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Moody and Sankey opened a series of religious meetings in New York on Wednesday last. About 5,000 persons were in attendance.

Yesterday the Democratic members of the House of Representatives held a caucus to determine upon a financial policy for the party. Resolutions were presented approving the repeal of the resumption act; but before a vote was reached on the resolutions the managers moved the appointment of a committee to report at a future meetin, a financial platform. Conciliation and compromise, so that the party could agree upon some plan of action on the financial question which would be accepted in all the States, was the burden of the speeches made.

General Hurlbut's bill for a charter to build a double track freight railroad from the coast to the Missouri river, has been so amended as to relieve it from the objectionable feature of asking a guarantee from the government of its bonds and is now a simple grant of power to build the road. The proposition is to borrow the money necessary for its construction on a forty-six year bond for the payment of which a sinking fund is to be created. The commissioners to be appointed by the President are to constitute the corporation in trust for the United States and when the road is paid for it is to become the property of the government.

Last evening Bowen reiterated his charges before an examining committee of Plymouth Church against Henry Ward Beecher, and offered to substantiate them before a committee of three distinguished men belonging to the Congregational body, men in whose decision the world would have confidence, providing they were pledged to keep secret the testimony adduced, and further that only Mr. Beecher and himself were permitted to appear with their witnesses; each party agreeing to accept the decision. The committee urged Mr. Bowen to proceed then and there with his testimony, but he declined to do so; and insisted that he needed more time for preparation.

DEATH OF REVERDY JOHNSON.

Last evening, Thursday, the 10th inst. Hon. Reverdy Johnson died from the effects of a fall received while walking in the grounds of the Governor's residence at Annapolis, Maryland. Mr. Johnson was born at Annapolis, May 21st, 1796. Although he had nearly completed the eightieth year of his age, he had gone to Annapolis for the purpose of arguing an important case before the Supreme Court. Mr. Johnson has been for many years one of the most distinguished members of the American bar and has creditably filled many important positions in the public service. Twice he has been a member of the United States Senate; was Attorney-General under President Taylor; Minister to England during President Johnson's administration. Mr. Johnson commenced the practice of the law before he was twenty years of age, and speedily rose in the estimation of the public and of the members of the profession, so that at 25 he was the acknowledged head of the bar in the State. At that period he commenced his public career, and for more than a half a century has enjoyed a national reputation. In public and in private life Mr. Johnson has been recognized as eminent alike in talent and in virtue, highly honored and esteemed by all who knew him. He has never been recognized as a leader in any progressive movement which has stirred the people of this country during his career; his mind was rather of the conservative mould, which exercised its force in protecting and preserving institutions as he found them. His eloquence and his mastery of logic were never directed against public wrongs, except in a professional capacity; but he was a prudent counsellor in our national affairs, and one whose opinions on matters of policy or on constitutional history or interpretation were always listened to with the highest respect.

THE CURRENCY.

Mr. Blaine is making his record for the presidential nomination. Yesterday he delivered a speech in the House on the financial question in which he took strong ground in favor of returning to specie payments. Among other propositions which he advocates on the general subject is one for congress to divest itself of the power to meddle with the finances and leave their regulation to the Secretary of the Treasury and the financial institutions of the country. This is scarcely practicable, and if so, not advisable. The people propose to settle this question on the basis of honest money and whatever congress may do in the matter will but reflect the general public sentiment. Much uncertainty has been felt in business circles during the past few years, as to what congress would on the finance question; but, the embarrassment which this uncertainty created was more the result of the situation than fear that congress would adopt unwise measures. Every sagacious business man has known that values must decline, that we could not go on speculating and ballooning forever, that during the period when money was plenty we were incurring enormous debts which some day would be presented for payment. That as that time approached the bottom would fall out of all sham enterprises and speculations, that men doing business on borrowed capital would fail, and the disinterested business man has known, also, that this process would be a healthful one. We have partially gone through with the work of purification; values are approaching a solid foundation, and the people of this country will not now turn back until the work is completed and the national dollar is made to represent one hundred cents. With the exception of Judge Kelly, of Pennsylvania, there is scarcely a man in congress, who enjoys more than a local reputation, who would dare to advocate the continuance of irredeemable currency. This question will probably exert a more potent influence in determining the presidential canvass than all others combined. The honor of the nation, public morals, self-interest in an enlarged and general sense, are all involved in keeping our faith untarnished by redeeming our money according to the letter and intent of the promise on which it was circulated.

