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THE OFFICIAL CITY PAPER.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 1893.

A GREAT AMERICAN GONE.

After a very long and painful illness, which distressed the whole country as well as wrung the hearts of his own immediate family, James G. Blaine died yesterday morning. The only alleviation his family and friends will have to moderate their poignant grief is that the issue of his illness had been long foreseen, and death came as a release to his pain-wracked frame. Since 1887 the dead statesman had been in a decline whose gravity no one appreciated more intelligently than himself. In 1888 he would have been chosen as the Republican candidate for president if he had not himself forbade the nomination and directed it to Harrison. Many of his friends were deeply sorrowful over his peremptory declination, but the result has shown how perfectly he had gauged his own condition. Notwithstanding an occasional flash of his old genius and brilliancy, during the last two years of Mr. Blaine's life he was practically incapacitated for any sustained intellectual effort. This fact was well known about Washington. On at least three occasions he fell in a dead faint in the White House, and his sudden death would have surprised no one.

It was this fact, and this fact alone, which prevented Blaine's nomination for president in 1892. No one man, nor no dozen men, in the Republican party, could have beaten the alert and dashing Blaine of old for the nomination at Minneapolis. The leaders of the party knew his condition, and they failed to nominate him not because they loved Blaine less but their party more. He was, besides, in no sense a candidate. He loudly and repeatedly declared that he was not and would not be a candidate. Politicians who pretended to be his friends, like M. S. Quay, Thomas C. Platt and General Clarkson, juggled with his name for the purpose of defeating Harrison. They were unprincipled enough to seek to use him as a stalking horse. Meanwhile Blaine, in a half comatose state, and weary of repeated declinations, and determined to be trifled with no more, paid no attention to the contest. Such men as S. B. Elkins and Dick Kerens, who had been his staunch friends and partizans for years, knowing his condition, applied themselves to practical politics, and renominated Harrison, which seemed, under the circumstances, the best thing to do.

The country will not willingly part with James G. Blaine. His is by far the most brilliant name which has been contributed to the necrological rolls during the past two or three years, at least on the American continent. For thirty years he has been an influential, and for most of that time a commanding, figure in the United States. His individuality was an entirely captivating one. Generous and magnetic, men had no time to bestow any enduring attention upon his shortcomings. He possessed the supreme affection of his party. The only parallel to his absolute ascendancy in that remarkable organization was afforded by Henry Clay's relations with the Whig party. There was no man who could kindle the enthusiasm of his fellow partizans like Blaine. The cheers which he evoked were louder, wilder and spread over a greater surface than could be evoked by any other man in any party during the past dozen years or so. He was thus greatly liked because he was an unusually likeable man. A union of a good heart and a gracious temperament enabled him to make friends. When James G. Blaine was speaker of the house of representatives and saw an old hayseed in an altercation with the doorkeeper of that body, if there was nothing important on the tapis, he would beckon to a member to come to the chair, and go down and take his country cousin by the hand and show him around the capitol. There was nothing forced in this, nor was he doing it for effect. Of course it is possible that he knew it would not diminish his popularity, but if he had been a merely calculating man he would not have produced upon Agricola the effect intended. Clay could and often did those kind of things, Webster and Calhoun never, and yet both the latter were kind hearted men, but they lacked the spontaneity of the men from Kentucky and Maine. No doubt such natural amiability had a great influence in cementing his popularity. The countryman thus honored was never tired of talking about it to his neighbors and friends.

