The Sun.

VOL. XLVIII.—NO. 12. NEW YORK, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1880. PRICE THREE CENTS.

MARSHALL OWEN ROBERTS.

HOW A POOR NEW YORK BOY FOUGHT HIS WAY TO FAME AND FORTUNE.

His Death at Saratoga—The Body Brought to this City—His Birth and Antecedents—His Steamship Lines and Railroad Enterprises—His Patriotism During the War—His Character and Personal Appearance.

Mr. Marshall O. Roberts died at his cottage in the park of the United States Hotel, Saratoga, at 7 o'clock yesterday morning. At 3 o'clock on the morning of the 7th his wife was aroused by his sterterous breathing. He was unconscious. Drs. Lente and Fordyce Barker were called. They announced that he was suffering from apoplexy. His right side was paralyzed. He remained unconscious until his death. Mr. Roberts was in New York a week ago yesterday, and complained of the extremely hot weather. Heat and fatigue may have brought on the attack. Mr. Roberts, however, was one of the victims of the mysterious disease which broke out at the National Hotel, in Washington, at the time of President Buchanan's inauguration, in 1857. From its effects he never recovered, remaining a frequent sufferer from its strange and unexplained poisoning. Indeed, it is possible that but for this cause he would still be alive. His wife and her sister, Mrs. Van Wart, a married daughter and her husband, and his two sons were with him when he died.

The body of Marshall O. Roberts, accompanied by Mrs. Roberts and her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Van Wort, reached this city from Saratoga on the train that arrived at the Grand Central Hotel at 10 o'clock. Owing to the neglect on the part of the undertaker who had charge of the transmission of the body from Saratoga, no permit was obtained from the Board of Health to carry it through the streets of New York. It was detained at the Grand Central Depot while the undertaker sought for a permit, and did not reach the house, at Eighteenth street and Fifth avenue, until after midnight.

The funeral will take place on Tuesday morning, at 10 o'clock, from Calvary Episcopal Church, at Twenty-first street and Fourth avenue, of which Mr. Roberts was a member. The rector, the Rev. Dr. E. A. Washburn, will officiate. The pall bearers have not been selected, but it is understood that Dr. Fordyce Barker and W. W. Wright, Treasurer of Calvary Church, will be among the number.

Owen Roberts was a Welsh physician who settled in New York in 1798. He practised medicine until he died in 1817, leaving a wife, four boys, and little property. The youngest of these was Marshall Owen Roberts. He was born in Oliver street on March 22, 1814. Fatherless before his 4th year, he lost his mother before he was 8 years old. At that age he entered the grocery and ship store of John R. Soper, Coenties slip, where he remained five years. At 13 he apprenticed himself to Alderman Jamieson to learn the saddlery business. He worked 3 nights to earn the $50 required by his master as the customary apprentice fee. In a year his health failed, and he was obliged to seek other occupation. An advertisement in the *Courier and Enquirer* for a clerk in a ship chandlery attracted his attention. He applied at the place, and found thirty boys ahead of him. William Spies, proprietor of the chandlery, liked Marshall's appearance, and gave him the situation. A brief trial showed the merchant that the lad deserved his confidence. His assiduity and tact soon impressed Mr. Spies, who allowed him $5.77 a week, or $300 a year. Within three years Mr. Spies died. His successor, Mr. Burdett, retained Mr. Roberts in his employ, and gradually raised his salary to $600 a year.

The young man was prudent and saving. He could fairly read and write the English language, and he was abreast with the news of the day. He had no bad habits, and was thoroughly engrossed in the business of his employer. In 1834 he had saved enough money to go into business on his own account. He started a little chandlery in Coenties slip. Horace Greeley had just issued the first number of the *New Yorker*, and William Cullen Bryant was in Europe, writing letters for the *Evening Post*. C. C. Christensen had just married, and was building steamboats in Canada; Cornelius Vanderbilt was running steamboats on the Sound and on the Hudson; Samuel J. Tilden was studying law in this city; Silas C. Herring was starting a wholesale grocery down-town; George Opdyke was beginning to rise in the clothing business; E. D. Morgan was running a grocery in Hartford, Conn.; Peter Cooper was building a rolling and iron mill in this city and applying anthracite to the puddling of iron; Oliver Charlick was a clerk in a wholesale importing house; Jay Gould and James Fisk were unborn; Daniel Drew was landlord of the old Bull's Head Tavern, away out of the city, at Fourth avenue and Twenty-fourth street; James Gordon Bennett was editing a newspaper in Philadelphia; John A. Dix was secretary of State of Albany; Wm. H. Webb was working in his father's shipyard; Horace B. Claflin was a clerk in a Massachusetts dry goods store; George Law was working on a canal; John Jacob Astor had retired; Henry Ward Beecher was a pure and pious student in Amherst College; Alonzo B. Cornell was a two-year-old baby; Prosper M. Wetmore was reciting poems before literary societies; Jacob A. Westervelt was laying the foundation of a fortune in a shipyard; Jackson S. Schultz had not come out of the backwoods; William F. Havemeyer had not dreamed of a sugar refinery; A. T. Stewart had got a firm footing in the dry goods business, and old Joe Hoxie was teaching school in the Seventh Ward. The Battery was the Fifth avenue, and there were cottages and fair-sized farms south of the line of Bleecker street. New York had 250,000 inhabitants.

