

# CHAUNCEY DEPEW AT HIS EASE,

## One Leg Over the Arm of a Rocker, He Talks and Talks.

### WILL NOMINATE MORTON

#### How a Railroad Completely Handicaps a Man in Politics.

### WHY VANDERBILT WON'T TALK

#### The Story of That Famous "Public Be Damned" Interview With William H.

In his room at the Palace last evening, his leg thrown easily over the arm of his rocker, Chauncey M. Depew talked and talked in that entertaining fashion that has made proverbs in his name.

He talked of California and used superlatives without stint; of politics past, present and prospective; of why he dropped out of the Presidential race in '88; of railroad men in politics and why they have a right to be there; of newspaper reporters and his experiences with them, dropping easily from one of his Peckskill stories to the National money question, and always maintaining the high level of interest to the listener.

And all this time Cornelius Vanderbilt—registered downstairs as plain "C. Vanderbilt"—was in another room, refusing and refusing to talk.

One of Mr. Depew's best stories is founded on Mr. Vanderbilt's refusals.

The fact is Mr. Vanderbilt refuses, under advice of Mr. Depew, for Mr. Vanderbilt himself gives signs of a disposition to speak his mind. But Mr. Depew says to him constantly when they are together and the third man is asking questions "Do not be interviewed, Mr. Vanderbilt," and Mr. Vanderbilt speaks again of the beautiful weather. Why this is so will be allowed to take its place in the pleasant procession of Mr. Depew's conversation, for he must first be allowed to explain how much better he thinks California is than all the rest of the world, for he does think so—he says he does.

This is the first visit of the great railroad man and politician to California, and it may be said that the first impressions are mutual. He looks to be all that has been said of him and no man can remember back to an ill speech concerning him. He is tall, straight, gray, quick of movement and not nervously so, wears dark, plain clothes, a gold chain across his vest, a boutonniere and a wonderful pair of thick-soled shoes. The shoes are the only things that arrest the attention as something unexpected, for all the rest is made familiar by the newspaper and magazine artist.

He pronounces his name "Chauncey" rather than "Chauncey," thus further endearing himself to the American heart.

The party arrived last evening at 5:30, after a day spent along the road north from Santa Cruz. They were conducted by Colonel Crocker and a retinue of railroad men, including, of course, Mr. Crane, the local representative of the Vanderbilt lines.

They will leave for the East on Sunday, and the interesting time, as Mr. Depew says, is to be heavily charged with sight-seeing and San Franciscan experience. For instance last night was devoted to Chinatown. To-day the party will take a drive down the Napa Valley. Saturday is down for an excursion about the bay and a ride through Golden Gate Park to the Cliff House, and Saturday night the dinner at the Union League.

There was a spreading bunch of long-stemmed roses on the center-table and a pile of letters when Mr. Depew entered his room last evening. One letter he singled from the heap, and begged to be excused until he read it. Then he threw himself back in his chair, saying, "That is a letter from Buster, my boy. All's well; now go ahead."

Then he went right ahead himself. He said he regretted very much that he could not dine with the Bohemian Club, as he understood it was something on the lines of the Lotus Club of New York, of which the principal purpose in life was to entertain artists and distinguished men of letters. He did not know on what theory they could entertain him as an artist except it might be a variety artist.

Mr. Depew had been quoted in an evening paper as saying that in all the prodigality of nature in California he missed the song birds and beautiful women that ought to be a natural complement of all the rest. He distinctly husied while repudiating this statement. As to the birds it was all right, but "as to the women what I did say was this," said Mr. Depew: "That I regretted that the speed with which we travel took away from me the opportunity of meeting the ladies of California, who, when I did have that pleasure, would no doubt be found to be the fitting crown to all the other loveliness."

Well satisfied with this, Mr. Depew continued: "We came through the Santa Clara Valley to-day. I can say as a traveled man that it is the grandest valley in the world. San Jose as the capital of that country is a beautiful little city, with great prospects. "No, I have not seen the Vale of Cashmere. I have traveled through Southern France and all Italy. I know the famous places of earth. There is only one place in the world that I have seen that may be mentioned in the same breath with Del Monte, and then Del Monte must be spoken first. The other place is Monaco, the great gambling headquarters of Europe, the little principality at the foot of the Pyrenees and overlooking the Medi-



Cornelius Vanderbilt, the Railroad Magnate Who Leads a Distinguished Party on a Tour of the West.

terranean. There the drives and rich verdure and blue skies may bear comparison with Del Monte. But it is a city, a city of villas to be sure, but still a city. Del Monte as a hotel is beyond compare. You are surrounded with every luxury, and the wonderful beauty of Monaco, and yet with a short walk may hide entirely from habitations and be surrounded only by nature, cultivated and otherwise, but always in most impressive beauty.

