>16</sup> Join Us, Every Loyal Man, *B & L Collection*, 19; Tramp, Tramp, Tramp! *B & L Collection*, 18.

We don't scare worth a single cent;  
Blaine, an honest man we've found,  
So with heart and soul we're bound  
He shall be the nation's choice for President.<sup>17</sup>

References to unity took several forms, such as "hand in hand, boys in grey and in blue," and "From the South unto the North," and urging voters to "Come down from the mountains" or "Come up from the valleys," and "...from field and forge and loom." One song mentions nine states by name. Another song urges both geographic and racial unity in support of Blaine.<sup>18</sup>

Old Maine to California sends  
The welcome, welcome word,  
And onward, rolling o'er the land  
The swelling cry is heard;  
And men of every age and race  
Have caught the glorious shout;  
Hurrah! hurrah! for Blaine, my boys,  
And fling his banner out!<sup>19</sup>

Unity throughout the nation was also the message of "Blaine from Maine." The first verse enjoins the voters to rally behind Blaine, and the chorus declares the certainty of Blaine's election to the presidency.

Rally round our leader true and brave,  
From the scented pines of Maine to the fair Pacific wave;

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<sup>17</sup> Don't Try to Scare Us, *B & L Collection*, 28.

<sup>18</sup> The Right is Marching On, *Campaign Carols*, 32; The South is Coming, *Bugle Call*, 24; George Cooper and Harrison Millard, "Our Plumed Knight Leads the Way," (original sheet music, privately published: 1884); Voices of Freedom, *Campaign Carols*, 38; The White-Plumed Knight, *Campaign Song-Book*, 35.

<sup>19</sup> For Blaine, my Boys, Hurrah! *Campaign Carols*, 29.

From the North, and from the South,  
From the Inland and the Sea,  
Let us march together on  
To glorious victory.

Chorus:  
He is the people's choice,  
On our flag his name's enrolled;  
And the day that he gets left  
Will be very, very cold.<sup>20</sup>

Another song declared the unified loyalty of the poor with laborers from different occupations in all the various sections of the country.

From the lumber camps of Maine  
To the shipyards on the shore,  
Which have waited for the hammer's ring in vain,  
First there came a pleading voice,  
Which has now become a roar,  
Give us our wisest leader, James G. Blaine.

Thus from North, East, South, and West  
All the poor and the oppressed  
Throughout this glorious broad and fair domain,  
Feel their hearts within them rise,  
And hope dawns within their eyes,  
For they love their trusted leader, James G. Blaine.<sup>21</sup>

The third verse and chorus of "Bold Jim Blaine" echoes both the idea of the workingman's loyalty and the geographic unity theme.

From Farm-yard and Factory, from work-shop and Mine,  
Our loved California is falling into line,  
Her flags shall be crowned with victory again,

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<sup>20</sup> Blaine from Maine, *Campaign Carols*, 4-5.

<sup>21</sup> Song for Blaine, *Campaign Song-Book*, 4.

When we have for leader our Bold Jim Blaine.

Chorus:

Marching along, we are marching along  
Protection to Labor, our motto and song,  
We'll sweep through the country from Texas to Maine,  
And win, with our leader, the Bold Jim Blaine.<sup>22</sup>

This chorus universal of Republican unity appeared in numerous other campaign songs. In many cases, songwriters combined this idea with praise for the party's candidates and denial of any stain on their reputations. The first, third, and fourth verses of "Our Leader Blaine" illustrate this combination.

Where Androscoggin's waters  
Pour onward to the sea:  
Where Georgia's dark-eyed daughters  
Rest neath the live-oak tree;  
One gladsome song resounding  
O'er mountain-top and plain,  
From East and West rebounding,  
Repeats the name of Blaine.

What means this great ovation?  
This song of jubilee?  
This common expectation  
Of final victory?  
It means the people cherish  
From Oregon to Maine,  
The loyal public service  
Of their true leader, Blaine.

It means, that no foul falsehood  
Shall smirch his well-won fame,  
The people in their manhood  
Will put his foes to shame.

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<sup>22</sup>Sam L. Booth and L. von der Mehden, "Our Bold Jim Blaine," (original sheet music: privately published, 1884).

And early next November  
Their votes will fully prove,  
That all true men remember  
The worth of one they love.<sup>23</sup>

Some lyricists wanted to stir the party's membership to harder work and more careful vigilance. Republicans were told to "raise the banner and shout aloud for Blaine and Logan. Writers tried to inspire workers to march from sea to sea to rally once again, and to take up the ballot in support of Blaine. Republicans were admonished to "arouse from...slumbers and Prepare yourselves with might and main for the coming fight against the Democrats."<sup>24</sup>

Because the election was expected to be close, there was an ever-present danger of indifference. Neither party could afford to become nonchalant about the campaign. Though several songs project a "Democrats can't win" theme, many songs in the rally genre caution Republicans to avoid apathy, implying that the Democrats *could* win if the Republicans allowed it.

There comes a sound as thunder grand;  
It echoes through Columbia's land,  
O'er hill and dale, through forest deep,  
Where mighty rivers sweep.

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<sup>23</sup> Our Leader Blaine, *Campaign Song-Book*, 13. The Androscoggin River flows into the Kennebec River near the coast of Maine. A note after this song points out that the writer, a Georgia native, was the daughter of a soldier in the Confederate Army.

<sup>24</sup> Our Candidates, *B & L Songster*, 45; Our Leaders, *B & L Songster*, 47; Come March with the Union Blues, *B & L Songster*, 8; We're Bound to Win, *B & L Songster*, 36; Rallying Song, 1884, *Campaign Song-Book*, 5; Blaine, Blaine, Hurrah! *Campaign Song-Book*, 47; In Praise of Blaine of Maine, *Campaign Song-Book*, 31.

Republicans! Not yours to be  
Sunk low in listless apathy!  
See, see the foe, doth forward go!  
Strike for the right and lay him low.<sup>25</sup>

Some rally songs combine encouragement of Republicans with criticism of Democrats. Hear the Joyful Song proclaims in verse one that a hundred thousand loyal throats would cry out for Blaine as the voters marched to the polls to vote for him. The third verse contains praise of Blaine, while the fourth verse ridicules Democratic pretensions.

Cheer, oh cheer as with one voice,  
Noble Blaine the freeman s choice,  
He will save us from a thousand ills,  
He will guide us in the right,  
He will keep our honor bright,  
While the Presidential chair he fills.

Let the Demmies rail and shout,  
And what is it all about,  
When they prate of change and of reform?  
By their actions in the past  
Well we know from first to last,  
What the wonders are that they d perform.<sup>26</sup>

Democrats used the slogan Republicans must go as a rallying cry, along with a plea to turn the rascals out. In a clever reversal of these Democratic mottoes, one Republican songwriter agreed that Republicans must go.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> Strike for the Right, *B & L Songster*, 7.

<sup>26</sup> Hear the Joyful Song, *B & L Songster*, 16-17.

<sup>27</sup>*New-York Tribune*, 21 August 1884.



That old Democratic foe,  
Has announced that we must go!  
And we're going as we've always gone before;  
With our brainy leader Blaine,  
From the piney woods of Maine,  
To the portals of the open White House door.<sup>28</sup>

A duet that heralds the excellent condition of the country and the many fine accomplishments of Republican administrations has a chorus that echoes this theme:

We've held the reins so long,  
We've grown both rich and strong,  
We've power and we'll wield it,  
We will never yield it,  
Though others pronounce it wrong.

We've sheltered the oppressed,  
We've prospered and we're blessed;  
We've quelled every riot,  
The country is quiet,  
Oh, why not give us a rest.

We've accomplished mighty things,  
Abolished Whisky rings,  
We've investigated, feasted and feted,  
And managed party strings.

Chorus:  
What's all this fuss about?  
We hear the rabble shout,  
The Democrats, fuming,  
Grand airs assuming,  
They want to turn us out.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> The Republican Party Must Go! *Pocket Monitor*, 10.

<sup>29</sup> They Want to Turn Us Out, *B & L Songster*, 24. If time had allowed, a clever Democratic songwriter could have used these lyrics to great advantage by agreeing that

One song that claims unity for the Republicans also praises Blaine's honesty and reminds voters of Democratic scandals of the past.

Swarming like bees, see the proud freemen come,  
Brave soldiers in ranks firm, unbroken,  
To rally again for a country and home,  
For truth, right and freedom outspoken.

Bring us no hack of the years that have gone,  
We want neither cringing nor fawning,  
Down with the rings and the frauds they begun,  
And hail to the better day dawning.

Rally for honor and national pride,  
And place at the head of the nation,  
A man who is honest, for purity tried,  
Who brings a true heart to the station.<sup>30</sup>

Many songs declare the certainty of victory for the Republican nominees along with the inevitable defeat of the Democrats. Songwriters insisted that the conquest is ours if the party faithful only continue marching on to glory. One song that claims that Democrats could not win and also praises Blaine and Logan is *A Toast*. This song invites voters to drink to their health, encouraging a liquid salute to the party of freedom and right. Another song with a mention of drinking proposes a toast: *Health to the Statesman* and *Health to the Soldier*, referring to Blaine and Logan, respectively,

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the Republicans were enriched by being in power so long, and feasted and feted could have been turned into a reference to Blaine's dining with millionaires right before the election.

<sup>30</sup> Blaine is the Man, *Campaign Carols*, 14-15.

and commands the listener to Quaff it at honors shrine, a sentiment that seems rather hypocritical since the Republicans were trying to court the Prohibition vote.<sup>31</sup>

In a slightly different vein, a few songs praise the Republican Party and its platform, rather than its candidates. Although some historians argue that there was little difference in the two parties' platforms, many Republican songwriters still proclaimed the superiority of their platform as compared to that of the Democrats. One lyricist created a song to be sung by the crowd at a rally to the orators.

Oh, our platform rehearse, for there never was made  
A better, and never could there be;  
Of the principles it names, no one need be afraid;  
It is hearty, frank and honest, brave and free.  
Let's hear it! We'll cheer it! And cheer to the echo again,  
We'll work for their success with all our might!  
For, standing on true principles, and led by loyal men,  
We can feel that we are working for the right!

Speak out loud, All the crowd  
Ask you to do it to-day!  
Speak out strong! Speak out long!  
We'll back you in all you say!<sup>32</sup>

Another rally song that praises the platform implies party unity and claims an unblemished record for the candidates. It even implies that Blaine served in the military.

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<sup>31</sup> A Toast, *Campaign Carols*, 37; Statesman and Soldier, *Bugle Call*, 29; *New-York Tribune*, 11 October 1884. For more on the relationship between the Republicans and the Prohibition Party, see Paul Kleppner and others, *The Evolution of American Electoral Systems* (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1981); also see Richard Jensen, *Grass Roots Politics: Parties, Issues, and Voters, 1854-1983* (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1983).

<sup>32</sup> The Voters to the Speakers, *B & L Collection*, 12.

Both our leaders have been proven  
In war s darkest days;  
Names in peace together woven  
Worthy patriots praise!

True as steel they have been ever,  
On their brows no stain;  
From the right naught could them sever  
Trust them now again.

See the platform of our party  
Every plank is sound!  
That s why jubilation hearty  
Through the land resound.<sup>33</sup>

Along with praise for the nominees, a common tactic in political campaigns is to link the candidates with popular party leaders from times past, and to create a concept of distance between the candidates and any former officials whose record or reputation was less than satisfactory. This strategy worked out well for a writer who took advantage of the fact that Blaine, like Hannibal Hamlin, was from Maine and both Logan and Lincoln were from Illinois. This fortunate circumstance allowed a correlation of Blaine and Logan with two respected Republicans, one of them a martyred president.

Years ago, traitors sought  
To rend our land in twain;  
Then Illinois her Lincoln brought,  
And Hamlin came from Maine.  
And could we have been better served  
Through all those bloody years,  
Than by these men who never swerved,  
In spite of threats and jeers?

And now we need, take you heed,

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<sup>33</sup> Victory in the Air, *Campaign Carols*, 39.

Men as true as they,  
And our Convention took the lead,  
In what we do to-day.  
They named a statesman, tried and true,  
Twas James G. Blaine of Maine,  
And with him one who wore the blue,  
From Illinois again.<sup>34</sup>

Another lyricist linked Blaine and Logan with Garfield and Lincoln using a military focus.

Come out with your capes again,  
Oh, boys of the Wide awakes,  
And join in the glad refrain  
That echoes from gulf to lakes.  
And you Garfield Guards fall in,  
With the vet ran Lincoln Blues,  
And let the march begin,  
While each man his vow renews.<sup>35</sup>

One songwriter used a rather grotesque way of linking Blaine's name with the assassinated Garfield.

Garfield's body lies a-mould ring in the ground,  
But his spirit on another we have found,  
And his purpose with fruition shall be crowned,  
As we go marching on.<sup>36</sup>

Another writer managed to tie in four former presidents who were members of the Republican Party, associating their names with Blaine and Logan.

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<sup>34</sup> Give Us Blaine, *B & L Collection*, 20.

<sup>35</sup> Come March with the Union Blues, *B & L Songster*, 8. The Wide Awakes were a pro-Union paramilitary organization. None of the songs that linked Blaine with past leaders make any mention of President Arthur.

<sup>36</sup> Blaine and Logan Song, *B & L Collection*, 18.

We'll rally round the Party that is honest, brave, and true  
Proud of its past career so glorious;  
When led by honest Abe; Grant and Hayes, and Garfield, too,  
Still let it ever be victorious!  
Our Party forever! Hurrah, boys, hurrah!  
The greatest and the best this country ever saw:  
And we'll rally round its flag, as we've ever done before,  
Shouting, Hurrah for Blaine and Logan!<sup>37</sup>

A final example of linking the party and its candidates to past officeholders simply reminds the voters of the greatness of times gone by, implying that if Republican leaders in the past were worthy, so must the current nominees be.

Tell me where will you find men more loyal and true,  
Than the ones we have placed at the head of this nation,  
Our Lincoln, our Grant, and our brave Garfield, too,  
Have claimed from the world its great admiration.  
They were honest and true, they stood by the blue,  
They did all the good that a mortal could do;  
Oh say shall the men of the past be forgot?  
A million strong voices reply they shall not.<sup>38</sup>

Many of the rally songs were sung to well known, popular patriotic tunes, which helped to create the proper sentiments of loyalty and pride that the writers wanted to achieve. The songs were used in parades and at meetings of Republican clubs to build camaraderie and inspire party members. Whether one should whistle it, fiddle it, sing it in song, rally music served the party's purpose of making voters feel that they were a part of something much bigger than themselves.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> Hurrah for Blaine and Logan, *Campaign Carols*, 41.

<sup>38</sup> Our Record, *B & L Songster*, 34-35.

<sup>39</sup> Let It Be Known, *B & L Songster*, 56.

## CHAPTER THREE

### WAVING THE BLOODY SHIRT

Mid the battle s grim smoke we have fought side by side,  
In defence of our Country, her flag and her honor;  
We have stood by her course on land and on tide,  
And suffered no shame to be shackled upon her.  
Our manhood we gave our country to save,  
We helped to his freedom the poor bonded slave,  
Oh say shall the deeds of the past be forgot,  
A million strong voices reply they shall not.<sup>1</sup>

Although the Civil war was almost two decades in the past, reminders of it were still seen as a useful campaign tactic. Republican songwriters worked some mention of the war into numerous songs, often prodding voters' memories that ...we the nation saved, And crushed the rebel line. The intensity with which writers recall the war varies from mild to venomous. This group of songs can be divided into several categories: songs that credit the Republican Party with saving the Union; songs that imply military service for Blaine; songs that praise Logan for his heroism in the war; songs using military imagery; songs claiming that the Democrats are unfit to govern because they started the war; and gruesome descriptive songs about wounds and death.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Our Record, *B & L Songster*, 35.

<sup>2</sup> Auld Lang Syne! *Pocket Monitor*, 22.

Frequently addressing songs to freemen, Republican songwriters urged them to join us in the fight and march to the fray as a part of the noble patriot band because The old foe is still in the field. Republican Party members needed to hold the fort and sound the watchword. Songs recalled memories of the war, affirming that the Republicans and their candidate were Union all the way,<sup>3</sup>

Claiming that Republicans were Men who've served loyal in peace and in war, writers often used terms which alluded to the military, such as valor, battle, armor, and victory. Blaine's White-Plumed Knight nickname can be found in over a dozen songs, usually in connection with the war, thus giving the impression that he was a hero even though he never served in the military. At the outbreak of the war, he was Speaker of the Maine legislature. He supported the Union cause but reportedly believed that he was needed more in government than on the battlefield. Later, while serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, he was drafted but paid a substitute to take his place. This was a legitimate action under the Federal Conscription Act; however, Blaine's supporters soundly criticized Cleveland for doing exactly the same thing.

Usually when a reference to war action was made in a song, Blaine's name was coupled with that of Logan, a true war hero. This gave the impression that they both served in the Union Army, but careful attention to punctuation and phrasing usually

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<sup>3</sup> The White-Plumed Knight, *Campaign Song-Book*, 35; Hail to the Plumed Knight! And Logan! *Campaign Song-Book*, 8; Our Next President, *B & L Songster*, 59; The Right is Marching On. *Campaign Carols*, 32.



reveals that the lyrics only imply that Blaine was in the military. One notable exception is

Our Leaders, a song which actually depicts both men in combat.

