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BEFORE HIS OWN SHRINE.

A TOUCHING PICTURE OF AUGUSTIN DALY AT WORSHIP.

A Herald Reporter Takes Advantage of His Semi-Entranced Condition and Interviews Him With the Aid of a Mind-Reader—Alleged Ideas of the Manager.

August Augustin Daly!

Yes, it was he. That square-crowned, rare old hat, those baggy trousers, those expansive feet—above all, that impressive pose of deep abstraction, that mystic, eerie, awful air of self-convicted genius—it could be none else. Solitary as became his illustriousness-ness he stood in an attitude of reverential, almost prayerful contemplation, reposing his crooked and eminent elbows on the breast-high guard-rail which runs round behind the ultimate row of seats on the orchestra floor of the National Theatre. His Jovian jaw was firmly yet softly set; the westerly elevation of his face was eloquent with all the surface symptoms of gentle reverie and two days' neglect of his razor; and from beneath his arching brows shot stageward those beams of beautiful incandescent luminosity which even in states of partial intellectual coma still gleam in the eyes of transcendent genius. A moment—two moments—passed, and still the great man stood there silent, moveless, far-withdrawn into the innermost penetralia of his own sublimely concentrated consciousness. Then a change came o'er the contour of his countenance. The set of his Jovian jaw almost imperceptibly softened, his classic chin dropped down a sixteenth of an inch nearer his negligé necktie, and a faint wave of mild emotion undulated backward among the roots of the two days' stubble on his cheek and broke against the outer reeflets of his ear. As it passed, this wave of emotion swept before it all the rough sand-ridges of expression and left behind only the subdued serenity of worship and of prayer. Mr. Daly was deeply moved. The contemplation of the splendor of his own work, the concretion of his own genius in the absolute artistic perfection of the performance then going forward on the stage had overcome him as he gazed, and he worshipped humbly at his own shrine. It was a beautiful and a touching sight, and THE SUNDAY HERALD reporter who saw it felt that life was indeed worth living; that whether he drew an approximation prize this month or not he had not lived in vain.

But as the reporter gazed he was filled with nameless terror. He had come to interview Mr. Daly, and his sensitive soul recoiled in panic from the thought of breaking in upon those impromptu religious exercises which he was witnessing at a respectful distance. How could he ever dare to draw nearer that august Augustin presence and drag down from its Himalayan heights of worship or haul up from its abysmal abysses of contemplation, that transcendent spirit? The reporter had talked familiarly with Senators, judges, statesmen, great and small; he had shaken hands with Gen. Grant; he had traveled in the same Pullman car with Russell Harrison; he had mingled cigarette smoke with Charlie Hoyt, and he had drunk over the same bar with the author of "Listen to My Tale of Woe," but never before had he felt that sense of goneness about the regions of the diaphragm, that utter collapse of courage which now assailed him. But he remembered the stern mandate of his editor, and he resolved at least to attempt the discharge of his duty, even if he perished.

Respectfully he approached and in soft, flattering accents whispered in the nigh ear of Mr. Daly the object of his mission. The great head slowly turned; the luminous eyes gazed with mild reproach into the reporter's; then the great head turned away again. Once more the reporter broke the awful silence. The great head slowly shook, and as from the depths of some enchanted cave these sounds welled up:

"Ah, no, it cannot be. You know not what you ask. I have never, at home or abroad, consented to talk to an interviewer. In my wisdom I have not deemed it best."

Then with a sound like the noise of a Waterbury watch that has bust its mainspring, the reporter could hear Mr. Daly withdraw into himself; and thereafter silence fell about him like a mountain dew, so thick and chill that the reporter hastily took two five-grain quinine capsules to ward off a cold. He essayed to speak again in the dulcet accents of persuasion, but he saw that Mr. Daly was so lost in contemplation of the glories of his own handiwork upon the stage that it would be an easier task to find Silcott than to find him.

So with a sad heart the would-be interviewer turned away, his task unaccomplished, his mission unfulfilled. He was about to rush out into the night, when he caught sight of an acquaintance who is possessed of wonderful gifts as a mind-reader. A bold and happy thought struck the newspaper man.

