

The Story of The Sun 1833 to 1918

Characteristics of Charles A. Dana as Editor of "The Sun." His Taste for News and His Idea of the Manner of Writing It

This is the eleventh of a series of articles narrating the history of THE SUN, and giving a vital, intimate view of metropolitan life and journalism during more than eighty eventful years. The first article told of the founding of the paper by Benjamin H. Day in September, 1833, and of its rapid rise to success. Succeeding articles told of the paper's continued prosperity and of changes in ownership, including its purchase by Charles A. Dana, and then sketched Mr. Dana's career and began to describe his journalistic methods.

By FRANK M. O'BRIEN.

DANA was catholic not only in his taste for news but in his idea of the manner of writing it. Nothing gave him more uneasiness than to find that a Sun man was drifting into a stereotyped way of handling a news story or writing an editorial article. Even as he advised young men to read everything from Shakespeare and Milton down, he repeatedly warned them against the imitation, unconscious or otherwise, of another's style.

Do not take any model. Every man has his own natural style, and the thing to do is to develop it into simplicity and clearness. Do not, for instance, labor after such a style as Matthew Arnold's—one of the most beautiful styles that has ever been seen in any literature. It is no use to try to get another man's style or to imitate the wit or the mannerisms of another writer. The late Mr. Curtis, for example, did, in his judgment, a considerable mischief in his day, because he led everybody to write after the style of his "French Revolution," and it became pretty tedious.

If he believed that he could keep on writing the same way for ever, he was right; but if he was not for THE SUN, Dana wanted good English always, but a constant spice of variety in the treatment of a subject and in the style itself; therefore he chose a variety of men.

One clergyman who had come into literary prominence offered to write some articles for THE SUN. Dana told him he might try. The clergyman evidently had a notion that THE SUN's cleverness was a worldly, reckless devilishness, and he adapted the style of his first article to what he supposed was the tone of the paper. Dana read it, smiled, wrote across the first page of it "This is too damned wicked," and mailed it back to the misguided author.

He was a patient man. A clerk in the New York post office copied by hand Edward Everett Hale's story "The Man Without a Country" and offered it to THE SUN—as an original matter—for \$100. It was suggested to Mr. Dana that the poor fool should be exposed.

"No," said Dana. "Mark it respectfully declined and send it back to him. He has been honest enough to enclose postage stamps."

Delane and Dana—A Contrast.
The English historian Kingslake wrote a description of John T. Delane, the most famous editor of the London Times, which Mr. Dana's associate, Mr. Mitchell, liked to quote as a picture of what Mr. Dana was not. It is a fine limning of the great editor as great editors were supposed to be before Dana showed his disregard for the journalistic dust of the ages.

From the moment of his entering the editor's room until four or five o'clock in the morning, the strain he had to put on was of no sort of earthly tribulation, but in stirring times almost prodigious. There were hours of night when he often had to decide—to decide, of course, with great and sudden—between two or more courses of action momentously different; when, besides, he must judge the appeals brought up to the paramount arbiter from all kinds of men, from all sorts of earthly tribunals, when despatches of moment, when telegrams fraught with grave tidings, when notes hastily scribbled in the Lords or Commons, were from time to time coming in to disturb, perhaps even to annul, former reckonings; and these, besides, were the hours when, on questions newly obtruding, yet so closely, so opportunely, present that they would have to be met before sunrise, he somehow must cause to spring up sudden essays, invectives, and arguments which only strong power of brain, with even much toil, could supply. For the delicate task any other than he would require to be in a state of tranquillity, would require to have ample time. But for him there are no such indulgences. He has the hand of the clock growing more and more peremptory, and the time drawing nearer and nearer when his paper must be made up.

That, mark you, was Delane, not Dana. When Mr. Dana counseled the young men at Cornell never to be in a hurry he meant it. Fury was never a part of his system of life and work. Probably he viewed with something like contempt the high-pressure editor of his own and former days. There was no agony in the daily birth of THE SUN. Mr. Mitchell said of his chief:

Mr. Dana has always been the master, and not the slave, of the immediate task. The external features of his journalism are simplicity, directness, common sense, and the entire absence of affectation. He would no more think of living up to Mr. Kingslake's ideal of a great, mysterious and thought-burdened editor, than of putting on a coral hat and a black robe spangled with sunbeams and stars when about to receive a visitor to his editorial office in Nassau street.