See how nobly on the battlefield they stood;  
See how truly they have sought their country's good;  
Sweeping ever onward, like a swift and mighty flood,  
There was a victory won.<sup>4</sup>

A few songs simply praise Blaine's loyalty to the Union, never clearly stating whether he served in the military.

He who bears our standard bright,  
Is honest true and brave  
In our country's days of danger,  
He came forth to save;  
Hear the hosts of freemen shouting,  
See their Banners wave  
Singing for Blaine and Logan.<sup>5</sup>

Another song extols the heroism of both Blaine and Logan.

Blaine and Logan on our banners we have wrought;  
They are the heroes that for liberty have fought;  
They are the leaders that the people long have sought,  
As they went marching on.<sup>6</sup>

Using a different approach, one lyricist linked Blaine to Garfield's military career by first reminding voters that Garfield was in the war, then recalling that Blaine served Garfield. The writer simply neglected to differentiate between service in the war and service years after the war as Garfield's Secretary of State.

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<sup>4</sup> Our Leaders, *Bugle Call*, 34.

<sup>5</sup> Blaine's Rallying Song, *Campaign Carols*, 42.

<sup>6</sup> Blaine and Logan Song, *B & L Songster*, 18.

Tis the flag that Garfield followed mid the storm of  
shot and shell,  
Shout then aloud for Blaine and Logan,  
The flag he loved and honored too, until the hero fell,  
Shout then aloud for Blaine and Logan.

We will take for President the man who stood by  
Garfield's side,  
Give us then a cheer for Blaine and Logan;  
And for next place we'll surely take a soldier true and  
tried  
Our ticket then is only Blaine and Logan.<sup>7</sup>

Military symbolism abounds in Blaine and Logan, creating a mental picture of a brave knight courageously facing a fearsome enemy. The second verse depicts Logan as the knight's trusty companion on the battlefield. The tune "The Star-Spangled Banner" was probably chosen to stir feelings of pride and patriotism in the hearts of listeners.

Who is he, the bold Knight,  
In the thick of the fight,  
Who so proudly stands forth where the battle is raging?  
Whose plume, snowy white,  
Seems to dazzle the sight,  
And appal the fierce cohorts his banner engaging?  
From the forests of Maine  
To the far Western plain,  
From Atlantic's wild surge to Pacific's bright main,  
His legions will answer, in victory's strain:  
Tis our Giant of Battle! It is Blaine; it is Blaine.

Yes, but who, by his side,  
Like a centaur doth ride,  
Erect in his saddle, his eyes brightly gleaming?  
Now he parries a dart,  
At our loved Chieftain's heart,

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<sup>7</sup> Rally Round the Flag, *B & L Songster*, 10.

While free in the wind his black tresses are streaming;  
Who is *he*, Volunteers?  
Shout the answer with cheers;  
Tis the Illinois Eagle his standard uprears!  
Huzzah! wave your banners! sound trumpet and drum!  
For Logan and Blaine, our leaders have come.<sup>8</sup>

In addition to his Plumed Knight nickname, Blaine also received titles such as Chieftain of courage, Great son of Maine. Choice of the Fearless Free, and the hero who treason defied. However, not all songs of this type portray Blaine as a soldier, and at least one that does also calls him a statesman.<sup>9</sup>

From the East a warrior grand,  
Comes with matchless power,  
Strong in might of conscious right,  
Born with genius to command  
Nature's priceless dower;  
Tell me freemen, truly tell,  
Has our statesman served us well?

From the West a soldier brave,  
Tried and proved in action,  
Comes at call to stand or fall,  
With the true who seek to save  
From the traitorous faction.  
Tell me, freemen truly tell,  
Did our soldier serve us well?

Thus in ranks of steel arrayed,  
Not a traitor in them,  
Shall we find the honest mind.  
That has not his land betrayed,  
Honor's cause shall win them,

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<sup>8</sup> Blaine and Logan, *Bugle Call*, 13. This same song appears in *Campaign Carols*, 10.

<sup>9</sup> Welcome to Blaine, *Bugle Call*, 5; Choice of the Fearless Free, *Campaign Carols*, 22-23; Rallying Song, *B & L Collection*, 11.

Long and loud the chorus swell,  
Blaine and Logan served as well.<sup>10</sup>

Another song proclaims the sentiment that with the war over, the country no longer needed a soldier as guide and leader. This is one of a very few songs that mention Blaine and the war without suggesting that he served in battle.

Though we've not forgot the heroes who bravely fought and died.  
Singing the praises of our leader!  
Still in peace we need no warrior to be our nation's pride.  
Singing the praises of our leader!

So we chose a noble statesman to lead us in our might,  
Singing the praises of our leader!  
And we know that every freeman shall have his honest right,  
Singing the praises of our leader!<sup>11</sup>

A different tactic for linking Blaine and the war was simply to praise him for remaining loyal in a time of crisis. By following this with a verse on Logan's heroism, an impression of military activity is created. Station could be taken to mean his position in the government, or it could imply an assigned post in battle.

When the cloud hung o'er the nation,  
Flashing war's alarms,  
BLAINE stood at his station,  
Blind to treason's charms.

When the flag of shame and treason  
Showed its crimson bars,  
LOGAN, with a patriot's reason,

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<sup>10</sup> Two Leaders, *B & L Collection*, 10.

<sup>11</sup> Our Chosen Leader, *Campaign Song-Book*, 9. With only one small variation in punctuation, this song is duplicated in *B & L Songster*, 39.

Led the stripes and stars.

They whose wisdom and whose valor  
Helped the strife to cease,  
Heartily deserve our honor  
In the days of peace.<sup>12</sup>

Logan's popularity with veterans supplied songwriters with a means to build enthusiasm for his candidacy. With Logan on the ticket, writers also had an incentive to keep memories of the war alive in the campaign. Two writers wrote entire songs dedicated to Logan's military career and encouraging men to remember his valor when they voted on election day. One of these is "The Soldiers' Rally" which reminds Union veterans that Logan was in the war for its duration and points out that Logan never lost a battle.

When the Great Rebellion came, in eighteen sixty-one,  
Logan took the field to fight, and fought till it was done,  
And when he left the army, boys, 'twas in command of one,  
For they were marching with Logan!

Duty always found him in the thickest of the fray;  
In his tent he never sulked—was ready to obey;  
At the head of gallant boys he always won the day,  
For they were fighting with Logan!

For our old Commander, boys, let out a three times three!  
Let it wake the echoes o'er the land from sea to sea,  
Tell the traitors everywhere, that we love loyalty,  
For we are marching with Logan!<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Don't You Hear the Slogan? *B & L Collection*, 7.

<sup>13</sup> The Soldiers' Rally, *Campaign Song-Book*, 32.

In the fifth verse of this song, the writer complimented the humility with which Logan accepted the secondary position instead of the nomination for president.

Though he is but second in the Presidential race,  
Yielding up his chances with a patriotic grace,  
We will rally round him at a double-quicking pace,  
For we are marching with Logan!<sup>14</sup>

The second of these two songs, *The Nation Loves Its Soldiers Still*, acknowledges the bravery of those who preserved the Union and boasts that Logan was often in the worst of the fighting. The writer then implies that loyal men should repay Logan with their votes.

The nation loves its soldiers still, nor can we e'er forget,  
How much we owe to them until we fully pay the debt.  
The gallant men who bravely stood amid the battle roar,  
And thro' a mighty sea of blood our banner safely bore.

Chorus:

For Logan, the hero, we shout with one accord.  
The Nation loves its soldiers still,  
And gives them just reward.

When traitor hands our flag assailed, and threw it in the dust,  
When every where brave cheeks were paled by treason's deadly thrust,  
Amid the thickest of the fray our Logan often lead,  
And saw the rebel hosts give way before the soldier's tread.

Then rally patriot brothers all, and homage gladly pay,  
To fair Columbia's son whose name we bring today.  
Support him in the coming fight with heart and hand and voice,  
And set all doubting brothers right, he is the Nation's choice.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>14</sup>Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> *The Nation Loves Its Soldiers Still*, *Campaign Carols*, 8.

Logan received mention in numerous songs, almost always in connection with his army career. His wartime service included action at Shiloh, Lookout Mountain, Vicksburg, and Atlanta. Only a few songs allude to his government service. In those few, his military service is coupled with his support of veterans while a U.S. Senator. Logan was also commandant of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Union veterans organization.<sup>16</sup>

Yes, and there s another name that makes a joyful noise;  
Tis that of John A, Logan, and he hails from Illinois,  
Who led, with General Sherman, our gallant soldier boys,  
When they were marching through Georgia!

Since the war was over, boys, he s been the soldiers friend,  
Ever ready to their aid a helping hand to lend.  
And now, with Blaine, to Washington our hero we will send  
While we are marching to victory!<sup>17</sup>

Writers called Logan the bold soldier boy and the soldier s pride, as well as other titles that recall Logan s military prowess. One writer who, addressed his verses to Grand Army Veterans, one and all, even called Logan Prairie Flower rather than the more commonly used Prairie Eagle. This new designation did not exactly concur with Logan s image as a war hero, but it rhymed. However, in most songs that mention

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<sup>16</sup>*Campaign Song-Book*, 50.

<sup>17</sup> *Marching to Victory*, *Campaign Song-Book*, 45.

Logan, he received extravagant praise for his manliness in defending the Union and right.<sup>18</sup>

When war raged with cruel oppression,  
And threatened our homes to destroy;  
*Who* fought against Monstrous Secession?  
Like Black Jack of fair Illinois!<sup>19</sup>

Rather than maintaining a focus on Blaine or Logan, some songwriters concentrated on a slightly different aspect of the Civil War by referring to the loyalty and sacrifice of all the men who served the Union. Emphasis on all veterans invariably included reminders that the Union cause was the Republican cause.

As union men we ll do our best,  
For the fourth of next November,  
From North, from South, from East, from West,  
On the fourth of next November.

Come men who for the Union fought,  
On the fourth of next November,  
Brave soldiers, sailors, men of thought,  
On the fourth of next November.<sup>20</sup>

Rallying Song also illustrates this concept, with the second verse proclaiming Union virtue:

We re rallying all through the land  
As we did in Sixty-One,  
Our cause was right and Union then,

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<sup>18</sup> Blaine and Victory, *Campaign Song-Book*, 34; Dinna Ye Hear the Slogan? *Campaign Song-Book*, 11.

<sup>19</sup> The Republican Party, *Pocket Monitor*, 3.

<sup>20</sup> The Fourth of Next November, *B & L Songster*, 50.



And victory we won!  
We re voting now as then we fought  
Beneath a Southern sun!  
Hurrah! hurrah! for Blaine and Logan!<sup>21</sup>

The third verse applauds Blaine as a statesman and Logan as a soldier, while the fourth verse, with some confusion on directions, commemorates the march to the sea.

Our chief, from sturdy Pine Tree State,  
A statesman tried and true;  
Staunch, tried, straight-out American,  
A Yankee through and through!  
With Logan from the Prairie State,  
Who wore the army blue,  
Hurrah! hurrah! for Blaine and Logan!

We ll make the march from sea to sea!  
From North to South again,  
From Maine to California,  
With Logan and with Blaine!  
We ll send the shout along the line  
With manly might and main,  
Hurrah! hurrah! for Blaine and Logan!<sup>22</sup>

In *Marching to the White House*, the songwriter urged my boys to rally around Blaine like they rallied around the flag during the war.

The people know that in our hands the flag is free from stain,  
That we ve upheld its stars and stripes upon the battle plain,  
And as in days of Sixty-one, we ll cherish it again,  
While we go marching to the White House.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> Rallying Song, 1884, *Campaign Song-Book*, 5.

<sup>22</sup>Ibid. This song shares its tune and one repeating line (Hurrah! hurrah! for Blaine and Logan!) With *Marching to Victory*, *Campaign Song-Book*, 45, but these are the only similarities.

<sup>23</sup> *Marching to the White House*, *Bugle Call*, 21.

The many songs written to inspire veterans include claims that drums beat in martial rhyme as the Lincoln Blues, Wide Awakes, and Garfield Guards respond to a call to gather in freedom's right. Reminders that our brave old sires were willing to give their lives Neath freedom's proud banner are joined with calls to bring out you banners and...your guns and remember at what a cost victory must be purchased. Military imagery appears in several other forms, such as Close up! Forward! Quick time! Charge! Union veterans were told to rescue the land...as you did before. One song invites veterans who wore your country's blue to join the Republicans neath the same old flag you served and help elect Blaine and Logan, who would then support veterans benefits.<sup>24</sup>

In contrast to the loyalty to the Union displayed by Republicans was the lack of fidelity exhibited by the Democrats. In Oh, No! Oh, No! the writer projected a belief that the Democrats committed a grievous wrong in starting the war, and though the Republicans were magnanimous enough to forgive, they were not yet quite prepared to allow rebels to be elected to office. The second verse denies that the Republican Party was trying to place blame, yet the entire song does just that.

Don't you think that we will take for place of trust and power,  
Men who were disloyal in the country's darkest hour,  
When there hailed against our flag secession's leaden shower  
And when our soldiers were falling.

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<sup>24</sup> Come March with the Union Blues, *B & L Songster*, 8; O Bring Out Your Banners! *B & L Songster*, 19; Next November, *B & L Songster*, 19; Rallying Song, 1884, *Campaign Song-Book*, 5; Join Us, Every Loyal Man, *B & L Collection*, 19; Rallying Song, *Bugle Call*, 20.

Chorus:

Oh, no! oh, no! On this our mind is set,  
Oh, no! oh, no! For that we are not ready yet,  
Gladly we forgive, but we cannot quite forget  
When our brave soldiers were falling.

This don't mean that we desire the bloody shirt to wave;  
Let it rest on blue and gray who fill the soldier's grave,  
But then we ask for men who fought our starry flag to save  
When our brave soldiers were falling.

Chorus:

Oh, yes! oh, yes! on this our mind is set;  
Oh, yes! oh, yes! we've loyal men as yet;  
Gladly we forgive, but then we cannot quite forget  
When our brave soldiers were falling.

Democrats by thousands served within their country's ranks,  
With Little Mac, with General Grant, with Sherman and with Banks;  
And they deserved, and they received, the nation's hearty thanks,  
When our brave soldiers were falling.

Chorus:

Oh, yes! oh, yes! We never will forget,  
Oh, yes! We praise the Democratic vet.  
He at least remembers, and he never will forget  
When our brave soldiers were falling.<sup>25</sup>

Conversely, *Our Country, to Thee* offered forgiveness to former Confederates, claiming that the soldiers who fought for the South were not to blame. Instead, responsibility for the war rested with some Democratic leaders who wanted to bring back slavery and erase the cause of the Right.

From North unto South, from the East to the West,  
Our dear land is free, and the peer of all others;  
To the men whom we met on the breastwork's dread crest

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<sup>25</sup> Oh, No! Oh, No! *B & L Collection*, 24-25.

We have given our hands and are proudly their brothers.  
Not to them is the blame; but the ones, in their name,  
Who d rob our dead heroes of honor and fame.  
And the way future warfare with brothers to shun  
Is in Peace to preserve what in Battle was won!

No trust give we yet to the paltering crew  
That would wipe the brave past from our history s pages,  
Strip our Lincoln and Grant of the glories their due,  
And surrender us back to the slave-driving ages.  
In defeat they ll return till success they shall earn  
By faithfully conning the lesson they learn:  
That the pledge that all freemen are victors upon  
Is in peace to Preserve what in Battle was won!<sup>26</sup>

Strongly worded accusations against the Democrats can also be found in *Way Up Along the Old Salt River*. This song claims that the Democrats are sadly crying because they could see the hopelessness of their foolish dream of winning the White House. The second verse pronounces them treasonous:

When long ago they had the power  
This land to rule  
Then twas they turned the Nation sour  
Twas then they played the fool.  
How fair Columbia frowned upon them  
All through the war,  
They ve got the traitors mark upon them,  
We ve got the hero s scar.<sup>27</sup>

Another song that blames the Democrats for causing the war grants that there was some goodness in the party until the movement toward secession began. But at that point the party deteriorated and the Republicans were forced to stop the Democrats from

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<sup>26</sup> Our Country, to Thee, *Campaign Carols*, 44.

<sup>27</sup> *Way Up Along the Old Salt River*, *B & L Songster*, 33.

bringing about the total ruination of the country. The chorus of this song concludes that the time had come to let the old thing die, referring to the Democratic Party.

Oh, my grandfather's party was true and firm as steel  
To the wants of the people it served,  
But when treason aimed its guns, it began to turn and wheel  
Till at length it had faltered and swerved.  
And I cannot forget, I've not come to that as yet,  
Had the leaders but had their own way,  
We'd have stopped short never a chance to get  
To where we are today.

Oh, my grandfather's party was kept in its place  
Till the battle had fairly begun;  
But when traitors burned their powder directly in our face,  
We concluded that its race it had run.  
So we sent our Lincoln down to the nation's chiefest town,  
And he didn't disappoint us in the least,  
For he called us to come, and we answered at the call,  
From the West, and from the always loyal East.<sup>28</sup>

Several writers expressed the thought that since so many Republicans died to save the nation and insure freedom, no loyal citizen could in good conscience vote for a Democratic traitor.

