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John Weaver Who Refuses to be Bound by Political Ties--A Rare Character.

The recent outbreak of popular indignation in Philadelphia was inspired by one of the most far-reaching attempts to profit at the expense of the taxpaying population of the Quaker City ever recorded. The project involved the making of a seventy-five year contract for lighting the city with the United Gas Improvement company, an organization endowed with valuable facilities for obtaining highly remunerative contracts from municipal sources.

Briefly stated, the facts are as follows: The United Gas Improvement company holds a thirty-year lease of the Philadelphia gas works. According to the agreement, this lease may be terminated by the city in 1907, but it involves the payment of \$20,000,000. The municipal authorities, represented by the city council and the department officials, maintained that the enterprise paid off, and that this large sum would result in financial hardship to the city. Claiming that the city needs \$45,000,000 to meet immediate expenses and that it has a borrowing capacity of only \$15,000,000, the

His father wanted him to remain in Devonshire and perpetuate the family avocation of market gardening. John expressed a desire to seek fortune elsewhere, but his father said he could not go. John was very little outside of Devonshire. The lad persisted, and the parent lost his temper. Before the reaction arrived the boy slipped away quietly to Liverpool and took steerage passage on a liner. When he had paid for his ticket he had not enough remaining of the money he had accumulated in Devonshire to occasion him the slightest worry.

Although he was penniless, he was by no means destitute, and he was not at all dismayed when he presented himself to take stock of his available assets. He was honest and willing, and he knew it. He had a clean, truthful face and the bearing of a gentleman, and he probably knew that also. These heaven sent blessings served him admirably. They made such a favorable impression on one of his fellow travellers that he had a tolerably exacting law practice and on Sundays taught a Bible class in the Tioga Baptist church.

The first definite personal charge against Mr. Weaver to be made public was the fact that he was a naturalized Englishman. This had been overlooked at the time of his nomination and its discovery threatened his political supporters into inaction. At a hasty trial, however, it was first proposed that he should withdraw. After discussion, however, he was permitted to remain a candidate. "But, of course, you'll take the stump," the party leaders counseled. "The office has always been looked upon as a semi-judicial one, and your opponent, who is running on an independent ticket, holds that attitude."

Then it was that they were made a little wiser concerning the temperament of John Weaver. "Gentlemen," he said, "I am going on the stump. I don't care what other people do. I believe it is a good thing to let the people see the man they are going to elect, and I intend to make some speeches."

True to his word, Mr. Weaver ap-

peared in public, and his plain, brief talk met with instant appreciation. So widely-had the leaders miscalculated the effect of racial prejudice on his chances, that he was elected by the 67,000 votes of the very element his English antecedents were expected to antagonize. Almost as soon as he took office his declaration that he would be unhampered by any consideration beyond the public welfare was put to the test. Certain men who had been indicted for ballot box stuffing and had suffered exile under the former district attorney returned to the city and surrendered themselves to the authorities.

"We told you so!" said the men who had opposed Weaver in the campaign. "We warned you that he would act with the crowd that put him in office. He is bound body and soul to the politicians that put him up."

Again he disappointed them. When the trial began and his critics saw how the "machinelike attorney" was trying his best to convict the indicted, they were obliged to modify their views. The prisoners were accused, but it was not the fault of the district attorney. About this time the republican leaders were trying to unite on a successor to Mayor Ashbridge. They were looking for a man who could unite all the warring elements in the party and check the independent movement that had been a source of worry for some years.

"Why not put in John Weaver?" somebody asked. "If you don't believe he's the right man take note of what the opposition is saying about him. He knew that he could never lay absolute claim to American citizenship, until he should accomplish the feat, and he set about it with such energy that at the end of six months he was a naturalized American.

It was during this period that Weaver had disengaged himself of his Devonshire marks of identification.

Then he obtained a situation in a department store at \$7 a week. As mayor of Philadelphia he receives a salary of \$12,000 a year, but he assured the young men at his lecture that the latter sum seemed paltry and sadly inadequate when he remembered the spirit of financial independence which animated him when he first realized that he was worth a dollar a day. In the intervals he applied himself diligently to the study of shorthand, that sleeping stone in the upward careers of so many successful lawyers.

He soon became so expert at recording dictation that he was able to find a position in an attorney's office. This change enabled him to gratify a long cherished ambition—he might now begin the study of law, which he had always intended to do.

Before being admitted to the bar Mr. Weaver was law stenographer and recorder of the Philadelphia Law recorders of the Philadelphia Law

and the only one who can cure deafness.

Deafness is caused by an infection of the ear.

When this tube is inserted you have a rumbling sound or perfect hearing, and when it is closed the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal forever.

These are only a few of the reforms he has instituted. Most important of all, he has maintained his lofty position as a champion of independence even to the extent of standing out resolutely against the very men who supported him. Devoted Baptist that he is, he was equally firm against the importunities of the clergymen who have asked him from time to time to remove some official who showed signs of being antagonistic to reform. In the face of a storm of criticism, faced by the prayers and appeals of the clergy, Mr. Weaver declined to remove the director of public safety from office. To the ministers' letters on the subject he replied: "No, gentlemen, I shall not do as you wish. You have made no charges."

Threats of impeachment and even im-

peachment itself have no effect on John Weaver. Cries of "Resign!" fall

completely impotent. From his sanctum at the city hall he serenely listens to the complaints of clergymen, the criticisms of praying laymen, and the mutinies of the Live and Let Order Society, and then goes as it pleases him over his desk hangs a neatly framed card bearing this expressive legend: "Don't make explanations. Your enemies won't believe them. Your friends don't need to."

Mayor Weaver is not a handsome man, but he has a pleasant face. He is especially fond of having callers and is always ready to talk to them.

He smiles a good deal, and the impression is that he is unusually frank. He never assumes a domineering attitude. No one has ever heard him indulge in satire, and he is never

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