VERY LATEST NEWS

Again Death Claims Its Own, in the Person of Reverdy Johnson.

Singular Death of this Aged and Distinguished American at Annaphlis, Md.

He Falls and is Killed While Walking in the Yard of the Governor's Mansion.

A $50,000 Fire in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

Destruction of the Pittsburg, Cincinnati & St. Louis Railway Depot.

The Spanish Government Arresting Correspondents of Cuban Refugees.

Meeting of the Board of Appeals of the National Trotting Association.

Continued Trouble Between the Fishermen at New Foundland.

What the Solons have been Doing at Madison.

The Trial of General Babcock at St. Louis.

General News Items

FROM MADISON.

Special dispatch to the Janesville Gazette.

Madison, Feb. 11.—A dense fog yesterday interfered with the telegraph wires and it was impossible to send the vote on Vance's bill, which was ordered to a third reading, after prolonged session, by a vote of sixty-seven to thirty-one

The assembly has been occupied all this morning's session on the contested election case of Gray vs, Bennett of Iowa county. A special session was held yesterday afternoon, for the consideration of this case. A vote was reached, and announced as a tie by the clerk, confirming Gray, Democrat, in the seat. It was found after that an error had been made, the actual vote was forty-eight to forty-nine. This morning the assembly was occupied in trying to arrange the matter. A resolution was presented at one o'clock. The roll was not called under the resolution. In the senate the nomination of Weisbrod, Sherman and Phillips as regents of the Normal School was confirmed unanimously. Resolutions of inquiry, as to the funds of the state in the broken Corn Exchange Bank, of Waupun, and in regard to the ten thousand dollars of the Insane Asylum appropriation in the hands of Mr. Mills, were adopted.

FROM NEW HAVEN.

New Haven, Feb. 11.—Mrs. Andrew Boles and two children, broke through the ice on Lake Whitney yesterday. The mother was rescued.

WEATHER.

Washington, Feb. 11.—In the lake region winds veering to west and north, rising barometer, considerably colder and clearing weather, succeeding the rainy weather.

FOREIGN.

London, Feb. 11—It is reported that the differences between British and French fishermen has led to the destruction of certain machinery the French used in their operations in Newfoundland, and the government has impressed upon the colonial office the advisability of stationing men-of-war permanently at St. Johns.

FROM MALBORO.

Malboro, Mass., Feb. 11.—The box factory and planing mills, known as Manning's Mill, burned this morning, together with its valuable machinery, 3,000 feet of lumber and valuable sets of tools. The building and machinery were owned by Alfred Page, of Ayre. No insurance. Loss not known, but heavy,

FROM PITTSBURG.

Pittsburgh, February 11—Between one and two o'clock this morning a fire broke out in the flouring mill of Voight, Ostman & Spreer, on Carson street, South Pittsburg. The mill was a five story frame building, and contained a large stock of flour and grain. The fire gained such headway that within half an hour from the time the alarm was given it was totally destroyed. The flames communicated to the Birmingham depot of the Pittsburg, Cincinnati & St. Louis railway adjoining, which was also destroyed. Total estimated loss, $50,000; partially insured.

FROM NEW YORK.

New York, Feb. 11.—The suit of the First National Bank, of Springfield, Ill., against Charles C. Dana, to recover on a $5,000 note, has resulted in favor of the plaintiff. The case goes up on appeal to the general term, and probably to the Court of Appeals.

A Havana letter of recent date states that the government has arrested some twenty persons, in different classes of society, for being in correspondence with Cuban refugees in New York. Among the prisoners is Don Quillermado Solongo. The letters were seized by the police in the hands of one of the postoffice carriers, and the clerks at the post office have been examined. It is said important discoveries have been made, and that many persons, hitherto supposed to be good Spaniards are implicated.