Shall now the blood for freedom shed  
Be desecrate, and those who bled  
In freedom's battles, now look down  
As on their dead renown?  
Shall Democrats exalted be  
O'er men who fought to make us free?  
See there the foe,  
And forward go;  
Smite for the right,

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<sup>28</sup> My Grandfather's Party, *B & L Collection*, 8.

And lay him low!<sup>29</sup>

Using nautical symbolism to create a mental picture of danger, one lyricist conveyed the idea that if Democrats should rule the nation, it would crash upon the rocky shore because Democrats were traitors interested only in enriching themselves at the nation's expense. Only the honorable Republican pilot could be trusted to bring the country safely to the harbor. The reference to a white sail brings to mind Blaine's white plume.

O'er the sunken rocks of treason  
Angry breakers roar;  
And the Ship of State is sailing,  
Headed for the shore.

Chorus:  
Hold the helm! the pilot's coming!  
See his white sail dip;

Logan lights the danger signal!  
Blaine will guide the ship!

Wreckers crowd the shore for booty,  
From the cruel sea;  
Even now their minions gather  
Drift with heartless glee.<sup>30</sup>

This same idea is also exemplified, though perhaps with slightly less vivid imagery, in *The Battle Cry of Freedom*. This song asked loyal men to preserve the Union for which they once fought by voting for Blaine and Logan.

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<sup>29</sup> There Comes a Sound, *Campaign Carols*, 22.

<sup>30</sup> Hold the Helm, *Campaign Song-Book*, 12.

Let us rally once again, Freemen, rally round the Flag,  
Shouting the battle cry of freedom!  
We have furled Rebellion s flag, we ve hauled down the treasonous rag,  
Shouting the battle cry of Freedom!  
Sound the joyful tocsin! Peal the Freedom bells!  
November s victory, our bright escutcheon tells;  
Then, press on to glorious triumph, not let your courage flag,  
Shouting the battle cry of Freedom!

Now, Humanity and Justice, Faith and Duty call;  
Loud called they once, they now call louder,  
Let no gloomy doubts assail, nor opposing hosts appall,  
Stand firm, but keeping dry your powder.  
Blaine and Logan, the Nation now inspires;  
New lights the flame of Freedom s waning fires;  
And the Nation that you saved once, with bullets, shell, and ball,  
Save now, with *ballots*, that speak *louder*.<sup>31</sup>

With the coming of peace, Civil War veterans could put away their weapons and use their votes instead. In the second and third verses of *The Gray-Haired Boys in Blue* the writer gave an assurance that veterans were not too old to remember the Union cause. Although they accepted former Confederates back into the fold, they would not accept a treasonous politician in the government.

We are marching to the front again,  
Our banner is afloat;  
In solid line with steady step  
We re going down to vote,  
With hearts aflame with freedom s cause,  
We ll see this matter thro ;  
No traitor pen shall write the laws  
To rule the boys in blue.

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<sup>31</sup> *The Battle Cry of Freedom*, *Campaign Song-Book*, 47. A tocsin is an alarm signal. An escutcheon is a shield with a coat of arms, or a plate (usually brass) that identifies a ship by name and registry.

Chorus:

We've laid aside the sword and gun,  
The knapsack and canteen,  
We come with simple ballot now,  
On paper white and clean,  
The names that we have printed here  
For loyal hearts will do,  
And we'll elect them, never fear,  
We gray-haired boys in blue.

Our heads are turning gray, you say,  
We'd better stand aside,  
You ask us to forget the way  
Our noble comrades died;  
Forget their dying groans, no, no,  
For that we cannot do,  
Stand back, stand back, and let us pass,  
The gray-haired boys in blue.

We make no fight against the men  
Who proudly wore the gray,  
For they've come back to us again,  
And vote with us to-day;  
But the scheming politician,  
With his traitor end in view,  
Shall never, never make the laws  
For gray-haired boys in blue.<sup>32</sup>

Some songs take a stronger tone toward those who wore Confederate gray. In  
The Democratic Party and the War blame for the conflict was laid squarely on the  
Democrats, who were scheming villains and liars.

It cost us many precious lives to whip them,  
Sing hey the set of traitors that they are;  
But in the bud we friendly did nip them,  
The Democratic Party and the war.

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<sup>32</sup> The Gray-Haired Boys in Blue, *B & L Songster*, 24-25.



And now they think perhaps that we've forgotten,  
The silly sort of fellows that they are;  
We'll let them know that still we think a lot on  
The fact, that they brought on the horrid war.<sup>33</sup>

Among the songs that are primarily about the war, fewer than a dozen use graphic descriptions of the battlefields, wounds, and graveyards that resulted from the fighting. The waving of the bloody shirt provides many of the more memorable lyrics from this campaign, calling to mind scenes of blood and death, from reminders of unhallowed graves and every moss-grown soldier's grave to battle's bloody field. Republican songwriters used their talents to insure that those true men who fought for us and perished would be remembered, and those whose blood has wet the sod but survived would always be revered and cherished.<sup>34</sup>

Oh, brothers, let us rouse and clothe them  
With honors grand;  
Let not the foes who fought and loathe them  
Rule in Columbia's land.  
Shout! for the sweeping tide advances,  
Rolling so high!  
Shout! for the light of victory glances  
Bright in our leader's eye!<sup>35</sup>

After reminding veterans that they once fought to preserve the Union and so must continue to defend freedom against new enemies, one writer also encouraged the sons of

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<sup>33</sup> The Democratic Party and the War, *B & L Songster*, 28.

<sup>34</sup> That's What's the Matter! *B & L Songster*, 16; Ye Freeman Bold, *B & L Songster*, 29; Freeman's Shout for Freedom's Heroes, *Campaign Song-Book*, 25.

<sup>35</sup>Ibid.

slain soldiers to remember why their fathers died. Those young sons had, in the two decades since the war, grown to maturity and were old enough to vote.

Hark! ye veterans. Hear the slogan  
Ringing o'er the land and main,  
Rally, boys, for Blaine and Logan,  
Blow the bugle call again!  
Men who rescued freedom's honor,  
From rebellion's awful bane,  
Foes again menace your banner  
Blow the bugle call again!

Sons of those whose bones are lying  
On secession's bloody plain,  
Hear your Fathers' spirits crying,  
Blow the Bugle call again!  
Swell the grand triumphant chorus  
In a patriotic strain,  
Fling the starry banner o'er us,  
Blow the bugle call again!<sup>36</sup>

Perhaps in an effort to stir superstitious fears, one lyricist penned a macabre scenario of ghostly apparitions coming forth, entreating men to vote for Blaine. This writer claimed that Blaine was "worthy... to guard the Ark," and disparaged Democratic attempts to incriminate one who was trusted by "our sainted Garfield," claiming that Blaine's life was so exemplary that all men should strive to be like him.

Freemen, once again arise! Spirits hover from the skies  
Ghosts of martyred heroes, slain but not forgot;  
Rights, for which their lives they gave, they implore you now to save,  
And they plead with you to vote as once they shot.

When we decorate our dead, marching slow with solemn tread,  
And commemorate our fallen heroes slain,

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<sup>36</sup> Blow the Bugle Call Again, *Campaign Song-Book*, 26.

We will consecrate anew hearts and lives to country true  
We will emulate the life of James G. Blaine.<sup>37</sup>

Creating a compelling portrait of injury, death, and prison camps, another songwriter decried the lack of sympathy shown to veterans by Democrats in Congress. The first verse is a reminder that death was no respecter of rank in the war. The second and third verses depict the Democrats as heartless toward the injured soldiers and war widows. The inference here is that the Democrats hurt these heroes then refused to give them the aid they deserved. In the chorus and the final two lines of the third verse, the writer gave a promise that the war hero would be rewarded after the Republicans won the election.

Thousands of our soldiers lie a-mouldering in the grave;  
Generals and privates too, no men were e'er more brave;  
They have given us a country that is worth our while to save,  
And we will save it, too.

Chorus:

Go and shout it to the skies, boys:  
Whoso'er for freedom dies, boys,  
He has gained the patriot's prize, boys,  
And he shall have it, too.

Wounded by the rebel bullet, wounded by his shell,  
Starved and weakened in the loathsome Southern prison-hell,  
When these heroes ask for pension, some folks love to tell,  
What for them they'd do.

They would put a thousand obstacles within the soldiers' way;  
They are leeches on our moneys, Democrats are glad to say,  
Boys, we'll make our answer to them on Election Day,

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<sup>37</sup> Ring the Bells of Freedom! *Campaign Song-Book*, 44.

All who wore the country's blue.<sup>38</sup>

In making war references, Republican writers did not neglect former slaves. They solicited votes, recalling that freedom's martyrs struck many mighty blows for liberty. They reminded freedmen that the sacrifice of Union soldiers bought the end of slavery. That sacrifice, of course, was led by Republicans.

Gone is the slaver's lash,  
No more shall Southern cash  
Buy human souls,  
For all our freemen now,  
All equal rights allow,  
Traitors submissive bow,  
Or hunt their holes.

Who wrought this mighty good,  
Who purchased with their blood  
Blessings like these?  
Twas Lincoln, Grant, and Hayes,  
Brave Garfield let their praise,  
All thro' these blessed days,  
Rise on the breeze.<sup>39</sup>

Such reminders of the war abound in Republican songs, not only in the lyrics, but in the choice of tune. Though a few of the bloody shirt songs were sung to original melodies, most songs of this type used popular tunes from the Civil War years, thus rekindling memories of patriotic fervor. The tune *Marching through Georgia* was the most commonly used, with fourteen songs sung to its music. Also frequently chosen was *Tramp! Tramp! Tramp!* which was used eleven times and *Hold the Fort*, used eight

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<sup>38</sup> *Shout It to the Skies*, *B & L Collection*, 29.

<sup>39</sup> *For Home and Fireside*, *B & L Songster*, 51.

times. Rally Round the Flag, Battle Hymn of the Republic, When Johnny comes Marching Home were also favorites. Strangely, so was The Bonnie Blue Flag, which was a popular Confederate song. These tunes were familiar to most people and easy to sing, with rhythms that made it easy to fit them with new words. Using familiar tunes was much more convenient than composing new music and no doubt made singing at rallies and club meetings much easier for party members.

The ultimate impact of waving the bloody shirt in song is impossible to measure, though it may have served to solidify the resolve of the Republican rank and file in the same way that rally songs may have encouraged and united them. It possibly roused a few voters from apathy, encouraging them to make the effort to vote. But since so many years had passed since war's end, the bloody shirt technique was probably not particularly effective in gaining votes, since those who still carried strong feelings about the war would have already made a commitment in regards to the election.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### STREET-GUTTER POLITICS

See the Democratic leaders as they go,  
Vainly seeking reinforcements for their ranks,  
Mark their faces as they wander to and fro,  
Gath ring to their army all the bums and cranks.  
Listen to the fairy stories they relate,  
As they buttonhole a voter on the sly.  
For to hook him, they will use as tempting bait,  
What they'll give him in the sweet bye and bye.<sup>1</sup>

The Republican Party and its songwriters expended considerable energy on insulting, ridiculing, and mocking their Democratic opponents. Most of these songs are only slightly sarcastic in tone; however, some would be considered fighting words if performed within the hearing of Democrats.

Surprisingly, only a few of the songs of this type are composed primarily of personal insults to Cleveland. Instead, most of the songs in this group are directed toward the Democratic Party as a whole, or toward the independent Republicans who bolted their party to support Cleveland. Songs about the Democrats include accusations of fraud and scandal, criticism of their campaign tactics, and charges of lying and slinging mud. In songs about those who bolted the Republican Party, the main thrust is sarcasm toward specific Mugwump leaders; however, a few songs contain claims that the Democrats

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<sup>1</sup> The Democratic Jinks, *B & L Collection*, 14.

were the party with bolting factions, an obvious attempt to distract attention from the Republican split.

Songs devoted to insulting Cleveland refer to him as an unprincipled trickster and a womanizer. He was accused of keeping no promise, word, or vow and only being interested in his own personal comfort. Snide remarks about his weight and bachelor status are also common. A fine example of this is found in the second stanza of "The Mugwumps of '84."<sup>2</sup>

They've made their bed with Cleveland now,  
A bachelor of weight,  
Who has no wife or child, 'tis said!  
A model (?) Candidate!<sup>3</sup>

Another song that derides Cleveland's girth also mentions his lack of experience in politics and hints at moral scandal. The second verse ridicules Cleveland's intelligence by insinuating that his running mate was the smarter man on the ticket. It then mocks the newspapers and several prominent men who supported him, including cartoonist Thomas Nast, and minister Henry Ward Beecher.

The Democrats have fixed their slate,  
For eighteen eighty four,  
They've anchored on a candidate  
Of little note before;  
They say he's been a Mayor;  
And a *hangman!* in his town.  
They tell us he's a *moral* Man!

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<sup>2</sup> In the Name of Columbia, *B & L Songster*, 15; Hold the Fort! *Pocket Monitor*, 11; The Laborer's Resolve, *Pocket Monitor*, 12-13.

<sup>3</sup> The Mugwumps of '84, *Pocket Monitor*, 14.

And weighs two hundred pounds!

Their ticket seems to gravitate;  
In brains it s upside down,  
The tail is bigger than the kite,  
Twill never leave the ground;  
The *Times* and *Post* are coddling it,  
With Schurz and Curtis, too,  
While Keppler, Nast, and Beecher! hold  
Its *virtues* up to view!<sup>4</sup>

Not long after the national conventions, the *Buffalo Evening Telegraph* printed the story of Cleveland s involvement with a Buffalo widow named Maria Halpin. The timing of this *Terrible Tale* was fortunate for Cleveland in that he already had the nomination, yet enough time remained before the election for the uproar to die down. Halpin had a young son named Oscar Folsom Cleveland Halpin and claimed that Cleveland was the child s father. Cleveland admitted the possibility, and being the only single man among the widow s male companions, he took on the responsibility of seeing that the boy received proper care. When Halpin s drinking problem became so acute that it caused her to neglect the child, Cleveland arranged for the boy s placement in a adoptive home. He then had Halpin committed to a sanatorium to dry out at his expense<sup>5</sup>.

Although the child s paternity could not be proven conclusively, the Republicans tried to exploit the situation. The *Tribune* printed a sworn statement in which Halpin

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<sup>4</sup> The Democratic Nominations, *Pocket Monitor*, 17.

<sup>5</sup>Shields-West, *Presidential Campaigns*, 114; Welch, *Grover Cleveland*, 37; Robert Allen Rutland, *The Democrats: From Jefferson to Clinton* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1995), 137; *New-York Times*, 12 Aug. 1884; Geoffrey Blodgett, *Grover Cleveland: A Fresh Appraisal*, *New York History*, 73, no. 1 (1992), 138.



claimed that Cleveland ruined her in a way too revolting...to be made public. She insisted that there was no doubt that Cleveland was the father and that any attempt...to couple the name of Oscar Folsom with that of the boy...is simply infamous and false. A *Tribune* editorial vilified Cleveland for having Halpin incarcerated without a warrant.<sup>6</sup>

Only a few songs allude to this scandalous episode; however, one writer penned a whole song about the child. The song's three verses are rather silly, describing a chubby, lively little boy whose nose started way up in...his hair. This little boy mistook a bee for a butterfly, and when the bee stung him, he cried out for his daddy: Ma! Ma! Where is my Pa? His mother sweetly answered, Up in the White House, darling. The chorus of this song was used as a chant during Republican marches and rallies, but probably had little effect other than to irritate Democrats.<sup>7</sup>

This incident exemplifies a strategy used by the Republicans to distract voters from Blaine's involvement in scandals by maligning Cleveland. Songwriters diverted attention away from Republican corruption by accusing the Democrats of the same evils. For instance, even though railroad titan Jay Gould was liberally soaping the Republican campaign by soliciting contributions from his wealthy associates and by

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<sup>6</sup> *New-York Tribune*, 21 Aug.; 3 Nov. 1884. Oscar Folsom was Cleveland's friend and law partner, and a married man. The question arises as to why Halpin voiced this strong objection to any link between her son and Folsom, since she had given the child Folsom's name. Cleveland did not acknowledge paternity, merely the possibility. He may have been protecting one or more married acquaintances from Halpin's claims.

<sup>7</sup>H.R. Monroe, *Ma! Ma! Where's My Pa?* (Chicago: National Music Co., 1884).

making sizable donations himself, some Republican lyricists accused the Democrats of accepting illicit funds.<sup>8</sup>

Too bad, the labor wasted,  
Soap wasted, too!  
Bitter the pill you've tasted,  
Though nothing new!<sup>9</sup>

Republican writers also accused the Democrats of theft:

How patriotic is their feeling,  
Oh, yes, we know  
How they would like to do the stealing!  
Just as they did long ago.<sup>10</sup>

Almost all of these charges of corruption were vague and ambiguous. A few songwriters even engaged in petty name-calling, with insults to members of the Democratic Party such as "ill-sorted crowd" and "bummers." One song refers to Democrats as "hungry and needy, most awfully seedy" and "unworthy of trust." Another says that Democrats "don't see straight" and have "gone to seed." One writer declared that the Republicans were bound to "smash the Cleveland Slate."<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>8</sup>Shields-West, *Presidential Campaigns*, 115; Smithsonian Institution, *If Elected*, 249; Matthew Josephson, *The Robber Barons* (San Diego: Harcourt Brace and Co., 1934), 194; Maury Klein, *The Life and Legend of Jay Gould* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986), 335.

