

## COL. HENRY OAKES KENT

Nominated by the Democrats to be Governor of New-Hampshire.

Col. Henry Oakes Kent, nominated by acclamation for Governor of New-Hampshire by the Democratic State Convention at Concord on Sept. 6, was born and has always lived in the town of Lancaster, in that State. The family is of English origin, and its progenitor in this country was among the first settlers of Newbury, Mass., locating there in 1635. Jacob Kent, the great-grandfather of Henry O., born at Essex, Mass., in 1726, settled in Plaistow, N. H., and in 1760, during the French and Indian war, was commissioned First Lieutenant in a company of the regiment raised by Col. John Goffe of New-Hampshire for the invasion of Canada.

During the return of the regiment, after a successful campaign, it passed through the beautiful meadows of the Connecticut, where are now Newbury, Vt., and Haverhill, N. H., and Lieut. Kent and some of his fellow-officers were so impressed with the beauty and fertility of the country that



Col. Henry Oakes Kent.

they soon returned and founded a settlement, Lieut. Kent settling in Newbury, Vt., where he continued to live. He served gallantly in the Revolution, and was in command of a regiment at the surrender of Burgoyne. His son John settled in Lyman, N. H., and Richard Peabody Kent, a son of John and the father of Henry O., settled in Lancaster in 1828, where he pursued a long and successful mercantile career, and where the subject of this sketch was born Feb. 7, 1834.

Col. Kent was educated at Lancaster Academy and the Military University at Norwich, Vt., having been graduated from the latter in the class of '54. He has since been, for many years, President of the "Associated Alumni and Past Cadets" of the institution, and also one of its Trustees. He read law with the late Jacob Benton of Lancaster, and was admitted to the bar in 1858. About this time, however, an opportunity to enter journalism, for which he had a taste, as well as a strong inclination for politics, was presented, and he became editor and proprietor of *The Coos Republican*, which he successfully conducted for twelve years, since which time he has been engaged in various manufacturing, banking, and other business enterprises, being now President of the Lancaster Trust Company, and a Director in various railroad, insurance, and other organizations.

Upon the outbreak of the war of the rebellion he was commissioned Assistant Adjutant General of the State by Gov. Goodwin, and was actively engaged in raising and organizing troops for the field. He raised a company in Lancaster in a few days by his own personal efforts, and was then ordered to Portsmouth, where he aided in organizing the Second New-Hampshire Regiment and in garrisoning Fort Constitution. He continued in service as Assistant Adjutant General until the Fall of 1862, when he was commissioned Colonel of the Seventeenth New-Hampshire Regiment, which was raised mainly by his efforts and drilled and disciplined under his command, but which was finally consolidated with the Second, on account of the depleted condition of the latter, and its officers were mustered out of service. By special act of Congress, July 21, 1892, Col. Kent's rank and service were duly recognized.

In early life Col. Kent was active in politics as a Republican. He was Assistant Clerk of the New-Hampshire House of Representatives in 1855 and 1856, and Clerk in 1857, 1858, and 1859. He was a member of the House in 1862, and again in 1868 and 1869, and a State Bank Commissioner from 1866 to 1868. He was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1860 and a Presidential Elector in 1864. The slavery question being disposed of and sectional issues being no longer to his taste, Col. Kent drifted away from the Republican Party and was one of the active promoters of the Liberal Republican movement which culminated in the nomination of Horace Greeley for President in 1872. He was a member of the National Liberal Republican Committee in that year, and was chiefly instrumental in effecting the union of the Liberal Republican with the Democratic Party in New-Hampshire in 1874. He was three times successively—in 1875, 1877, and 1879—the Democratic candidate for Congress in the old Third District, a member of the House of Representatives in the Legislature of 1883, and of the Senate in 1885; a delegate to the National Democratic Convention at Chicago in 1884, where he seconded the nomination of Grover Cleveland in a brilliant speech, and was Naval Officer at Boston, by President Cleveland's appointment, from 1886 to 1890.

Col. Kent is a man of fine presence, pleasing address, and most courteous manners, and has a host of personal admirers in both parties. He is prominent in the Masonic organization, and has been Grand Commander of the Knights Templars of the State. In religion he is an Episcopalian. As a campaign speaker he has no superiors in the State, and he has also much skill as an organizer. Whoever may be selected as Chairman of the Democratic State Committee, it is safe to say that Col. Kent will look closely after the management of the campaign, and will make it as effective as is possible. If he is not successful, he will certainly not allow it to go by default, while his high personal character will add not a little to the strength of the party cause.