The board of appeals of the National Trotting Association on yesterday elected Col. C. W. Wooley, of Ohio, president; C. W. Hutchinson, of Utica, first vice president; Judge Grant, of Iowa, 2nd vice president, and Thomas J. Vail, of Hartford, secretary. A committee on by-laws reported amendments to articles 4, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18 and 19.

FSOM ST. LOUIS.

St. Louis, Feb. 11.—The first witness called in the trial of General O. E Babcock this morning, was Maj. E. B. Grimes, department quartermaster in the United States Army, stationed at St. Louis. Maj. Grimes was introduced by the prosecution to show that General Babcock carried on a correspondence with McDonald last fall, while the latter was under indictment for complicity in the whisky frauds. Maj. Grimes said, I have been in the army since September 1862; I know General Babcock, having met him first in 1862, in Utah, where I was district quartermaster; I saw General Babcock when he was here last fall, probably in September, just before fair time, with the presidential party; he said to me he would probably want to send some letters or packages through me to other parties; he didn't say to whom; after that he sent three letters to me; I got a letter addressed to myself, with another letter in it; that was a short time after I saw General Babcock; the letter enclosed in mine was in a white envelope, sealed and marked "MacDonald"; the note to me in the first letter was simply "Please deliver the enclosed letter to MacDonald," and it was signed O. E. Babcock; I gave the enclosed letter to McDonald, I think at my office; a week or ten days later I received another letter through the post office, directed to me; there was no note in it, but an envelope addressed in a different hand from the first, to McDonald; there was no note to me, but there was a piece of paper wrapped around it; the third letter was just like the second; I delivered all three of these letters to McDonald; when one of them came he was not there, and in trying to find him I met his brother in-law, Tom Walsh, and told him, but I do not know what Walsh did. On cross examination Major Grimes said he had known General Babcock personally and intimately, and that the latter had been a good friend to him on one occasion, when McDonald and McKee were reported to be using their influence to have him removed, because he wouldn't put a man in the place wanted: Babcock promised his influence to prevent the removal; witness, in the course of the cross-examination said, when I delivered these letters to McDonald I asked him, "McDonald, did Babcock have anything to do with this whisky ring?" and he said, "Grimes, I don't know; I don't believe he knows any more about it than you do, and you know you don't know anything about it;" on the direct examination Grimes was asked, "Did McDonald in that conversation say that he, himself, didn't know about the whisky ring?"

Witness—"Yes, he did (laughter).

District Attorney—"How did you come to ask if Babcock had anything to do with the whisky ring?"

Witness—"I asked it for the simple reason that if Babcock, who had been my friend, had had anything to do with it, I was going to drop him."

Dist. Atty.—"What reason had you to suspect the General?"

Witness—"Nothing but the fact of the letters sent through me." Grimes was followed by B. H. Engelke, the rectifier, who gave an account of his operations.

FROM ANNAPOLIS.

Annapolis, Md., Feb. 10.—The Hon. Reverdy Johnson was found dead this evening in the grounds adjacent to the Governor's mansion. The circumstances connected with his decease are as follows: Mr. Johnson arrived in Annapolis yesterday, to argue a case before the Court of Appeals, and, at the invitation of Gov. Carroll, took up his residence at the Gubernational mansion for the time of his stay. To-day Gov. Carroll invited Chief Judge Bartol and a number of other gentlemen to meet him at dinner. Mr. Johnson was, as usual, full of humor, and enlivened the table with his anecdotes. At the close of the repast the conversation turned upon the qualities of some Madeira wine on the table, and Mr. Johnson took a glass of it. He took only the one glass, and shortly afterwards said to Mr. Carroll: "Governor, will you take me into the parlor." Gov. Carroll gave him his arm and escorted him into the parlor, where he sat down on a sofa. Gov. Carroll remarked to Mr. Johnson: "I think I will have coffee brought in here." Mr. Johnson replied, saying that if the company wanted to smoke they had better remain in the dining-room. Gov. Carroll then left his venerable friend, and next saw him a corpse.