"The thought has occurred to me that California with protection, reciprocity and sound money would be the greatest State in all the world."

"That brought him to the money question. "I say protection, for I am a firm believer in protection, but sound money is the first thing needed to revive things.

doing that would be considered a failure. The remedy? Well, I would stop the working of that endless chain by which the Government issues bonds to secure gold and pays out the gold to redeem the bonds, and a few men in Wall street and Lombard street control the financial situation and become rich at the expense of the Nation. How would I stop it? I would provide against a reissue. I am in favor of the Carlisle plan. But that is a long story. I have only to say that a sound financial policy, placing the Nation on a footing with the whole world, is the thing necessary to bring a return of good times, and the cry either of free silver or 16 to 1 will not do it until the world is willing."

This naturally led into National politics, State. Morton has created no strong animosities. For these reasons we believe he will be considered the most available man. No, I do not think Harrison will figure. I do not think he wants it. He has said so positively that there can be no doubt. "No, the favorites do not win," continued Mr. Depew. "Witness how often Blaine went to the convention clearly the National favorite, but with animosities and favorite sons enough, too, when united, to defeat him. I heard the famous nominating speech of Ingersoll at Cincinnati. Had the vote been taken immediately Blaine would have been chosen. But the insinuating toll of the unknown individual in the big body overcame even the effort of the greatest speech I ever heard for im-

mediate and dramatic effect. Blaine had defied his enemies—came before the convention in that open defiance, with those letters still fresh in the public mind—and it was that in Ingersoll's address that made it notable. And out of that rush of enthusiasm that it called up and which spread over the country, Rutherford B. Hayes, a man not before heard of, rose up and was made President of the United States. The opposition found it impossible to unite on Sherman or any other of the leaders, and after spending the night in vain efforts Hayes, having done nothing to make enemies, brought them together. It was the same with Grant the last time he appeared as a candidate and has been so in many other cases of common note."

Mr. Depew was asked as to the story that he is scheduled for the secretaryship of state in the event of Mr. Morton's success. "I have made two rules concerning the building of bridges," he said. "One is never to throw one across the dry bed of a stream and find a flood there. The other is never to cross a bridge until I come to it." This led up to the railroad man in politics.



Chauncey M. Depew, as He Sat Talking Politics and Other Things in His Room at the Palace Last Evening

What I mean by sound money is a medium of exchange acceptable to the world with which we do business, redeemable anywhere. I do not care what that is, gold, silver or paper, or more than one, if they can be kept on a parity throughout the world; but no one country can set itself up in a currency all its own more than an individual would set up a code of laws for himself independent of the community. The odds are too much—he cannot withstand the pressure; and it is a most humiliating spectacle this picture of the richest Nation on earth borrowing money to pay its own notes. A business concern found to be

and the onset of the Presidential campaign. "The things that appeared clear in April are absurd or forgotten in the fall," he said. "I am for Morton, to be sure. It is very likely that I shall nominate him at St. Louis, unless some other son of New York shall think he can do it better. As it stands, Republican success is certain in November. There is the possibility of Cuban and other complications between now and November affecting the election. There are only four men whose chances at St. Louis were worth speaking about. McKinley stands easily in the lead, with Reed, Allison and Morton ranging in the order named. Morton stands perhaps an even chance with Allison, as he starts in with seventy-two of the State delegation. We of New York, mindful of the past, think Morton stands a very good show. Presidents as a rule are not made out of early favorites. These are all good men, and the country can be safely trusted to any of them. McKinley will go to the convention with a clear lead. The only way he can be defeated is by the field combining against him. The field will combine and this becomes the strong force. The question then arises as to the name of the man upon whom it can be brought to unite. New York is a pivotal

"It is commonly accepted that for a man connected with a railroad politics are impossible. I went to the convention of 1888 with my State delegation solid for me for the Presidential nomination. It was the first time the delegation from New York voted for any candidate. I went to break the spell and deny and controvert this story about railroad men. The railroad men were to help me do it. They were to remind the newspapers and petitioners of something which they persistently overlook—that there are a million railroad men in this country. These are intelligent and influential men in the community. The station master, for instance, of a town is usually one of the best men in it. He knows and is in touch with everybody else in town. And yet, because he is in the employ of the railroad, he could not be elected poundmaster. Well, they feel and resent this thing.