Would it be possible to interview Mr. Daly with the aid of the mind-reader? It could at least be tried. In an instant the mind-reader was seized, dragged into the lobby, and the great scheme sprung upon him. At first he was paralyzed with astonishment at the boldness of the proposition. Then he smiled at the novelty of it. Then enthusiastically he consented to try it.

The next moment the reporter and the mind-reader were leaning upon the guard-rail as near as discretion allowed to the only great theatrical manager. The mind-reader was nearest the intended victim of his experimentation, and almost touched elbows with him. The conditions were unfavorable to the success of the undertaking, but the mind-reader energetically concentrated all his powers of psychologization and sailed in. When he felt himself *en rapport* with his unsuspecting subject he made a sign to the newspaper man.

"Can you tell me first what is going on in his mind?" whispered the latter.

"He is thinking," slowly and softly answered the mind-reader, "how beautiful are the works of genius and what wonders can be wrought with such common mortals as Ada Rehan, John Drew, and James Lewis by a man of high artistic taste and A No. 1 intellectuality like himself. Now he is lost in a dreamy haze of soulful admiration of the beauty, the *esprit*, the grace of the performance—all the result of his own Napoleonic managerial ability."

"Now suggest to him, psychologically, the question, What are the qualities necessary in a theatrical manager in order to achieve the success he himself has achieved?"

"His mind has taken in the question," said the mind-reader after a long pause. "He answers, as if following the trail of his own thoughts, that the first requisite, of course, is genius of the highest order—genius which combines the most eminent executive ability, profound knowledge of how to manage men and women and mould them to its own purposes, the highest development of the artistic temperament, and encyclopedic acquaintance with dramatic literature. Then there must be present the capacity to adapt the plays of foreign authors and make them over as if they were one's own, and lastly the prëeminently successful manager must have the courage to acknowledge to himself that he knows it all when he does know it all—as Mr. Augustin Daly does, for instance—and he must firmly keep down where they belong in complete subjection to himself all the inferior intellects which he uses to realize the sublime inspirations of his genius. He must not be afraid to treat them with wholesome contempt and contumely nor to trample down what they in their weakness and blindness regard as their individual interests in order that he may work out his own grand success."

"And now suggest to his mind," whispered the reporter, "the question, Is the American stage degenerating?"

"I have done so," answered the mind-reader, after considerable delay. "The thought is so out of line with his own previous thoughts that it has somewhat broken the continuity. But he has come around to it now. He reflectively answers that he knows little of the unimportant and inferior theatres of America, but that at Daly's Theatre, Thirtieth street and Broadway, New York, the American stage has now reached the highest point of development yet attained, and that it shows not the faintest symptoms of approaching decay. There is no danger, he thinks, that a period of degeneracy will set in while the house at Thirtieth street and Broadway remains under the superb personal direction of Mr. Augustin Daly."

"And now turn his thoughts in another direction," said the reporter, *sotto voce*. "Ask him if he thinks it is possible or necessary for a theatrical manager to be a gentleman."

"This suggestion has evidently given his mind a great shock," whispered the psychological operator, after some time. "It is evidently entirely foreign to his thoughts. He takes it in slowly, and"—

But before the mind-reader could say more the only great American theatrical manager suddenly whirled about and fled into the lobby.

TO HELP THE FARMERS.

Provisions of a Remarkable Bill Introduced by Representative Featherston.

A remarkable bill is that now before the Agricultural Committee, entitled "A bill to provide for the relief of the agricultural population of the United States, and to promote and encourage agriculture." Hon. L. P. Featherston, of Arkansas, who successfully contested the seat occupied by Congressman Cate, is the author of the bill, and judging from the number of letters of inquiry he has received on the subject, it is evidently attracting attention from the farmers. The bill is carefully drawn, and starts out by calling attention to the impoverished condition of the farmers and farm laborers, and the fact The Featherston bill proposes to relieve that many crops are grown at an actual loss. the distress of the farmers by providing that any citizen who owns and resides upon any tract of land containing not less than ten nor more than three hundred and twenty acres of land, one-half of which is in actual cultivation, may apply to the Secretary of the Treasury and secure a loan not to exceed one-half the assessed value of the land and improvements thereon. The loans are to run for not less than five nor more than ten years, at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum. A bureau of loans is to be established in the Treasury Department to attend all business relating to loans. Loan agents are to be appointed in each Congressional district composed, wholly or in part, of agricultural lands. Upon receipt of application for a loan the application is to be turned over to the agent, whose duty shall be to examine into the title and assessed value of the tract of land upon which the loan is asked. If the land is unencumbered and the applicant has a clear title then the mortgage blanks, provided for by the bill, are filled out and a draft for the amount of the loan is sent the applicant.