Returning to the dining room, Governor Carroll, after a short interval, remarked to the gentlemen: "Suppose we go in and join Mr. Johnson." Charles G. Kerr, Mr. Johnson's son-in-law, who was present, said that Mr. Johnson always took a nap after dinner, and that he supposed he had gone to sleep. Governor Carroll then dismissed the matter from his mind, and was sitting, talking and smoking with his guests when one of the servants called him out of the room and told him that Mr. Johnson was lying out in the yard on the stones. Governor Carroll immediately went out in the yard and found him lying manimate on the ground. The place where the body was discovered was on the east side of the mansion, close to the side of the house near the angle made by a projecting bay-window. The body was immediately removed to a room in the basement, and medical assistance sent for, but life was extinct. Mr. Johnson, when found, was lying prone upon the ground where some coal dust was scattered about; a pool of blood was about his head. There is no doubt concerning the manner in which he met his death. Although his vision was very feeble, Mr. Johnson was very ventursome in his going, and, wishing to go in the yard, did not call for assistance, but went out the front door and down the front steps by himself. Turning to the left, he walked over the grass plot and down a short declivity to the bricked area adjacent to the basement of the building and proceeded towards the angle formed by the projecting bay window, in turning himself about when close to the wall he must have stumbled and fallen. There were loose pieces of coal lying on the ground, and the supposition is that he trod upon one of these. His head probably struck the edge of the projecting base of the wall, producing a fracture of the skull. The medical opinion is that the chief and fatal injury was a fracture of the frontal bone of the skull, extending from near the outer angle of the right orbit upwards and backwards to the corinal suture. The tragic occurrence has cast a deep gloom over the community, and deep regret is expressed at the loss of so brilliant an ornament of the bar and of public life. Mr. Johnson was born May 21, 1796, and was in the enjoyment of excellent health when he was so suddenly taken off.

Annapolis, Feb. 11.—The main facts connected with the sad death of Reverdy Johnson, in the grounds attached to the executive mansion, as made known last night, are not changed by the developments this morning. His death was so sudden and unexpected, after his appearance in the State library and about the State House yesterday, while the Legislature was in session, in apparently full health, that the community has not yet recovered from the shock. Dr. Lewis H. Steiner, state senator from Frederick county, a distinguished physician and chief inspector of the sanitary commission in the army of the Potomac during the war, who examined the body shortly after it was found, gives the following as his theory of the cause of his death. Mr. Johnson either stumbled over a piece of coal, or being seized with vertigo, or incipient symptoms of apoplexy, and striving to save himself, moved towards the west, staggering by the northerly side of the executive mansion, and at each step his body gainting additional momentum, until having reached the door leading to the basement, he swayed around to the south and fell, his head striking against the sharp corner of the granite base of the house, which gave the first wound on the head. Reaching the pavement of rough cobble stones, a second wound was received in front of the first. At this instant, probably, the bones of the nose were fractured, and one joint of the second finger of the right hand was dislocated. Whether subsequent difficulties may account for the abrasions on the knees, and fingers of the left hand, cannot be positively asserted. The wounds in the scalp were accompanied with the fracture of the external bones of the cranium and base of the skull, also with the probable rupture of some of the arteries at the base. Death must have resulted instantly. Mr. Gwynne, Attorney-General of the State, and son-in-law of Mr. Johnson, is of the opinion that he was seized with vertigo and fell, as he had a similar attack, lasting three hours, while attending a trial in South Carolina, several years ago.

A Few Cases in Point.

From the Boston Commercial Bulletin.

A merchant in this city has received a letter from a correspondent in Chicago, speaking of a grand ball recently given there at which "the display of diamonds and dresses were magnificent; must have represented millions; two of the most brilliant of the company were the wives of ——— and ———, your debtors, who went through bankruptcy a while ago."

Well, what of it? We can match Chicago here at the east with men who are living in splendid mansions, and apparently haven't abated domestic expenses a jot, who have settled, or are preparing to settle with creditors, at twenty-five cents on the dollar and "go right on." They don't propose to sacrifice—oh, no, it is the creditor must do that, for, as one of the latter class observed to us the other day, while purchasing his daily marketing for cash—"There goes a man who buys better food, dresses better, and to-day lives better than I can afford to, and he owed me $5,000, for which I have within three months taken $1,000. Who shall say it doesn't pay better to go through bankruptcy than pay one hundred cents on the dollar?"