Young Roberts made his store his home. Early and late he attended to business. His shutters were down before daylight, and his store was lighted when the last of the fishermen and seamen patronized him before the rising of the sun. They bought twines to repair their nets and such supplies as were needful. The store was known as the "Lighthouse," and its owner as "Candle Roberts." The Whitneys, Lennoxes, Nostrands, and other leading merchants of New York who lived around the fashionable Battery, used to go in person, basket on arm, to Fulton Market, for family supplies for breakfast and business. Roberts's store was a sort of half-way house to these early birds. The old gentlemen used to drop in and exchange a kindly word with the young merchant while warming their toes and conning the newspapers on wintry mornings. These representative men of the commerce and finance of the city took an interest in the industrious and driving young man. When he saw opportunities for profitable investment they aided him in procuring discount. Through their aid he obtained control of the Russian hemp market, operated largely in tallow and naval stores, and took front rank as a ship chandler. He had a sagacious mind. His perception of the probable consequences of immediate action was rapid and intuitive to an extraordinary degree. He saw his way through everything like a flash. His views were broad and comprehensive. He had the most indomitable energy. His amiable and generous nature attracted and attached friends. He was magnetic. At his will he agreeably impressed men. When he repulsed them he left little or no sting behind. The consequence was that he made friends from the beginning. He was the first at his place of business. When the clerks entered their by him reading the morning newspapers by the light of a candle. He studied the state of the markets, kept a sharp eye on the advertisements, and became familiar with commercial affairs. He made money as a ship chandler by the exercise of his shrewd sagacity. He examined the condition of the whaling trade, kept track of the vessels out on voyages, and foresaw the probable effect of the yield of oil upon the market. The Government advertised for whale oil for the use of the navy and lighthouses. Roberts put in a bid that seemed ruinously low. It was accepted. He foresaw that oil would be much more abundant within a few months, and that the market must break. The result was that he made a great deal of money out of the contract.

Mr. Roberts's business relations naturally brought him into contact with maritime capitalists, and it was not long before his influence was felt on the rivers and lakes and upon the sea. The prestige of success began to attach itself to him because of his successful speculations. He took stock in the Albany steamboat lines, and projected and built the Hendrick Hudson, the first real passenger palace afloat on the Hudson. California had dropped into the hands of the United States at the close of the Mexican war, through the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Statesmen desired to weld the new territory to the Union. Gold had not been discovered. Regular mail service was a necessity. A. G. Sloo had got what is known as the Sloo contract. He was to build five steamers, convertible into war steamers, to be used as mail steamships in time of peace. This contract was made on April 1, 1847. The line was to connect New York with New Orleans, and the steamers were to touch at Charleston, Savannah, and Havana. In those days these cities had no railroad connection. Once a month a steamer of small size was to run to Aspinwall with the California and Oregon mails. At the same time the Government contracted with one Harris on the Pacific coast to run the mails from Panama to San Francisco. Mules were used to convey them across the Isthmus. The mails were small, as there was a sparse population on the Pacific coast. Sloo had the contract, but was without capital. He came to New York, and made proposals to Marshall O. Roberts. The Hendrick Hudson was running to Albany, and Roberts was building steamers to run from the eastern terminus of the Erie road at Piermont to New York. He had won the confidence of financial men, and had no difficulty in raising money. He was worth at least $250,000. The Government had agreed to pay Sloo $290,000 a year for the mail service. The contract had ten years to run. Sloo assigned it to Roberts, George Law and R. B. McIlvaine, as trustees, and to Edward Crosswell and Prosper M. Wetmore, on Aug. 17, 1847. They undertook to build the ships. Roberts was the head and front of the combination. He had the confidence of the community and he raised the money. The Ohio and Georgia were the first steamers built. The Falcon and two others were afterward launched. They were the largest steamers ever built at that time. Hardly were they afloat when the gold excitement broke out. The rush was so great that it resulted in the production of that magnificent fleet of vessels that monopolized the California trade for twenty years.