That office in Nassau street, of which every reader of THE SUN, and surely every newspaper man in America, formed his own mental picture! To some imaginations it probably was a bare room, with a desk for the editor and close by the famous cat. To other imaginations, whose owners were familiar with Mr. Dana's love for the beautiful, the office may have been a

possibly rare. But over a poem from an up-State unknown he might spend half an hour if the verses contained the germ of an idea new to him.

One clergyman who had come into literary prominence offered to write some articles for THE SUN. Dana told him he might try. The clergyman evidently had a notion that THE SUN's cleverness was a worldly, reckless devilishness, and he adapted the style of his first article to what he supposed was the tone of the paper. Dana read it, smiled, wrote across the first page of it "This is too damned wicked," and mailed it back to the misguided author.

He was a patient man. A clerk in the New York post office copied by hand Edward Everett Hale's story "The Man Without a Country" and offered it to THE SUN—as an original matter—for \$100. It was suggested to Mr. Dana that the poor fool should be exposed.



"Sun-Rise in New York." This engraving celebrating the success of Charles A. Dana with THE SUN was published in 1871 in the second number of "The American Enterprise," an eight page folio of engravings by William James Linton, the famous English engraver. The drawing was by Hennessy. Linton spent the latter years of his life in this country.

studio unmarred by the presence of a single unbecoming object. Both visions were incorrect.

Room in Which Dana Worked.
Surroundings were nothing to Dana. To him an office was a place to work, to convert ideas into readable form. What would works of art be in such a place to a man who took more interest in the crowds that went to and fro on Park Row beneath his window?

Let the room itself be described by Mr. Mitchell, who set down this picture of it after he had spent hours in it with Mr. Dana almost daily for twenty years:

In the middle of the small room a desk table of black walnut of the Fullerton style of the period of the first administration of Grant; a shabby little round table at the window, where Mr. Dana sits when the day is dark; a leather-covered chair, which does duty at either post, and two wooden chairs, both rickety, for visitors on errands of business or ceremony; on the desk the revolving case with a few dozen books of reference, an inkpot and pen, not much used except in correcting manuscript and proofs, for Mr. Dana talks off to a stenographer his editorial articles and his correspondence, sometimes spending on the revision of the former twice as much time as was required for the dictation; a window seat filled with books, marked here and there in blue pencil for the editor's eyes; a big pair of shears and two or three extra pairs of spectacles in cache against an emergency—these few items constitute what is practically the whole objective equipment of the editor of THE SUN. The shears are probably the latest article of the Democratic National platform of 1892. On the mantelpiece is an ugly, feather-haired little totem figure from Alaska, which likewise keeps its place solely by possession. It stands between a photograph of Chester A. Arthur, whom Mr. Dana liked and admired as a man of the world, and his Japanese calendar case which has been with him for the last quarter of a century. A dingy chromolithograph of Prince von Bismarck stands shoulder to shoulder with the Count Joanne.

Persons in search of alms would enter Mr. Dana's room without ceremony. If they were Sisters of Charity, as often was the case, Mr. Dana would walk up and down, telling them of his visit with the Pope, and would finish by giving them one of the silver dollars of which his pocket seemed to have an endless supply. Almost every day, when he despatched a boy to a nearby restaurant for his sandwich and bottle of milk, he would instruct him to bring back the change all in silver. He liked to jingle the coins in his pocket and to have them ready for almsgiving.