A Boyish Curiosity that was Satisfied.

From the New York World.

There is unhappily too much reason to believe that the horrible and fatal panic at Robinson's Opera House, in Cincinnati, yesterday, was the deliberate work of a young boy who was fond of his joke. Of course, this young American humorist had no adequate idea of the effect that he would produce by yelling "Fire!" at an opportune moment in the midst of a theater crammed with women and children. Had he suspected, however faintly, what a thing a panic is, a thing even more horrible than mob rage, with its concomitant swoonings, shrieks, imprecations, prayers, desperate struggles for life, regardless of other life, he would hardly have tried his experiment. Though it was not so successful as it might have been, the aggregate of death and agony, mental and physical, was doubtless amply sufficient to satisfy his curiosity, and it is not likely that any who were present will, while they live, engage in practical joking. The catastrophe serves to remind us what materials are to be found in every church, theater or crowded ferry boat, needing but the yell of a drunkard, a maniac, a brute or a fool, to be quickened into horror inexpressible.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

The Elder, the Old and the New Regime--The Old Lobby Again at the Front--Parade of Present Economy to Cover up the Way to Future Jobs--A Timely Warning.

Correspondence of the Chicago Evening Journal.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8, 1876.

It has been my fortune, or my misfortune to witness three totally distinct general political situations at the national capital. "All of which I saw, and part of which I was." I have seen the elder, the old and the present regime. In other words, I have seen Washington city during the closing period of democratic rule, during all the period in which the republican party controlled the political affairs of the nation, and now I am here while democracy again has control of the popular branch of congress and the purse strings of the Treasury.

The last act in the drama of democratic rule can never be forgotten. It was exceedingly solemn and palpably prophetic of speedy peril. President Buchanan had been but a tool in the hands of skillful, unscrupulous men who were determined to rule or ruin the republic. The brilliant, dashing and ever personally popular Breckinridge was vice president. The venerable Lewis Cass was secretary of state, but other members of Mr. Buchanan's original cabinet were not men greatly liked or greatly respected. The most conspicuous figure was Stephen A. Douglas, of Illinois. In the last session of the thirty-sixth congress he was surely the observed of all observers in the upper house. He had just emerged from three famous conflicts. He had grandly brayed the administration, and defeated it, on the "Lecompton" issue. Soon afterward he had gone through a remarkable canvass for the Senatorship in Illinois, ably contending for the prize with Abraham Lincoln, and winning the political, though not the intellectual, victory. At the time I speak of, he had just come out of the Presidential canvass in which he had taken an active personal part, and had received a vote demonstrating his tremendous individual popularity. He was now worn and weary of fight, but the first acts of the war aroused again in him all the splendid pluck for which he had ever been distinguished, and when he departed for his home he bore with him the best wishes and blessings of thousands on thousands who had always been opposed to him in political doctrines. One of the grand men of the elder regime who had been a devoted friend of Douglas I never saw. For his gallant course on the Lecompton question, he had been murdered in a duel. I speak of David C. Broderick, of California, one of the grandest men who ever sat in the Senate. The son of a stone cutter, he always exhibited all the fine qualities of a perfect gentleman.

In the time of which I speak, there may have been a few other men of brains and character among potential Democrats here, who have not since been enemies of the country, but, if so, I forget their names. Such men as Jeff. Davis, John Slidell, Benjamin, Hammond, Hunter, James M. Mason, Chestnut, John H. Reagan, Jesse D. Bright, *et id genus omne*, ruled supreme in political and social circles. Most of them went away from here in the latter part of 1860 and early part of 1861, and undertook to take their States with them out of the Union.

THE OLD-TIME LOBBY.

But the lobby of the time of the elder regime is what I am after, and the aforesaid regime's following generally. Since the beginning of Mr. Lincoln's administration, except for the time occupied by the interregnum of Andy Johnson, the lobby of the elder time has been out of the way. It seemed to have gone into its hole, and drawn the hole in after it. And now those who once composed it, and who have not gone to their final abode, are out again, as lively as crickets and as wise as serpents.