The interest on the loan is to be paid annually, but a failure to pay the interest two consecutive years entitles the Government to foreclose. The lands reverting to the Government by foreclosure are to be "added to the public domain and held for sale to actual settlers at the amount loaned thereon with 10 per cent. added thereunto."

The bill is constructed somewhat on a line with the views entertained by Senator Stanford. An intelligent Western farmer, in conversation with THE SUNDAY HERALD reporter on the Featherston bill, said: "I have made a close study of Mr. Featherston's relief bill, and I must say it hits the nail squarely on the head. We farmers are as deserving of the Government as the bankers and money lenders. The Secretary of the Treasury designates certain banks to be Government depositories, and the banks have the use of Uncle Sam's money without interest, but we have to pay interest to the banks for all the money we borrow from them."

"Mr. Featherston," continued the farmer, "deserves the thanks of the agricultural classes, and his constituents are to be congratulated on having a representative who so well understands their wants."

PROBLEMS OF ALUMINUM.

HOW SOME OF THEM WERE SOLVED BY A DENTIST.

With the Result of Bringing About a Practical Revolution in Dentistry—The Price of the Wonderful Metal Reduced to $2 a Pound—A Factory Here.

It has long been known that the element aluminum was more abundant than any other metal; in fact, that the stability of the crust of the earth on which we tread is largely dependent upon the strong cementing bond of aluminum that holds the rocks and clay in such a firm grasp that even the elements and the tooth of time cannot destroy it. So strongly has aluminum held all other elements in her embrace that it has greatly baffled the skill of the alchemist ever since its first discovery to separate it; *i. e.*, to obtain it in a state of purity from its environments.

Sir Humphrey Davy in 1807 tried to isolate the metal aluminum by decomposing its oxide alumina with the electric current, and while he failed in the attempt the brilliancy of his thought is fully proven in the fact that now after a lapse of eighty years aluminum is being produced commercially by the electric current.

Oerstedt in 1824, Wühler in 1827, and Deville in 1854 each distinguished himself by his contributions in isolating aluminum, and the latter especially in determining many of the wonderful properties of this peculiar metal, which has been a puzzle to all metallurgists through all these years.

Various means have been sought to extract aluminum cheaply from the clays and rocks in which it is found in such abundance, but, on account of its refractory nature, without marked success, until within a few months. The difficulty and expense of producing aluminum, together with the greater difficulty of employing it in the arts, as it could not be cast, welded, or soldered, discouraged the employment of capital in its production, and hence it was only produced by chemists in a small way as a thing of curiosity or novelty, and not of general use in the arts.

It therefore has remained for a solution of the difficulty of working aluminum, easily and cheaply, to create a demand for this wonderful metal, which scientists and artisans recognized as possessing peculiar properties that would place it in the front rank of all metals, if a successful method of working it could be devised.

PROPERTIES OF ALUMINUM.

Among the properties that mark aluminum are to be named its extreme lightness, being only one-tenth the weight of platinum, one-eighth the weight of gold, and one-fourth the weight of silver, copper, or iron. Like platinum and gold, it possesses the royal properties of not oxidizing or tarnishing by exposure to the air, or being acted upon by nitric and sulphuric acid. Unlike silver, copper, and iron, it is not acted upon by sulphur, and hence does not turn black like silver and copper, or red like iron, when exposed to sulphurated vapors.

Aluminum is very malleable, and may be forged or rolled as perfectly as gold or silver. It is beaten into as thin leaves as either of these metals, as no other useful metal can, and is now largely used instead of gold and silver for decorating, as it is much more durable than silver, and less expensive by far than either gold or silver. It is very ductile and can be drawn into very fine wire that by annealing becomes very flexible and tenacious.