Adornments Mostly Accidental.
The adornments of the room are mostly accidental and insignificant. Aged photographs presented to Mr. Dana, with symbolic intent, a large stuffed owl. The bird of wisdom reposes in inertia on top of the revolving bookcase, just as it would have remained there if it had been a stuffed cat or a statuette of "Folly." Unnoticed and probably long ago forgotten by the proprietor, the owl solemnly boxes the compass as Mr. Dana swings the case, reaching in quick succession for his Bible, his Portuguese dictionary, his compendium of botanical terms, and his copy of the Democratic National platform of 1892. On the mantelpiece is an ugly, feather-haired little totem figure from Alaska, which likewise keeps its place solely by possession. It stands between a photograph of Chester A. Arthur, whom Mr. Dana liked and admired as a man of the world, and his Japanese calendar case which has been with him for the last quarter of a century. A dingy chromolithograph of Prince von Bismarck stands shoulder to shoulder with the Count Joanne.

Persons in search of alms would enter Mr. Dana's room without ceremony. If they were Sisters of Charity, as often was the case, Mr. Dana would walk up and down, telling them of his visit with the Pope, and would finish by giving them one of the silver dollars of which his pocket seemed to have an endless supply. Almost every day, when he despatched a boy to a nearby restaurant for his sandwich and bottle of milk, he would instruct him to bring back the change all in silver. He liked to jingle the coins in his pocket and to have them ready for almsgiving.

Contrasts in Collection.
Over the mantel is Abraham Lincoln. There are pictures of the four Harper brothers and of the five Appletons. Andrew Jackson is there twice, once in black and white, once in vivid colors.

Such were Mr. Dana's surroundings, with nothing to indicate, as Mr. Mitchell remarked, that the occupant "knew Monet from Monet, or old Persian lustre from Gubbio."

It is twenty years since Dana went out of that room for the last time, and the room and the old building are no more, but the stuffed owl is still at his post in the office of the editor of THE SUN. He is an older and not wiser bird, and he is no longer subjected to the revolutions of the bookcase, for Mr. Mitchell has given him a firmer perch beside his door. From a nearby wall Mr. Dana's pictures of the four Harpers keep vigil too.

Characteristic Stories of Dana.
Dana was interested in everything, read everything, saw almost everything. His own office was almost as free as the great main office of THE SUN, where anybody presented to Mr. Dana, managing editor down to the office boy. One day Dana, coming into the big room, saw carpenters building a partition between the room and the head of the stairs that led to the street. It was explained to him that the public was inclined to be unnecessary in their inquiries.

"Take the partition down," he said. "A newspaper is for the public."

He hired men who could compare Dickens's lectures with Thackeray's, or see the difference between the controversy over Mount Barghill, or who knew a murder mystery when they saw it. They wrote, and he read, and sometimes edited, but usually approved, for he knew that newspaper success lay not so much in a choice of topics as in a choice of men. He knew that the success of an editorial page came less from inside opinions than from outside interest. Dana's remarkable success in the exaltation of journalism to literary heights was won not so much through what he wrote but through what he left other men free to write.

His own work as a writer for THE SUN took but a fraction of his busy day. He dictated his articles to Tom Williams, his stenographer, a Fenian and a bold man.

"Can you write as fast as I talk?" asked Dana when Williams applied for the job.

"I doubt it, Mr. Dana," said Williams, "but I can write as fast as any man ought to talk."

For twenty years Tom Williams transcribed articles that absorbed the readers of THE SUN, but his own heart was down the bay, near his Staten Island home, where he spent most of his spare time in fishing and sailing. Whatever of the academic appeared in his early work had been driven out during his service on the Tribune and in the war, particularly the latter, for he learned to avoid all but the salient points of expression. But as the editor of THE SUN he found less delight in his own product than in the work of some other man whose literary ability answered his own standards of terse, new, vigor and illumination. The new man would help THE SUN, and that was all that Dana asked.

Dana's Choice of Writers.
So he hired men who could compare Dickens's lectures with Thackeray's, or see the difference between the controversy over Mount Barghill, or who knew a murder mystery when they saw it. They wrote, and he read, and sometimes edited, but usually approved, for he knew that newspaper success lay not so much in a choice of topics as in a choice of men. He knew that the success of an editorial page came less from inside opinions than from outside interest. Dana's remarkable success in the exaltation of journalism to literary heights was won not so much through what he wrote but through what he left other men free to write.

