A RARE PHOTOGRAPH

THE REPRODUCTION OF THE OLD DE WITT CLINTON DUE TO IT.

A Unique Bit of History Which Deals With the Old Anti-Masonry Feeling In New York State Over Sixty Years Ago. A Clever Artist With Scissors.

"The New York Central Railroad company's reproduction of the first railroad train and locomotive ever run in New York state, a most interesting and valuable exhibit at the Chicago fair," said an old resident of Albany, "causes me to wonder how many of the officers of that company know that if the disappearance of Morgan from Batavia 65 years ago had not been attributed to murderous machinations of the Masonic fraternity, which resulted in the great anti-Masonic excitement that spread throughout the country and became a sensational political factor, they would not have been able to make the reproduction, and the appearance of that curious railroad train and engine would never have been known in accurate and pictorial representation.

"It was years before the discovery and practical introduction of that crude predecessor of photography, the daguerreotype, when the pioneer railroad train in this state was run, and as the future importance to history of the appearance of that train never occurred to those interested in bringing it into existence the skill of no artist with his pencil was brought into use to perpetuate it on paper. It happened that a young man named Brown—William H. Brown of Philadelphia—was in Albany on the day the train was run, Aug. 9, 1831, and had been in the place several days.

"He had a marvelous talent for cutting with a pair of scissors out of black paper lifelike profile portraits and accurate representations of buildings, machinery and even landscapes.

"The remarkable part of this talent of his was his power to make a perfectly exact portrait of persons days and even weeks after having seen them but once, and that only casually on the street.

"He had for some time made a good living by the exercise of his peculiar art. Thaddeus Stevens was at that time just beginning to make a reputation in politics and had seized upon the anti-Masonic idea for use in Pennsylvania, as it had been so successfully worked by Thurlow Weed and his lieutenants in New York state. The feeling was growing in Pennsylvania, and young Brown thought it would be a good stroke of business for him to go to Albany, have a look at Thurlow Weed and others, snip their likeness out in silhouette, and besides getting a fee from them for the work duplicate the pictures for sale among the anti-Masonic enthusiasts in Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

"He went to Albany early in August, 1831, and did a great deal more than get the portraits of Thurlow Weed. His wonderful work took the town by storm, and he was kept busy from morning until night cutting the silhouette likenesses of people of all kinds, sexes and ages that flocked to his rooms.

"His greatest artistic feat was the cutting in one large picture of the famous Burgess corps entire, with staff and band in full parade, each member's portrait being of surprising accuracy. This picture is among the most precious relics in the state library.

"And so it happened that this unique young artist was in Albany on the day the quaint locomotive De Witt Clinton, with its equally quaint coaches, was to be run on its first trip over the Mohawk and Hudson railroad.

"He was one of the passengers on the train, and when it returned to Albany he cut with his scissors an exact picture of the locomotive and two of the coaches, making the portrait of David Matthew, the engineer, and John T. Clark, the conductor, on his seat on the outside of the front coach.

"In that picture appear the likenesses of Thurlow Weed, ex-Governor Yates and other distinguished Albanians of that day, but neither Mr. Weed nor the ex-governor was on the train. Without a thought of the future of that picture as a valuable contribution to history, the artist cut those portraits merely as an exercise of his skill in depicting a subject from memory. He told me so himself 40 years afterward.

"While Artist Brown was in Albany he concluded to go to Boston and Hartford to make some portraits and other cuttings with his marvelous scissors. While in Hartford he showed the picture he had made of the railroad train and locomotive to a member of the Connecticut Historical society, who at once saw what a treasure it must necessarily become, and the artist presented it to the society, where it is today a relic beyond price.

"Some 30 years after cutting that picture Brown became interested in the railroad business himself, having long ceased to exercise his artistic skill professionally, and one day, having almost forgotten the Albany picture, he read in a newspaper an account of a lithograph that had just been published from a photograph of the silhouette picture he had presented to the Connecticut Historical society.

"He sent to the publisher of the lithograph and procured a copy of it and was rejoiced to see an exact reproduction of his scissors cutting of more than 30 years before. But the joy he felt over a sight of the picture was scarcely as great as the inscription beneath it gave him.

"The date of the running of the train was given as some time in 1832, the name of the locomotive being the John Bull instead of the De Witt Clinton and the name of the engineer John Hampson instead of David Matthew.

"Brown at once set about the task of correcting the lithograph publishers' history, a task at which he worked for more than 30 years, for the lithograph copy of his picture, with its incorrect inscription, had been widely circulated." —New York Sun.

