

**THE LIBERAL
REPUBLICAN
MOVEMENT**

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BY

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A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE GRADUATE
SCHOOL OF CORNELL UNIVERSITY IN PARTIAL
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR
OF PHILOSOPHY



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TO
MY PARENTS

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PREFACE

This study was prepared in 1915 as a doctoral dissertation in the Graduate School of Cornell University. The aim has been to contribute something to the history of political parties and of party government by tracing the development of a movement that came at a time of readjustment in both party issues and party organization. The investigation of a nation-wide movement, the sources of which are to be found in the local party organizations, involves many complexities and frequent opportunities for error. The years 1873-1876, in particular, have presented a tangle of party interests from which it has been most difficult to ravel the Liberal thread. Much assistance has been derived from monographs on the political history of the individual states during the Reconstruction era, and in this connection special mention should be made of the studies prepared under the master guidance of Professor W. A. Dunning, of Columbia University.

The writer has endeavored very consciously and, he trusts, very conscientiously to avoid the besetting sin of monograph writers, that of exaggerating the importance of their problems. He has nevertheless been convinced, as a result of his investigation, that the Liberal Republican Movement was something more than a mere "spasm of political enthusiasm of the negative character" which "passed away as quickly as it came," as a writer on political parties has characterized it.¹

Grateful acknowledgments are made to the Cornell University Library, to the Harvard University Library, to the Library of Congress, to the State Historical Society of

¹ S. D. Fess, *History of Political Theory and Party Organization in the United States*, 253.

Wisconsin, to the Minnesota Historical Society, to the State Historical Society of Missouri at Columbia, to the Missouri Historical Society at St. Louis, to the Iowa State Library at Des Moines, to the New York State Library at Albany, to the New York Public Library, and to the Boston Public Library.

The investigation has been carried on under the direction of Professor Charles H. Hull, of Cornell University, who has been throughout a patient, understanding, and undictatorial counselor. My indebtedness to him is too great to be expressed adequately in any formal acknowledgement. Professor Julian P. Bretz, of Cornell University, has rendered most generous and effective service in the critical reading of the manuscript. Both the manuscript and the proof have profited greatly by the careful readings of my wife.

E. D. R.

Illinois Wesleyan University,
Bloomington, Illinois.
December, 1918.