His own work as a writer for THE SUN took but a fraction of his busy day. He dictated his articles to Tom Williams, his stenographer, a Fenian and a bold man.

"Can you write as fast as I talk?" asked Dana when Williams applied for the job.

"I doubt it, Mr. Dana," said Williams, "but I can write as fast as any man ought to talk."

For twenty years Tom Williams transcribed articles that absorbed the readers of THE SUN, but his own heart was down the bay, near his Staten Island home, where he spent most of his spare time in fishing and sailing. Whatever of the academic appeared in his early work had been driven out during his service on the Tribune and in the war, particularly the latter, for he learned to avoid all but the salient points of expression. But as the editor of THE SUN he found less delight in his own product than in the work of some other man whose literary ability answered his own standards of terse, new, vigor and illumination. The new man would help THE SUN, and that was all that Dana asked.

Work of James Shepherd Pike.
James Shepherd Pike's articles appeared more frequently in the columns of THE SUN than Pike himself appeared in the office for most of his work was done in Washington. He was about eight years older than Mr. Dana, but they were great friends from the earliest days of Dana's Tribune experience.

For five years, beginning in 1855, Pike was a Washington correspondent and one of the associate editors of the Tribune. During the civil war, he was United States Minister to the Netherlands, a reward for his services in his home State, Maine, where he was useful in uniting the anti-slavery

forces. He was a brother of Frederick A. Pike, a war time Representative from Maine, whose "Tax, fight, emancipation" was the Republican watchword from his utterance in 1861. Pike was one of the group that supported Greeley for the Presidency in 1872. He was one of the really great publicists of his day. He wrote "The Restoration of the Currency," "The Financial Crisis," "Horace Greeley in 1872," "A Prostrate State"—which was a description of the Reconstruction era in South Carolina—and "The War in Eight Words" which embodied the protest of New York against the arrogance and stupidity of machine political rule. Ten thousand times at least it has been credited to Dana, but as a matter of fact it was written by W. O. Bartlett.

Bartlett was one of those great newspaper writers whose fate—or choice—is never to own a newspaper and never to attract public attention through the writing of signed articles or books. Writing was not primarily his profession, and by the older men of New York who remember him he is recalled as a brilliant lawyer, rather than as a writer.

He met Dana through Secretary Stanton, and he was THE SUN's attorney soon after Dana and his friends bought the paper. His law offices were in THE SUN Building, directly below Mr. Dana's own office. There and also at the Hoffman House, where he lived when he was not on his estate at Brookhaven, Long Island, Mr. Bartlett wrote his articles for THE SUN.

Bartlett was a writer of the school of simplicity. His style of reducing a proposition to its essential elements, so that it was clear to even the Class B intellect, was the admiration and envy of all who knew his articles. It was an inspiration, too, to many young newspaper men of his day.

The manner of Arthur Brisbane of the Evening Journal, during the rapier, or biological, dissertation by first inquiring whether he knows "Why a Flea Jumps So Far," is the Bartlett manner, with such modifications as are necessary to reach the attention of a group intellectually somewhat different from Bartlett's readers. Only Bartlett did not spend too much time on the flea.

Of the three men whose articles have most distinguished the first column of THE SUN's editorial page, each has had his own weapon with which to slay the enemy. Bartlett, owing the mace, it was jeweled with the gems of language, but still it was a mace; and if it crushed the skull of the enemy at the first blow, so much the better. It was Bartlett, for instance, who wrote the article in which the Democratic candidate for President in 1860, Gen. Hancock, was referred to as "a good man, weighing 240 pounds."

W. O. Bartlett wrote for THE SUN from 1858 until his death in 1881. He was the foremost figure in the group of older men around Dana—the men who had been prominent in political and literary life before the civil war, other notable men of middle age who were chosen by Mr. Dana to write editorial articles were James S. Pike, Fitz-Henry Warren, Henry B. Stanton and John Swinton.

Work of James Shepherd Pike.
James Shepherd Pike's articles appeared more frequently in the columns of THE SUN than Pike himself appeared in the office for most of his work was done in Washington. He was about eight years older than Mr. Dana, but they were great friends from the earliest days of Dana's Tribune experience.