<sup>9</sup> Pull for the Shore, *B & L Collection*, 9.

<sup>10</sup> Old Salt River, *B & L Collection*, 16.

<sup>11</sup> When Election Day Comes Around, *B & L Songster*, 5; This Democratic Clan, *B & L Songster*, 42; Happy Day, *B & L Collection*, 35.

The Democratic Party, Boys,  
Proclaims its hide-bound creed,  
A motley, hungry, aimless crowd,  
Whose chiefest motto, greed!  
The issues are so well defined,  
That all who run may read  
*Why* we shall vote for Blaine and Logan.<sup>12</sup>

Several songs that criticize the Democratic Party also contain remarks about the hopelessness of their chances of winning the election. An example of this is *Day In, Day Out* by a lyricist who used the pseudonym *Country Rhymist*.

The Democrats go blowing loud,  
Day in, day out,  
They re naught else but a windy crowd,  
Day in, day out we know,  
We take the wind now from their sails,  
Day in, day out,  
Then trouble in their camp prevails,  
Day in, Day out we know.

When in power for a time,  
Day in, day out,  
They can t somehow together chime,  
Day in, day out we know.  
And when about to make a hit,  
Day in, day out;  
They quarrel mongst themselves and split,  
Day in, day out we know.

They loud reform will spout and sing,  
Day in, day out,  
But put their foot in everything,  
Day in, day out we know;  
They promises of course will make,  
Day in day out,  
But like pie crust, are sure to break,

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<sup>12</sup>Ibid.

Day in, day out we know.<sup>13</sup>

Another song of this type is slightly more demeaning, with every verse offering more certainty that the Democrats must fail:

The Democrats are massing now,  
One more effort to make;  
By all their failures past they vow,  
One more effort to make.

They tried to board the ship of state,  
One more effort they made;  
Though each campaign they had to wait,  
One more effort they made.

They re sending out their feeble boom.  
One more effort to make;  
They re struggling for some standing room,  
One more effort to make.

The platform holding them to-day,  
One more effort to make,  
Will crumble like the one-horse chaise,  
One more effort to make.

For party they will vainly strive,  
One more effort to make,  
The spark they blow to keep alive,  
One more effort to make.

The solid South they cannot claim,  
One more effort to make.  
It fails to help their flick ring flame,  
One more effort to make.

Let s stand aside and give them room,  
One more effort to make,  
When our returns shall seal their doom,

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<sup>13</sup> Day In, Day Out, *B & L Songster*, 49.

No more effort they'll make.<sup>14</sup>

In *Democracy's Going to Grass*, the writer claimed that the demise of the Democratic Party was foretold by men of olden time, and that the party was slowly dying. Without clear goals, the Democrats were in a hopeless condition.

Indeed they never had a mission,  
Unless 'twas to pilfer and gass,  
But such is their ruined condition,  
That now they are going to grass.

For years they've been starving by inches,  
They've hoped against fate, and alas!  
They've come to the place where the pinch is,  
And now they are going to grass.<sup>15</sup>

The most mocking song in this group is *Beaten Bye and Bye*. The derisive tone of the lyrics is enhanced by the selection of the rollicking melody *Comin' Thro' the Rye*, which adds to the singsong quality of the rhymes.

If a party meet a party, Voting bye and bye,  
If a party beat a party, Need a party cry?  
Poor old Democratic party, Hard as you may try,  
Tis plain to see you're sure to be Well beaten bye and bye!

Tis the offices you're after, Yes we know it all;  
And we say, amid our laughter, Not this coming Fall!  
Poor old Democratic party, Hard as you may try,  
Tis plain to see you're sure to be Well beaten bye and bye.

Tisn't nice to take denial, But we think you will;  
You have had sufficient trial, You don't fill the bill.  
Poor old Democratic party, Hard as you may try,

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<sup>14</sup> *The One Horse Chaise*, *Bugle Call*, 12.

<sup>15</sup> *Democracy's Going to Grass*, *B & L Songster*, 26.

You d better get your coffin ready, for you have got to die!

You are looking rather sadly, But your hearts won t break;  
We re obliged to treat you badly, For the country s sake.  
Till you can do better, never For the vic try try;  
So we ll say, Good-bye forever, Democrats, good bye!<sup>16</sup>

The futility of Democratic efforts is also the theme of *You Must Go*. This song was addressed to members of the Democratic Party. The third and fourth verses suggest that the Democrats only needed a look at history to see why they could not win, with a mild allusion to the war.

Oh, Democracy, don t be alarmed!  
We can see how you scent your defeat;  
You have cause, though, to fear being harmed,  
For you re sure to be awfully beat.

Your pretensions may sound very well,  
But they re hollow and awfully thin;  
For we know what the nation befell,  
Years ago, when your leaders were in.

Tisn t pleasant, we know, to your sight,  
In this later and book-reading age,  
But though it s unpleasant, it s right,  
You should look over History s page.

You will find there a lengthy account  
Of a time when we d all things at stake;  
Of its volume, a mighty amount,  
You helped, men, that Hist ry to make.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> *Beaten Bye and Bye*, *B & L Collection*, 25.

<sup>17</sup> *You Must Go!* *B & L Collection*, 13.

One song ridicules the tactics used by Democrats to gain votes, as well as the party itself. Though titled *The Democratic Candidate*, it does not specifically mention Cleveland and thus could be used in reference to candidates for lesser offices. The first verse describes leaders of the Democratic Party roaming the street, looking for voters to buttonhole, making promises, and giving out candy.

Oh, the humbug and palaver they dispense,  
And the taffy they so liberally give,  
To the vacillating voter on the fence,  
One would surely think them all too sweet to live.  
Ah! The honied accents of their earnest speech,  
And the sweetly pious lifting of the eye,  
To the man who tumbles, will this lesson teach  
No subscription for this sweet by and bye.<sup>18</sup>

The third verse draws a mental picture of the candidate knocking on doors, kissing dirty children, and complimenting the women while promising to the men anything he thought they might want. The phrase *full of spirit* was obviously intended to have a double meaning, giving the impression of cheerfulness brought on by the drinking of hard liquor.<sup>19</sup>

Verse four describes the day of the election. It also insults the voters who were either foolish enough or corrupt enough to vote for a Democrat.

When election day comes on, behold him then,  
Marshalling his mongrel crew of bums and bloats,  
Rogues to him are saints, and thieves are honest men,

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<sup>18</sup> *The Democratic Candidate*, *Bugle Call*, 16.

<sup>19</sup>*Ibid.*

All he wants from them are just their little votes.  
How obsequiously he treats these worthy souls!  
Lifts his glossy beaver when they pass him by,  
Sends a coach and four to draw them to the polls,  
Suggestive of the sweet bye and bye.<sup>20</sup>

Once all the votes were cast, the true character of the candidate would become clear:

But election once over behold!  
Things have taken a wonderful turn,  
All that glitters *you bet* isn't gold,  
And this lesson they speedily will learn.  
Soon the voter again is a bum!  
His wife is a dowdy, a guy,  
The cherub so sweet is but scum!  
Ah! where is that sweet bye and bye! <sup>21</sup>

The song ends with a plea to voters to resist temptation and a warning to the candidate that he must repent his evil ways or face perdition.

When the candidate comes to beguile,  
And his nice little speech he has made,  
Just smile him a sweet little smile,  
And remark, I guess I won't trade.  
Say to him, You'd better reform!  
(And call up a tear to your eye,)

Or your future will be mighty warm!  
Oh, beware of the sweet bye and bye. <sup>22</sup>

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<sup>20</sup>Ibid.

<sup>21</sup>Ibid.

<sup>22</sup>Ibid.



That the Democratic Party was full of loafers and dodgers who used unethical means to gain votes is also the theme of two songs that are very similar and are found in the same songbook. *Mine Bolitics and So On* and *The Dutchman's Dilemma* contain a few of the same expressions, such as *get a licken*, *greenhorn codgers*, *shicken*, and *dey don't can fool me*, but otherwise the lyrics are not the same. Both tell the story of a Dutchman being asked by a loafing bum to vote Democratic. In both, the Dutchman refuses. Both songs were written in a *dutchie* dialect and have the same cadence, but the tunes are different. One of the songs has the Democrat threatening the Dutchman if he refused to vote for Democrats.<sup>23</sup>

Oh, yah, dot s so, I let you know  
 Mine bolitics ant so on,  
 I dells you quick vat is mine trick,  
 And vat for man I go on.  
 I like dem goot Republicans,  
 Dey vas so nice like daisies.  
 De Democrats dey lie and steal,  
 And use me mean like blazes.

Ven I vas from Sharmonee,  
 I meed me vonce a loafer,  
 Ant shust like dot he speak to me,  
 Say dutchie who you go for!  
 I dold dot fellow nix for stay,  
 He say, all righd olt shicken,

You vote dot dicket righd away,  
 Or else you get a licken. --<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>23</sup>To most Americans, *Dutchman* referred to German.

<sup>24</sup> *Mine Bolitics and So On*, *B & L Songster*, 41.

The other song turns the threat around, with the Dutchman telling the Democrat to leave him alone or suffer the consequences.

Ven I comes down  
Into dot town,  
Von pleasant day of summer,  
He votes our side!  
A fellow cried.  
Dot Democratic bummer!  
I said, I don t can say dot s so,  
Oh, come out off, old shmarty,  
Dot vas no good for me, oh no!  
Dot Democratic party!

Now dot s just so,  
Dey always do,  
Dose Democrat repeaters;  
Dey yell und cheer,  
Und drink good beer,  
Dose loafers und lunch-eaters!  
But den dey don t can fool me much  
I was no greenhorn shicken,  
Dey better stay away all such,  
Or else dey get a licken! –<sup>25</sup>

While these two songs imply that Democrats were out begging for votes, many other Republican songs accuse the Democrats of repeat voting and buying votes. One such song was written as a confession by a repeater who refused to give his name. He remained safe at home during the Civil War and admitted to having a bad record, but wistfully longed to change his ways so he could be good enough to become a Republican.

I m some one, but I won t say who,  
Because it may be some of you,  
Who look a fellow through and through,

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<sup>25</sup> The Dutchman s Dilemma, *B & L Songster*, 13.

And love me none too hearty,  
Might recognize, perchance, in me,  
A representative, you see,  
Of some of those who claim to be  
The Democratic Party.

Chorus:

I am but never mind my name;  
In twenty wards it's not the same  
I'm a repeater that's my game  
And so I serve the party.

I'd turn, if it was so I could,  
And join your loyal brotherhood;  
Alas! my record isn't good,  
And so I can't come near you;  
My linen isn't strictly clean.  
Nor need be, with the old machine;  
But one thing I suppose you've seen,  
Republicans, we fear you.<sup>26</sup>

In *The Roaring Repeater*, the writer told the story of an Irish Democrat, a hard-drinking murderer who was released from prison by a Democratic governor, then made money by repeat voting for the Democrats because he was too lazy to work. This song also has implications of racial bigotry and intimidation on the part of the Democratic Party.

My name is Mike Dolan, I'm one of the boys,  
I'm fond of good whisky and plenty of noise;  
I'm a rare politician, you'll freely admit,  
Of conscience and honor I have not a bit,  
I'm called a repeater, but that is my trade,  
I'm done with the pick-axe, the shovel and spade,  
The Democrat party depends upon me

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<sup>26</sup> *The Democratic Jinks, B & L Collection, 14.*

To give them a President, now don't you see.

Chorus:

I'm a roaring repeater of Democrat fame,  
And just from the state penitentiary I came,  
For when the election is coming about,  
The Democrat's Governor pardons me out.

I voted for Tilden from morning till night,  
I killed a Dutch tailor that day in a fight;  
I scared the black nagers most out of their coats,  
And so the Republicans lost all their votes,  
While Johnny McCready, myself and Pat Flynn,  
Stood close by the ballot box stuffing them in;  
But all of our labor went up in a blaze,  
For blasted Republicans counted in Hays.<sup>27</sup>

When I was a Reb tells a similar tale. This song features a fellow who supported the South, but was too cowardly to fight in the war and was unsuccessful in his quest for public office. Later he was ashamed and so seedy looking that he had no choice except to become a Democrat. That he sold himself for money makes it clear that his vote was purchased by Democrats.<sup>28</sup>

Other writers insisted that the Democrats could not win except by some form of fraud, from simply buying votes all the way to murder. *If You're Anxious for to Shine* creates an image of a Democratic Party that bought votes, bribed men with liquor, and let criminals go free in exchange for their support. It also offers offense to Texas cowboys.

If you're anxious for to shine in the Democratic line,

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<sup>27</sup> *I'm a Roaring Repeater*, *B & L Songster*, 30-31. The use of three very Irish names in this song seems rather odd, as Blaine claimed to have the support of the Irish.

<sup>28</sup> *When I Was a Reb*, *B & L Songster*, 22-23.

As a man of great renown,  
You must learn to shake the hands of the thriving loafer bands,  
That roam about the town.  
You must pay for rot gut whisky that will keep them feeling frisky,  
Furnish lots of lager beer,  
On the day of your election it will be a nice reflection,  
Just to know that they are near.

For the bummers all will say,  
On the great election day.  
Now if this young man can spend his wealth on such a crowd as we,  
Why what a very singularly nice young man our Candidate must be.

You must go into the prison, for that home is often his n,  
And tis there he has to pine,  
Til some Democrat relation sees his awful situation,  
And will go and pay his fine.  
He will prove himself a trump, sir, at the polls or on the stump, sir,  
With his fist or with his jaw,  
He can do a double murder like a Texas cattle herder,  
And he ain t afraid of law.

And this convict he will say,  
On the great election day  
Now if this young man can pay my fine and let me go scott free,  
Why what a very singularly nice young man our Candidate must be.<sup>29</sup>

Allusions to vote-buying appear in several Republican songs. One song points out the shame and sinfulness of selling a vote, making it clear that only the Democrats were guilty of this.

My grandfather s vote it could never be bought,  
For he held it more sacred than gold;  
Were he living today, what on earth would he say,  
At the way they are purchased and sold?  
Could he go to the polls where men barter their souls,  
For a few paltry dimes and a drink,

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<sup>29</sup> If You re Anxious for to Shine, *B & L Songster*, 32.

If he saw all the fraud in the name of the Lord,  
What, oh! What would my grandfather think?

Shall we, who are free, calmly stand by and see  
All the hopes of this fair nation lost,  
Let the cause we have won, by our foes be undone,  
Forgetting the terrible cost?  
Oh! no, brother, no! let it never be so,  
Hurl these Democrats over the brink;  
If his honest old eyes could look down from the skies,  
What, oh! what would my grandfather think?<sup>30</sup>

Several songs offer a contrast between the supposed honesty of the Republicans and the alleged corruption of the Democrats. Republican songwriters claimed that their party was made up of honest, unbought men who were armed with a million freemen's unbought votes. Every decent man should know that Blaine and Logan were the square candidates who did not need to purchase votes in order to win. In addition, African Americans received musical reminders that their right to vote was a result of Republican efforts and that Democrats sought to deny them suffrage, through violence if necessary.<sup>31</sup>

We have to meet the same old crowd,  
With bars and ciphers ready,  
Whose shotguns help reform along  
By keeping negroes steady;  
Republicans must go, they cry,  
It long has been their slogan,  
So we *are going* for them again,

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<sup>30</sup> What Would My Grandfather Think? *B & L Songster*, 21.

<sup>31</sup> Hear! Hear the Shout, *Campaign Carols*, 17; Blaine and Logan, *B & L Collection*, 21; There They Stand, *Campaign Carols*, 24; The Republican Slogan, *Campaign Song-Book*, 27.

With Blaine and John A. Logan.<sup>32</sup>

Republican songwriters reserved some of their sharpest insults for the Independent Republicans who left the party to support Cleveland. Among the bolters were several prominent men, including Charles Francis Adams, Jr., a descendant of John Adams; Edwin L. Godkin, editor of the *New York Nation*; George W. Curtis, editor of *Harper's Weekly*; *New-York Times* publisher George Jones; and former U.S. Senator from Missouri Carl Schurz. Along with the derisive title Mugwumps, songwriters portrayed these bolters as renegades, and traitors, and distinguished clowns. They called the Independent movement a vast conspiracy which ran against all human right, and lacked definite principles and leadership. One Republican writer promised all hated factions that the party would scatter them on election day.<sup>33</sup>

The Independents photographed,  
Would make the angels weep;  
Just think of such a *pot pourri*,  
Of sinners, mixed with sheep.<sup>34</sup>

One writer mentioned three Mugwump leaders by name, devoting a full verse to

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<sup>32</sup>Ibid.

<sup>33</sup>Boller, *Presidential Campaigns*, 147; David M. Tucker, *Mugwumps: Public Moralists of the Gilded Age* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1998). 73; Calhoun, *The Gilded Age*, 141; Sautter, *Inside the Wigwam*, 54; Sean Dennis Cashman, *America in the Gilded Age: From the Death of Lincoln to the Rise of Theodore Roosevelt*, 3d ed. (New York: New York University Press, 1993), 156; Trowbridge H. Ford, "The Political Crusade against Blaine in 1884," *Mid-America: An Historical Review*, Jan. 1975, 50-54; "The Mugwumps of '84," *Pocket Monitor*, 14; George Cooper and Harrison Millard, "Our Plumed Knight Leads the Way," (original sheet music: privately published, 1884).

