

# Theodore Roosevelt—By Himself

AN INTERESTING HUMAN DOCUMENT IN WHICH MR. ROOSEVELT, THEN IN THE NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY, TOLD OF HIS ANCESTRY AND HIS POLITICAL INTERESTS, AND DESCRIBED HIS FAVORITE RECREATIONS



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THEODORE ROOSEVELT, FROM A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN AT THE TIME THE ACCOMPANYING AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH WAS WRITTEN



STATE OF NEW YORK  
Assembly Chamber

Albany, May 1<sup>st</sup> 1884

Dear Sir,

I do not know where you would find a sketch of my life. I will give you an outline myself. Do you wish me to send you a photograph of myself? Some are much worse than others. I will send you one if you wish.

I was born in New York, Oct 27<sup>th</sup> 1858; my father of old dutch knickerbocker stock; my mother was a Georgian, descended from the revolutionary

Governor Bulloch. I graduated  
at Harvard in 1850; in  
college I did fairly in  
my studies, taking honors  
in Natural History and  
Political Economy; and  
was very fond of sparring,  
being champion light  
weight at one time. Have  
published sundry papers  
on ornithology, either on  
my trips to the north  
woods, or around my  
summer home on ~~the~~ the  
woods, broken shore of  
northern Long Island.

I published also a "History  
of the Naval War of 1812



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with an account of the Battle of New Orleans", which is now a text book in several colleges, and has gone through three editions.

I married Miss Alice Lee of Boston <sup>on leaving college</sup> in 1880. My father died in 1878; my wife and mother died in February 1884. I have a little daughter living.

I ~~often~~ am very fond of both horse and rifle, and spend my summers either on the great plains <sup>after buffalo and antelope</sup> or in the northern woods, after deer and caribou.

am connected with various charitable organizations, such as the Childrens Aid Society, Orthopaedic Hospital, National Prison Association, and others, <sup>in</sup> ~~with~~ which my father took a leading part.

I was elected to the Assembly from the 21<sup>st</sup> district of New York in the autumn of 1881; in 1882 I served on the Committee on Cities. My chief work was ~~of~~ endeavouring to get Judge Westbrook impeached on the ground of malfeasance in office and collusion with Mr. Jay Gould, in connection with railroad litigation.



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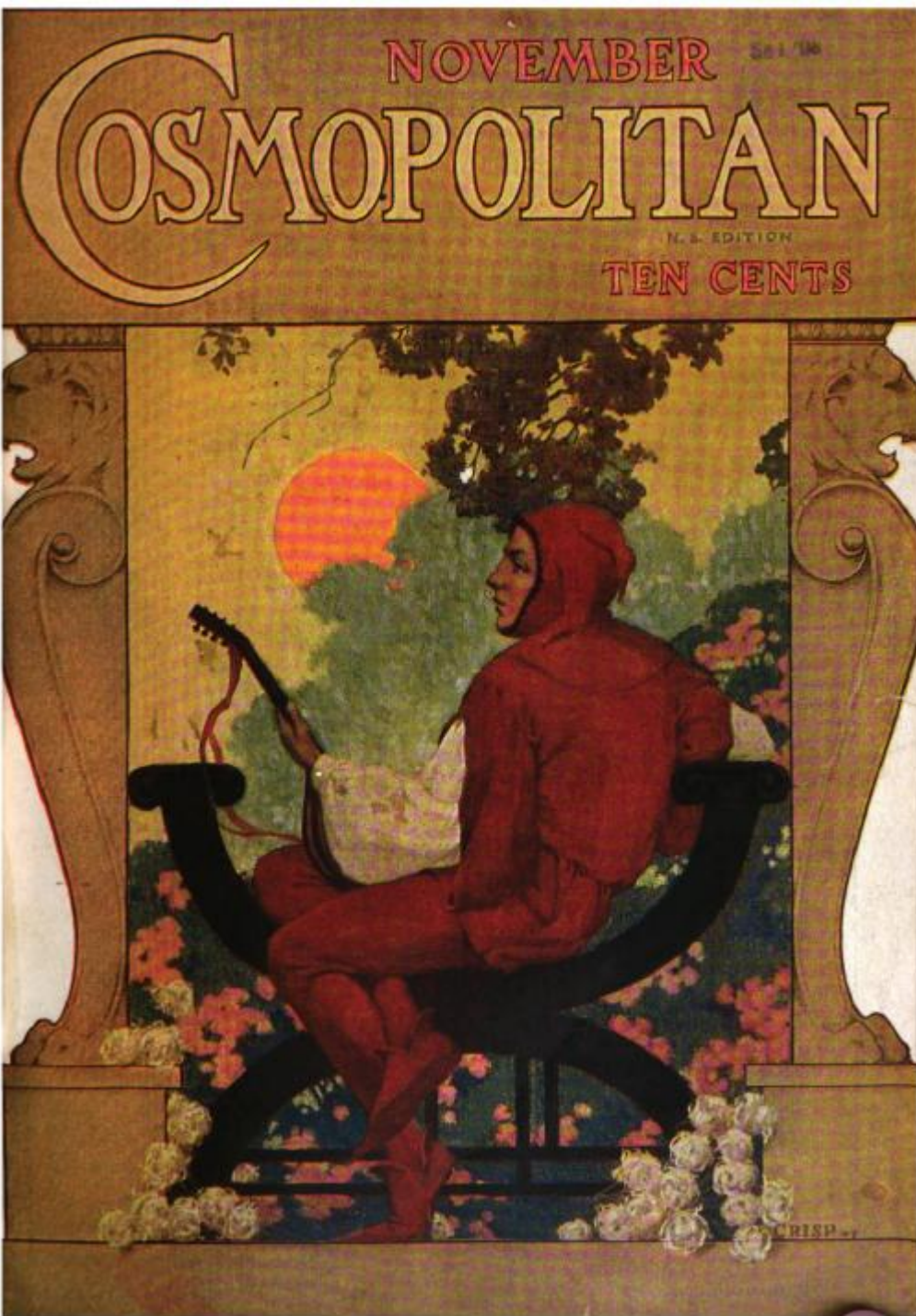
the caucus received 30 votes,  
to the 42 received by  
the successful candidate  
Mr. Sheard, who was backed  
by both the halfbreeds  
& who followed senator  
Miller, and the stalwarts  
of President Arthur's  
train. This winter my  
main work has been  
pushing the Municipal  
Reform bills for New  
York City; in connection with  
which I have conducted a  
series of investigations into  
its various departments.  
Most of my bills have been  
passed and signed.



In the primaries before the Utica Convention, I led the independents in my district, who, for the first time in the history of New York City Politics, won against the machine men, though the latter were backed up by all the Federal patronages and municipal patronages. At Utica, I led the Edmunds men, who held the balance of power between the followers of Blaine and of Arthur; we used our position to such good effect as to procure the election of all four delegates as Edmunds

men, though we were numerically  
not over 70 strong, barely  
a seventh of the total  
number of men at the convention.  
Am fairly well off; my recreation  
are reading, rilling and  
shooting.

Very Resp  
Theodore Roosevelt



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