The tensile strength of aluminum in proportion to its weight is equal to steel, and by alloying steel with only a small per cent. of aluminum gives to steel double the usual tensile strength.

As a conductor of heat aluminum has no equal, taking it rapidly and parting with it slowly, and hence well adapted for the manufacture of surveying, mathematical, and astronomical instruments, as well as for watches, from the case to the hairspring.

It is susceptible to great variety of temper, by annealing can be made soft and flexible, or by tempering can be made hard and rigid. Aluminum is very sonorous, having a musical metallic ring resembling silver. It can be used to much better advantage than silver for plating the baser metals, and may itself be beautifully electroplated with gold.

APPLICATION IN THE ARTS.

In view of all these properties aluminum has long been looked to as the coming metal that would take a prominent place in the arts, whenever it could be successfully worked and cheaply produced, and hence there have been many inventors and thinkers engaged during the last quarter of a century to solve these two difficulties in the way of its universal introduction.

Civilization moves in cycles, epochs, or ages. In its early period there was the stone age, then came the iron age, and now we are entering the aluminum age, which is evolving very rapidly, and, like evolutions generally, with an accelerated speed. These advances in the evolution of man have not been accidents, but have come along in an orderly way, and have been the fruitage of an aspiration of benevolent thinking minds, seeking to alleviate the ills and enlarge the goods to their fellow-men.

From a single profession born with this century, and within the United States, has come some of the greatest blessings of the century to the civilized world. To Dr. Morton, a dentist of Boston, we are indebted for the discovery and application of anæsthetics for the alleviation of suffering in surgical operations. To Dr. Gray, of Chicago, belongs the credit of inventing and first making public the telephone, while to Dr. Carroll, a dentist of Meadville, Pa., belongs the good fortune of solving the long-sought problem of casting, welding, and soldering aluminum successfully, and thus rendering its use practical in the arts. This success was attained through years of experiments with aluminum, to supply his patients, who had been so unfortunate as to lose their teeth, with a more perfect substitute than had hitherto been devised by his profession. The oldest artificial denture extant was made by a Philadelphia dentist for George Washington, and consisted of two narrow gold bands, bent to somewhat correspond with the shape of the two jaws, and held against the gums by two springs attached at the back part of the jaw. To these bands in a crude way was attached teeth carved out of bone, which was made to do passably good service; so says the distinguished patient, in a letter to his dentist, which is now preserved in a museum, along with the dentures named. The next advance in this direction was making porcelain teeth, mounted on gold or silver plates, struck up between metallic dies. But silver would not withstand the action of the fluids of the mouth, and gold was too expensive for the masses. Then about one-fourth century ago rubber was largely substituted for gold on account of its cheapness for dentures, but it was soon found to be deleterious to health on account of being a non-conductor, often producing congestion and inflammation to the mouth and throat.

Men of advanced thought in the dental profession, recognizing in aluminum the properties of lightness and strength, conductivity, and purity, peculiarly fitting it for a dental plate, sought to use it for that purpose a quarter of a century ago, but, alas! no one could solder it as they did gold, or cast it successfully. The difficulties in the way of casting aluminum are, first, its extreme lightness, which precludes it being poured when melted into a mould so as to take a fine sharp cast; and second, its great contraction in cooling prevented it taking accurately the form of any desired model. After a long conducted series of experiments Dr. Carroll entirely overcome this difficulty by first making the aluminum of commerce, which always contains quite a large per cent. of iron and silica, chemical pure, and then alloying it with a small per cent. of royal metals that overcome the contraction. Then he devised an automatic gas or gasoline furnace, with pneumatic crucible appliances, whereby the aluminum is under perfect control when melted, and can be forced by air into a matrix of any desired form with perfect accuracy. Mr. Richards, in his valuable work on aluminum, published in 1887, said, "No one knows how to cast it," and "that if any one would take up the casting of aluminum and bring it into vogue as a current industrial operation there is no doubt that the metal would be freely used in the finer branches of practical mechanics."