A woman's mind is like the wind on a winter's night," repeats an old French saying, and a Basque adage runs, "South wind, woman's thoughts."

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Wall Paper.

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Working For the Queen of England.

The absence of Queen Victoria in Florence has spared her the pain of reading in the London newspapers the ungrateful declaration of a man employed as carter on her Windsor private estate. The man was defendant in a civil action involving the payment of money and pleaded poverty. The queen, he said, paid no better than other people, and her people had to work harder. His wages were 10 shillings a week and lodgings found, which did not leave him much to spare after feeding himself.

"Ah," said the magistrate trying the case, "you should think of the honor."

The defendant sturdily replied, to the amazement of the court, that there wasn't much honor to be got out of 10 shillings a week.

It would seem from this case that the queen pays her farm laborers and workmen generally on her private estate from 2 to 4 shillings a week less than the average wages in the district, which is not at all surprising to those who know her frugal, not to say parsimonious mind. She would not in any case read the indignant comments of the radical press, because she reads only the Tory Times, Morning Post and Whig Daily Telegraph when at home, and not one of these would venture to hurt her feelings by referring to such a matter. During her stay abroad she sees only The Times, which of course is absolutely safe reading.—London Cor. New York Sun.

Young Men In Politics.

Mr. Chauncey M. Depew has written for Donahoe's Magazine an article in answer to the question, "Should young men go into politics?" Mr. Depew answers no—that is, he strongly advises young men not to adopt politics as a career.

But this answer is based upon present conditions—upon the low estate in which we find American politics today. How the tone of public life is to be raised unless young men of strong and conscientious patrotism and unselfishness enter it and strive to improve it he does not tell us.

Taking things as they are, however, this passage from Mr. Depew's article is admirable:

"Every young man should be interested in politics and take as active a part in the political affairs of his neighborhood as the time at his disposal from his business will permit. He should belong to some party and understand its principles. He should attend its caucuses and do such party service as he can. He should never fail to vote on election day; when there are movements on foot for reforms necessitated by corruption or to put bad men out of office, he should be on hand and ready to fight for the redemption of his city, town or state."

Chicago's Motley Crowds.

Sixteen races, with features built on all the lines of facial architecture, rode side by side in a World's fair smoker last evening. The collection was so speckled and mottled in disposition and color that a census was taken. There were two gibbering Zulus, who had come with African diamond dust; three sad Turks, with fezzes and scimiters; a group of Chinese actors; a pensive Spaniard, with sombrero; a begoggled Englishman, who divided a strap with an Arab; a brace of Frenchmen, all angles and points; a high browed and long whiskered Russian, a bronzed Greek, a Kansas farmer; just over Germans, who crowded a mild mannered man from Ceylon; a handsome Viennese; two Egyptians, with bare legs; four Venetian gondoliers in citizen's clothes, and a Norwegian commissioner.—Chicago Herald.

The Biggest Fresh Water Cargo.

The new steamer Selwyn Eddy, the largest freight carrier in the world floating on fresh water, was loaded recently for her initial trip. She carries the largest cargo of wheat ever shipped on the lakes. A close estimate places her exact capacity at 150,000 bushels or about 35,000 bushels more than the largest cargo ever carried on the lakes.

An ordinary freight car carries about 500 bushels of wheat, and the Selwyn Eddy's cargo is equal to 300 carloads. A train containing 300 cars would be about two miles long. Twelve engines would be required to draw such a train. The cargo of the Eddy, if ground into flour and made into bread, would feed 20,000 people for one year.—Detroit Tribune.

A Plague of Butterflies.

Millions of butterflies are flitting about the Arkansas valley, and it is feared that they will do great damage to fruit. The butterfly itself is harmless, but it deposits eggs in the blossoms which, when hatched, produce worms that feed upon the developed fruit. Fruit growers, to protect themselves from the dire results that follow the visits of these beautiful pests, resort to spraying their fruit, which effectually destroys the egg germs.—Kansas City Times.

Good Seasonable News.

In the long run there is no such tonic as the open air of spring. Any apparent feeling of languor is not a sign of debility. It is the first symptom of recovery from debility. In most sicknesses when a man begins to feel lazy he is on the verge of recovery. The "extreme tired feeling" that comes with spring is not ill health. It is convalescence from winter.—Boston Globe.

An Indian With Sense.

A pretty but foolish Long Island girl recently escaped the vigilance of her angry parents and eloped with an Indian medicine man belonging to a traveling company. But the Indian was evidently the more sensible of the two and deserted the girl before they had taken the train to leave town.—New York Ledger.

Horrible Colors of New Gloves.

