GREEN PEASE FROM JERSEY

INCIDENTS IN THE LIFE OF A UNITED STATES SENATOR.

A Carpet-Bagger Hunting up a Record for Honesty—Sketches of the Men who Signed his Certificate of Good Character—Some Participants at a Fire in New Jersey.

The article which appeared in THE SUN of Aug. 26, briefly reviewing the past history of the Hon. H. R. Pease, formerly known as "Green Pease," the Jersey school master, but now carpetbagging Senator for Mississippi, attracted no little notice in the Southern States, where Pease had already rendered himself as unpopular as a man well can while he obtains his seat by pandering to the passions of the colored voters alone. In the State of Mississippi the feeling of contempt with which the new Senator is regarded is peculiarly marked; had his previous history been without blot or blemish, his present attitude and his manner of conducting the canvass for Ames would have secured for him the hearty support of all intelligent men of Mississippi, and it only required THE SUN's exposé of the vagrant life he led while teaching school in Winfield and Parsippany to add a feeling of humiliation that such a man should be the chosen representative in the United States Senate.

In Morristown, N. J., and the adjacent villages of Whippany and Parsippany, where Pease was known the revelation created no surprise, but it may have been that his character was more carefully handled than he had any right to expect. Among the people in Morris county old enough to remember Pease in the days of his vagrancy there are probably not half a dozen who cannot recall cases in his career quite as strong as any of those given in THE SUN. In general, however, the feeling is different; people in that portion of it where Pease was born state at large would probably not be inclined to criticise the carpet-bag Senator as a man, but in his small town of Winsted, Conn., they do not hesitate to hold up the history of the Pease's, and the latter character of the Sissons is a fond and fabulous one. The Winsted *Herald* took up the cudgels for Pease, rather it might be said Pease obtained the columns of that paper in which to make his defence. It was scarcely a defence, it was a recital of the Senator's early life, drunkenness, cheating, lying and incendiarism, the crime of murder excepted. There seems to be that Mr. Pease's life was once tolerable, never committed a serious offence against the laws of his country, but his vagrancy and impostures were the cause of much trouble and annoyance to those who made a business of taking him by two days' board in the houses of Whippany and Parsippany.

OLD FOGY CHRONICLES.

The Winsted *Herald* is hasty in saying THE SUN's account of Incendiarism, Murder and Arson facts connected with Pease's career, are "entirely unfounded." The Parsippany school house was burned, and there is a fair probability that the fire was set in effect that Pease had the key of the school house and left the fire his books and clothes behind, and after the fire his books and clothes were found in the room, sprang from the bed and was about to resist the seizure, The officer warned him off, and told him that he was determined to take the clothes, and would, in addition, take their owner if he made any resistance. This had the effect of sending Pease back to bed, and no further trouble was encountered by the officer, apart from a volley of oaths which, he says, were hurled at him by the schoolmaster.

The next morning was very cold, and as the constable came out of his house he was astounded to see two men approaching him dressed in calico dusters and short linen drawers reaching to the knees, and nothing else. They proved to be Pease and Dutton, who had arrayed themselves in garments borrowed from different members of the family where they boarded. They tried to induce the constable to give them back the clothes, but this, of course, he refused to do, and they spent the entire day passing between the officer's house and that of Mr. Wilson. Finally Pease took out a summons against the constable. That summons was never served, for reasons which Justice Schlopp will doubtless tell, and induced Mr. Wilson to let him have a small portion of his clothes on his earnest representations that the money should be paid by instalments. Much of it was so paid, and Pease redeemed his clothing from Mr. Wilson piecemeal from memory, Mr. Dutton has since lent his written testimony to support the truth of this story.

PEASE AS A FARM HAND.

Constable Munson closes his account of his dealings with the school-master in this forcible way: "Pease was the worst hand I had in my character than a skunk. After he left the school-house in Whippany we did employ him, until at last I gave him some mowing to do at so a day, but he was so lazy that he was good for nothing. I have found him drunk in the field when I went to bed, and he lost he got away because a colored man I had worked better and faster than he did. I told him the colored man was worth two of him, and he said it was a damned shame to set a nigger to work against a white man. When he left me and went to Parsippany I hunted him for more than a year for his county tax, which at that time was only eighty cents, but I never got it from him, and he owes it to me to this day."

From Whippany Pease went to Parsippany, where for nine months he boarded at Mr. William H. Leonard's headquarters. Mr. Leonard, as has already been mentioned, was a trustee of the Parsippany school at the time the building was burned. He drew up, or caused to be drawn up, a certificate setting forth the high estimate in which Pease was always held by those who had met and sailed out in quest of signatures. It was the catsawing for an impossible book, and Mr. Leonard was by no means well adapted for the work. Had he chronicled the persons who refused to sign the paper as well as of those who consented, its pleasant names would have been much longer than it was.

One of his first visits was to a gentleman of the name of Garret Demott, ex-Sheriff of Morris county. Mr. Demott has resided for many years in Parsippany, and by his stanch, honest nature and a thoroughly acquired title could deem of the entire community that his expressed belief in Pease's innocence would have almost shaken the conviction, strong as it is, that is held by nine-tenths of the inhabitants of Parsippany that the ex-schoolmaster is guilty of greater sins than insincerity. Mr. Demott was busy when Mr. Leonard called, and offered him a paper and pencil, and without a word of premise, said, "Mr. Demott, I want you to sign this," the ex-Sheriff was not unnaturally a little incredulous. "I never," he said cutting, "sign anything without reading it."

THE PAPER HE WOULD NOT SIGN.

Mr. Leonard then read as follows:

PARSIPPANY, N.J., Sept. 2, 1874.—Whereas a report has been circulated that H. R. Pease has been guilty of burning down the New York SUN, in the house of Mr. Wilson, in Parsippany, and whereas we, the undersigned, have known the said H. R. Pease for a long time, and have always found him a quiet, sober, and industrious man, and have never seen or heard anything in his character or conduct inconsistent with that of a gentleman and a Christian, and believing the report to be a malicious falsehood, we, the undersigned, do hereby certify that we