The speculations of the lobby of late years have been a little more open, a little more out of the way of respectable stealing and high-toned robbery, so to say, than formerly, but they have not been in reality so bold, nor, considering the amount to be stolen from, and the prodigous sums which might have been robbed, so extensive. Considering the difference in the revenues of the elder regime and those which have been necessary since the beginning of the rebellion, there has been no such brilliant business in the larceny line shown of late as that which used to glow and corruscate in this metropolis.

There was Cornelius Wendell, "the King of the lobby," in the elder time. It would be difficult to tell how much money that astute and fascinating man made out of the United States. I think the brilliant and versatile Beverly Tucker, of Virginia, brother to the present austere representative, was cheek by jowl with Wendell, and that they sometimes "speculated" in silent partnership. Tucker is a genial soul, who often led Doughas into too much conviviality; and you might often see him about the Hall of Representatives nowadays. He is engaged in arguing the constitutionality of Texas Pacific, and it will take a heavy philosopher to beat him in the argument; for what "Bev. Tucker" does not know about champagne dinners, and all those things, is not worth knowing.

There was old John C. Rives, of the Globe, too, who did not depart this life till a little more than ten years ago. He made more money than Wendell, and saved it better. He died immensely rich, and was buried in a big mausoleum. Gales and Seaton, of the Intelligencer, were greatly benefitted by government patronage. They were slow, but sure. No outrageous "grabs" in their's. They would have scorned Credid Mobilier. But they made a great deal of money by the more reputable kind of raids on the Treasury. Coyle, now again recovered from a asphyxia, was the chief factotum of the once famous firm. Exactly where and for what Coyle is coiling around the House now, I have not definitely learned. He is around, however, and so is ex-Mayor Barrett, who has served his country for Mr. Barrett's good with great success. He needs not to work any more, though he live a thousand years. Others there are of the old, old lobby who are again around, and may be expected to "speculate" as much as their friends in the House will allow. But they are too talented to undertake much at the present session, with a presidential election pending. On the contrary, they will do all in their power to aid in carrying out the avowed policy of "economy, retrenchment, and reform." They are long-headed men, and they are patient. They prefer a great deal in the hereafter to a little now. Indeed, that great deal and that hereafter are just what they are going for.

If I am correct in my description of these men, you will at once conclude, dearly beloved reader, that whatever may be done in the way of economy this session, everything that can be done will be done during next session to line the pockets and fill the coffers of these shrewd lobbyists of the olden time. It is well known that they intend to push Tom Scott's Texas Pacific job; the cotton-tax refund job; two or three big Indian jobs; a large number of "private claims;" scores of which are already before committees, and most of which are as corrupt as Tweed, and as foul generally as Uriah Heep. Look out for a perfect carnival of "private claims" and miscellaneous jobs at the next session of the ex-Confederate House.

THE OLD-TIME LOBBYIST DURING JOHNSON'S "INTERREGNUM."

Let no one do me the injustice to say that this is mere partisan feeling or unfounded party prejudice. I acknowledge allegiance to no party on matters involving jobs. History bears me out completely in my opinion of these plausible, agreeable, dangerous men. It is well known that the set to whom I refer pretty much ran Mr. Johnson's administration, and that with Wendell at their head they managed to prevent his impeachment by the senate. Now take a glance at this table of the sums annually collected on the "whisky tax:"

Years.	Am't Collected.
1866	$29,198,578
1867	28,296,264
1868	33,419,093
1869	33,225,212
1870	38,623,184
1871	29,921,308
1872	32,572,940
1873	41,116,419
1874	44,270,412
1875	45,612,042

It will be seen from these figures that the operations of the "whisky ring" under Johnsons administration were more than immense. Those of the ring now being so vigorously prosecuted by Bristow, pale their ineffectual ineffectual fires before the stupendous operations which must then have been carried on. For under Johnson, it must be recollected, the tax was much higher than it is now. If the tax had then been honestly collected and paid into the treasury, it would have been about $90,000,000 annually, instead of less than $30,000,000, and it would have yearly increased instead of steadily falling off. It is perfectly safe to say, and these official figures show it, that the whisky ring of Johnson's administration cheated the government out of $50,000,000 annually. And no one among these "honorable men" was prosecuted; not one of all the generals of the lobby or chiefs of the kitchen cabinet was indicated or tried.