<sup>34</sup> "The Mugwumps of '84," *Pocket Monitor*, 14.

each, depicting a trio of pouting, spoiled children who did not get their way.

George Curtis sits a sulking, over there,  
George Curtis has the mugwumps over there,  
His man was beaten fair,  
So he ll have to grin and bear,  
While he fills *no* easy chair over there.

Carl Schurz is cogitating over there,  
Carl Schurz is ruminating, over there;  
Says that Grover is his choice,  
In a German silver voice,  
And goes back upon his post over there.

George Jones is kicking *madly*, over there,  
George Jones is feeling *badly*, over there;  
He is standing on his dig,

As becomes a foreign prig,  
And he ll find it harder *Times* over there.<sup>35</sup>

Another songwriter took a very tongue-in-cheek approach, characterizing the virtuous moral stance of the Mugwumps as self-righteousness. One of the song's puns is a peculiar suggestive use of Thomas Nast's name. The implication is that the Mugwumps believed that they were made more chaste by leaving the Republican Party, but the party they left did not want deserters back after the election.

Maid of Harper's! ere we part!  
Show us what a N-ast thou art,  
Since thy virgin bed is made  
Purer by thy escapade,  
Hear our vow before we go,  
Could we miss thee? Yes, and No!

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<sup>35</sup> The Independents! *Pocket Monitor*, 7.



By thy strong Platonic mind,  
By thy virtues unconfined,  
Or, if these have left thy breast,  
Since thou st found thy kindred nest,  
Hear our vow before we go,  
Can we miss thee? Yes, and No!

Curry not ambitions state,  
Think of Horace Greeley s fate;  
Dost thou honor bright possess  
A corner on *all righteousness*?  
Hear our vow before we go,  
Do we miss thee? Yes, and No!

Maid of Harpers, we have gone,  
Think of us, sweet, when alone;  
When the swallows homeward fly,  
And Tom and Grover scattered lie!  
Hear our vow, ungrateful foe,  
Can we wish thee back? Oh No!<sup>36</sup>

Although the writer of *Maid of Harpers* insisted that the Independents would not be welcome to return to the Republican fold, two other songs make it clear that Mugwumps could come back as soon as they discovered the mistake they made in leaving the party.

We pity those Salvationists,  
We think that they ll return,  
While latch strings are extended, Boys,  
And Lamps hold out to burn;  
The *awful good* die early, Boys,  
As you will all discern,  
When we ve elected Blaine and Logan.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> *Maid of Harpers*, *Pocket Monitor*, 20. Horace Greeley was an unsuccessful candidate for president in 1876 and died just three weeks after losing the election.

<sup>37</sup> *Our Leaders*, *Pocket Monitor*, 4.

Continuing this thought in verse four, the bolters received an assurance of the Republican Party's patriotism along with a reminder that reforms were best achieved by staying together.

We stand for Law and Honor, Boys,  
Reform *within* the ranks,  
We'll keep our country's credit good.  
Protect the Nation's banks,  
Defend our flag, at home, abroad,  
From foreign foes and cranks,  
Because we vote for Blaine and Logan.<sup>38</sup>

The second of these songs calls the Mugwumps "A few young dudes," thus minimizing the number of men involved in the bolt. The writer claimed that the bolters had been deceived and have gone astray, but would mature someday and realize with wiser eyes that Blaine was the man to elect.

Now all young men with happy hopes,  
Pray take advice from me;  
Don't be so quick to fall in line,  
With dudes and traders free;  
For if you do, you'll surely find,  
You've cast your vote in vain,  
Far better help our noble cause,  
And swing in line for Blaine.<sup>39</sup>

Denial that there was any discord among Republicans was another strategy used by songwriters.

The cause that's right doesn't need special pleaders;  
The men who are loyal will carry the day;

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<sup>38</sup>Ibid.

<sup>39</sup>Swinging in for Blaine! *Pocket Monitor*, 18.

We've just such a cause, and besides, just such leaders,  
We warn all the others, Keep out of the way!  
Or if you insist upon strife and contention,  
Be perfectly sure we will give you your fill;  
For you'll find in our ranks not a bit of dissention,  
And we'll fight till you're glad to sit down and be still.<sup>40</sup>

In "The Laborer's Resolve" the writer insisted that the Democratic Party was split by the legitimate concerns of workingmen rather than by faction. Referring to politicians who were in government to enrich themselves as "stupid, Republicans who are Irish, German, Natives" made a promise to "purge Cleveland with fifty thousand Grady's pills" and vowed that "The tail can never wag the dog."

There's an air of dire refraction  
In the Democratic ranks,  
Which is not the work of faction,  
Nor the lunacy of cranks.  
But 'tis heard in every City  
Throughout the Empire State,  
And it threatens all the plottings of the  
Cleveland-Manning Slate.

'Tis the voice of honest labor,  
Horny handed from the Soil,  
Calling out to friend and neighbor,  
To protect us in our toil,  
Gainst the schemes of Corporations,  
Who devise their subtle plan,  
Through the wiles of legislation  
To usurp the rights of man.<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>40</sup> Men of the People, *B & L Collection*, 26-27.

<sup>41</sup> The Laborer's Resolve, *Pocket Monitor*, 12-13.

Although Republican songwriters penned numerous songs concerning splits and scandals in the Democratic Party, they tended to be quite defensive to similar treatment, whether real or imagined, from their opponents. Several Republican songs contain accusations of mudslinging by the Democrats. From mild comments on the chatter of the Democratic crew, to entire songs dedicated to charging the Democrats with lying and using dirty campaign tactics, Republican lyrics reflect an almost paranoid hypocrisy, a determination to deflect attention from their own mudslinging by protesting Democratic attacks. The Democrats did participate in some dirty campaigning through songs, but they tended to be less vicious than the Republicans, who tried to present themselves as the injured party.<sup>42</sup>

Heed ye not now idle stories,  
Which our daring foes prepare,  
In truth and honor our party glories,  
And seek we will, a Victory fair.<sup>43</sup>

In *A Mud Machine*, Democratic strategies were likened to a catapult flinging dirt on the Republicans. Since the Republicans often criticized the Democrats' political machines such as Tammany Hall, the title has a secondary meaning. The song delivers a promise of retaliation if the Democrats continued slinging mud. The lyrics are vaguely reminiscent of the children's chant: "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me," as verse three claims that mudslinging only gets the "gunners" dirty.

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<sup>42</sup> *Wearing of the Blue*, *B & L Songster*, 4.

<sup>43</sup> *For Blaine and Logan Still*, *Campaign Song-Book*, 22.

Oh! come good people, one and all,  
Tis plain enough to you,  
There s duty for us, great and small,  
And that we mean to do.  
We re called to meet a wily foe,  
Who ll stoop to all things mean,

But we will spoil, as years ago,  
His wicked old machine.  
The Roman s had one very like,  
The catapult, twas named,  
With stones they d throw, and try to strike  
The men at whom twas aimed.  
The one our enemy employs  
Is loaded up with dirt;  
It makes a mighty deal of noise,  
But does but little hurt.

Our duty, then, we must discharge,  
And do it too, we will,  
To show the populace at large,  
The dirt machine don t kill!  
They ve shot it off a thousand times,  
We ve seen it oft before,  
We ve seen how truly it beslimes  
Its gunners, more and more.

To men who like a stand-up fight,  
Whether on land or flood,  
There s something that s repugnant, quite,  
In battles fought with mud.  
But we will give you our advice,  
If to this they aspire:  
Do this, and do it in a trice,  
Just fight the Devil with fire!<sup>44</sup>

The same childish sentiment also appears in the second verse of 'The Campaign!'  
and again brings to mind youngsters calling each other names.

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<sup>44</sup> A Mud Machine, *B & L Collection*, 32.

The enemy are at old tricks,  
Their lies begin to bud,  
But, all their campaign canister,  
Is only made of mud;  
It will turn on those who throw it,  
In a destructive flood,  
Twill never stick to Blaine and Logan.<sup>45</sup>

Admonishing Democrats for mudslinging, one writer warned them that their lies would not be believed.

Don't spatter mud, your common fashion!  
Think of the facts the people know:  
Think how they smiled at all your passion,  
When you were whipped so, years ago.<sup>46</sup>

Another songwriter reminded Republicans not to listen to the slanders.

Close up, don't heed their mud, boys, it's what they're paid to do,  
In '76 we'd Tories to-day we've traitors, too;  
But in the coming fall, boys, *we'll beat their last tattoo*  
Led on by Blaine and Logan.

Republican songs claimed that their nominees for honest men are known so it won't do a bit of hurt to have their enemies throw dirt. But the burden of taunts and...sneers had been borne for years and years, and the party must be prepared to fight back if necessary.<sup>47</sup>

Of the 226 Republican songs in this study, thirty-two are primarily composed of negative remarks about the Democrats. Fourteen contain personal insults, nine are

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<sup>45</sup> The Campaign! *Pocket Monitor*, 6.

<sup>46</sup> The Next Four Years, *B & L Collection*, 34.

<sup>47</sup> Tramp, tramp, tramp! *B & L Collection*, 18; Don't Try to Scare Us, *B & L Collection*, 28.

entirely about the hopelessness of the Democratic cause, and three are tales of voting fraud. Four accuse the Democrats of mudslinging and two were written solely to criticize the Mugwumps. Ten of the Republican songs have a mixture of topics, combining insults and accusations with verses encouraging Republicans to rally, or concerning various issues. Including these mixed songs, less than twenty percent of Republican songs studied were part of a dirty campaign. However, the significance of this percentage can only be determined through systematic analysis of campaign songs from all the other elections in which songs were used, so that a comparison of percentages of negative songs can be made.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### ISSUE-BASED SONGS

They ve got the tariff on the brain,  
Day in, day out,  
But not protection, that shows plain,  
Day in, day out we know;  
The party for protection now,  
Day in, day out,  
Is the great Republican I vow,  
Day in, day out we ll show.<sup>1</sup>

Many historians contend that there was little difference in the party platforms in 1884. A thorough comparison confirms that while there were a few differences, the similarities are much more numerous. Both parties had platform planks supporting benefits for Civil War veterans, and both platforms contained an admonishment against entangling alliances with foreign powers. Each blamed the other for voting irregularities and demanded a fair, honest ballot in the coming election. Both platforms made statements against public lands being granted to alien absentees rather than to homesteaders, and both mentioned land grants to corporations: the Democrats asked for no new corporate land grants and the return of unearned land, while the Republicans wanted forfeiture of existing grants for non-compliance with the conditions of the grants.

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<sup>1</sup> Day In, Day Out, *B & L Songster*, 49.



Both parties insisted on respect for American citizens (including naturalized citizens) who traveled abroad. Both platforms contained support for free public schools.<sup>2</sup>

Other issues on which the two platforms were similar are racial equality, Civil Service reform, and a ban on the importation of servile laborers. The Democratic platform called for an end to Mongolian immigration as persons of that race were unfitted...for absorption...or citizenship, and the Republicans wanted to close the door on Chinese immigrants. Both parties platforms expressed the desire for territorial officers who were residents of the territory they served.<sup>3</sup>

After Cleveland defused the Halpin scandal by simply instructing his staff to tell the truth, Blaine needed an issue that would distract voter attention away from his questionable activities as a member of Congress. He broke with custom by embarking on a six-week campaign tour and chose protectionism as his issue. But Cleveland refused to accommodate him by publicly taking a firm opposing position. Instead, Cleveland quietly supported the official Democratic stance on the tariff, which called for reduced duties for revenue exclusively for public purposes and then only those which were necessary to

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<sup>2</sup> Shields-West, *Almanac of Presidential Campaigns*, 114. Donald Bruce Johnson, comp., *National Party Platforms, 1840-1956* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1956), 65-68, 72-74.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

meet the needs of the Government economically administered, while refusing to address the issue in speeches.<sup>4</sup>

In actuality, the two platforms are remarkably similar even on this issue. The Democrats qualified their tariff reduction plank with an assurance that it is not proposed to injure any domestic industries, and any change of law must be...regardful of the labor and capital involved, keeping the duties high enough to preserve the higher rate of wages prevailing in this country, but low enough to reduce the budget surplus. The Republicans promised to correct the inequities of the tariff, and to reduce the surplus by judiciously trimming duties without injuring the laborer nor domestic industries. Thus both parties wanted to reduce the surplus and protect workers while lowering the tariff. The degree to which each would adjust tariff duties and the purpose of each for so doing constituted the differences between the parties. Predictably, each party blamed the other for placing the citizens under a heavy tax burden and for the huge federal surplus that resulted from it.<sup>5</sup>

Cleveland's refusal to campaign left Blaine engaged in a one-sided debate on the benefits of the protective tariff at a time when the people were suffering through an

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<sup>4</sup>Ibid., 66; Reichley, *The Life of the Parties*, 226; Welch, *Grover Cleveland*, 33; Richard P. McCormick, *The Origins of American Presidential Politics* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1982), 226; Johnson, *Party Platforms*, 66-67.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., 66, 72-73; David A. Wells, The Democracy and Tariff Reduction, *Journal of American History* 56, no. 3 (Dec. 1980), 547; John D. Martz, Economic Relationships and the Early Debate over Free Trade, *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences* 526 (Mar. 1993), 361.

economic downturn that could easily be blamed on an excess of protectionism. In spite of the Democratic platform's guarantee not to harm industry or workers, Blaine ignored the lack of real disagreement on the tariff and continued to try to make it the central issue of the campaign. Republican newspapers supported Blaine's stand on the protective tariff, accusing the Democrats of taking a dishonest position and blaming the current loss of jobs on Democratic free trade policies, even though with the Tariff of 1883 in effect, no free trade existed at the time. The *Tribune* asserted that the Democrats wanted to raid the tariff, bringing economic ruin and terrible suffering to America's workingmen. The Republicans contradicted themselves by claiming credit for the higher wages enjoyed by workers in the United States as opposed to pauper wages in Europe and Asia, while at the same time censuring the Democrats for low wages and inflation<sup>6</sup>

Several Republican songs have a protectionist theme. One writer, using the pen name Mouse-in-the-Corner, paired the tariff with the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 to portray twin walls of protection for the American worker.

Free-trade doctrines make it pay,  
Of that there's not a doubt, sir,  
But all the profit goes, they say,  
To feed the foreign lout, sir.

Refrain:  
Blaine of Maine, we'll keep it up,  
Logan makes it double;

The Tariff and the Chinese bill,

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<sup>6</sup>*New-York Tribune*, 23,24 August; 7, 11, 21 October; 4 November 1884; A Yankee-Doodle Tariff, *Campaign Song-Book*, 37.

Will save our homes from trouble.

We have a market big enough,  
To furnish each a stall, sir;  
We ll never take imported stuff,  
To crowd them to the wall, sir.

Workmen can t afford to pay  
Five cents a pound for bacon:  
With labor fifty cents a day,  
And only boss hands taken.

So we ll put the tariff on,  
Where we ve the same to sell, sir;  
And off, to bring the prices down,  
Where orders we can t fill, sir. <sup>7</sup>

Although the Republican Party, and Blaine in particular, were more closely identified with business than were the Democrats, one Republican songwriter described workers who were tired of being humbugged...robbed and ignored by free-trade Democrats. Calling Cleveland *The Corporation s Nominee* who was *bound to enrich Monopoly* at Labor s expense, this writer also included the rights of Americans abroad, child labor, exclusion of immigrant workers, and the length of the workday. Thus this song covers a larger number of issues than any other Republican song. <sup>8</sup>

The shout wakes the sleeping American eagle;  
She moves her wide wings opes her far-piercing eye;  
She sees other nations, both petty and regal,  
Her children imprison, and there let them lie.  
Like lightning from tempest, her eye flashes fire;  
She screams for her offspring, insulted and slain;

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<sup>7</sup>Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Blaine, Blaine, Hurrah! *Campaign Song-Book*, 48.

Then flies thro' the nation, her sons to inspire,  
Who rise in their might, and call loudly for Blaine!

Hear the mighty chorus, resounding, resounding:  
No bigotry but liberty; no pauper labor here;  
The child in the factory may soon end its slavery,  
And sixteen hours a day, we'll inscribe on Cleveland's bier;  
Our star-spangled banner may again proudly float,  
Throughout every clime, free from insult or stain,  
For the eagle's wild scream  
Will find echo in the throat  
Of America's great millions,  
When they vote for Blaine.<sup>9</sup>

Characterization of Cleveland as the pawn of big business also appears in the second verse of "Hold the Fort!"

Cleveland, the so-called Reformer,  
Stands with all his clan:  
For Monopolies and Railroads,  
*Not for laboring Man!*<sup>10</sup>

One of the few songs devoted entirely to the tariff is "There's Victory in the Air."

The first verse recalls antebellum economic difficulties.

You remember sixty-one,  
Ere the trouble had begun,  
When the Democratic party held full sway,  
How the wages were cut down

In the village and the town,

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<sup>9</sup>Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> "Hold the Fort!" *Pocket Monitor*, 11.

