

The elder Sterling, after many battles, had reached his old age in these years, and was to be regarded as a victorious man. Wealth sufficient, increasing not diminishing, had awarded his labors in the Times, which were now in their full flower. He had influence of a sort; went busily among busy public men; and enjoyed, in the questionable form attached to journalism and anonymity, a social consideration and position which were abundantly gratifying to him. A singular figure of this epoch; and when you came to know him, which it was usually far from doing, if you had not eyes and could insight, a gallant, truly gifted, and manly figure, of his kind. We saw much of him in this house; much of his family; and had grown to love them all right well, though though the office of the Times was not his. For in his Irish way he played the conjuror very much—"three hundred and sixty-five opinions in the year upon every subject," as a wag once said.

In fact his talk, ever ingenious, emphatic and spirited in detail, was much effective in earnestness, at least in clear earnestness, of purport and point, but not being as if it were a mere display of explosive unreason; a volcano heaving under vague delirium of ecstacy, and impetuous puerile-ness, you could not say in what direction, nor well whether in a y. Not till after good study did you see the deep mellow lava-flow, which oozed steadily down, and showed very well by and by whether it was honest. For I must say of Edward Sterling, after all his daily explosive sophistry and fallacies of talk, he had a stubborn intrinsic sense of what was manful, strong, and worthy; recognized with quick feeling, the charlatan under its solemnest wig; knew as clearly as any man a pusillanimous tailor in buran, an ass under the skin of a lion, and did with his white heat deep desire.

The sudden changes of doctrine in the Times which failed not to excite loud censure and indignation in those days, were first intelligible to you when you came to interpret them as his changes. These sudden whirls from east to west on his part, and total changes of party and articulate opinion at a day's warning, were not the result of a capricious whimsy, but helped; products of his fiery impetuosity, of the combined impetuosity and limitation of an intellect, which did, nevertheless, continually gravitate towards what was loyal, true, and right on all manner of subjects. These, as I define them, were the mere scoria and pumice wreck of a steady central lava-flow, which truly was volcanic and explosive to a strange degree, but did not as a few others do, burst into a fitful eruption in the world. Thus, if he stormed along, ten thousand strong in time of the reform bill, in dignantly denouncing Toryism and its obsolete insane pretensions; and then, after some experience of whig management, he discerned that Wellington and Peel, by whatever name entitled, were to be depended on by England—therein lay in all this his special attention, his assiduity far more important than the superficial one, so much clamored after by the vulgar. Which is the lion's skin; which is the real lion? Let a man, if he is prudent, ascertain that before speaking; but above and beyond all things, let him ascertain it, and stand valiantly to it when ascertained. In the latter essential part, of the operations of Edward Sterling, there is no doubt a really marked degree; in the former or prudential part, very much the reverse, as his history in the journalistic department at least, was continually teaching him.

An amazingly impetuous, hasty, explosive man, this "Captain Whirlwind," as I used to call him. Great sensibility lay in him; too; a real sympathy, with a daily sympathy, for every man, which had an over tendency to express even by tears—a singular sight in so loquacious a man. Enemies called them maudlin and hypocritical, these tears; but that was noxious the complete account of them. On the whole, there did conspicuously lie a dash of ostentation, a self-consciousness apt to come loud and brag over the mouth of the man; and this was the alloy of the man, and you had to thank for the abundant good along with it.

Quizzing enough he got among us for all this; and for the singular chiaroscuro manner of procedure, like that of an Archimago Castiglione, or Kaiser Joseph Incognito, which his anonymous known-unknown wanderings in the Times in consequence of a real sympathy, rather than without explosive counter-blastings on his part—but in fine, one could not do without him; one knew him at heart for a right brave man. "By Jove, sir!" thus he would swear to you, with radiant face; sometimes, not often, by a deeper oath. With persons of dignity, especially with women, to whom he was always very gallant, he had courteously, delicate manners, very kind towards the women, and on the common occasions he bloomed out at once into joyful familiarity of the gracefully boisterous kind, reminding you of mess-rooms and old Dublin days.

His off-hand mode of speech was always precise, emphatic, ingenious; his laugh, which was frequent rather than otherwise, had a sincerity of the mouth of the man, and he was not ludicrous, and soon ended, if it grew too long, in a more dissonant stream. He was broad, well built, stout of stature—and walked, or sat, in an erect decisive manner. A remarkable man and playing, especially in those years, 1830-40, a remarkable part in the world.