Meantime Howland & Aspinwall, then supposed to be the largest and richest shipping house in this city, became the owners of the Harris contract on the Pacific coast. Roberts tried to effect a combination by which the two lines could monopolize the California trade. After a long consultation an agreement was finally effected one night in Gardiner Howland's residence on Washington square. Howland himself was so well pleased that he opened a bottle of brandy taken from some cases brought into port by a privateer who captured it on an English vessel in the war of 1812. The old gentleman brought out the brandy only on extraordinary occasions. The agreeing parties sampled it to his satisfaction, and retired. On the next morning, however, Mr. Comstock, a partner of Howland & Aspinwall, appeared at the office of Mr. Roberts's counsel and repudiated the agreement. He said that he had just learned that George Law was a partner with Mr. Roberts, and he declared that his firm could have no business relations with him. Law was unpopular among business men, owing to the manner in which he had obtained possession of the Dry Dock Bank. The fact was that the Aspinwall party had got it into their heads that they could break down Roberts by putting on an independent line of steamers between New York and Aspinwall, thus cutting off his communication with the Pacific coast. George Law's unpopularity served as a mere pretence for the violation of the agreement.

Roberts was put upon his mettle. He called up all his resources, and displayed extraordinary energy. He chartered ships, loaded them with coal, and despatched them to the Pacific coast to establish coaling stations. They were hardly off Hatteras before he had bought steamships enough to establish a line between Panama and San Francisco. These vessels were the Columbus, the Republic, the Antelope, and the Isthmus. Howland & Aspinwall started their line along the Atlantic coast with the Empire City, the Crescent City, and the Cherokee. The Illinois, now a hospital ship at Lower Quarantine, and the Crescent City were on the stocks. Before the eyes of Howland & Aspinwall were fairly opened they were confronted with a new line on the Pacific coast. Their effort to ruin Roberts had recoiled. They themselves lost millions of dollars. For two years the competition was ruinous. Then a compromise was effected. Roberts bought the Aspinwall steamers on the Atlantic, and Aspinwall bought the Roberts steamers on the Pacific. Howland & Aspinwall did the business of the Pacific coast, under the name of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, and the Roberts party monopolized the business of the Atlantic coast, under the name of the United States Steamship Company. Mr. Law became restive under the arrangement, and Mr. Roberts, in conjunction with others, bought him out. At a critical moment, however, his associates retired, leaving him liable for a million, and apparently without adequate resources. Ruin stared him in the face, but his indomitable pluck and commercial reputation saved him. He resolved to consummate the bargain on his own hook. So bold was his credit that by the time stipulated he had the means in hand, and fulfilled all his obligations. This was undoubtedly the foundation of his great fortune.

Trouble then arose in an unexpected quarter. Commodore Vanderbilt built the steamers North Star, Star of the West, Ocean Queen, and others, and put on an opposition line via Nicaragua. It was a telling opposition. Roberts finally paid the Commodore $40,000 a month to withdraw from the field. Vanderbilt demanded his money on the first of each month, and kept his steamers tied to the docks ready to start on a few minutes's notice in case of a failure of payment. Roberts's profits must have been enormous. In two years he paid Vanderbilt $960,000. Finally he bought the Commodore's steamships outright, thus becoming the owner of the Star of the West, Star of the North, and other vessels.

In 1858 the Sloo contract expired. Long before this time the Panama Railroad had been built. Mr. Roberts, however, was not a stockholder. Howland & Aspinwall were largely interested. Meantime Mr. Roberts had turned his attention to American railroads and other enterprises. He was largely instrumental in building the Erie line from New York to Dunkirk. He was the projector of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad, and retained a large interest. He was one of the owners of the Dock property for the Erie road in Jersey City, and in later days aided in building the Florida road from Fernandina to Cedar Keys, now owned by ex-Senator Yulee. His object was to open a short route to New Orleans, then without railroad connections with the New York City. In 1858, he made a contract with the Government to run a daily mail from New Orleans to Portland. Vessels were built to carry the mails from New Orleans to Cedar Keys, and from Fernandina to New York. The civil war interrupted the project. When it was decided other communications with New Orleans were opened, and the trans-continental railroad system was developed. The Cedar Keys line was useless in competition, and the steamers were sent to China. Mr. Roberts was interested in the Erie Tunnel. He took an active interest in the Texas Pacific Railroad, and was made President of the company. His influence has been felt in the furtherance of many great public improvements all over the continent. From 1851 to 1857 he was President of the Seventh Ward Bank. When Cyrus W. Field conceived the plan of laying a cable between Ireland and Newfoundland, Mr. Roberts was the third man who was enlisted in the enterprise. The others were Peter Cooper, Moses Taylor, and Chandler White. Mr. Roberts invested largely, and built up a fortune by claim of dividends sold out for half a million of dollars.