And the workingmen received starvation pay.<sup>11</sup>

Verse two warns industrial workers of the consequences of a Democratic victory:

Bold Mechanics to the front,  
You must bear the battle's brunt,  
For the iron and steel you deftly wield.  
If free trade should win the day,  
You will labor at low pay,  
And be forced by poverty at last to yield.<sup>12</sup>

Using nautical imagery, the third and fourth verses describe the Democrats as inconstant and give assurance to workers that the Republican Party will provide stability to industry through the protective tariff.

Do not trust the Ship of State,  
To uncertainty of fate,  
To a party that is fickle as the tide.  
Only revenue they see,  
Revenue exclusively;  
But they cannot win with Cleveland as their guide.

We prefer to stem the tide  
With a vessel true and tried,  
Called Protection to the Industries at Home.  
Then with Logan and with Blaine  
She's bound to bear the strain,  
And will land them safe neath Washington's high dome.<sup>13</sup>

Taking a cue from Blaine, several Republican lyricists worked the tariff into their songs in an attempt to make it a rallying point for workers. Protection became the

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<sup>11</sup> There's Victory in the Air, *Campaign Song-Book*, 46.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid.

<sup>13</sup>Ibid.

watchword, and the rallying cry. Blaine was the champion who would defend home industries, the friend to all the laboring men.<sup>14</sup>

For trade and labor and the right,  
We must and will stand by  
The bone and sinew of our land  
Protection is the cry,  
The working men are all in line;  
Their right we will maintain,  
All look to him, the people's choice,  
Our statesman, James G. Blaine.<sup>15</sup>

In Wait Republicans said a final goodbye to the Democrats, calling them the party of Free Trade, and promising to cast millions of ballots for Blaine, the brave champion of Protection.

Farewell to Revenue only,  
Exclusively farewell,  
We re voting for Home Protection  
Ring, Independence Bell!  
Over the land and sea,  
Columbia's sons and daughters  
Shall still protected be.

Farewell to idle workshops,  
Farewell to silent mills,  
The dawn of a prosperous epoch,  
Is looming o'er the hills,  
Carry the news to Hendricks,  
Tell Cleveland's friends again,  
The clouds roll by in November,

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<sup>14</sup> The Republican Slogan, *Campaign Song-Book*, 27; Our Leaders, *Pocket Monitor*, 5; Three Times Three for Blaine, *Campaign Song-Book*, 30.

<sup>15</sup> Blaine and Victory, *Campaign Song-Book*, 34.

Mid thunder and shouts for Blaine.<sup>16</sup>

In addition to reassuring factory workers, some Republican songs also included agricultural workers. Mentioning several states by name, one writer called on all laborers to support Blaine because their homes and livelihoods were threatened by free trade policies. This is also the only song in this study that invoked the name of Henry Clay.

We love this glorious Union, protecting all who toil,  
The men in all our workshops, and the tillers of the soil.  
And now when so-called statesmen protection would betray,  
Hurrah for Blaine! Maine's white-plumed knight, our leader in the fray.

Ye men of labor gather round the banner of the right,  
Texas and fair Louisiana join us in the fight,  
Georgia, white with cotton, falls in, in proud array;  
Hurrah for Blaine! Maine's white-plumed knight, our leader in the fray.

Rhode Island and Virginia are marching hand in hand,  
And gallant North Carolina joins the noble patriot band,  
And every State whose people still honor Henry Clay,  
Hurrah for Blaine! Maine's white-plumed knight, our leader in the fray.<sup>17</sup>

Depicting Blaine as humble, worthy, and noble, one songwriter warned that Cleveland and Hendricks would the poor enslave. Others accused Cleveland of being under the control of the British or at least of being unduly influenced by British gold in great profusion. One writer even cautioned voters that Cleveland's election would result in stoppage of our mills and mines, culminating in economic ruin. Another songwriter painted a rosy image of what would surely happen when Blaine

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<sup>16</sup> Wait,; *Campaign Song-Book*, 42.

<sup>17</sup> The White Plumed Knight, *Campaign Song-Book*, 35.



became president:<sup>18</sup>

Our industries protected, the ballot safe and free,  
From ocean unto ocean we will dwell in unity,  
One mighty, grand Republic, universal liberty,  
Our flag in every land respected.

Chorus:

For Blaine! for Blaine! resound the name on high!  
For Logan! Logan! be our battle cry!  
Our leaders we will follow as we did in days gone by,  
When we were marching thro Georgia.<sup>19</sup>

One song labeled the Democrats as hypocrites concerning the tariff and reform.

The second verse accused them of greed, and the third verse has an implication of revolt within the Democratic ranks. The use of tune *Pop Goes the Weasel* adds to the mocking quality of the lyrics.

The Democrats we now must brand  
As the vile misdeeders,  
For in the Congress of our land,  
Loud talk their leaders.

They preach reform but practice not,  
But good as public bleeders,

When any cash is to be got,  
Then loud blow their leaders.

The tariff question strikes them hard,  
Though for revenue they re pleaders,  
But on protection split their card,  
And loud talk their leaders.

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<sup>18</sup> Blaine and Logan Song, *Campaign Song-Book*, 18; American Workman's Battle Song, *Campaign Song-Book*, 17.

<sup>19</sup> For Blaine! *Bugle Call*, 15.

The working men they see it plain,  
For they re attentive readers,  
And know protection is their gain,  
Though loud talk their leaders.<sup>20</sup>

Besides the tariff, only a few other issues were brought up in Republican songs.

As already mentioned, some writers included reform and voting rights in their verses.

One song contains a brief allusion to equal access to the ballot.

The once solid South must now fall in line,  
And with the great Party of Progress combine  
For freedom, free ballots, all color line cease;  
Remember, the watchword is, Let us have Peace! <sup>21</sup>

The Republican platform had one brief plank concerning support for building up a more powerful navy. Verse five of *Now Three Times Three* may be a reference to this.

The sixth verse of this song has the only suggestion of backing for women s rights in the Republican songs considered for this study.

Now, three times three for liberty,  
Hurrah! hurrah! hurrah!  
For the Army and Navy of the free,  
Hurrah! hurrah! hurrah!  
Nations at peace, rejoicing see,  
The priceless boon of liberty:  
Hurrah! hurrah! hurrah!

From Maine to California s slope,  
Hurrah! hurrah! hurrah!  
Blaine is our choice, our Nation s hope,  
Hurrah! hurrah! hurrah!  
Then rally, brothers, to the call,

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<sup>20</sup> Loud Talk Their Leaders, *B & L Songster*, 61.

<sup>21</sup> Irish Rallying Song, *Campaign Song-Book*, 21.

Freedom for whites, blacks, women, all!  
Hurrah! hurrah! hurrah!<sup>22</sup>

Perhaps because overt support for temperance could have cost Blaine votes, no songs contain any endorsement of limitations on drinking. One song does praise the leadership of Maine in the temperance struggle, but without advocating any national action on the issue.<sup>23</sup>

In many a hard-won fight before, Maine still has led the van,  
For justice and for temperance and for all the rights of man.  
And now she'll aid her honored son with all the zeal she can,  
While we go marching to victory!<sup>24</sup>

One writer addressed the need to shorten the length of the work day, an issue on which the Republican platform was quite adamant.<sup>25</sup>

Tis the strong-armed palace builders,  
On whom all the world depends;  
Aye, they build the towns and cities  
Where great strength and beauty blends;  
So, ye noble toiling freemen,  
Whom the earth and waves obey,  
Ye shall have the highest station,  
And but toil Eight Hours a Day.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Now, Three Times Three, *Campaign Carols*, 35.

<sup>23</sup> Boller, *Presidential Campaigns*, 96; Johnson, *Party Platforms*, 73.

<sup>24</sup> The Good Old Bugle, Boys, *Campaign Song-Book*, 23. Maine was the first state to pass a temperance law.

<sup>25</sup> Johnson, *Party Platforms*, 73.

<sup>26</sup> The Toiler's Golden Day. *Campaign Song-Book*, 40.

On the issue of Civil Service reform, only a few references can be found, none of them specific. One song accuses the Democrats of making false reform promises that like pie crust, are sure to break. Some songs have allusions to reform, but no song actually identifies Civil Service as the object of those reforms, even though the Republican platform calls patronage a danger to free institutions which must be effectively avoided .<sup>27</sup>

Immigration restrictions received a little more attention than any other issue besides the tariff. Most songs that refer to this concern were worded to remind workers of the competition for jobs created when pauper labor gained admission to the country. The Chinese were the primary target of these songs.

Pauper labor never suits  
A land of sov reign people;  
We ll take from China no recruits  
Go ring it from the steeple!<sup>28</sup>

Closing the gates of immigration to those who could not or would not be productive is also the subject of one verse of We ve Found Him.

The nations cross the ocean  
See our success with fear;  
They seem to have a notion  
That they can send us here  
The leper and the pauper,  
But we will have them know  
On that we ll put a stopper,

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<sup>27</sup>Johnson, *Party Platforms*, 73.

<sup>28</sup> A Yankee-Doodle Tariff, *Campaign Song-Book*, 37.

And Blaine will tell them so.<sup>29</sup>

Among the issue-based songs in this study, eleven are predominantly about the protective tariff. Sixteen are partially about the tariff, but mixed with various other topics, such as the Civil War or praise for Blaine. *Campaign Song-Book* contains most of the songs that deal with the tariff. Six songs mention immigration. Some songs criticize the Democratic stand on an issue; however, most either praise Blaine's position or make promises for the Republican Party.

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<sup>29</sup> We've Found Him, *B & L Collection*, 22.

## CONCLUSION

Way up along the old salt river,  
Up near the end,  
That s where the Democrats must shiver,  
That s where we have them penned.  
Four years ago we sent them flying  
Way up the stream,  
Now they again are sadly crying  
Over their foolish dream.<sup>1</sup>

Although both Republican newspapers and Republican songwriters supposedly wanted a clean, decent campaign, the contest quickly deteriorated into malignant defamation and a campaign of slander. Both parties participated in throwing dirt while accusing each other of mudslinging. The *Times* claimed that Blaine s main tactic was scandal, and denied charges by *Tribune* editors that *Times* reporters lied when making vile accusations against Blaine. The *Tribune* called the Democratic Party a putrid reminiscence and condemned them as guilty of bribery, fraud, forgery, assassination, and perjury. Sinking to new depths, the *Tribune* even proclaimed that the Democrats were making progress in one regard: their candidates were getting fatter!<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Way Up Along the Old Salt River, *B & L Songster*, 33.

<sup>2</sup>*New-York Tribune*, 11 June; 12, 24 July; 10, 12 October 1884; To Mud Slingers, *Pocket Monitor*, 21; Rosenberg, The Dirtiest Election, 5-7; *New-York Times*, 14, 18 August 1884.

In many ways, it would appear that Blaine had several advantages over Cleveland. He was charismatic and very popular, especially with veterans. He was a skilled politician and a talented orator. Cleveland was none of these things. Blaine had experience in national government, yet was without the baggage of executive office decisions that Cleveland carried as a result of his vetoes as governor of New York. Before Cleveland was nominated, the *Tribune* claimed that no matter whom the Democrats chose as their candidate, Blaine and Logan can't be beaten. After Cleveland received the nomination, the *Tribune* expressed that Cleveland's close friends doubted that he would carry even his home state.<sup>3</sup>

Yet in the end, Blaine *was* beaten. Cleveland *did* win in New York, which gave him 219 total electoral votes to Blaine's 182 votes. Reasons for Blaine's loss to Cleveland have been the subject of scrutiny ever since. Numerous possible causes have been offered by various historians for the outcome of this exceptionally close race. In all probability, a combination of several factors contributed to for Blaine's failure.<sup>4</sup>

Undoubtedly, many people had serious questions about Blaine's integrity, which was in sharp contrast to Cleveland's honesty and openness. Cleveland's candor was very attractive to voters who were tired of the usual political maneuvering. Blaine campaigned

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<sup>3</sup>Mike Sewell, "Political Rhetoric and Policy-Making: James Gillespie Blaine and Britain," *Journal of American Studies* 24, no. 1 (Apr. 1990), 84; *New-York Tribune*, 7 June, 26 July 1884.

<sup>4</sup>Congressional Quarterly Service, *Historical Review of Presidential Candidates from 1788-1968*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. (Washington: Congressional Quarterly Service, 1969), 20; Ford, *Political Crusade*, 38-39.

under a taint of corruption which Democratic newspapers kept alive in voters' minds. That he decided to take an active role in the contest made him seem desperate, in what one observer called a gigantic and prolonged...spectacle of vote-begging. The Republicans fought a dirty campaign on a personal level, using the Halpin scandal, but Cleveland took the higher moral plane by stopping his staff from retaliating when questions arose about the legitimacy of Blaine's oldest child.<sup>5</sup>

Blaine made two tactical errors shortly before the election. He failed to disassociate himself from a remark made in his presence by Reverend Samuel Burchard, who expressed antipathy toward the party whose antecedents have been rum, Romanism, and rebellion. This statement almost certainly alienated some Italian, Irish, and German voters who enjoyed their liquor, as well as quite a few Catholics and Southerners. Although Blaine courted the Irish vote, there was considerable anti-Irish and anti-Catholic sentiment in his party; Blaine neglected, possibly due to exhaustion after his stumping tour, to distance himself from it at the time. He belatedly repudiated Burchard's words, and Burchard, too, tried to explain them away, but the damage was already done.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>O'Brien, *American Political Leaders*, 36; Troy, *See How They Ran*, 94; Rosenberg, *The Dirtiest Election*, 9.

<sup>6</sup>David Saville Muzzey, *James Gillespie Blaine: Idol of Other Days* (New York: Dodd, Mead and Co.: 1934), 319; Smithsonian Institution, *If Elected...*, 249; Thomas, *The Tattooed Man*, 2; Emil Pocock, *Wet or Dry: The Presidential Election of 1884 in Upstate New York*, *New York History*, 54, no. 2 (Apr. 1973), 190.



Blaine then appeared as guest of honor at a fund-raising banquet at the elegant and expensive Delmonico s in New York. Many of the nation s wealthiest men were there, including John Jacob Astor and Jay Gould. Editors of Democratic newspapers called the dinner Belshazzer s Feast and The Boodle Banquet. Cartoons depicted Blaine with Money Kings while starving children gazed longingly through the windows at the scraps the rich men threw away. At a time when many were unemployed or working for little pay, and with Blaine presenting himself as the champion of the working class, this must have seemed very hypocritical. The Republican Party was already being blamed, as the party in control of the White House usually is, for the economic problems the nation was experiencing.<sup>7</sup>

In addition, the revolt of the Mugwumps was probably a contributing factor to Blaine s loss. These bolters from the Republican Party held an independent convention in New York City and organized their efforts against Blaine, who to them represented patronage and corruption, two evils they were determined to fight. Blaine lost not only their votes, but the votes of those who respected the Mugwumps enough to be influenced by them.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup>Boller, *Presidential Campaigns*, 150. Irwin Silber, *Songs America Voted By* (Harrisburg, Pa.: Stackpole Books, 1971), 133; Thomas, *The Tattooed Man*, 2; Ford, *The Political Crusade*, 50, 54.

<sup>8</sup>Tucker, *Mugwumps*, 79-80; Gordon S. Wood, *The Massachusetts Mugwumps*, *New England Quarterly* (Dec. 1960), 438.

Chance also played a role in this election: the typesetters union, which had over 3,000 members in the state of New York, decided to strike against the *Tribune*, calling for a boycott of the paper and by association, its candidate. The *Tribune* was also losing a circulation war with the *New-York World*, owned by Joseph Pulitzer, who threw his paper's considerable clout behind Cleveland. Rain and cold temperatures in the northern rural areas of New York may also have contributed to the outcome.<sup>9</sup>

It is impossible to gauge accurately the impact that campaign songs had on the outcome of the election. It is also impossible to determine exactly how often each song was sung. Given the number of songs included in this study, and the fact that fifteen additional songbooks were published, in all probability several hundred songs existed during this campaign. Some songs, especially those with memorable lyrics and simple melodies, probably became quite popular, as according to Eileen Shields-West, singing was enthusiastic and wide-spread, at rallies, parades, and meetings. However, some songs may not have ever been sung at all.<sup>10</sup>

Songs do, however, provide an insight into the overall tenor of the campaign. Several Republican songs contain insults directed at either Cleveland or his party. A few aim their barbs at the Republicans who bolted the party. But all songs considered, they are a fairly tame lot. Rally songs and songs of praise, along with issue-based songs, far outnumber derogatory songs. Even when "bloody shirt" songs are counted as negative

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<sup>9</sup>Rutland, *The Republicans*, 96; Pocock, *Wet or Dry*, 178.

<sup>10</sup>Shields-West, *Almanac of Presidential Campaigns*, 111.

toward Democrats, there are still more songs that deal with issues and encouragement of party members than there are disparaging songs.<sup>11</sup>

Songs may also reflect the degree of importance placed on each issue. Blaine considered the tariff to be the most important issue, and more Republican songs deal with the tariff than with any other issue. But the absence of songs on certain touchy issues, such as temperance, could mean that the issue was not given much emphasis, or more likely, it illustrates the party's reluctance to alienate voters. In any case, songs help in understanding the differences between the parties and provide a colorful commentary on late nineteenth century political thought, whether or not they had any effect on the outcome of the vote.