There are many novelties in gloves this spring, but as always happens they are not chosen by the best dressed women. There could be no more horrible and disgusting fancy than to clothe the hands in grass green gloves, a trifle more hideous than those in royal purple.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Bucklen's Arnica Salve.

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CINCHING UP FOR TROUBLE.

A Curious Impulse That Soldiers Feel In Moments of Danger.

There were two men lowering a heavy cask of wine into a cellar the other day, and one of them asked his comrade to stand by a moment. The man stood by and the first speaker took an extra hitch in the belt of his overalls.

"That's queer," said Perry Ingram, who was passing at the time. "I saw 10 men do that in the face of certain death, and of the other 250 who were with us I guess nine in every 10 did the same. I know I did anyhow. Can't tell why, because I never thought the matter over, but I'll swear that if I ever get into another fix like that again I'll do the same thing over.

"It was during the Basutu war of 1880. I was a trooper there, and was one of the 500 and odd that composed the Kimberley Horse. If there ever was a set of not-care-a-continental scalawags in Queen Victoria's uniform, it was that same gang of rough riders.

"We fought all right, of course, but that all we were good for. Honestly, I think half the troop was made up of ex-convicts and the balance of that class of adventurers who had pioneered the road to the South African diamond fields.

"We were in fort on Thlotse heights. The Basutus, about 5,000 strong, were amusing themselves plotting at us from the other side of the Thlotse river, and one day they took it into their heads to send 1,200 warriors across the stream, over fords above and below us, to do us up.

"As it happened that morning about 250 of us were detailed to escort a couple of 6-pounders up the hill to the fort from below, and on our return trip the Basutus got between us and the encampment.

"We threw out in open file while they rode down on us—they were well mounted, were those Basutus—and we had orders to hold fire until they were about 100 yards away.

"Well, when they came within the given distance we fired, but instead of scaring them by killing off a hundred or so the beggars still came on. Dismounting from their horses, they seized their assegais. The hill was black with them, and they rushed on us like the hounds of hell.

"'It's all up now, boys,' thought I, for when those chaps take it into their heads to go the whole hog and charge they do it.

"While I was thrusting another cartridge into my rifle I felt a bit queer about the throat, and somehow, I can't tell how, it seemed as though my stomach was empty.

"Now, I know what it is to be scared, but I was not frightened then. There was no time to get frightened. It was just stand and fight till you dropped dead full of spear holes.

"I laid down my rifle for a second to loosen my revolver in its case, and then from some involuntary instinct that I cannot explain I drew in my belt a couple of inches around my waist. As I did so I looked at the fellows nearest me. Every one of them was cinching up just the same as myself.

"Just for a moment everything on our side was silence, and the Basutus were not 70 yards away. Then we all began blazing away again and yelling as men do in battle.

"The fire frightened the blacks. They came within 50 yards of us, then turned tail and fled. We kept blazing away at the beggars as long as they were in range, and then suddenly ceased.

"The strain was gone, the peril of death over. Only a moment before it had seemed as though our little band was to be wiped off the earth. It was a suffocating day, so I laid down my gun to wipe the sweat and powder from my forehead.

"Then I set about loosening my belt. As I did so I turned to the 10 fellows nearest me. Every one of them was doing the same.

"Queer, isn't it that a fellow wants to cinch himself up in the face of certain death?"—San Francisco Examiner.

Character In Nicknames.

When Austria was only a dukedom, there were three rulers who won for themselves the respective titles, "Catholic," "Glorious" and "Warlike." The first was perhaps a religious man, like Ferdinand the Catholic of Spain. The second may have been like Lorenzo the Magnificent, and the third a great warrior. And so from these titles or nicknames we have likewise some idea of the conditions of the people while these dukes ruled.

France has had a most wonderful assortment of kings. One was the Little and another the Bold. One was the Stammerer, another Simple, while a third and fourth were Indolent and Fair. These names are descriptive of the kings themselves, but it is hardly to be supposed that a king who was indolent or simple did much to further the interests of his subjects. But when we find Robert II called the Sage we realize that he ruled wisely, and that the people were better off for it. —Chicago Tribune.

Taine's Seat In the Academy.

The particular seat in the French academy made vacant by the death of M. Taine is No. 17. It is said to be one of those whose occupant usually lives but a comparatively short time after he attains to the dignity of membership, but it has been held by some of the most distinguished of the Immortals. Among them may be mentioned L'Estoile, historian, 1684; Coislin, bishop, 1710; Sarian, also bishop, 1733; D'Alembert, founder of the French encyclopedia, 1754; Portalis, one of the editors of the civil code, 1803; Nodier, litterateur, 1833, and Merimee, romancist, 1844.—Chicago Herald.