For it may be said the emphatic, big voiced, and often after a strong and strong unbecomable, Times newspaper, was more than the emblem of Edward Sterling; he, more than any other man of circumstance, was the Times newspaper, and thundered through it to the shaking of the spheres. And let us assert without that his and its influence in those days was not ill-grounded, but rather well; that the loud manifold unreason, when enough vituperated and ground over, was not the end of the matter; that his conclusions, unreasonable, partial, harsh, as they might at first be, gravitated irresistibly towards the right—in virtue of which grand quality, indeed, the root of all good insight in man, Times orator, found acceptance, and influential audience, amid the loud whirl of an England itself logically very stupid, and wise chiefly by instinct.

With this matter a remarkable note has come into my hands—inscribed to the man I am writing of, and in some sort, to another higher man—which, as it may now (unhappily for us all) be published without scruple, I will not withhold here. The support, by Edward Sterling and the Times, of Sir Robert Peel's first ministry, and generally of Peel's statesmanship, was a conspicuous fact in its day; but the return it met with from the persons chiefly interested, may be considered well worth recording. The following letter, after meandering through I know not what intricate conduits, and consultations of the mysterious entity whose address it bore, came to Edward Sterling, and has been found among his papers. It is marked

To the Editor of the Times: April 18th, 1835. Sir—Having this day delivered into the hands of the King the seals of office, I can, without any imputation of an interested motive, or any impediment from scrupulous feelings of delicacy, express my deep sense of the powerful support which that government over which I had the honor to preside, met with from the Times. If I do not offer the expressions of personal gratitude, it is because I feel that such expressions would do injustice to the character of a support which was given exclusively on the highest and most independent grounds of public principle. I can say with perfect truth, as I am addressing one whose person even is unknown to me, and who, during my tenure of power studiously avoided every species of interest which could throw a suspicion upon the motives by which he was actuated. I should, however, be doing injustice to my own feelings, if I were to retire from office without one word of acknowledgment—without at least assuring you of the admiration with which I witnessed, during the arduous contest in which I was

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PROSPECTUS

THE GLOBE—THE CONGRESSIONAL GLOBE—A WEEKLY PAPER. The approach of Congress calls for the renewal of the prospectus and preparation of the prospectus before the public. The success which has hitherto attended this undertaking it is hoped will continue, and enable me to perpetuate the full history of the proceedings and discussions of the body on which the destiny of the Republic depends. The adoption of Congress has given the Globe an official character as the reporter of all that is said and done in the body. This sanction has been voted at every successive session for many years, and by members of all parties. The press, too, of all parties has borne testimony to the fidelity with which the duty thus confided has been performed. The annexed notices taken at random from the general expression in favor of the work, are submitted in proof of its fullness, fairness, and usefulness. I am compelled to omit, for want of room, a page of notices which are in type.

The great celebrity with which the letter-writers for the distant press circulate through the telegraph their hurried accounts and views of the debates of Congress, renders more important than ever the full and exact official reports of the CONGRESSIONAL GLOBE. The haste, and in many instances *ex parte*, relations by telegraph of what occurs in Congress supersede, for the most part, the exact reports taken down by reporters, which formerly, in a shape more or less abbreviated, went the rounds of the press. Now the telegraph accounts, with all their imperfections and variety of coloring, take the run of the country, and no press but the official proceedings publishes the full debate with the proceedings of both Houses unmutated. Indeed, no newspaper can give them, and have room for advertisements and the miscellaneous matter essential to its success. While, therefore, the telegraph ministers to the eager appetite of the public for Congress news, and meets the necessities of the political press, by furnishing a rapidly-written epitome suited to the taste of its patrons, perfect information of what passes in Congress is greatly diminished. The circulation of the official reports has, to some extent, cut off by the crude and unselected accounts which, flying along the wires, satisfies curiosity, and is almost in vain that truth puts on his boots to follow. Still there are a great many men of leisure and thought who like to see it actually said and done in Congress, and to judge for themselves, rather than receive impressions altogether from galvanic batteries. There are others, too, who, for the sake of the future, willingly patronize a work which preserves a full record of the doings of the great national assembly, and which, by its circulation, disseminates the complete debates and proceedings of both Houses of Congress. The coming session will probably be extended nine months, and the reports will not be comprised in less than 3500 royal quarto pages of breviter and nonpariter type, and will be bound in four volumes, averaging 974 royal quarto pages each.

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