For five years, beginning in 1855, Pike was a Washington correspondent and one of the associate editors of the Tribune. During the civil war, he was United States Minister to the Netherlands, a reward for his services in his home State, Maine, where he was useful in uniting the anti-slavery

forces. He was a brother of Frederick A. Pike, a war time Representative from Maine, whose "Tax, fight, emancipation" was the Republican watchword from his utterance in 1861. Pike was one of the group that supported Greeley for the Presidency in 1872. He was one of the really great publicists of his day. He wrote "The Restoration of the Currency," "The Financial Crisis," "Horace Greeley in 1872," "A Prostrate State"—which was a description of the Reconstruction era in South Carolina—and "The War in Eight Words" which embodied the protest of New York against the arrogance and stupidity of machine political rule. Ten thousand times at least it has been credited to Dana, but as a matter of fact it was written by W. O. Bartlett.

Bartlett was one of those great newspaper writers whose fate—or choice—is never to own a newspaper and never to attract public attention through the writing of signed articles or books. Writing was not primarily his profession, and by the older men of New York who remember him he is recalled as a brilliant lawyer, rather than as a writer.

He met Dana through Secretary Stanton, and he was THE SUN's attorney soon after Dana and his friends bought the paper. His law offices were in THE SUN Building, directly below Mr. Dana's own office. There and also at the Hoffman House, where he lived when he was not on his estate at Brookhaven, Long Island, Mr. Bartlett wrote his articles for THE SUN.

Bartlett was a writer of the school of simplicity. His style of reducing a proposition to its essential elements, so that it was clear to even the Class B intellect, was the admiration and envy of all who knew his articles. It was an inspiration, too, to many young newspaper men of his day.

The manner of Arthur Brisbane of the Evening Journal, during the rapier, or biological, dissertation by first inquiring whether he knows "Why a Flea Jumps So Far," is the Bartlett manner, with such modifications as are necessary to reach the attention of a group intellectually somewhat different from Bartlett's readers. Only Bartlett did not spend too much time on the flea.

Of the three men whose articles have most distinguished the first column of THE SUN's editorial page, each has had his own weapon with which to slay the enemy. Bartlett, owing the mace, it was jeweled with the gems of language, but still it was a mace; and if it crushed the skull of the enemy at the first blow, so much the better. It was Bartlett, for instance, who wrote the article in which the Democratic candidate for President in 1860, Gen. Hancock, was referred to as "a good man, weighing 240 pounds."

W. O. Bartlett wrote for THE SUN from 1858 until his death in 1881. He was the foremost figure in the group of older men around Dana—the men who had been prominent in political and literary life before the civil war, other notable men of middle age who were chosen by Mr. Dana to write editorial articles were James S. Pike, Fitz-Henry Warren, Henry B. Stanton and John Swinton.

Work of James Shepherd Pike.
James Shepherd Pike's articles appeared more frequently in the columns of THE SUN than Pike himself appeared in the office for most of his work was done in Washington. He was about eight years older than Mr. Dana, but they were great friends from the earliest days of Dana's Tribune experience.

For five years, beginning in 1855, Pike was a Washington correspondent and one of the associate editors of the Tribune. During the civil war, he was United States Minister to the Netherlands, a reward for his services in his home State, Maine, where he was useful in uniting the anti-slavery

forces. He was a brother of Frederick A. Pike, a war time Representative from Maine, whose "Tax, fight, emancipation" was the Republican watchword from his utterance in 1861. Pike was one of the group that supported Greeley for the Presidency in 1872. He was one of the really great publicists of his day. He wrote "The Restoration of the Currency," "The Financial Crisis," "Horace Greeley in 1872," "A Prostrate State"—which was a description of the Reconstruction era in South Carolina—and "The War in Eight Words" which embodied the protest of New York against the arrogance and stupidity of machine political rule. Ten thousand times at least it has been credited to Dana, but as a matter of fact it was written by W. O. Bartlett.