Marshall O. Roberts was a patriot. When Major Anderson retired to Fort Sumter he went to Washington and urged the Government to revictual the fort and reinforce the conscientious Kentuckian. He offered the Star of the West for this purpose. By the advice of Gen. Dix and Joseph Holt, President Buchanan accepted his offer. The Star of the West was sent down with ammunition, supplies, and two hundred troops. She was driven back by rebel batteries on Morris's and Sullivan's Islands, and returned to New York. Mr. Roberts had placed Capt. McGowan in command of her. He was very angry on the Captain's return. "Damn it," said he, "you'd ought to have taken her in, if you'd been killed. Why didn't you beach her near the fort, so that Anderson could rifle her?" Mr. Roberts kept the flag of the Star of the West to his dying day and always hoisted it on his house on patriotic holidays. On the breaking out of the war he visited President Lincoln, and tendered the Government the use of his steamers on its own terms. He sold the Illinois and the Crescent City to the Government. In 1863 he became interested in the great Sanitary Fair in this city. The undertaking exceeded the expectations of its most sanguine projectors, and the original site in Fourteenth street was found to be too small. Adjoining premises were leased, but more room was needed. The lady managers in despair informed Mr. Roberts of their troubles. Two large vacant lots adjoined the boundaries of the fair building on Fifteenth street. Mr. Roberts saw their owner, paid him $100,000, erected a handsome building for the fair restaurant, and turned it over to the managers. Mrs. Roberts took charge of the restaurant, with a multitude of lady assistants, and the success of that department was memorable in the annals of charity fairs.

While aiding the Government, however, Mr. Roberts did not neglect his own interests. Foreseeing the war, his business sagacity came into play. He saw that North Carolina was bound to go out of the Union. He bought up immense quantities of resin and naval stores and cleared a fortune by the rise in the market after the blockade of the Southern coast. When President Lincoln was assassinated Mr. Roberts sent Mrs. Lincoln a letter of condolence and his check for $10,000.

When the Baltimore mob assaulted the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment Mr. Roberts was a party in a suit which was being tried before the United States Circuit Court of Philadelphia. James T. Brady was one of his lawyers. A New York regiment arrived in the city in a bad fix. It could not get through Baltimore, and it was destitute of rations. Mr. Roberts heard of it, and had the men quartered at one of the leading hotels, defraying all the expenses.

At the expiration of the Sloo contract, mail service to California by steamer ceased. The Pacific Mail Company put a new line on the Atlantic coast, and Mr. Roberts reopened the Nicaragua transit route. He sent the America and Moses Taylor out to the Pacific, and built the Golden Rule and other 3,000-ton vessels for service on the Atlantic. Finally, the Pacific Mail Company bought all his steamers, and the Central American line definitely passed out of existence. Mr. Roberts then projected the Tehuantepec route to California. The plan was to build a railroad across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, connecting with steamship lines to New York and San Francisco. A concession was granted by the Mexican Congress, but before work was fairly begun Juarez was driven to the United States frontier, and Maximilian was placed on the throne by the French invasion. The Emperor confirmed the grant. Incensed at his action, the Juarez Congress revoked its concessions, and the project fell to the ground. It has lately been revived, and new surveys of the Isthmus are now being made.

Mr. Roberts was interested in politics when a young man, engaged in the ship chandlery business in Coenties slip. He was an admirer of Henry Clay, and became an active worker in the Whig party. A personal acquaintance with Clay led to the most friendly relations, and Roberts became a sort of an oracle among the young men in the Whig party in this city. The great orator gave him many marks of personal regard and attachment. He was in daily communication with him. With Thomas C. Acton and others he formed the Clay Festival Association, which met yearly on the 12th of April to celebrate Mr. Clay's birthday. It began this custom in Mr. Clay's lifetime, and continued it after his death until the Whig party became extinct. Mr. Roberts was one of the leaders, too, in the Harrison hard cider campaign. In the early days of the Republican party he took a conspicuous part in the organization in this city. He represented one of the down-town districts in the Central Committee, contributed liberally of time and money at election times, and was recognized as one of the wheel-horses of the party in the city and State. In the fall of 1852 the Captain-General of Cuba refused to allow the Crescent City to land her passengers and mails in Havana because the steamship company retained in their employ a purser who was charged with writing newspaper articles adverse to Spanish policy in Cuba. The Crescent City twice entered the port, and was ordered off. Mr. Roberts insisted upon the rights of the company, and demanded reparation. While in Washington spurring the Fillmore Administration to a sense of its duty, he was nominated for Congress in the Seventh City District, comprising the Ninth, Sixteenth, and Twentieth Wards. It was a strong Whig district, but the strength of the party was not thrown for Mr. Roberts. One Robert Smith of the Sixteenth Ward ran as an independent Whig candidate. He represented a faction in the party, and his canvass was aided with Democratic money. Mr. Roberts's own subscription in the Sixteenth Ward was used against him. It was a bitter contest. Mr. Roberts was accused of supporting John Tyler's renegade administration and of obtaining the nomination by unfair means. On the eve of election he published a scathing letter, reviewing the situation and denying these charges. It had little effect. Treachery within the Whig ranks had done its work. Wm. A. Walker, the Democratic candidate, was elected by 1,599 majority.