When I see those who are left of this same old set, now in influence and favor in the House, I know the mischief they mean and how adroitly they can carry out their plans. The lobby of republican houses was bad enough, in all conscience, but in comparison of this which is now here secretly getting ready for something that there's millions in, it was a body of simple innocent and guileless men. Right here is a point of great danger to the country which must be constantly and vigilantly watched by the press and by the people. It is because I know of the plottings which are going on, and how the plotters are going to try to deceive both press and people with a cry and parade of economy, that I give this early warning of the machinations of the shrewdest and most unconscionable set of men who ever grew rich by the robbery of the public. The elder has become again the new regime

LINKENSALE.

Matthew Vassar.

Descended from French stock, though born in a little town in Norfolk, England, his home was "a very humble farm house, not more than ten paces in length and a single story in height, his father an English farmer.

Such were his humble surroundings. But only a day's journey from the little village was the city of Norwich, and in that city towered one of the old cathedrals which must be unconscious educators of all the children who grow up under their shadow, and that this did not fail of its effect on the boy's mind the memory of the old man of three-score and ten abundantly proved.

His parents did not belong to the Established Church, whose coffers were full, and whose interests were affiliated with those of the monarchy. In the year of Matthew Vassar's birth, 1792, the French Revolution was shaking all the thrones of the continent, and the threats of the royal party in England drove into exile many staunch dissenters in search of civil and religious liberty. Thus, when the boy was only four years old, he was brought to America. But leaving strife and contention at home, they found it again in the excited canvass which was then going on between the rival Presidential candidates, Adams and Jefferson. After the election, however, they decided to make America their permanent home, and after much consideration and many disappointments, Matthew's father at last bought him a small farm in Poughkeepsie, where the home-brewed ale of old Vassar soon became a more remunerative investment than the farm. By the time Matthew was fifteen years old he could not be induced to take any part in the brewing business, and equally averse was he to his father's next plan of making him a tanner's apprentice. But looking at his refusal as a boy's freak, the father went on with the preparations till the articles of indenture were drawn and the day set on which Matthew was to go to the tanner. The morning came, but the boy did not, for before that time he had enlisted his mother in his scheme of opposition. He was only following out his father's example when, with his extra wardrobe, consisting of a shirt and a pair of stockings, tied up in a handkerchief, he stoutly trudged his eight miles to the New Hamburg ferry, and there kissed his tearful mother good-by.

He went across the river alone, with seventy-five cents in his pocket; but the river was to him what the ocean had been to his father, for it interposed a barrier between him and coercion. It was not long before he found employment in a country store, and in four years his seventy five cents had grown to one hundred and fifty dollars. With this he went back to his father to become his chief clerk.

Then came another time of trial. His father's brewery was burned, and his eldest brother met a sudden and terrible death. All efforts to re-establish the business failed, and the father finally retired to a small farm, where he spent quietly the remainder of his troubled life.

Thus, at twenty years of age, Matthew, forced again to begin his life, wisely chose the work which he understood, though on a small scale, and at last took up the business of brewing. Three barrels at a time were all that his resources enabled him to undertake, but he devoted himself diligently to his business.

Modest in his ideas, he ventured however, to support a wife, the entire outfit of the young couple costing about one hundred and fifty dollars, and he rented part of a house for forty dollars a year.

In order to succeed, Matthew Vassar now needed capital as much as the Duke of York, in the reign of Henry VI needed men. And as the men came when York, the ambitious duke, had proved his capacity, so, after two years of unaided struggle, the capital came to Vassar, when he was twenty-two years old; and after that time the record of his business is only one of success and increase.

The character, then, of the founder of Vassar College came of good old stock. It was formed in danger, hardship, and poverty, and grew by self-independence, honesty, earnestness, perseverance, economy, and his determination to do his best in an humble sphere.—*Anna C. Brackett, in Harper's Magazine for February.*

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