Bartlett was one of those great newspaper writers whose fate—or choice—is never to own a newspaper and never to attract public attention through the writing of signed articles or books. Writing was not primarily his profession, and by the older men of New York who remember him he is recalled as a brilliant lawyer, rather than as a writer.

He met Dana through Secretary Stanton, and he was THE SUN's attorney soon after Dana and his friends bought the paper. His law offices were in THE SUN Building, directly below Mr. Dana's own office. There and also at the Hoffman House, where he lived when he was not on his estate at Brookhaven, Long Island, Mr. Bartlett wrote his articles for THE SUN.

Bartlett was a writer of the school of simplicity. His style of reducing a proposition to its essential elements, so that it was clear to even the Class B intellect, was the admiration and envy of all who knew his articles. It was an inspiration, too, to many young newspaper men of his day.

The manner of Arthur Brisbane of the Evening Journal, during the rapier, or biological, dissertation by first inquiring whether he knows "Why a Flea Jumps So Far," is the Bartlett manner, with such modifications as are necessary to reach the attention of a group intellectually somewhat different from Bartlett's readers. Only Bartlett did not spend too much time on the flea.

Of the three men whose articles have most distinguished the first column of THE SUN's editorial page, each has had his own weapon with which to slay the enemy. Bartlett, owing the mace, it was jeweled with the gems of language, but still it was a mace; and if it crushed the skull of the enemy at the first blow, so much the better. It was Bartlett, for instance, who wrote the article in which the Democratic candidate for President in 1860, Gen. Hancock, was referred to as "a good man, weighing 240 pounds."

W. O. Bartlett wrote for THE SUN from 1858 until his death in 1881. He was the foremost figure in the group of older men around Dana—the men who had been prominent in political and literary life before the civil war, other notable men of middle age who were chosen by Mr. Dana to write editorial articles were James S. Pike, Fitz-Henry Warren, Henry B. Stanton and John Swinton.

Work of James Shepherd Pike.
James Shepherd Pike's articles appeared more frequently in the columns of THE SUN than Pike himself appeared in the office for most of his work was done in Washington. He was about eight years older than Mr. Dana, but they were great friends from the earliest days of Dana's Tribune experience.

For five years, beginning in 1855, Pike was a Washington correspondent and one of the associate editors of the Tribune. During the civil war, he was United States Minister to the Netherlands, a reward for his services in his home State, Maine, where he was useful in uniting the anti-slavery

forces. He was a brother of Frederick A. Pike, a war time Representative from Maine, whose "Tax, fight, emancipation" was the Republican watchword from his utterance in 1861. Pike was one of the group that supported Greeley for the Presidency in 1872. He was one of the really great publicists of his day. He wrote "The Restoration of the Currency," "The Financial Crisis," "Horace Greeley in 1872," "A Prostrate State"—which was a description of the Reconstruction era in South Carolina—and "The War in Eight Words" which embodied the protest of New York against the arrogance and stupidity of machine political rule. Ten thousand times at least it has been credited to Dana, but as a matter of fact it was written by W. O. Bartlett.

Bartlett was one of those great newspaper writers whose fate—or choice—is never to own a newspaper and never to attract public attention through the writing of signed articles or books. Writing was not primarily his profession, and by the older men of New York who remember him he is recalled as a brilliant lawyer, rather than as a writer.

He met Dana through Secretary Stanton, and he was THE SUN's attorney soon after Dana and his friends bought the paper. His law offices were in THE SUN Building, directly below Mr. Dana's own office. There and also at the Hoffman House, where he lived when he was not on his estate at Brookhaven, Long Island, Mr. Bartlett wrote his articles for THE SUN.

Bartlett was a writer of the school of simplicity. His style of reducing a proposition to its essential elements, so that it was clear to even the Class B intellect, was the admiration and envy of all who knew his articles. It was an inspiration, too, to many young newspaper men of his day.

The manner of Arthur Brisbane of the Evening Journal, during the rapier, or biological, dissertation by first inquiring whether he knows "Why a Flea Jumps So Far," is the Bartlett manner, with such modifications as are necessary to reach the attention of a group intellectually somewhat different from Bartlett's readers. Only Bartlett did not spend too much time on the flea.