In 1865 the Republicans nominated Mr. Roberts for Mayor. He entered the canvass with characteristic energy. It was a quadruple race, John T. Hoffman and Chris. G. Gunther split the Democratic vote, and Roberts would have been elected by a large majority had it not have been for the candidacy of John Hecker, who was strongly supported by Horace Greeley. Mr. Hoffman was declared elected by 1,163 majority. Mr. Roberts's friends always averred that he was counted out. They claim that he was elected by nearly 2,000 majority. He said that the rascals who counted him out offered to give him his fair share of the spoils of money, which he indignantly refused to pay. At various times he was urged to become a candidate for Governor and for United States Senator, but he never entered the lists. He headed the Republican Electoral ticket in this State in 1868, and was again urged to accept the Republican nomination for Governor, but he declined in favor of Horace Greeley. The latter, however, through chicanery, failed to secure a nomination, and the State went Democratic. John T. Hoffman (not Gen. Woodford) by a large majority. With Mr. Roberts as a candidate the Republicans would doubtless have scored a victory.

When Grant was elected President Mr. Roberts was pressed for the Secretaryship of the Navy. At one time Gen. Grant was the merchant's guest, and a grand dinner was given in his honor. Mr. Roberts was one of the original subscribers to the stock of THE SUN Association. At one time he was interested to the extent of $60,000. We need not add that his investment rewarded him with handsome returns.

The merchant's residence at 21 Fifth avenue was one of the finest in the city. His art galleries contain a very extensive and valuable collection of modern paintings and sculptures, including some of the most interesting and important works of our times. The original study for the "Napoleon" Paul Delaroche, Carl Muller's "Marie Antoinette Hearing Her Death Warrant," Gerome's "Egyptian Recruits," and Story's "Salome" are among them. Mr. Roberts was one of the few rich men in New York who readily recognized the merits of a good picture. He was a liberal buyer of artists. When a poor clerk he often stopped in front of Coleman's, just above the Franklin House on Broadway, between Dey and Fulton streets, and gazed at the paintings displayed in the window. A picture of an old English coaching scene especially fascinated him. He gazed at it daily, and was occasionally rebuked by his employers for loitering on the way when sent on an errand. Just as soon as he thought himself able he bought the picture, and it now holds a place of honor in his house.

Mr. Roberts married two wives. Four children were the fruits of his first marriage—Isaac, Mary, William, and Marshall. Isaac and Mary survive. Isaac is now in business at 177 West street in this city. The first wife was a charming woman, and a fitting helpmate. The second, a native of Hartford, lady of great beauty, was distinguished for charity and benevolence. She died in Europe some years ago. She left a daughter, now the wife of Mr. Ames Van Wart. The third wife, also remarkable for beauty and accomplishments, is still living. She was the daughter of Capt. John Endicott, a lineal descendant of an old colonial Governor of Massachusetts. She has one child, named after her husband, Marshall Owen Roberts. He is nearly two years old.

Of late years Mr. Roberts has been much interested in railroads. He had intimate personal and business relations with Mr. Moses Taylor, and came down from Saratoga especially to see him on the week before the stroke of paralysis. Although he received a limited education, Mr. Roberts was a thorough English scholar. He wrote and spoke with precision. He leaves property valued at $5,000,000. Much of this is real estate. Some time ago he was offered $1,000,000 for lots around Central Park. In social life he was modest and entertaining. He studied the tastes of his guests. When friends and was always pleasing them by some act of delicate attention. His own merits and services he invariably depreciated, calling them mere trifles. He was a man of boundless generosity and of most exemplary fidelity to his friends. No one ever failed of receiving proofs of affection, could ever say that he failed to respond at any time of need. Indeed, his kindness of heart and his magnanimity were often taken advantage of by those to whom a nature more critical and censorious than his would have turned a deaf ear. The sums which he lost in this way must, from first to last, have been something enormous; but he never repined at them, and never said an unkind word of those who disappointed him in such matters. Cheerfulness was one of his prevailing characteristics. He was always in good spirits; but even at moments when the prevailing good fortune which uniformly marked his career was varied by some calamity, the elasticity of his mind used to return with such rebound it seemed impossible for him to be long depressed. He had a highly social disposition, and was very fond of society; and yet, during a great part of his life, he was not wont to mingle much in it. His sympathies were quick and active, his nervous system exceedingly fine and sensitive. His judgment comprehensive as it was and sagacious as it was, seemed to be formed by instinct rather than by reflection. It was the heart that ruled his actions more than the head.

Marshall O. Roberts was about five feet eight inches in height. He had square shoulders, and a form designed for activity and strength. His features were aquiline, and his complexion rather dark. He had full and expressive brown eyes. His features were exceedingly mobile, so that painters had great difficulty in taking his portrait. His smile was pleasant as the sunshine. He wore no beard at the time of his death. He dressed plainly and neatly, and usually wore no jewelry except a plain gold button and a watch chain. He was not a church member, but he sometimes went to the Calvary Protestant Episcopal and Grace Church. For many years he was a regular attendant at the Broadway Tabernacle. "His sagacity was remarkable," says a friend. "I never knew him to make a mistake about the commercial standing of any man. When he said 'I think that man will fail in so many months,' it always happened that the man failed. Ask him the reason for his belief, and he would jestingly reply, 'Because I say so.'"