Election day in 1884 was the fourth of November. As late as the tenth of November, Republican newspapers still expressed the hope that Blaine had won. On the twelfth, they conceded that Cleveland would *probably* be the next president, but not until the sixteenth did they admit that the victory did, indeed, belong to Cleveland. The final outcome rested with New York, and Cleveland won his home state by only 1,149 votes, making this one of the closest elections in United States history. The *Tribune* raised several questions about the accuracy of the count, but finally dropped its accusations of fraud due to lack of proof.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup>Silber, *Songs America Voted By*, 135.

<sup>12</sup>*New-York Tribune*, 10, 12, 16 November 1884; Dinkin, *Campaigning in America*, 92.

Once the results were in, a clever poet in New Jersey created a banner that summed things up rather nicely:

The World says the Independents did it.  
The Tribune says the Stalwarts did it.  
The Sun says Burchard did it.  
Roosevelt says the soft soap dinner did it.  
We say Blaine s character did it.  
BUT WE DON T CARE WHO DID IT  
IT S DONE.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>13</sup>Boller, *Presidential Campaigns*, 155, citing Henry Stoddard, *As I Knew Them: Presidents and Politics from Grant to Coolidge* (New York: 1927), 138.

APPENDIX

REPUBLICAN SONGS PRIOR TO THE 1884 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The songs in this list are arranged alphabetically by the first significant word in the title, with the articles *the* and *a* listed but not considered in alphabetizing. The first two lines of each song are included because a few songs appear in more than one songbook, but not always under the same title. Some songs have the same titles but the lyrics are not the same; these songs are alphabetized by the title, then the tune, which follows the title. Songs that were not sung to well known tunes but instead have new tunes are listed as *Tune: original*. Songs for which the tune is not given are listed as *Tune: not given*.

An abbreviated version of each songbook's short title is used as follows:

Short Title	Abbreviation
<i>B &amp; L Collection</i>	BLC
<i>B &amp; L Songster</i>	BLS
<i>Bugle Call</i>	BC
<i>Campaign Carols</i>	CC
<i>Campaign Song-Book</i>	CSB
<i>Pocket Monitor</i>	PM

The page number of each song is given after the abbreviation. Differing titles for the same songs appear in () following the page number, along with an explanation of any variations.

**All Around the President's Chair** BLS,23

Tune: Pop Goes the Weasel

Again the Democratic clan,  
With confidence advance, sir,

**America** BC,5

Tune: America

Ring out triumphant bells!  
Your mighty music tells

**American Workman's Battle Song** CSB, 17

Tune: The Marseilles Hymn

The voice of freedom calls to action:  
Hark! hark, what dangers now assail!

**As Blaine Goes Marching On** PM, 19  
Tune: Battle Hymn of the Republic

Like the rush of mighty waters,  
Men are gathering once again;

**As Years Go Rolling By** BLS, 9  
Tune: One Hundred Years from Now

The cannons peal their booming sounds  
From lake to ocean strand,

**Auld Lang Syne!** PM, 22  
Tune: Auld Lang Syne

Should party conquests be forgot,  
And never brought to mind?

**The Banner of Blaine and Logan** CC, 40  
Tune: Flag of the Constellation

The stars of morn  
On our Banner borne

**The Battle Cry of Freedom** CSB, 47  
Tune: Rally Round the Flag

Let us rally once again, Freemen, rally round the flag,  
Shouting the battle cry of Freedom!

**The Battle Cry of Freemen** CC, 36  
Tune: Battle Cry of Freedom

We are mustering for victory, a million voters strong,  
While the country joins her strength and pride, the city swells the throng,

**Beaten Bye and Bye** BLC, 25

Tune: Comin Thro the Rye

If a party meet a party,  
Voting bye and bye,

**Be to Your Party True** BC, 10

Tune: A Hundred Years

March together, tried and true;  
Turn not from the ranks aside,

**The Betters on Our Block** BC, 8-9

Tune: Babies in Our Block

This seems a time for betting, and a time for losing, too,  
For everyone will try his hand to see what he can do;

**Blaine and Logan** BLS, 52-53

Tune: Hail Columbia

Blaine and Logan! There they stand,  
Hear their praise on ev ry hand!

**Blaine and Logan** BLC, 21

Tune: Johnny Morgan

Hear the shouts for Blaine and Logan!  
Men the people praise,

**Blaine and Logan** BC, 13; CC, 10

Tune: The Star Spangled Banner

Who is he, the bold Knight,  
In the thick of the fight,

**Blaine and Logan Song** CSB, 18

Tune: John Brown

Blaine and Logan on our banners we have wrought;  
They are th heroes that for liberty have fought;



**Blaine and Logan, Too** CC, 21

Tune: original

Behold the banner o'er us,  
Behold the way before us.

**Blaine and Victory** CSB, 34

Tune: Wearing of the Green

The bugle notes are sounding, boys,  
And call us to the fray;

**Blaine from Maine** CC, 4-5

Tune: original

Blaine from Maine is the man that's bound to win,  
For he has the nomination and we're bound to put him in.

**Blaine is Our Man** CC, 18

Tune: Oh! Come, Come Away

Oh, Blaine is the man to rule this mighty nation,  
Come join the song

**Blaine is the Man** CC, 14-15

Tune: original

Hark to the sound swelling high on the breeze,  
From ocean to ocean resounding,

**Blaine's Letter of Acceptance** PM, 16

Tune: Baby Mine!

We've a letter now from Maine!  
Countrymen! Countrymen!

**Blaine's Rallying Song** CC, 42

Tune: Marching Through Georgia

Bring the good old bugle, boys,  
We'll rally once again,

**Blow the Bugle Call Again** CSB, 26

Tune: original

Hark! ye veterans, hear the slogan  
Ringing o'er the land and main,

**Boys in Blue** BC, 7; CC, 31; CSB, 16

Tune: Hold the Fort

Ho! Ye freemen, hear the clarion  
Sounding clear and long;

**Bye and Bye** BLC, 30

Tune: Sweet Bye and Bye

We've a man whom the people demand,  
They have asked for him eight years or more;

**Calling Us Away** BLS, 43

Tune: Tenting on the Old Camp-Ground

We want a man that's true and tried,  
To guide this noble land;

**The Campaign!** PM, 6

Tune: Marching through Georgia

We'll set the campaign moving, Boys!  
With speech and shout and song!

**Campaign Call** CC, 30

Tune: original (also used for **Blaine is the Man** CC, 14)

The bugle calls, the hour is nigh,  
When Freemen true and tried

**The Car Drivers Chorus** PM, 9

Tune: Just Before the Battle, Mother

Just before the Battle, Grover,  
We are thinking most of you;

**Champions of Liberty** BLS, 3 (same as CC, 22-23, **Choice of the Fearless Free**, with the first two lines of each stanza reversed)

Tune: America

Champions of Liberty!  
Choice of the fearless free!

**Cheer, Freemen, Cheer!** CC, 23

Tune: Marseilles Hymn

Come, freemen, rouse! Your hosts assemble,  
Upon the breeze your banner throw,

**Choice of the Fearless Free** CC, 22-23 (same as BLS, 3, **Champions of Liberty**, with first two lines of each stanza reversed)

Tune: America

Choice of the fearless free!  
Champions of liberty!

**Cleveland's Vetoes!** PM, 8

Tune: In the Morning in the Bright Light

Stephen Grover Cleveland's got a heavy load;  
Want good Democrats to follow us,

**Columbia Dear** BLS, 6

Tune: Watch on the Rhine

Republicans! your banners raise,  
Our candidates demand your praise

**Columbia Shall Be Free** BLS, 35

Tune: Glory Hallelujah!

O sons of fair Columbia, rise and gird your armor on,  
Soon will come the breaking of a brighter, happier dawn,

**Come All Who Have Votes** BLS, 55

Tune: Come all ye Old Maids

Come all who have votes prepare for the fray,  
Our ticket is made so be with us that day.

**Come Gather Round** CC, 28

Tune: Auld Lang Syne

Come, comrades, gather, one and all  
And join our song to-night;

**Come March with the Union Blues** BLS, 8

Tune: Life on the Ocean Waves

Come out with your capes again,  
Oh, boys of the Wide Awakes,

**Come Rally for Blaine and for Logan** CC, 3

Tune: Old Rosin the Bow

Come rally for Blaine and for Logan,  
The Statesman, and Soldier true;

**Come, Wake Up, Voters** CSB, 33

Tune: The Girl I Left Behind Me

Come, wake up voters from your sleep,  
And listen to my lay, sirs,

**Come, Ye Freemen** CC, 19; BLS, 58

Tune: Hail, Columbia

Come, arouse, and rally round,  
Shout aloud with trumpet sound,

**Comrades, Join the Chorus** BLS, 14

Tune: Annie Laurie

Oh, hear the song that s swelling,  
From every green hill-side,

**Day In, Day Out** BLS, 49

Tune: original

The Democrats go blowing loud,  
Day in, day out,

**Democrats Going to Grass** BLS, 26

Tune: Old Rosin the Bow

I've traveled this country all over,  
I've visited every class,

**The Democratic Candidate** BC, 16

Tune: Sweet Bye and Bye

See the democratic leaders as they go,  
Vainly seeking reinforcements for their ranks,

**Democratic Horses** BC, 25 ]

Tune: from Patience

A bull-terrier kind of man,  
Who will gobble you if he can,

**The Democratic Jinks** BLC, 14

Tune: Captain Jinks

I'm someone, but I won't say who,  
Because it might be some of you,

**The Democratic Nominations** PM, 17

Tune: Just Twenty Years Ago

The Democrats have fixed their slate,  
For eighteen eighty four,

**The Democratic Party** BLS, 31

Tune: original

The Democratic party, boys,  
As we intend to show 'em,

**The Democratic Party and the War** BLS, 28

Tune: Merry Maiden and the Tar

Kind friends, I've got important information,  
Sing hey the honest people that you are,

**Dinna Ye Hear the Slogan?** CSB, 11

Tune: Johnny Comes Marching Home

Dinna ye hear the slogan, boys,  
Hurrah! Hurrah!

**Don't Try to Scare Us** BLC, 28

Tune: Tramp, tramp, tramp

We will do our level best, all the East and all the West,  
And we don't believe we'll do it all in vain;

**Don't You Hear the Slogan?** BLC, 7

Tune: Hold the Fort

When the cloud hung o'er the nation,  
Flashing war's alarms,

**Down in Maine** BLC, 23

Tune: Baby Mine

Oh, they raise a lot of timber,  
Down in Maine, down in Maine;

**Do You See Our Banner Floating** CC, 27

Tune: Comin' Thro' the Rye

Do you see our banner floating,  
Proudly on the breeze?

**The Dutchman s Dilemma** BLS, 13

Tune: The Cure

Oh, told me, poys, vot vas dot noise  
I hear dose peoples crying

**Election Day** BC, 20

Tune: Sailing

From slumber wake the dawn is near,  
It brings a day of hope and cheer;

**For Blaine!** BC, 15

Tune: Marching through Georgia

A statesman for our leader is what we want today,  
A man who does his duty in a firm and manly way,

**For Blaine and Logan Still** CSB, 22

Tune: Gay and Happy

Freemen, with us swell the chorus,  
And loudly make the welkin ring,

**For Blaine, my Boys, Hurrah!** CC, 29

Tune: The Bonnie Blue Flag

Old Maine to California sends  
The welcome, welcome word,

**For Home and Friends** BLS, 51

Tune: My Country tis of Thee

For Home and Fireside,  
With honest freemen s pride,

**Forth to the Battle** BC, 14

Tune: original

Forth to the battle! onward to the fight,  
Swift as the eagle in his flight;

**For Victory Again** BLS, 20

Tune: Marching Through Georgia

Come once more, ye gallant boys,  
And let us have a song,

**Forward! See the White Plumes Waving!** CSB, 15

Tune: Tramp, Tramp

Gallant comrades, once again  
Comes the call for loyal men

**The Fourth of Next November** BLS, 50-51

Tune: original

Come join us freemen, one and all.  
For the fourth of next November,

**Freeman s Shout for Freedom s Heroes** CSB, 25

Tune: Old Folks at Home

Way down upon the old plantation,  
In days gone by,

**Give Us Blaine** BLC, 20-21

Tune: Home Again

Give us Blaine, this campaign,  
True men shout with joy;

**Glory Hallelujah!** BC, 34

Tune: Glory! Hallelujah!

The voters are rallying and arming for the fray,  
As oft before, when duty called, its summons they obey,

**God Save the President** CC, 33

Tune: America

God save the President,  
His chosen instrument,



**God Save the State** BLC, 26

Tune: America

Thou God of all the free,  
We raise our cry to thee,

**God Save the State!** CC, 32-33

Tune: America

God save our native land!  
Firm may she ever stand

**God Speed the Right!** CC, 45

Tune: original

Now to heaven our prayer ascending,  
God speed the Right!

**The Good Old Bugle, Boys** CSB, 23

Tune: Marching Through Georgia

Sound the good old bugle, boys, we ll sing a song for Maine,  
For the good old Dirigo State comes to the front again.

**The Grand Old Party** BLC, 36

Tune: Glory Hallelujah

The grand old party is as true as ever in the past;  
It came to stay through thick and thin, and from the first to last;

**The Gray-Haired Boys in Blue** BLS, 24-25

Tune: original (may also be sung to Wearing of the Green)

We are marching to the front again,  
Our banner is a-float;

**Hail to the Plumed Knight! And Logan!** CSB, 8

Tune: Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean

Hail! boys! to the chief of the nation!  
Chicago has sent forth his name;

**Happy Day** BLC, 35

Tune: When Johnny Comes Marching Home

Oh, tis a happy, happy day,  
Hurrah! hurrah!

**Hear! Hear the Shout** CC, 17; BLS, 17, with title **Song of the Loyal Legions**

Tune: Tramp, Tramp, Tramp

Not with piercing bugle's peal,  
Nor with gleam of cruel steel,

**Hear the Joyful Song** BLS, 16-17

Tune: Battle Cry of Freedom

Hear, oh hear the joyful song,  
Floating on the breeze along,

**Hold the Fort!** PM, 11

Tune: Hold the Fort

See the patriot ranks are marching,  
Over all the land:

**Hold the Fort for Blaine and Logan** CC, 30

Tune: Hold the Fort

Hold the fort for Blaine and Logan,  
Hold it for the right;

**Hold the Helm** CSB, 12

Tune: Hold the Fort

O'er the sunken rocks of treason  
Angry breakers roar;

**How Bright To-Night** CC, 37

Tune: Flag of Constellation

How bright to-night, in the torches light,  
Are the names upon our banners;

**Hurrah! Boys, Hurrah!** BC, 19

Tune: Come, Come Away

Arise in your might, ye champions of the nation,  
By all the powers,

**Hurrah for Blaine and Logan!** CC, 41

Tune: Battle Cry of Freedom

Oh, we'll rally round the flag, boys! rally once again,  
Strike up our grand old battle slogan!

**Hurrah For Blaine and Logan** BC, 6-7

Tune: Soldier's Farewell

Hurrah for Blaine and Logan,  
This be our battle slogan.

**Hurrah! for the Army Blue** CC, 25

Tune: Life on the Ocean Wave

Oh, see ye the banners wave  
Where the drums are rolling deep,

**Hurrah! Hurrah!** CC, 12-13

Tune: original

Oh! Blaine, he is our joy and pride  
Hurrah! hurrah! hurrah! hurrah!

**Hurrah! Hurrah!** BLS, 38-39

Tune: original

Republicans are marching on,  
Hurrah! Hurrah!

**If You're Anxious for to Shine** BLS, 32

Tune: from Patience

If you're anxious for to shine in the Democratic line,  
As a man of great renown,

**I m a Roaring Repeater** BLS, 30-31

Tune: original

My name is Mike Dolan,  
I m one of the boys,

**In de Mornin at de White House** CSB, 19

Tune: In the Morning by the Bright Light

We sing of a man, beat him if you can,  
Want all de chillun to follow him,

**The Independents!** PM, 7

Tune: Over There

George Curtis sits a sulking over there,  
George Curtis has the mugwumps over there,

**In Grammercy Park** BC, 7

Tune: Peek-a-boo

In Grammercy Park  
The prospects are dark,

**In Praise of Blaine of Maine** CSB, 31

Tune: When Johnny Comes Marching Home

Republicans, you re called again,  
Hurrah! Hurrah!

**In the Name of Columbia** BLS, 15

Tune: Old Rosin the Bow

In the name of our own free Columbia,  
Our voice we loudly will raise,

**The Irishman s Greeting to the Ticket** CSB, 14

Tune: Rory O More

Oh, Patrick, me boy! have ye heard the good news,  
The leaders that we at Chicago did choose?

