

ity in the district. With no better prospect of success, he consented to run as a candidate for presidential elector in 1868, and again in 1872, and in both instances stumped the State for the ticket. Such was his devotion to principle, and his fidelity to the party which represented his political views. In 1869 Gen. Smith received the unanimous vote of his party in the legislature as a candidate for the United States senate, in opposition to the Hon. Matt. H. Carpenter, the successful candidate; and repeatedly represented the State in the national conventions of his party. While he was thus able, active, zealous and popular, Gen. Smith was still lacking in some of the elements of successful party leadership. If he aspired to that distinction he ignored some of the most effective means by which it is usually acquired. The considerations of policy had little weight with him. He was not disposed to be a time-server, and would rather suffer defeat in a just cause than to triumph through the sacrifice of cherished principles. The key of politics he first touched he steadfastly adhered to without variation. He possessed little sympathy with the progressive tendencies of political associates, and at times jeopardized his standing in the party by his extreme conservatism. Nor did he seek a personal following in the party. He cultivated no place-men. He never, during the later years of his life, accepted a nomination when he did not feel that he was rendering a service to the common cause, and therefore recognized no personal obligation to others for their support of his candidacy. In a successful candidate, this independence of character would have been charged to indifference and ingratitude to friends, and might have weakened or destroyed his influence. Should public men generally pursue a like course, official life would be relieved from one of its greatest burdens and annoyances. The disposing of the spoils would then cease to be one of the most difficult and arduous duties connected with a high and responsible office. The ambitious politician, however, who attempts to inaugurate the reform will jeopardize his party standing and endanger his future popularity and success.

In 1876, Hon. George B. Smith was chosen as a delegate for the State at large to represent the party in the national convention which met at St. Louis, and during the session made one of