VOGEL BROTHERS.

Great Preparations for the Fall Trade.

Extensive additions have been made to Vogel Brothers' Eighth avenue store, corner of Forty-second street, where they have doubled the size of their store by erecting a very large corner building in addition to their present stores located there. To their Broadway store, corner of Houston street, they have added large lofts, to give them more room for manufacturing, as the old premises got too small to manufacture that vast stock of clothing which their constant increasing trade requires. This firm is without question second to none as retail manufacturing clothiers. Every garment they sell for men, youths, boys, and children is manufactured by themselves. For the past six months they had an army of cutters and tailors engaged to complete their stock for this coming fall and winter season, which is ready, and surpasses all their previous efforts as to the enormous quantity, variety, elegance, and style. We predict a prosperous season for Vogel Brothers, and advise all our readers to give them a call.—*Adv.*

AT WORK FOR GEN. HANCOCK.

THE DEMOCRATIC NEWS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

Unexampled Democratic Fervor in Connecticut—Maine Not Sure for the Republicans—The Republican Hancock Club.

The Democratic State Committee are hard at work, and their rooms in the St. James Hotel show signs of the prosecution of an active canvass. Chairman Fowler of the Executive Committee, and Daniel S. Lamont, its clerk, are busy from early morning until late at night reading and replying to letters from all parts of the State, and answering the inquiries of the hundreds of visitors. In another room many clerks are at work folding and mailing documents. The demand for campaign literature is greater than in any former Presidential canvass. The document most sought is that which contains extracts from Republican newspapers against Garfield at the time of the Credit Mobilier exposure in 1873. The gentlemen who have returned from speaking tours in the interior of the State report that the Democrats are enthusiastic and confident, and that the meetings are largely attended. Horatio Seymour and Senator Francis Kernan will speak in Utica on Wednesday evening next. Gov. Seymour's speech will be circulated as a campaign document.

A few days ago Henry A. Glidden, a member of the Republican State Committee from the Orleans Congressional District, said in a political interview that many Democrats in Orleans County would support Garfield, and that thirty of these gentlemen lived in the village of Albion. E. Kirke Hart, a Democratic ex-Congressman from that district and resident of Albion, has written the Democratic State Committee in relation to Mr. Glidden's assertion. He says: "If my friend Glidden did say so, it must have been in a moment of enthusiasm, while he was trying to cheer his despondent associates. You can rest assured no defection exists with us. If there be any apathy or defection it is all on the other side. The leaders, the old ringers, and the numerous would-be county officials are in a high state of consternation. They see plainly that the days of their rule in the Democratic party are either indifferent or inclined to be against them. The fact is our line is unbroken. We are confidently awaiting the issue, with here and there an accession to our ranks, in the full faith that we shall achieve a victory that will bring permanent peace and complete prosperity to our whole country."

The movement begun two weeks ago to organize the Republicans of this city who intend to vote for Hancock is well under way. Its leaders say that three thousand Republicans have already joined the Assembly district associations. Among the influential members of this organization are Leonard W. Jerome, Gen. Daniel Butterfield, Gen. Patrick H. Jones, Col. A. J. H. Duganne, H. H. Hadley, and Chauncey Schaffer. The headquarters of the organization have been established at 21 West Twenty-fourth street. It is expected that before the close of this week associations will be in operation in every Assembly district, and the central organization completely formed.

Senator Wallace of Pennsylvania, Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Club, was in town yesterday. He is sanguine of the success of the Democracy in the November election. The advices received by his committee lead him to feel confident of Democratic success in Indiana in October, and to believe that Indiana will be secure against the Republicans. Senator Wallace had no doubt that the differences in the party in Virginia would be amicably adjusted, and the State made absolutely safe for the Democrats. He was not so sure of the result of the Maine election to-morrow. The Republicans and Greenbackers might carry it, but the chances were that it would go Republican.

Ex-State Senator James Gallagher of Connecticut called at the Democratic National Committee's headquarters last evening. He said the campaign in Connecticut is progressing finely. Hancock clubs are forming in all parts of the State. The eastern part of the State is aroused to a degree entirely beyond the expectations of the most sanguine Democrats. This is especially true of Windham County, which has been an Republican stronghold for twenty-five years. Hancock clubs have been established in every town and village in the county. A mass meeting held last week in Danielsonville, a manufacturing centre in the town of Killingly, in this county, was addressed by Judge Hall. It was the largest Democratic meeting ever held in that county, and was a surprise to the people of the town. The party leaders in that county are not calling for speakers from other parts of the State, but are making the canvass with their local speakers.

Mr. Gallagher added that the Republicans had given up all hope of carrying the State for Garfield or for their State ticket, and were making their fight for the Legislature in the hope of securing votes enough in that body to elect a Republican United States Senator in the place of Senator Eaton, whose term expires in March, 1881.