**Irish Rallying Song** CSB, 20-21

Tune: Paddys Evermore

Awaken, men of Celtic blood,  
Hark tis Columbia s call;

**I ve a Message for You All** BLS, 25

Tune: Baby Mine

I ve a message for you all,  
Democrats, Democrats,

**Join Us, Every Loyal Man** BLC, 19

Tune: Marching Through Georgia

Join us, every loyal man, in this our marching song;  
Join us in the cause of right against the cause that s wrong,

**Just a Little Thin** BLS, 44-45

Tune: Little Brother Joe

There was a dandy Democrat,  
The pride of all his party,

**The Laborer on Election Day** CC, 20-21

Tune: original

The proudest now is but my peer,  
The highest not more high;

**The Laborer s Resolve** PM, 12-13

Tune: The Wearing of the Green

There s a sound of dire refraction  
In the Democratic ranks,

**Led by Blaine and Logan** CSB, 36

Tune: Marching Through Georgia

Come, fall in line, my gallant boys, hark to the bugle s sound!  
Let not a shirk or straggler in all our ranks be found;

**Let It Be Known** BLS, 56-57

Tune: Bully for All

Election day is coming along,  
Let it be known, let it be known,

**Loud Talk Their Leaders** BLS, 61

Tune: Pop Goes the Weasel

The Democrats we now must brand  
As the vile misdeeders,

**Loyal and True** BLS, 43

Tune: Sweet Bye and Bye

Freemen, spread forth your flag to the breeze  
Let it float over valley and dells,

**The Magical Name** BLC, 15

Tune: Star Spangled Banner

Oh, say, don't you hear, from the East and the West,  
From the North and the South, how the people are telling

**Maid of Harpers** PM, 20

Tune: Maid of Athens

Maid of Harpers! ere we part!  
Show us what a nast thou art,

**Marching to the White House** BC, 21

Tune: Marching Through Georgia

Ring the merry bells, my boys, and ring them loud and long,  
Till the echoes send reply in accents firm and strong,

**Marching to Victory** CSB, 45

Tune: Marching Through Georgia

Raise the good old banner, boys, and fall in line again,  
There's another contest coming, and our duty it is plain;

**Men of the People** BLC, 26-27

Tune: Old Oaken Bucket

How dear to our hearts is the flag of our nation!  
It floats on the breezes the red, white and blue;

**Mine Bolitics and So On** BLS, 41

Tune: original

Oh, yah, dot s so, I let you know mine bolitics ant so on,  
I dells you quick vat is mine trick,

**A Mud Machine** BLC, 32

Tune: Auld Lang Syne

Oh, come, good people, one and all,  
Tis plain enough to you,

**The Mugwumps of 84** PM, 14

Tune: Wearing of the Green

The Independents photographed,  
Would make the angels weep;

**My Grandfather s Party** BLC, 8-9

Tune: Grandfather s Clock

Oh, my grandfather s party was true and firm as steel,  
To the wants of the people it served.

**National Anthem: The American Union** CSB, 6-7

Tune: original

O God, preserve the Union;  
And may it ever stand

**The Nation Loves its Soldiers Still** CC, 8

Tune: original

The nation loves its soldiers still,  
Nor can we e er forget,

**The Next Four Years** BLC, 34

Tune: A Thousand Years

Under the lead of Blaine and Logan,  
We ll do our duty, have no fears;

**Next November** BLS, 19

Tune: A Good Time Coming

There s a good time coming, boys,  
A good time coming!

**Now Three Times Three!** CC, 34-35

Tune: original

Come, brothers, let us shout the song,  
Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah!

**O Bring Out Your Banners!** BLS, 19

Tune: not given

O bring out your banners,  
And bring out your guns,

**Oh, No! Oh, No!** BLC, 24-25

Tune: Marching Through Georgia

Don t you think that we will take for place of trust and power.  
Men who were disloyal in the country s darkest hour,

**The Old Battle-Ground** BLC, 33

Tune: Tenting To-night

We are standing today on the old battle-ground,  
Where we have stood for years;

**Old Salt River** BLC, 16

Tune: Way down upon de Swanee Ribber

Say, have you heard of Old Salt River?  
There don t you doubt,



**The One Horse Chaise** BC, 12

Tune: original

The Democrats are massing now,  
One more effort to make;

**One Trial More** BC, 31

Tune: Upidee

What, try to climb that height again!  
Tral-la-la-tral-la-la.

**Only a Freeman s Vote** BLS, 37

Tune: Over the Garden Wall

Oh, I own a right that is all my own,  
Only a freeman s vote!

**Our Bold Jim Blaine** sheet music

Tune: original

Our country is calling again to the fray,  
Our ancient opponents confront us today;

**Our Candidates** BLS, 45

Tune: Hold the Fort

Ho, my comrades, join the chorus,  
Raise the banners high,

**Our Chosen Leader** BLS, 39; CSB, 9

Tune: The Battle Cry of Freedom

Yes, we ll rally for our country, we ll rally once again,  
Singing the praises of our leader!

**Our Country, to Thee** CC, 44

Tune: Star-spangled Banner

Our Country, to thee, in the cannon s fierce light,  
We have pledged the best blood of the patriot streaming,

**Our Gallant Ship of State** BLS, 26-27

Tune: Life on the Ocean Wave

Our gallant ship of state  
Still rides the waters blue,

**Our Leader Blaine** CSB, 13

Tune: From Greenland's Icy Mountains

Where Androscoggin's waters  
Pour onward to the sea:

**Our Leaders** BC, 34

Tune: John Brown's Body

Now arouse, my comrades! to your valor we appeal,  
brave are our leaders, and their hearts are true as steel,

**Our Leaders** PM, 4-5

Tune: Marching Through Georgia

Jim Blaine is on the Banner, Boys,  
His pennons at the fore.

**Our Leaders** BLS, 47

Tune: Maryland, My Maryland

There is no stain upon our men,  
Noble Blaine and Logan,

**Our Next President** BLS, 59

Tune: Johnny Comes Marching Home

Through all the land there comes a cry,  
Hurrah! hurrah!

**Our Nominations** BC, 13

Tune: The One Horse Chaise

Our nominations have been made,  
One more river to cross,

**Our Party** BLC, 17

Tune: Robinson Crusoe

Tis plain to be seen what the people all mean,  
Their voice is so earnest and hearty;

**Our Plumed Knight Leads the Way** sheet music

Tune: original

Our plumed knight leads the way, my boys,  
We'll rally once again,

**Our Record** BLS, 34

Tune: original

Oh say have you heard of the record we've made,  
Of the glorious names that the Nations now cherish,

**Peace, Order, and Stability** BLS, 10

Tune: Yankee Doodle

The Democrats are badly scared and shaking in their boots now,  
Since one of those whom THEY most feared

**The People are Shouting** CC, 9

Tune: The Campbell's are Coming

The people are shouting, hurrah! hurrah!  
The recreant host routing, hurrah! hurrah!

**The People Name the Man** BLC, 31

Tune: Auld Lang Syne

The people spoke with mighty voice,  
They don't need a slate,

**The People's Plumed Knight** sheet music

Tune: original

Oh, say, have you heard the gladdening story?  
The people have won, the people have won;

**The Plumed Knight** BLS, 48

Tune: Life on the Ocean Wave

From far Pacific coast,  
To the sloping hills of Maine.

**The Plumed Knight Band** CC, 11

Tune: original

Wake the shout for the glorious Union,  
Wake the shout of the plumed Knight band

**The Presidential Racecourse** CC, 5

Tune: Camptown Races

The Presidential course is four years long,  
Hurrah! Hurrah!

**Pull for the Shore** BLC, 9

Tune: Pull for the Shore

Hark! on the air tis swelling,  
Loud, strong, and clear:

**Put Him Through** CC, 6-7

Tune: original

Blaine is the statesman brave and true,  
Put him through! Put him through!

**Rally! Freemen, Rally!** BC, 22

Tune: Scots wa hae!

Rally, freemen, one and all,  
Hearken to your country s call,

**Rally Round the Flag** BLC, 10

Tune: Rally Round the Flag

We will rally round the flag, boys, that Lincoln loved so much,  
Shouting the names of Blaine and Logan

**Rallying Song** BLC, 11

Tune: Hail to the Chief

Hail to the plumed Knight who onward advances,  
Hail to the hero who treason defied!

**Rallying Song** BC, 20

Tune: Marching Through Georgia

Bring your honest hearts, my boys,  
And rally now once more

**Rallying Song** BC, 23

Tune: The Marseillaise

Arise, ye brave, your country calls you;  
Press nobly onward to the goal,

**Rallying Song, 1884** CSB, 5

Tune: Marching Through Georgia

Ring out the dear old bugle call,  
We re on the march once more,

**The Republican Party** PM, 3

Tune: The Red White and Blue

Our party is the hope of the nation,  
Its pride in the years that have gone,

**The Republican Party Must Go!** PM, 10

Tune: Tramp! Tramp! Tramp!

That old Democratic foe,  
Has announced that we must go!

**The Republican Slogan** CSB, 27

Tune: Yankee Doodle

Again we re called to meet the foe  
With our old banner o'er us,

**Republican Watchword** CSB, 21

Tune: Let Us Have Peace

Patriots and Soldiers! Republicans all  
Must now fall in line, and their banners unfurl;

**The Right is Marching On** CC, 32

Tune: Glory Hallelujah

From the east unto the west  
There is hope for the oppressed,

**Ring the Bells of Freedom!** CSB, 44

Tune: Tramp! Tramp! Tramp! The Boys are Marching!

Whom our sainted Garfield tried, now is by our foes belied;  
Whom he trusted then, we now will trust again

**Shouting for Blaine and for Logan** CC, 16; (**Singing for Blaine and for Logan**, BLS, 18 is almost identical, with only a few minor changes.)

Tune: Battle Cry of Freedom

We are marching to the polls, boys,  
We are coming in our might

**Shouting the Cry of Blaine and Logan** BC, 17

Tune: Battle Cry of Freedom

Come, rally from the workshop, the office, and the farm,  
Shouting the cry of Blaine and Logan,

**Shout it to the Skies** BLC, 29

Tune: John Brown's Body

Thousands of our soldiers lie a-mouldering in the grave;  
Generals, and privates, too, no men were ever more brave

**Singing for Blaine and For Logan** BLS, 18 (See **Shouting for Blaine and Logan**)

Tune: Battle Cry of Freedom

We are going to the polls, boys,  
We are going in our might,

**The Soldiers Rally** CSB, 32

Tune: Marching Through Georgia

Sound the grand assembly, boys, sound it loud and long,  
Sound it with a vigor that will start a boom along,

**Song for Blaine** CSB, 4

Tune: Tramp, tramp, tramp

From the lumber camps of Maine  
To the shipyards on the shore,

**Song of the Loyal Legions** BLS, 17; CC, 17 with title **Hear! Hear the Shout**

Tune: Tramp! Tramp!

Not with piercing bugle's peal,  
Nor with the gleam of cruel steel,

**The South is Coming** BC, 24

Tune: Star Spangled Banner

Ye men of the North, there is work to be done,  
Arise in your might for your country's salvation;

**Stand, Comrades, Stand** BC, 23

Tune: The Marseillaise

When the civil war was at our border,  
We bravely put our armor on,

**Statesman and Soldier** BC, 29

Tune: The Toast

Health to the Statesman, we pledge,  
Health to the Statesman, we pledge,

**Strike for the Right** BLS, 7; CC, 22, with title **There Comes a Sound**  
Tune: Watch on the Rhine

There comes a sound as thunder grand;  
It echoes through Columbia's land,

**Swinging in for Blaine!** PM, 18  
Tune: Swinging in the Lane!

A few young dudes without just cause,  
Seem to have gone astray,

**That's What's the Matter** BLS, 16  
Tune: What, What's the Matter?

See the people turning out,  
What, what's the matter?

**There Comes a Sound** CC, 22; BLS, 7 with title **Strike for the Right**  
Tune: Die Wacht am Rhein

There comes a sound as thunder grand;  
It echoes through Columbia's land,

**There's Victory in the Air** CSB, 46  
Tune: Tramp, Tramp, Tramp

You remember sixty-one,  
Ere the trouble had begun,

**There They Stand** CC, 24-25  
Tune: Hail Columbia

Blaine and Logan there they stand!  
Match their worth in all the land

**They Want to Turn Us Out** BC, 24  
Tune: from Patience

We are the powers that be;  
We rule both land and sea;



**This Democratic Clan** BLS, 42

Tune: from Patience

When I walk down the street,  
The Democrats I meet

**Three Times Three for Blaine** CSB, 30

Tune: Bonnie Blue Flag

Again we raise the glorious shout  
Our country still is free,

**A Toast** CC, 37

Tune: Bonnie Dundee

Come, fill the cup to our candidate s health!  
Here s a bumper and three to the old commonwealth;

**To Blaine and Logan!** PM, 15

Tune: My Country, tis of Thee

Our hearts go out to thee;  
Firm friends of Liberty;

**The Toiler s Golden Day** CSB, 40

Tune: Wearing of the Green

O, ye noble toiling spirits,  
See your Day is dawning bright,

**To Mud Slingers!** PM, 21

Tune: In the Gloaming

Blaine and Logan!  
Sound the slogan!

**To the Music of the Bells** BC, 26

Tune: Tramp! Tramp! Tramp!

There is gladness everywhere,  
And tis filling all the air,

**Tramp! Tramp!** BC, 26

Tune: Tramp! Tramp! Tramp!

From the East there comes a cry,  
Heralding a victory,

**Tramp, tramp, tramp!** BLC, 18

Tune: Tramp, tramp, tramp!

We are coming from the East, we are coming from the West,  
From the Golden Gate, and all the way to Maine;

**Two Leaders** BC, 10

Tune: Two Roses

From the East a warrior grand,  
Comes with matchless power,

**Under the White House Roof** BLS, 54-55

Tune: Over the Garden Wall

All s up with the Demo s they can t take tea  
Under the White House roof,

**The Union, the Hope of the Free** CC, 26

Tune: original

Oh, the Union! the Union!  
The hope of the free!

**Victory in the Air** CC, 39

Tune: Hold the Fort

Round our banner let us rally  
Hearts on fire with zeal,

**Victory Rests with You** BLS, 15

Tune: Hold the Fort

See again the ranks are moving  
Over all the land;

**Voices of Freedom** CC, 38

Tune: Brave Battery Boys

A murmur awakes on the shores of the seas,  
A voice as of waters, when freshens the breeze

**The Voters to the Speakers** BLC, 12

Tune: Peek-a-boo

We have come here today for a purpose that s grand,  
As ever true hearts could inspire!

**Wait** CSB, 42

Tune: Wait Till the Clouds Roll By

Farewell, ye Free Trade party,  
We re going to vote for Blaine,

**Wake Up, Boys, Now Do** BLS, 60-61

Tune: Out of the Wilderness

Wake up boys, now do, wake up boys, now do,  
Wake up boys, now do, wake up boys, now do,

**Way Up Along the Old Salt River** BLS, 33

Tune: Swanee River

Way up along the old salt river,  
Up near the end,

**Wearing of the Blue** BLS, 4

Tune: Wearing of the Green

Oh, a song I now will sing you,  
Come comrades, gather near,

**Welcome to Blaine** BC, 5

Tune: America

Welcome! with one acclaim,  
Plumed Knight of loyal fame

**We ll Put Our Leaders in Again** BLS, 4-5

Tune: Auld Lang Syne

We ll put our leaders in again,  
To guide the ship of state;

**We ll Put Our Leaders in Again** BLS, 40

Tune: Some Day I ll Wander Back Again

Oh, yes, we ll put them in again  
The leaders true and bold,

**We ll Run Em In!** CSB, 3

Tune: Genevieve Guards Duet

We are marching on to Victory,  
A million voters strong.

**We ll Vote the Ticket Straight** BLS, 10-11

Tune: We re Going to the Cotton Fields

We re going to the ballot box  
To vote the ticket true,

**We re Bound to Win** BLS, 36

Tune: original

Round the dear old flag we ll rally,  
While our hearts are beating high,

**We ve Found Him** BLC, 22

Tune: Wearing of the Green

We want a man for President,  
Who knows his country s needs,

**What Would My Grandfather Think?** BLS, 21

Tune: original

My grandfather s vote could never be bought,  
For he held it more sacred than gold;

**When Election Day Comes Round** BLS, 5

Tune: from Patience

When you see a lot of bums,  
Marching up from the slums,

**When I Was a Reb** BLS, 22-23

Tune: When I Was a Lad

When I was a Reb I ll tell you what,  
I worked for an office good and hot,

**When Voting Day Shall Come** CSB, 41

Tune: When Johnny Comes Marching Home

The nation calls to arms again,  
Hurrah! hurrah!

**Where Will They Be?** BC, 31

Tune: Where Would I Be?

Where will they be?  
When our freemen are rallying for the fight,

**The White-Plumed Knight** CSB, 35

Tune: Bonnie Blue Flag

From Maine to Louisiana, from groves of pine and bay,  
We re marching on in unison, the Blue-clad and the Gray,

**Work for Blaine and Logan** CSB, 10

Tune: original

At our National Convention.  
We met with firm intention,

**The Workingman s Campaign Song** CSB, 24-25

Tune: Away Down South in Dixie

Now boys stand round and pay attention,  
I ll tell you of the late convention,

**Yankee Doodle at Chicago** BLS, 46

Tune: Yankee Doodle

Yankee Doodle, being spruce  
In a brand new tog, oh,

**A Yankee-Doodle Tariff** CSB, 37

Tune: Yankee Doodle

Free trade doctrines make it pay,  
Of that there s not a doubt, sir,

**Ye Freemen Bold** BLS, 29

Tune: Die Wacht am Rhein

Ye freemen bold, arise again,  
Say not the past was lived in vain,

**You Must Go!** BLC, 13

Tune: Sweet Bye and Bye

Oh, Democracy, don t be alarmed!  
We can see how you scent your defeat;

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