Of the three men whose articles have most distinguished the first column of THE SUN's editorial page, each has had his own weapon with which to slay the enemy. Bartlett, owing the mace, it was jeweled with the gems of language, but still it was a mace; and if it crushed the skull of the enemy at the first blow, so much the better. It was Bartlett, for instance, who wrote the article in which the Democratic candidate for President in 1860, Gen. Hancock, was referred to as "a good man, weighing 240 pounds."

W. O. Bartlett wrote for THE SUN from 1858 until his death in 1881. He was the foremost figure in the group of older men around Dana—the men who had been prominent in political and literary life before the civil war, other notable men of middle age who were chosen by Mr. Dana to write editorial articles were James S. Pike, Fitz-Henry Warren, Henry B. Stanton and John Swinton.

Work of James Shepherd Pike.
James Shepherd Pike's articles appeared more frequently in the columns of THE SUN than Pike himself appeared in the office for most of his work was done in Washington. He was about eight years older than Mr. Dana, but they were great friends from the earliest days of Dana's Tribune experience.

For five years, beginning in 1855, Pike was a Washington correspondent and one of the associate editors of the Tribune. During the civil war, he was United States Minister to the Netherlands, a reward for his services in his home State, Maine, where he was useful in uniting the anti-slavery

forces. He was a brother of Frederick A. Pike, a war time Representative from Maine, whose "Tax, fight, emancipation" was the Republican watchword from his utterance in 1861. Pike was one of the group that supported Greeley for the Presidency in 1872. He was one of the really great publicists of his day. He wrote "The Restoration of the Currency," "The Financial Crisis," "Horace Greeley in 1872," "A Prostrate State"—which was a description of the Reconstruction era in South Carolina—and "The War in Eight Words" which embodied the protest of New York against the arrogance and stupidity of machine political rule. Ten thousand times at least it has been credited to Dana, but as a matter of fact it was written by W. O. Bartlett.

Bartlett was one of those great newspaper writers whose fate—or choice—is never to own a newspaper and never to attract public attention through the writing of signed articles or books. Writing was not primarily his profession, and by the older men of New York who remember him he is recalled as a brilliant lawyer, rather than as a writer.

He met Dana through Secretary Stanton, and he was THE SUN's attorney soon after Dana and his friends bought the paper. His law offices were in THE SUN Building, directly below Mr. Dana's own office. There and also at the Hoffman House, where he lived when he was not on his estate at Brookhaven, Long Island, Mr. Bartlett wrote his articles for THE SUN.

Bartlett was a writer of the school of simplicity. His style of reducing a proposition to its essential elements, so that it was clear to even the Class B intellect, was the admiration and envy of all who knew his articles. It was an inspiration, too, to many young newspaper men of his day.

The manner of Arthur Brisbane of the Evening Journal, during the rapier, or biological, dissertation by first inquiring whether he knows "Why a Flea Jumps So Far," is the Bartlett manner, with such modifications as are necessary to reach the attention of a group intellectually somewhat different from Bartlett's readers. Only Bartlett did not spend too much time on the flea.

Of the three men whose articles have most distinguished the first column of THE SUN's editorial page, each has had his own weapon with which to slay the enemy. Bartlett, owing the mace, it was jeweled with the gems of language, but still it was a mace; and if it crushed the skull of the enemy at the first blow, so much the better. It was Bartlett, for instance, who wrote the article in which the Democratic candidate for President in 1860, Gen. Hancock, was referred to as "a good man, weighing 240 pounds."

W. O. Bartlett wrote for THE SUN from 1858 until his death in 1881. He was the foremost figure in the group of older men around Dana—the men who had been prominent in political and literary life before the civil war, other notable men of middle age who were chosen by Mr. Dana to write editorial articles were James S. Pike, Fitz-Henry Warren, Henry B. Stanton and John Swinton.