Of a pronounced nervous-motive temperament, in his heyday Blaine had always at command great intellectual vivacity, which made his conversation charming and his public efforts electrical. He was rightly called the Rupert of debate, and Bob Ingersoll's epithet in nominating him for president, the "white plumed knight of Navarre" was very appropriate and stuck to him. Abbreviated to the "Plumed Knight," it has been one of the favorite designations of Blaine ever since. No man of later days in the Republican party could, on the whole, be compared to him. Probably Roscoe Conkling came nearer being his equal than any other leader of that party, but this comparison would necessarily be limited to the intellect and to oratory. The New Yorker possessed a remarkable power of crystallizing facts and embodying them in cogent argument. But his temperament was frigid and his eloquence was the product of the brain and of sheer reasoning powers. It might be called the efflorescence of the mind. Blaine's fervid outbursts poured right from the heart, and they were guided by a mind of singular acuteness and fertility. He was nearly altogether of Irish blood and he possessed the mother wit of that race. He could be as terrible in invective as O'Connell or Grattan and as sententious as William Pitt. His celebrated rencounter with Roscoe Conkling in the house of representatives was probably the most overwhelming assault in parliamentary annals. In vain the New Yorker essayed to reply. For the time being he was annihilated. It was not in mortal power to stem such a resistless torrent. Conkling would have done better not to have attempted to do so. His vain effort simply made his failure the more conspicuous. It was a dearly bought triumph for Blaine, however. Conkling never forgave him; and in 1884 it was Oneida county, Conkling's home, that made the change in Blaine's vote that gave the state of New York to Cleveland by 1104 plurality. Conkling was beaten in debate but he got even at the polls.

In any review, however brief, of the career of Blaine, it would not be right to omit recognition of the noble services the dead statesman has rendered to his country. Two of them were priceless. In the first he defeated the force bill by declining to count, when speaker, members present and not voting, in estimating a quorum of the house of representatives—the very opposite of the ruling of Czar Reed in the Fifty-first congress. The success of the force bill then meant a very different thing from what it would mean now. That was over twenty years ago, and the success of the measure then would have involved the practical extinction of free government in the states then lately in rebellion, and the speedy undermining of free institutions everywhere in the United States. It was an inestimable service to freedom. It brought down upon his head the resentment of the radical wing of his own party although, singularly enough, he was looked upon as the embodiment of Republican radicalism by the southern people. It required great courage as well as patriotism to take such a stand on the part of a Republican statesman. In that he put country above party, and there is no man endowed with sufficient mentality to be able to calculate the benefits that flowed to the United States and to liberty from his action.

Nor was this the last great service he rendered to his countrymen. There never was a more dangerous or craftier conspiracy hatched in the United States than that which sought to elect General Grant a third time president. It violated all the precedents of the republic, and ignored the express declarations and actions of Washington, Jefferson and Jackson, the only three men who could ever have been nominated for a third term. The great services of General Grant made the conspiracy an exceedingly dangerous one. With this deep-rooted tradition once overthrown, a force bill and a military dictatorship would have followed as surely as the night the day. There was but one man who could defeat the scheme, and that man was James G. Blaine. He held the fort for the republic, and all the assaults of Grant's 306 pretorians were powerless to dislodge him. That figure was their high water mark, and they needed fifty more votes to succeed in their scheme. They at last realized they were dealing with a man as inflexible and more powerful than themselves. Their numbers counted for nothing. Unable to secure the nomination himself, Blaine nominated Garfield, and thus the malign conspiracy came to naught.

Events so shaped themselves that Blaine was the Warwick of the Republican party. He was the king-maker rather than the king, the man behind the throne greater than the throne itself. He was indirectly the cause of the nomination of Hayes. He was confessedly the creator of the presidential fortunes of Garfield and Harrison. He formulated the issues on which Harrison was elected in 1888, and he shaped that campaign with consummate skill. Though abroad at the time his voice was most potential.

It is not the purpose of this article to glorify the political career of James G. Blaine. The ideas which have dominated the columns of the HERALD have been politically diametrically the opposite of those which for years received the impassioned and effective advocacy of the Maine statesman. But of late years there have been many signs that the illustrious deceased was yearly becoming more Democratic in his ideas. In some of his earlier speeches in the house of representatives he showed himself to be in favor of tariff reform and of free raw material, at least as far as his own state was concerned. The policy of reciprocity with which his name has become interwoven is at least an approach to the Democratic position, which demands freer and fairer trade. He never concealed his contempt for the McKinley bill. On all questions of the rights of the states his opinions during the last four or five years were undoubtedly substantially those of Democrats. Given his old intellectual virility and lengthened years, and it would not have seemed incredible to those who have closely watched his career if Blaine had been evolved into a pretty good Democrat.