"As I say, I was to break this spell. I went to the convention with the solid delegation, but we had no sooner arrived on the ground than we began to suffer from this general anti-railroad sentiment. There was a careful reckoning of the votes of the States necessary for success in the general election. The delegates from Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas came to us and said that with a railroad man at the head of the ticket their States would surely be lost to the Republican party. The question resolved itself into this: that we must bear the onus of this loss and defeat at the polls, if defeat followed our success in the convention, or we must go back home having renounced our own cause—the cause of railroad men.

"As showing how high the feeling ran along these lines a little incident that happened there will illustrate. The hotel, my headquarters, was crowded with politicians. A prominent local railroad man came through the hurly-burly and drew me aside and said, 'Chauncey, my little girl is lying dead at my home. My wife and I were grieving together over our great loss, when she said to me, 'George, we are in great trouble; we feel the power of sympathy. Mr. Depew is down at the hotel also in great trouble. You may do some good by simply going down and telling him that we think of him at this moment.'"

"The man threw his arms around my neck and kissed me and returned to his dead."

Mr. Depew told this story quite simply and with no sign in the telling of the bitterness that the story itself might indicate.

Then he went on to tell something of his experience with reporters—for it is well known that Mr. Depew is a newspaperman's man—and he was most frequently interviewed of all men. The story of why Cornelius Vanderbilt refuses to be interviewed led up to it.

William H. Vanderbilt, father of Cornelius, started in as a half-fellow; we met among newspaper men. I encouraged him to be so. Everywhere he went the doors were always open to them. He talked freely and was not afraid to express opinions. Sometimes he was mistaken and again misrepresented. Sometimes he would get angry at what he found in the papers—there was always that prejudice against a very rich man. He would swear sometimes that he would never see another reporter, and that I must do the talking for him. Still, he went on, however. One day his car ran into Chicago. Mr. Vanderbilt happened to be being pulled out of the car by an expected reporter coming was invited in, a glass of wine placed before him and a cigar, and shortly after the reporter went away and sent over the country that remark that has become a fixture in literature, a remark that Mr. Vanderbilt did not make for two reasons—first, because there was nothing in the occasion to provoke it, and second, because Mr. Vanderbilt was not a fool—that saying, "the public be damned."

"That remark was taken up as we all know by the press the world over, and has been harped on ever since. Mr. Vanderbilt could not get away from it. It hounded him till his death, and still survives to darken his memory. No amount of contradiction could efface it.

"But it changed Mr. Vanderbilt's front to the reporter. He would never see another, except he knew him well and he wrote for a paper that he knew would not 'edit' the copy. That resolved itself finally down to one reporter and two newspapers, who alone could get a word out of him. That is why Cornelius Vanderbilt will not talk to reporters, and why I advise him not to.

"As for myself I may say I have never been willfully misrepresented in an interview. But I have been made to talk like a clown by inexperienced men who wrote without notes. Only a short time ago I was interviewed on the silver question by a man who made no notes and who afterward confessed that he was wholly ignorant of the subject. When I read that interview I asked my friends to please have an inquiry instituted as to my sanity."

Mr. Depew is traveling, he says, as the guest of Mr. Vanderbilt, as are also John Howe and George Fearing, bankers of New York, who are of the party.

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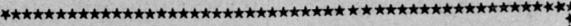
A morning meal with Oliver Wendell Holmes revealed that the cheery and sprat liked cold chicken, veal patties, liver on toast, game, Cumberland ham and wine.

### NEW TO-DAY.

The trouble with us nowadays is, that we do not lead natural lives. The feminine portion of our society is especially culpable in this way. It is really a wonder that women are as healthy as they are. Very few women get any outdoor exercise. Very many get no exercise at all. Modes of dressing interfere with the proper muscular action and with the circulation of the blood. All the hygienic and scientific knowledge that is broken. It is little wonder that nine women in ten are troubled with some derangement or irregularity in the action of the organs directly feminine. Neglect and wrong living will show themselves first in the most delicate organs of the whole body. With such weakness and sickness so prevalent, it is to be expected that the bearing of children would be fraught with dread and danger. It should not be so, of course. Nature never meant it to be so. The performance of the highest function of which a woman is capable should not be accompanied by pain. If perfectly natural living were the rule, it would not be so. As lives are lived, something else must be done. A remedy must be found. For over thirty years, Dr. Pierce has been chief consulting physician to the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, of Buffalo, N. Y. During that time he has treated thousands of women. He has found in his "Favorite Prescription" a stream in the fear that I may come to the brink and find a flood there. The other is never to cross a bridge until I come to it."

This led up to the railroad man in politics.

### NEW TO-DAY—DRY GOODS.



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