A Story of Robespierre.

The story is told of Robespierre that at one time, when at the height of his power, a lady called upon him, beseeching him to spare her husband's life. He scornfully refused. As she turned away she happened to tread upon the paw of his pet dog. He turned upon her, "Madame, have you no humanity?"—San Francisco Argonaut.

There is a horse in Florida that becomes wildly excited and unmanageable whenever any one approaches him having a breath that smells of whisky.

On the day before Easter one florist in New York city took in $3,500 in cash between 1 and 6 p. m. and sold twice as much "to be charged."

Loie Fuller Likes Corsets.

Loie Fuller refutes the argument of the dress reformers that grace is incompatible with corsets by announcing, as the result of her own experience, that a well made corset fits the body exactly and supports instead of confines it—is, in short, a help rather than a hindrance to grace. "I do not think I could dance without a corset or a boned waist," she says, "and I am quite sure that I could do all of my dances in the snuggest street gown I own. It is nonsense to suppose that grace and well fitting gowns cannot go together. It is easier for a woman to be graceful if her dress fits her than if she is wearing a loose rag of a dress." She says, too, that the day is past when women could walk and dance better without heels. The foot has been trained for generations to walk with a heel and without it is badly strained across the instep. For dancing purposes she recommends a plain satin slipper because it gives to the foot and being without ornamentation makes the foot look small.

Mrs. Marshall's Demonstration.

Mrs. A. B. Marshall of London is at the head of what is probably the greatest cooking school, pure and simple, in the world. Recently in her class she gave a demonstration of a ball supper for 100 guests, and herself prepared everything in the elaborate menu of nearly 40 dishes. The process occupied 6 hours, and 180 interested women, with a small sprinkling of men, looked on from start to finish. It is a testimony to Mrs. Marshall's other than cooking talents that she is reported not only to have riveted their attention through the long object lesson, but by her energy and good humor "kept them in capital spirits the whole time."

When the dishes were ready, they were set out on a fully decorated and furnished banquet board, thus illustrating the complete process.—Exchange.

The Woman Who Attracts Attention.

The elbows are now worn quite behind the waist. So runs the latest fashion mandate, which isn't as absurd as it sounds, for so universally recognized is the fact that a fine carriage is one of the essentials of a prepossessing appearance that the smart woman carries her head high, her chest well thrown out and her elbows necessarily fall well back out of the way. This is particularly true of city women, who realize that the woman who makes the best effect is always the woman who carries herself well. On closer acquaintance the pretty face begins to tell, and somewhere between the two the dress comes in for a share of attention as to details with men.—Exchange.

The Artistic Girl's Latest Fad.

A fad of the artistic girl, who would once have called herself æsthetic, is not to "walk down Piccadilly with a sunflower or a lily in her mediæval hand," but to stroll up the avenue with a single rose of pink or dark red, pink preferred, in her delicate grasp. This she does if her street gown happens to be of pale gray or fawn or any other shade which the flower would serve to enhance, rather than to wear it attached to her person, where it would soon become unpleasantly wilted.—Exchange.

Chicago Girls at the Theater.

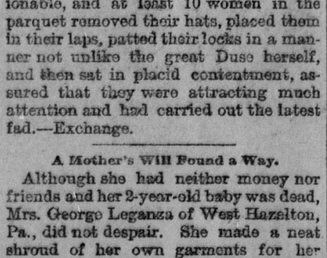
It is form now in Chicago for girls to take off their hats at the theater. At the Duse performance one Saturday afternoon the audience was intensely fashionable, and at least 10 women in the parquet removed their hats, placed them in their laps, patted their locks in a manner not unlike the great Duse herself, and then sat in placid contentment, assured that they were attracting much attention and had carried out the latest fad.—Exchange.

A Mother's Will Found a Way.

Although she had neither money nor friends and her 2-year-old baby was dead, Mrs. George Leganza of West Hazelton, Pa., did not despair. She made a neat shroud of her own garments for her child, and then built a rude coffin from some old lumber which she found in the cellar of her neat but unhappy home. Two weeks ago her husband left her, presumably to seek work, and nothing has since been heard of him.—Chicago Women's News.

The Lamp Fad Carried Too Far.

Lamps are the prettiest means of lighting, but why turn our rooms into lamp shops? I know a young married woman who glories in the awful fact that she has 14 lamps in her drawing room. Each of these lamps is shaded with an abnormal monstrosity in the way of paper ballet skirts, rag flowers and other trash, until art is killed with vulgar quantity and conflagration imminent.—Boston Traveler.



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