

### SLUGGER SULLIVAN

#### Will John L. the Bruiser Go to Washington?

#### HIS LATE UNIQUE PROCLAMATION.

#### His Views in the New York Sun—Career of Congressman and Prize Fighter John Morrissey.

"Committee on hygiene and physical culture—Chairman, John Lawrence Sullivan, of Massachusetts."

How would that read in the register of the fifty-second congress? That or something suitably resembling it is what we may see, for the champion has declared his intention to emulate the great John Morrissey and go from the fist to the political arena. "It takes a John Morrissey constituency to send a John Morrissey to congress," was an editorial saying in 1885-6, meaning that the honorable John had pretty tough constituents; but there seems to be no doubt in the present champion's mind that he can find a John Sullivan constituency.



CONGRESSMAN SULLIVAN.

Boulogne aspirant to run the legislature of France, and isn't Sullivan as big a man as Boulogne? Buffalo Bill was crowded into the Nebraska legislature, and made a good member. John Morrissey went to congress, and—well, we don't remember just what he did there, but certainly nothing wrong, or the papers would have given it notoriety. But the matter is finally set at rest by the issue of the following:

#### SULLIVAN'S PROCLAMATION.

To the Editor of the Evening Standard: Sir: A good deal has been said about my becoming a candidate for congress. I write to say that, after thinking the matter over, I have decided that when the time comes to elect new congressmen in Boston I will be a candidate on the Democratic ticket if the nomination is offered to me. There are several reasons which have induced me to adopt this course.

In the first place, I have always supported the party and have always voted for it. I am proud as far as my political record is concerned, and I feel that I deserve the support of the party on that score.

Then I have personal friends and general admirers enough in London to elect me any day.

Any man who doubts my popularity with the American people has only got to travel about with me to get rid of that notion.

Some may criticize my occupation in life—they don't know what they are talking about. My business is, and always has been, ever since I came before the public, to encourage physical culture.

Young fellows don't care for what they read about a lot of small lighters and second rate champions, but the sight of one man with a national reputation and every body looking up to him fills them with ambition, and encourages them in the task of getting up their muscle. Many a young man is bigger and stronger because my example has set him to work.

Then besides, with my matches and exhibitions I have entertained hundreds of thousands all over the country. Also I have furnished, through the newspapers, interesting reading to millions. I've always been to feel careful to those who entertain them.

As for my methods of carrying on business and my dealings with other men, who can criticize them? If I shake a promise I keep it.

I have always looked after my friends, and no one can accuse me of not acting fairly by him. A Sunday school teacher can't say more than that.

But what I feel to be more important than all else is the work which I have done to keep up the reputation of America among other nations. The best men from everywhere have tried to beat me, but failed, and since I first began I have kept the pugilistic championship of the world in this country.

There isn't a self respecting American, no matter how ignorant or how ignorant he may be about boxing in general, who does not feel patriotic pride at the thought that a native born American, a country man of his, can kick any man on the face of the earth.

It is human nature, and this feeling of patriotism applies especially to Boston, where I was born, and where I shall appear as a candidate.



CONGRESSMAN MORRISSEY.

As for my fitness: For the place I can prove that in a few words. I came to congress to look out for the interests of those who send him there. That will be my motto, and living up to it will be my business.

I know what is wanted by my friends and the citizens of Boston generally, and I'll try to get it. In my travels about the country and Europe I have had as much experience in public speaking as most people. I'll have no trouble about getting a hearing in congress or in making people pay attention to what I say.

A man who can quiet a crowd in Madison Square Garden, as I have done, can make his presence felt in congress or anywhere else on earth. I therefore announce now my willingness to enter political life.

This communication, drawn up in consultation with friends and with their advice, is the longest that I have ever addressed to any paper. I shall be obliged to you if you will print it. Yours truly, JOHN L. SULLIVAN, Champion of the World.

It is surely no slander to say that Sullivan makes a better start than Morrissey did some twenty years ago, and has a better record, for Morrissey's best friends admit that at one time in his life he was decidedly "crooked." He was born in Ireland, Feb. 5, 1851, but came to America so young that he was almost as much a native as Sullivan. His first battle

in the ring was with George Thompson, near Boston, Cal., Aug. 21, 1872. Thompson struck a "fool" and lost. Oct. 15, 1883, he fought Yankee Sullivan and won. The latter went to California, where he killed himself or was killed—and no one certainly knows which—while in prison, where the vigilance committee had placed him. Morrissey's most famous fight was with John C. Heenan at Long Point, Canada, Oct. 30, 1875, for \$2,500 a side and the championship. At the end of the eleventh round Heenan's second threw up the sponge. In the meantime a series of tragic occurrences in New York had sunk Morrissey to a very low plane in public opinion, and he soon retired from the ring.