As a secretary of state Blaine did not have the opportunity to make an enduring reputation. The assassination of Garfield cut short his tenure of office almost before he had had time to shape the policy of his department. Very shortly after again accepting the portfolio of state under Harrison his deplorable illness set in. His physical ailments were aggravated by most poignant griefs. His eldest and favorite son, Walker Blaine, who was making a fine record as assistant secretary of state, died. Then followed the death of his favorite daughter, Mrs. Coppinger. To leave no doubt that misfortune had marked him for his own, his son Emmons Blaine, a most promising young man, died a few days after the adjournment of the Minneapolis convention. It looked as if he was the victim of a relentless fate, and his annoyance and grief were intensified by the course of his wayward son, James G. Blaine, jr., who, with Mrs. Walter Damrosch, were all that were left of his once large and interesting family. But limited as were his opportunities for achieving distinction in the state department, his correspondence with the Italian government in the Mafia matter, and with Chile, in our recent embroglio with that country, showed flashes of his old genius and force.

Yes, it is hard for the American people to part with Blaine! They had all grown to be fond of him. He was a unique and interesting personage, whether in public or in private life. If he had faults it is not the purpose of this article to pick them out. We have an eye only to the lovable and winning traits of the man. We recall only his noble presence, his magnetic eye, his gift of oratory that could wile the birds from the bushes, his gracious manner, and his genuine kindliness of heart. We remember also that he belonged to our own newspaper guild, and that he built his way up to fame, fortune and exalted station by good and hard newspaper work, and we feel like saying of him, as gentle Queen Catharine said of the dead Wolsey,

> May his virtues be graven in brass,
> His frailities traced in water.

OUR SCHOLASTIC MAYOR.

Our new mayor, to the astonishment and edification of his friends, has developed a familiarity with scriptures which nobody had heretofore credited him with. Especially has this development caused our citizens of the tenderfoot class to wonder, for they are all firmly prepossessed with the idea that old Californians are heathens, and know as little about the good book as the natives of Booriaboola-gha. When the subject of discouraging the tamale industry came up before the board of health Thursday night the mayor's feelings were greatly stirred, and, in reply to remarks of Drs. with them to the [illegible] in an eloquent speech, which ended in this remarkable peroration: "Better is a dinner of herbs with contentment than a stalled mule team with profanity." Dr. Gillingham, with a sacerdotal air and a sanscrit look, was about to offer hypercritical corrections of the quotation, but evidently got stalled, looked wise, and said nothing. It was fortunate for him that his thoughts did not find vent in words; for although the quotation varies from the King James translation, he was ignorant of the exact rendering in the new version, and possibly was doubtful whether his honor the mayor were not getting out a version of his own of the good book. And he thought, why not Californiaize the similes and replace the "stalled ox" with a stalled mule team, and "hatred" with the word profanity. We admire the doctor's discretion and agree with the mayor that the stalled mule team is an improvement over the stalled ox. His honor will doubtless bring the board up to a round turn with many surprises before his term ends, and may before he retires not only have to quote the Bible to the board of health but to all the bodies under his jurisdiction. It used to be the custom in olden times to place short and apposite texts over the portals of public buildings, and our mayor is seriously searching the scriptures for one to place over the doors of the city hall. As he is especially fond of the book of Proverbs he will doubtless select the proverb which precedes that of the stalled ox, and ornament the entrance with this suggestive text: "Better is little, even with a great appetite, than a San Gabriel gold mine and trouble therewith."

THE rage for the erection of new counties out of old ones is becoming more rabid in this state than ever. No less than four new counties are now carved out, by bills before the legislature, from Los Angeles, San Bernardino and San Diego counties. We are particularly interested in the partition of our own county, and whilst we have no serious objection to the creation of San Antonio county, yet our interests demand that we should be consulted as to the definition of the boundary lines of the new county. The great majority of the people of Los Angeles county are anxious that these should be so fixed that we would find no difficulty in creating a city and county government out of the territory left. If we were left with a compact territory we could do this; but if we permit the new counties to establish their boundary lines merely to suit themselves, we shall find Los Angeles with too wide a scope of territory for the convenient carrying out of this project. It seems to us that the taxpayers' association recently organized here should take some practical step in this matter. They should insist on a revision of the lines of the proposed new counties on the basis that Los Angeles will be in position to become a city and county, with only one government for the administration of its affairs.