Mr. J. G. Shaw, a colored man and the editor of the New York *Saffragist*, who has been speaking for the Democracy in Indiana, said yesterday at the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee, that the campaign in Indiana looked well. "The Democrats are fully equal to the great emergency," he said. "The people are extremely enthusiastic, and at State headquarters great industry prevails. Mr. W. W. English works incessantly." The Republican campaign is noisy. There is no question that a large number of negroes have been imported into Indiana to vote the Republican ticket. I was in a position to know about this matter. I think that many bona fide colored voters will vote for Hancock and express their opinion of this importation of colored men by voting with the Democrats. The Democratic leaders in the State are sure that their candidates for State offices will be elected in October."

Among other visitors to the committee rooms was Henry W. Sachse, who has just arrived from Europe. He said: "I had made my plans to remain abroad for at least two years, but changed them on learning of the nomination of Gen. Hancock. I have returned to do what I can to assist in his election. I have too much faith in the good sense of the American people to doubt the result. Gen. Hancock, whom I have known intimately for twenty years, has all the qualities of a good civil administrator. I was not surprised at the ability of the state papers issued by him in New Orleans, as I had long known his devotion to the study of constitutional law, which was always one of his hobbies. I am going to Indiana next week to take part in the canvass with Gen. James McQuade and Col. Colie of Troy."

Paul Strobach, member of the Republican National Committee from Alabama, said in a recent interview that at the August election in that State the Democrats brought a company of militia to the polling place at McGehee's Switch to terrorize a colored election inspector and drive him from the polls, while they stuffed the ballot boxes. Capt. Thomas G. Jones of Montgomery, Ala., who commanded the company of which Mr. Strobach spoke, writes that the company went to McGehee's Switch under orders from high civil authority to prevent apprehended rioting. He says: "None of the command, with the exception of myself, went at any time within a quarter of a mile of the polls. No militia or armed citizens did anything by word or deed to intimidate any one. The count of votes took place in a room in which there was no one present but the election managers. No militia, armed citizens, or persons in the crowd outside had anything whatever to do with the count, and none of them stuffed ballot boxes, either openly or otherwise. I saw and heard nothing of any intimidation of the colored inspector, and if there was any wish to interfere with him there was no manifestation of it. I challenge any one to produce any respectable man, white or black, Democrat or Republican, to substantiate Strobach's charge as to the conduct of the military."

The Democratic State Committee's rooms have the appearance of a regular political workshop. Fifty clerks are folding and shipping campaign documents to all parts of the State. The demand for campaign literature is said to be unprecedented. Democratic newspapers are being sent to doubtful Republicans, whose names have been ascertained by a canvass of the school districts in the State. Meetings are being held in every county almost every day, the speaking campaign having been forced earlier than heretofore by the demands of the people. The State Committee are confident that Hancock will carry the State by a large majority.

Col. Conkling at Highland Falls.

There was a large and enthusiastic meeting of the Democrats of Highland Falls and West Point, on Thursday evening, at Krimmling's Hall, Highland Falls. Spirited addresses were delivered by Col. F. A. Conkling, the Hon. William E. Robinson, J. Hervey Cook, and Joseph J. Rogers, after which a Hancock and English club was organized under the chairmanship of John Jay Kenney. Col. Conkling has made a thorough canvass of this section, this being the second occasion on which he addressed the people of this place. He is determined that the town in which Gen. Hancock received his military education shall give a good account of itself in November.

Give your detective complexion the benefit of Glenn's Sulphur Soap and the defects will disappear.—*Adv.*

BILLIARDS BY THE HOUR.

Contemplating a Change in the Manner o Charging for the Game.

For many years in this city it has been the custom to charge billiard players according to a schedule like this: Single game, 20 cents; discount game, 25 cents; three-handed game, 35 cents; four-handed game, 25 cents.

The reason for this variety of charges is plain to those who know the game. A single game takes the least time. A three-handed game consumes the most time, because after the winner finishes the game continues between the two other players. The four-handed game is usually longer than the single game. The discount game, wherein a good player gives odds to a poorer one, is apt to be as long as, if not longer than, the three-handed game.

It now seems likely that this schedule of prices will be abolished in many of the large billiard rooms, and that the use of the billiard tables will be charged for by the hour, without regard to the number of games that may be played upon them. Mr. John F. Gleason of 83 Nassau street said yesterday that he is so impressed with the advantages of this change that he will charge by the hour for the use of his tables, whether his neighbors do so or not, but that it is his opinion that nearly all the conspicuous billiard saloon keepers will follow his example. He thinks this will be the rule in the down-town rooms within a fortnight. He says he has seen Tim Flynn, Peter Marron, and others of his neighbors in the business, and they are resolved to follow his example.

Mr. Gleason argues that the new rule will not be adopted in order to make billiards more expensive to beginners or poor players; indeed, he hopes to find some way to prevent such players paying more than they do now. The main idea is, he says, to prevent the petty frauds from which billiard saloon keepers greatly suffer. He says that all men cannot be trusted to keep the count of the number of games they play, and that there are so many combinations between players nowadays that it would take a schedule as big as a billiard table to provide for them. For instance, one player plays 50 to another's 60, or 70 or 85; or he plays 40 to the other's 70, and so on.

