

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL.

CAREERS OF CONGRESSMEN AS GIVEN BY THEMSELVES.

Little Things Wherein They Take a Pardonable Pride—It All Shows That There Is No Accounting For Taste—An Interesting Work.

[Special Correspondence.] WASHINGTON, Aug. 21.—The Congressional Directory, in which the old and the young statesmen write their own biographies, is rich and interesting this year. Some congressmen are proud because they were in the war, and some possibly because they were not; some point with pride to their early struggles down on the farm, and some few to their education.

The number of members who served in the army is large. The south is especially prolific in soldiers of all degrees, from Major General Gordon, senator from Georgia, down to Private John Allen of Mississippi, and the north runs from General Sickles to Sergeant Major Cummings.

Representative Cammett of California makes known his distinction as "the first native of California after it became a state elected to congress, and Representative Marton Cannon has equally as much pride in the fact that he is not a native, but "drove an ox team overland" at the age of 18 and has passed through all the degrees of Masonry up to Knight Templar.

Senator Joe Hawley of Connecticut has been distinguished in many respects, and gives equal weight to his editorial connection with the Hartford Courant, his general's commission in the army, his Free Soil and Republican party affiliations, his connection with the United States Centennial commission as its president and his membership in the Connecticut Historical society and trusteeship in Hamilton college.

Representatives Moses and Livingston of Georgia call special attention to themselves as farmers.

Richardson of Tennessee regards his elevation in Masonry as a landmark in his career, for he writes: "Was grand master of Masons in Tennessee, 1873-4; grand high priest of grand chapter Royal Arch Masons of the state, 1882, and inspector general Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, thirty-third degree, in Tennessee." Loudenslager of New Jersey notes that he is "great keeper of wampum, I. O. R. M., of New Jersey, a member of Florence lodge, No. 87, F. and A. M., and a thirty-second degree Mason."

From 1800 to 1852 Representative George B. Shaw of Eau Claire, Wis., says he was supreme chancellor Knights of Pythias of the world.

Senator Palmer of Illinois has the longest biography in the official publication and gives a complete epitome of his long and varied career.

Representative Andrew J. Hunter, one of the two Illinois members at large, plumes himself as a leader of forlorn hopes on each occasion by a hot campaign, greatly reducing, he writes, the Republican majority.

Senator Voorhes, next to being in the senate, thinks one of his greatest honors the fact that he was immediately assigned to the finance committee and has continued on its membership. As he is its chairman now, the following announcement is worth quoting: "Soon after entering the senate he addressed that body in favor of free coinage of silver and the preservation of the greenback currency as full legal tender money."

Thomas Hammond, a new Indiana member, glories in two things—viz, the building of a town and of the dressed beef industry, saying, "Moved to Hammond, Ind., to assist in the establishment of the great dressed beef industry, for which his name and town are noted."

The Kansas delegation, as is becoming, gives great prominence to its farming propensities. Senator Peffer, besides stating that he was born on a farm, notes in three separate places periods when he had farmed and another time when he ran a farmers' paper; Representative at Large Harris describing himself as a farmer and breeder of pure bred Shorthorn cattle; John Davis, farming and editing farmers' journals, and all the others following suit save Hudson and Curtis.

Senator Hale of Maine has the unusual distinction of having twice set aside the cabinet crown, and states that "he was appointed postmaster general by President Grant in 1874, but declined, and was tendered a cabinet appointment by President Hayes and declined."

Mr. Dingley is willing to be held responsible as editor and proprietor of the Lewis and Clark Journal, stating that he still maintains that connection, and Mr. Boutelle, another Maine editor-congressman, gives half his space to his life as a brave, bold tax.

Massachusetts biographers are justly proud to let it be known with what educational institutions they are connected, what, if any, mercantile pursuits they en-

Champ Clark show himself to be "In 1879-4," says he, "was president of Marshall college at Huntington, W. Va., worked as a hired farmhand, clerked in a country store, edited a country newspaper and practiced law continuously since 1876."



CHAMP CLARK—ONCE A "HIBED MAN."

John DeWitt Warner of New York is president of the Cornell University club of New York, a governor of the Delta Kappa Epsilon, Shakespearean and Reform clubs, and was chairman of the Reform club's tariff reform committee. Haines of Kinderhook, N. Y., has built 30 street railways in 11 states.

Grosvenor of Ohio gives a resume of his excellent military record after first leaving it to be inferred that he comes by his fighting blood by inheritance, saying: "His grandfather was Colonel Thomas Grosvenor of the Second Connecticut regiment in the Revolution, and his father was Major Peter Grosvenor, who served in the Tenth Connecticut in the war of 1812."

Of the "goldbug" of the house, as some call Harter of Ohio, the official biography says: "Mr. Harter is a Jeffersonian, and his influence politically is for conservative, safe measures and against radical, unsound legislation; is a quiet man in his manners, a plain man in his dress and a studious one by habit," which sounds not unlike that of Dr. Keet, another Ohio Democrat. "Plain of manners and firm in his convictions, he has long been considered one of the staunch leaders and counselors of the Democracy of the eastern portion of the state. His political influence has always been exerted in the interest of the masses and for safe, conservative measures as against unsound, radical legislation."

W. Jasper Talbert of South Carolina helped formulate the "Ocala demands," and it is then recited that "his home paper says of him, 'In all relations of life, as a neighbor, friend and public official, he has been faithful to every trust, zealous as a church member, Sunday school worker, legislator and Alliance man.'"

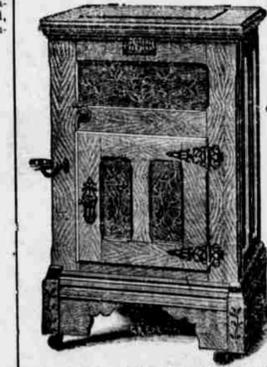
George Washington, the only negro in the house, and the representative of the "shoestring" district of South Carolina, writes: "Emancipation found him a lad of 11 summers, bereft of both parents, thrown upon the rugged shores of early emancipation after a cruel and dehumanizing war had deprived the population of almost all the finer sensibilities of human sympathy and philanthropy. Among the wails of his neighborhood he picked up his alphabet and acquired an imperfect and crude pronunciation of monosyllables. During the next five years he so industriously applied himself that in 1851 he entered for the first time a day school, but as teacher, not scholar."

John Houk of Knoxville very modestly says "his friends claim he was the originator of the idea of a league of Republican clubs."

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