Work of James Shepherd Pike.
James Shepherd Pike's articles appeared more frequently in the columns of THE SUN than Pike himself appeared in the office for most of his work was done in Washington. He was about eight years older than Mr. Dana, but they were great friends from the earliest days of Dana's Tribune experience.

For five years, beginning in 1855, Pike was a Washington correspondent and one of the associate editors of the Tribune. During the civil war, he was United States Minister to the Netherlands, a reward for his services in his home State, Maine, where he was useful in uniting the anti-slavery

forces. He was a brother of Frederick A. Pike, a war time Representative from Maine, whose "Tax, fight, emancipation" was the Republican watchword from his utterance in 1861. Pike was one of the group that supported Greeley for the Presidency in 1872. He was one of the really great publicists of his day. He wrote "The Restoration of the Currency," "The Financial Crisis," "Horace Greeley in 1872," "A Prostrate State"—which was a description of the Reconstruction era in South Carolina—and "The War in Eight Words" which embodied the protest of New York against the arrogance and stupidity of machine political rule. Ten thousand times at least it has been credited to Dana, but as a matter of fact it was written by W. O. Bartlett.

Bartlett was one of those great newspaper writers whose fate—or choice—is never to own a newspaper and never to attract public attention through the writing of signed articles or books. Writing was not primarily his profession, and by the older men of New York who remember him he is recalled as a brilliant lawyer, rather than as a writer.

He met Dana through Secretary Stanton, and he was THE SUN's attorney soon after Dana and his friends bought the paper. His law offices were in THE SUN Building, directly below Mr. Dana's own office. There and also at the Hoffman House, where he lived when he was not on his estate at Brookhaven, Long Island, Mr. Bartlett wrote his articles for THE SUN.

W. O. Bartlett and Other Men of the Iron Age of "The Sun" Who Helped to Make the Editorial Page of the Paper Celebrated

both Cady Stanton signed the first call for a woman's rights convention. On his return to America, Stanton studied law with his father-in-law, Daniel Cady. After his admission to the bar he practiced in Boston, but he returned to New York and politics in 1847. He left the Democratic party to become one of the founders of the Republican party.

Dana met Stanton when the latter was a writer for the Tribune, and when Dana came into control of THE SUN he secured the veteran as a contributor. Stanton knew politics from A to Z, and his brief articles, filled with political wisdom and often laced with his dry humor, were just the class of matter that Dana wanted for the editorial page. Stanton was also a capable reviewer of books. He wrote for THE SUN from 1848 until his death in 1887. Henry Ward Beecher said of him:

"I think Stanton has all the elements of old John Adams—able, stanch, patriotic, full of principle, and always unopposed. He lacks the necessary people's opinions which keeps a man from running against them."

John Swinton, Sage and Socialist.
John Swinton was one of the few of Dana's men who might be described as a "character." He lived a double intellectual life, writing for the newspaper hours and making Socialist speeches when he was off duty. Yet it was a double life without duplicity, for there was no concealment in it, no hypocrisy and no harm. When he had finished his day in the office of THE SUN, perhaps at writing some instructive paragraphs about the possibilities of American trade in Nicaragua, he would take off his skull cap, place a black soft hat on his gray head and go forth to dilate on the advantages of super-Fourierism to some sympathetic audience of Socialists.

There was a story in the office that one evening Mr. Swinton, making a speech at a Socialist gathering, referred hotly to the editor of THE SUN as one of the props of a false form of government, and added that "some day two old men will come rolling down the steps of THE SUN office," and that at the bottom of the steps he, Swinton, would be on top.

This may be of the piece with the story about Mr. Dana and the man with the revolver; but the young men in the reporters' room liked to tell it to younger men. It probably had its basis in the fact that on the morning after a particularly ferocious assault on capital John Swinton would poke his head into Mr. Dana's room and tell him how he had given him the dickens the night before—information which tickled Mr. Dana immensely. And Dana never went to the bottom of THE SUN stairs except on his own sturdy legs.

A Scotchman by Birth.
Swinton was a Scotchman, born in Haddingtonshire in 1830. He emigrated to Canada as a boy, learned the printer's trade and worked at the press