SALT LAKE AND LOS ANGELES.

The Common Council of the Saintly City Coming Hither.

They Will Arrive Here Monday Morning at 8 O'clock.

Their Object Is a General Inspection of the Public Buildings in the Leading Cities of the Pacific Coast—Notes.

The common council of the city of Salt Lake are out on a junketing tour, for the purposes of which they voted $2000 out of the city treasury. The prima facie object of this trip is an examination of the public buildings in all the principal cities of the Pacific coast. They left the city of the Saints on Sunday the 22d instant, and will reach here at 8:30 next Monday morning. They are traveling in the Pullman car La Grande, and were to have arrived in Portland on the 24th, whence they would go across to Puget Sound, visiting Tacoma and Seattle. They come thence to San Francisco and remain there two days, starting from that point on the 29th, at 9 a. m., and reaching this city at breakfast time on Monday. It has been arranged that our city council will meet in the morning at the usual hour, adjourning at noon until next day, in order to give them the opportunity to show the Salt Lake council about the city and its environs. The visitors should be given a cordial reception.

All this looks towards a renewal of the old entente cordial which existed in the olden days which our pioneers are so fond of recalling. Up to 1869 Salt Lake received the greater portion of her supplies from this city with San Pedro as its sole entrepot. Steamers arrived at San Pedro, whence wagons carried the goods to this city, and then came the long and dangerous journey on mules from this place to Salt Lake. Each mule had two panniers or aparejos on his back, and these contained about 100 pounds on each side. There was a large corral that stood at the corner of First and Spring streets, where Remi Nadeau corralled his mules and where he accumulated the bulk of his fortune. From this corral, within 60 hours after the Senator's arrival at San Pedro, mules used to come forth heavily laden, by the score, bound for the land where a Jew is called a Gentile.

The completion of the Central Pacific railroad, which meets the Union Pacific at Ogden, put an end to all that. Our Mormon customers went elsewhere to buy their goods and the mules lay down to die in the abiding hope of a better world, where the cockle burros cease from troubling and the weary are at rest. But now Salt Lake wants a nearer outlet to the sea. She is but 26 hours from Santa Monica and Redondo, as against 38 hours from San Francisco; and there are tangents on the proposed line of location where a speed of 70 miles an hour could be kept up for three hours consecutively, which might reduce the schedule to 24 hours. This is an age in which every mile shortened is so much gained, for "time is money."

Let our people welcome the Salt Lakers cheerily and give them good im- sand and silence. Their interests are in common with our own, and we can welcome them as representatives of a homogeneous people. Utah is an irrigation colony, and so is Southern California. There is already a strong bond of unity in sentiment between us, which will be strengthened by iron bands within the next four years. Following is a list embracing the

PERSONNEL OF OUR VISITORS.

C. F. Loofbourow, president of the council.

Councilmen—Eli A. Folland, J. A. Heiss, F. O. Horn, A. H. Kelley, J. L. Lawson, P. J. Moran, E. E. Rich, C. E. Wantland.

City officials—C. L. Haines, chairman board of public works; A. F. Doremus, city engineer; Samuel Paul, chief of police; F. L. Hines, street supervisor; Chris Diehl, assessor and collector of water rates; F. J. Leonard, collector city and county taxes.

Notables—G. W. Bird, architect joint building; J. H. Bowman, contractor for joint building; George Olsen, superintendent of joint building; J. H. Vandenberge, stenographer city council.

The Gasoline Stove.

About 9 o'clock yesterday morning the barber shop of E. T. Wheeler and the tailor shop of S. Factor on South Spring, between Third and Fourth streets, were burned.

Wheeler's loss is about $500, with no insurance, and Factor's loss is about $400, with $200 insurance.

The fire originated from the explosion of a gasoline stove which the Italian bootblack, who had a stand in front of the barber shop, was handling. The Italian fled up the street, frightened at the explosion.