How far John Morrissey was to blame in these murderous encounters need not be discussed here. Suffice it to say that he led a faction, and Bill Poole, also a pugilist, led another—the so called "Know Nothing" or "native roughs." Each party in those days had its recognized fighters. After many rough and tumble fights Poole and Morrissey agreed to meet and fight it out on Amos street dock. There was a big crowd, and the police did not interfere, and the results were terrible. The men finally clinched and fell, the crowd rushed in and fought over them a minute or two, then dropped back and gave them room. Morrissey's face was literally beaten to a jelly when he cried out, "I'm satisfied I've got enough." Poole, too, was fearfully injured, and his cheek horribly lacerated by Morrissey's teeth. The crowd then fought it out among themselves and next fell on the "innocent spectators." Many a man, whose only fault was too much curiosity, lost everything but shirt, pants and boots, and had to be sent home in a hack.

The factions next met at a hall at Lealer's slaughter house in Barrow street, and a fight began between Bill Poole and Bill Travers. The latter lost an eye and the former bled from a score of wounds. Poole went to South Carolina to recuperate, and in Charleston whipped a local bully nearly to death. He came back to New York and resumed his place as a "Know Nothing" leader; then, as near as can be determined from the evidence, his death was plotted, and Lew Baker, Dad Cunningham, Jim Turner, Meilly Linn and others of the so called "Morrissey gang" were to see to it. They entered the saloon where Poole was talking to some friends, and one Pangene looked the door and then spat in Poole's face. The latter attempted to reach the door, when Jim Turner aimed a pistol at him; but some one struck the pistol and it shot Turner through the arm. There was a rush and a fusillade of shots. Some dashed nimbly at the doors and windows, and one George Deagle nearly killed himself in a big pier glass which he had mistaken for a door.

Poole was shot in the leg and shoulder and fell to the floor, when Lew Baker deliberately placed one knee on his breast and fired two shots into his body. Poole's last words were: "I die a true American."

He died March 15, 1885. Baker escaped to South America, but was brought back. Poole was honored by one of the largest funeral processions ever seen in New York, his body being laid in Greenwood cemetery.

Such were some of the occurrences which made life unpleasant for John Morrissey, and a change in his conduct was thereafter noticeable. He had never been a loud or blustering man, and in time became noticeably quiet and content in general deportment, though the master of more than one gambling house. Little by little he acquired the friendship of men of some character and influence and finally astonished the country by becoming a candidate for congress in the Fifth New York district. Election day, Nov. 4, 1882, gave him an enormous majority, despite the fact that there was a bolt in his party. And then, strange to say, public interest in John Morrissey began to decline. Very little was said about his career in congress, he sank into comparative obscurity, and his death a few years later attracted very little attention.

#### "Black Hat" Holzhay.

"Black Bart," the "Claude Inval" of upper Michigan and Wisconsin, is captured, and will probably spend the rest of his life in the Michigan penitentiary (they do not hang murderers in that state unless lynch law decides otherwise).

His real name is Reinhold Holzhay. He is a German, but 27 years old, and one year ago was apparently an honest lumberman; yet within ten months he has robbed, cultivated, stolen, stage-coached and, to only travelers, murdered one man; who resisted and wounded others and generally lived a life of most reckless lawlessness. The explanation usually accepted is in two words, "dime novels." In his room about a hundred of those publications were found. His career was short, but it was terrible.

#### Miss Chamberlain "That Was."

Here is a cut of Capt. Naylor-Leyland's bride, Miss Chamberlain, the American beauty, who has for so many years (no lack of gallantry intended) bewitched that part of London and the continent of Europe called society. Mrs. Leyland is a native of Cleveland, O., and it is asserted that no picture, even the best photograph, gives a good idea of her charms. One enthusiastic writer says:

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Her husband is rich and handsome and has been nicknamed Bagdad because of an unfortunate shooting accident that occurred to him near the Oriental city of that name.

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