This statement has been fully verified, as shown by the increased demand which has sprung up since the difficulties of working it have been successfully demonstrated by the Carroll methods. This increased demand for aluminum has stimulated inventors and capitalists to embark in this enterprise, resulting in the production of aluminum much cheaper and more abundant, so that instead of only a few pounds being produced and sold at a cost of $15 per pound, as was the case two years since, now tons are produced and placed upon the market at less than two dollars per pound. Until recently France and England and Germany possessed the monopoly of the entire out-put of aluminum made by the old Wöhler and Deville sodium process. But history repeats itself, and now the suggestion of Davy of producing aluminum by electricity after a lapse of nearly a century has been made practical here in the United States, and large quantities are now being manufactured very cheaply at Pittsburg, Pa., Newport, Ky., also by the Carroll Aluminum Manufacturing Company, of New York, with a branch office at Washington, D. C., who claim to have the cheapest method yet invented of producing pure aluminum successfully. This company is organized with a large capital for manufacturing and utilizing aluminum in the arts, and propose to manufacture cutlery, tableware, and many other useful and ornamental articles from aluminum. They are now supplying the S. S. White Dental Manufacturing Company, H. D. Justi, and other leading dental depots and dentists generally with their aluminum dental appliances.

They state that it will only be a short time at the present progress being made in the production when the price of aluminum will be as cheap, bulk for bulk, as iron, when its use will no longer be confined to small articles, but will be used in combination with or as a substitute for iron and steel wherever they are now used.

TRICKS OF HORSE TRADERS.

How the Gyps Manage to Get Rid of Diseased and Vicious Animals.

"It has been a practice for some time past," remarked a prominent livery man, "for sharp farmers and gypsies to hawk their battered-up plugs about the streets of the central portion of the city, disposing of them by trading or for cash. They have in several instances interfered with public traffic, and this caused the arrest of several of them the other day. Where do they get these horses? Well, most of them are worn-out old horses that they pick up about the city and adjacent country for a very low figure. They doctor them up in various ways. And these ways are often, to say the least, most cruel. For instance, a horse that is troubled with the heaves is simply starved for several days in order to prevent them from exposing their malady by the drawing in of their sides and other signs of this disease, which cease when the starving process is resorted to. Again a horse that is hardly able to stagger about on his worn-out legs will have a piece of bruised ginger inserted beneath his tail, which will sting him cruelly, and cause him to rear and prance in his agony. The uninitiated buyer will take this as a sign of a high-spirited animal. Horses that are vicious or wild are given large hypodermic doses of morphine. This renders them stupid, and to all appearances gentle and mild. In this way the most vicious brute in the world will sometimes be disposed of for family driving. A burr placed under the tail for poor horses is an old and oft-resorted-to means of producing speed. Stimulants similar to those used by men are given horses often in enormous doses. Whisky is commonly used, and if ever you purchase a horse, whether from one of those shady dealers or of a friend, for that matter—for it seems to be impossible to enter into a horse deal without some trickery—smell the horse's breath to see if he has been doctored."

IN REAL ESTATE CIRCLES.

THE BIG BOOM IN F STREET PROPERTY STILL ON.

A Syndicate Offers $30 a Foot for the Masonic Temple Property—The Offer Refused—The Proposed Extension of the Eckington Road.

Thirty dollars per foot was offered by a syndicate last week for the Masonic Temple property, on the northwest corner of Ninth and F streets, but it was declined. It is held at $40, and there seems to be no weakening in the price. About $33 per foot was paid for the opposite and more desirable corner by the Washington Loan and Trust Company a short time since, but the Masonic building has a frontage of 131 feet on F street, while the old St. Cloud has only 52 feet front, and for this reason, of course, the former is more valuable and will command a greater price. The highest figure ever paid for F-street ground was for the northeast corner of Thirteenth and F streets, which was included in Mr. John W. Thompson's large purchase a week ago. This property, fronting 25 feet on F street and 65 feet on Thirteenth street, brought $39 per square foot.