A. M. E. Church Concert.

A grand concert assisted by the ladies of the Treble sextette was given at the A. M. E. church Tuesday evening. The following programme was rendered:

Opening chorus—Treble sextette.
Vocal solo—Mrs. Lizzy Kemp.
O, Golden Morn, solo—Mrs. H. B. Brown.
Recitation—Mr. R. F. Pointer.
Instrumental duett—Mrs. E. Moulton and Miss B. R. Talbot.
Vocal solo, Under the Daisies—Mrs. S. W. Layton.
Basso solo—Mr. W. H. Shores
Charade, Matrimony — Miss Laura Talbot, Ellen; Miss Mamie Givens, Arabella; Mrs. A. B. Harris Rich Widow; Mrs E. W. Woods, Katie the servant; Buell Jones, Count de Vaurien; T. A. Harris, Dennis, the servant; E. D. Johnson, Charles.

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AN INFORMATION BUREAU.

It Will Be Added to the Public Library Features.

A bureau of practical information will be added to the Los Angeles public library, and a movement in that direction has been inaugurated, and will be under the management of the librarian, Miss Tessa L. Kelso, and assistants, Misses Adelaide R. Hasse and Lena B. Fenner. The bureau will be in the nature of a clipping bureau—extracts on various local subjects will be taken from newspapers of the state, and of this section particularly, and arranged in volumes for ready reference. The subjects selected or clipped will be of special local subjects of interest to the people of California engaged in horticulture, floriculture, bee keeping, etc.

Each subject will be arrayed under its appropriate heading in separate volumes, and when a person wishes the desired information it can be found in this volume of reference.

This bureau will be of great value to those engaged in the above mentioned pursuits. The bureau is a valuable addition to the library. Newspaper publishers throughout California, and especially those of Southern California, can materially aid in this invaluable work by sending copies of their papers to the Los Angeles public library.

POINTS ABOUT RAIN.

THE FALL FOR THIS STORM OVER TWO INCHES.

The Amount Received at Various Points in the State—More Rain So Far This Season Than All of Last Winter.

The manager of the local weather bureau at this city has kindly furnished the HERALD with the following information:

The rainfall at this place during the present storm, up to 5 p.m. last evening, is 2.13 inches; temperature, 56; wind west, and cloudy, indicating showers.

San Francisco, 1.20, with temperature at 48; wind southwest, and clear.

Sacramento, 1.56: wind, southwest; partly cloudy.

Red Bluff, 1.94.

Roseburg, Ore., .96; temperature, 34; wind southwest; cloudy.

Portland, Ore., .16; temperature, 24; wind northeast; snowing.

The indications for Southern California are occasional rains, with slight change of temperature.

The "rainy season" in Southern California is averaged from the middle of October to the 15th of May. The average precipitation of the season for the past 14 years is 18¼ inches.

The rainfall during the present season is 11.06 inches. During the corresponding time last season the rainfall was 2.30, showing that the greatest precipitation was what might be called late rains. The rainfall of the season of 1890-91 was 11.85 inches.

Following is the rainfall of the past 13 seasons:

1878-79	11.35
1879-80	20.34
1880-81	13.13
1881-82	10.40
1882-83	12.11
1883-84	38.22
1884-85	9.25
1885-86	[illegible]
1889-90	34.84
1890-91	13.36

During the rain storm of December 24th of the present season 2.35 inches fell. On November 28th and 29th of the present season the fall in 24 hours was 3¾ inches—the heaviest of the season up to date.

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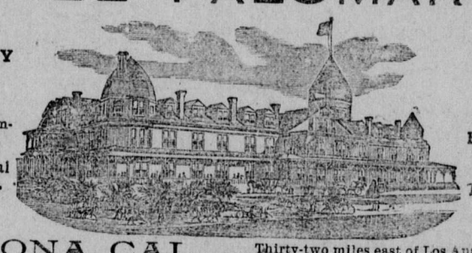

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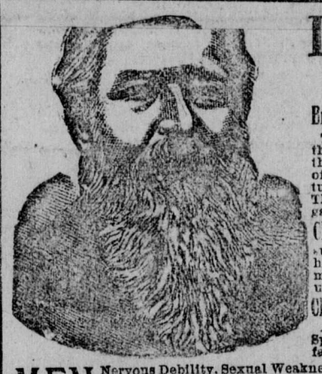

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