Peter Marron of Nassau street and Park row says that the plan of charging by the hour is fairer on all sides. As it is now, the good players, who can finish five or six games an hour, must pay as much for each game as the player pays who takes an hour to a game. He says that the proposed plan of charging in billiard parlors cannot be maintained at the profit that is now made where competition is active.

Mr. Philip French of French's Hotel had not heard of the movement, but he says that it has always been the custom at his house to lease the tables by the hour to those who desired to pay in that way, particularly when the persons who desire it are good players.

The manager at Capt. Reeves's in Broadway, near Park place, said that he did not think the Captain had yet been consulted, but he had no doubt that the new plan would find favor in his eyes.

The new plan does not apply to the game of pool, which is played on billiard tables.

The custom of charging by the hour obtains in many New England cities, where it has been in operation for some months, notably Springfield.

By some it is said that the price per hour will be fixed at half a dollar, and by others that it will be sixty cents. This does not seem to have been determined upon. Mr. Gleason thinks that sixty cents will be the universal charge.

A NEW RAILROAD OPENED.

The Tonawanda Valley Route Connecting the Erie with Buffalo.

BUFFALO, Sept. 11.—The Tonawanda Valley Railroad, running from Attica, a point on the Erie Railroad thirty miles east of this city, was opened for business to-day. The road is three feet gauge, and will connect the Erie Railway and the Buffalo, New York and Philadelphia, striking the latter road at Arcade, N. Y. Among the prominent railroad men present were R. G. Taylor, President of the new road and Division Superintendent of the Erie; E. S. Bowen, General Superintendent, and B. W. Spencer, Treasurer of the Erie; A. R. McDonough, Secretary of the Board of Directors; Thomas J. Brown, Superintendent of Ferries; J. H. Fish, President of the Marine Bank of New York; Congressman R. V. Pierce of Buffalo, Senator J. H. Loomis of Attica, Lieut.-Gov. Geo. A. Hoskins, and many others. There was also a large number of ladies. A special train of ten cars was run over the road, and at the southern terminus a grand celebration and picnic was successfully carried out, with speeches by Mr. Taylor and others. Two years ago a road was graded over this route, and the present company have used the bed. The road has been built since the middle of June, and is probably one of the best yard-wide roads in the United States. The grading has been done so well that the bridges have been built with a view to making the road standard guage when the business shall demand it.

Failure in the Woollen Goods Trade.

Isidore Rosenthal, wholesale dealer in cloth and woollens at 52 Walker street, failed yesterday and made an assignment to Abraham Wolf, giving preferences as follows: Abraham Wolf, $15,869.70; Isidor Cohnfield, $5,319.12; M. Steinhardt, $12,959.85; T. Kreitman, $1,500; Sigmund Schwartzist, $1,186; Jacob Rothschild, $5,000; Beck & Co., Germania National Bank, $3,253.—Total, $44,158.26. Mr. Rosenthal has been in business for the past fifteen years, but for some time past his credit has rated low at Bradstreet's on account of his relation with the failure of Steinhardt two years ago. Mr. Richard S. Newcombe, attorney for Mr. Rosenthal, said yesterday that the liabilities of the firm are $90,000, and the assets were worth, probably, $60,000, consisting of stock on hand, $30,000, and outstanding debts, $65,000. After paying the preferred creditors he thought the assets would realize twenty cents on the dollar. Mr. Rosenthal declined to answer questions. Concerning the cause of the failure Mr. Newcombe said that last spring Mr. Rosenthal had given heavy orders to manufacturers of such woollens as his customers, manufacturers would not deliver for six months ahead; prices were very high and had subsequently declined forty per cent. Mr. Rosenthal endeavored to induce the sellers to compromise on their contracts by keeping the goods and taking cash settlement for a certain amount, but no arrangements were effected, and suits were brought against Mr. Rosenthal. It is said that some of the creditors, and a number of the largest creditors have placed their claims in the hands of Mr. Frederick Lewis to make a thorough investigation of the failure.

Escape of Victorio's Band into Mexico.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 11.—Gen. Pope telegraphs as follows: "From despatches received from New Mexico I learn that a band of Victorio's party succeeded in evading the scouts posted to watch their movements, and made their appearance about twenty miles south of Cumnings. Parker's company of cavalry was surprised, and lost one soldier and two scouts killed and two soldiers wounded. Buell pushed forward troops as rapidly as possible, but was unable to overtake the Indians, who, when last seen, were about fifteen miles ahead, going at a rapid speed into Mexico. On the 11th a detachment of the Ninth cavalry, stationed at Aquila Chiquita, near the eastern line of the Mescalero reservation, was attacked by a party of twenty to thirty Indians. Two soldiers were wounded and one Indian killed, but the Indians were driven off and turned by the way of