Senator Harris is active and earnest in his efforts to have the Eckington Railroad bill, allowing that road to run from New York avenue along Fifth to Ninth street and along G street to Fifteenth street, pass the Senate. This branch, if built, will be of great service, giving, as it will, direct transportation from the centre of the city to two flourishing suburban villages. The Eckington Road has given its patrons good service, its management has been conservative and successful, and there is no road more deserving the privilage of this valuable franchise. A petition signed by 159 real estate owners and residents on G street from Fifth to Fifteenth street; by the president and board of directors of the Equitable Building Association; by seventy-five employés at the Census Bureau, headed by Superintendent Porter; by Commissioner Raum and 115 employés at the Pension Office, and by Rev. James A. Buck, Chaplain Soldiers' Home, praying for the passage of the bill, was introduced by Senator Harris Wednesday last.

SUBURBAN NOTES.

The bill authorizing the Brightwood Railroad Company to construct a branch line to Takoma Park was passed in the Senate Saturday last, subject to an amendment offered by Senator Gorman, providing a clear roadway of at least thirty feet. The bill was passed in the House two months ago, and there is no fear that this provision will be objected to when the bill is referred back to that body for repassage. This will give direct communication between Takoma and the heart of Washington by street railway, and, notwithstanding its excellent accommodations by steam road, it will be of great convenience to the dwellers in that town, for town it is now, incorporation having been granted a few weeks past, and a general election of mayor, board of council, etc., will take place early in May.

Rockville real estate is quite active, while the distance from our city places it practically beyond a Washington suburb, yet many of our citizens have invested there. The two recent subdivisions have been a success, at least so far as the sale of lots is concerned. Their improvement is a matter for the future. The land recently purchased by Messrs. Ahern and Cummin, of Washington, will shortly be subdivided and placed upon the market. Mr. B. H. Warner recently bought ninety acres near the station for $15,000, but it is not thought that he will develop the property for the present.

The petition presented by the Montgomery County commissioners to the property-holders on the old Rockville and Georgetown pike, in which the Rockville and Tenleytown Railroad Company is to have a 10-foot right of way along that road, has been signed complete, and the right of way will now be granted by the commissioners.

PROMINENT SALES.

B. K. Plain has sold for $62,845 all of square 735, bounded by North Carolina avenue, Second and E streets southeast, to J. F. Waggaman.

Sub-lots 4 to 27, 34 to 45, and 53 to 57, square 88, fronting on B, C, and Eldridge streets, between Twentieth and Twenty-first streets northwest, have been sold by Maggie F. Riley to F. Aigeltinger for $38,409.

The Great Falls Ice Company has secured at a cost of $20,000 the Bradley, Gunnell's, and Palmer wharves, located between Tenth and Eleventh and G and Water streets.

An improved frontage of 16 feet 8 inches on E street near Thirteenth, being No. 1219, brought $8 per foot at auction Monday last. Mrs. E. Witthaft was the purchaser.

A. P. Glover has sold an undivided fifth interest in the Dumblane tract, part of Friendship, of F. G. Newlands, for $35,915.

Woodward & Lothrop have purchased a frontage of 28 feet on Eleventh street, between F and G, of Alice E. McBride, for $37,500.

B. F. Gilbert & Co. have sold to H. P. Waggaman a portion of Widow's Mite, fronting 137 feet on Woodley Lane road, for $35,000.

BUILDING PROJECTS.

Mr. E. Francis Riggs has plans for an apartment-house, which he will build at the corner of Seventeenth and H streets northwest. The structure will be six stories and basement, with a frontage of 80 feet on H street and 30 feet on Seventeenth street; cost, $70,000.

Dr. Ralph Walsh's late residence and adjoining buildings on New York avenue will be reconstructed into a flat. When completed the building will be five stories high and contain steam heat and a passenger elevator. The improvements will cost $10,000.

Senator Sherman is building fifteen brick dwellings on Third street, between G and H streets northeast, at an aggregate cost of $35,000.

Baldwin & Pennington have completed plans for the St. Mary's Church, on Fifth street northwest, to cost $62,000, and operations will at once be commenced for its construction.

Dr. L. L. Frederick will erect a handsome dwelling on the southwest corner of Fourth and East Capitol streets, at a cost of $10,000.

Permits have been issued to the Capital Investment Company to erect six brick dwellings on Tenth street, between D and E streets southeast.

A. M. GORMAN,
625 F street northwest.