

**BILLY LORIMER'S
REMARKABLE RISE.**
Chicago Republican Leader Who
Lately Met Defeat.
HIS CAREER IN POLITICS.

Amos Cummings Writes Entertainingly of
The Great Cook County Boss, Who Is
Soon to Retire From Congress—The Un-
doing of Orator Lentz, Who Will Attack
Anything From a Wild Cat to a Buzz
Saw—The Retirement of Nicholas Cox.

(Copyright 1900 by Amos J. Cummings.)

Washington, D. C., Dec. 22.—The Hon. William Lorimer, of Chicago, surprised the minority members of the House of Representatives on the opening day of the session. He also surprised himself. Mr. Lorimer deliberately walked into a Democratic caucus. It was not done with malice premeditated. The House adjourned about 4 o'clock, after listening to the reading of the President's message. The caucus was held immediately afterward. A constituent had sent in his card, and Lorimer had left the chamber a few minutes before adjournment. He returned within a few moments, fancying the House still in session. On entering the lobby door near the Speaker's desk, apparently absorbed in thought, he mechanically moved toward his seat. There was a titter on the floor as he entered the main aisle. It became an outburst of laughter as he still pursued his way to his seat. Lorimer heard a strange voice putting a motion on the desk of the presiding officer. It turned on his heel, and seemed dumfounded when he saw Mr. Hay, of Virginia, wielding the gavel. Taking in the situation at a glance, he began to retrace his steps.

"You're not so Lorimer," shouted James A. Norton, of Ohio. "You're entirely welcome. We're glad to have you with us." Lorimer neither smiled nor responded to the courteous invitation. Apparently absorbed in his own reflections, he passed through the haze doors leading into the Speaker's lobby. He disappeared amid cries of "Come again when you can't stay so long," and "Send in Mark Hanna." William Lorimer was placed hors de combat in the great national political contest last month. He was the prominent Republican seriously wounded in that battle. For him it was truly a battle royal. Through sheer pluck he had won the district from the enemy six years ago by a plurality of 4,342, defeating both a Democrat and a Populist, although they combined and showed a majority of 4,142 against him. He retained his grip upon the district two years later by a plurality of 6,736 and a majority of 5,681. Two years ago he again won a victory by a plurality of 3,797 and a majority of 2,168. These facts, although they remained a lesson, last month the Democrats and Populists united on a candidate, and carried the day after a desperate struggle, defeating him by over 2,000 majority. Lorimer was then the acknowledged Republican leader in the city and county and was looming up as a power in State politics.

Lorimer is muscular and well knit. He has light blue eyes and a pure Saxon complexion. His thick flaxen hair and well trimmed mustache recall pictures of the old Anglo-Saxon kings. A born political leader, he has absolute control of his nerves, excellent judgment and great reserve force. A master in political strategy, he never forgets that silence is golden, and that eternal vigilance is the price of political power. His career aptly illustrates the possibilities of political life in America. It is peculiarly picturesque. He went to Chicago a poor English boy when only nine years old. His father, a Presbyterian clergyman, died a year afterward, leaving his family almost destitute. The boy promptly put his shoulder to the wheel. He became a newsboy. His first day's work netted him a dollar. It was the first money he had ever earned. He turned it toward the support of his mother and sister. From this time on he was the mainstay of the family. Fancying he could do better as a bootblack he went into the business. He made more money than before, but the business was distasteful to his mother. She secured him a place as an errand boy. The pay was so small that he again took up the saw of newspapers, alternating it with his duties as a knight of the brush.

A regular patron at this time was the Hon. Michael Kennan, who has since then achieved a national reputation under the sobriquet of Hinky Dink. When fifteen years old Lorimer became an runner for a laundry, and finally got work with a pork packer. The employment disgusted with him, however, and he obtained a situation as a street car conductor. This lasted five years. He became a member of a trade union, and became active in organizing a benevolent association among the fellows. He also began to develop a taste for politics. An ardent admirer of James G. Blaine, he took an active part in promoting his aspirations to the Presidency. He complained bitterly of a lack of organization among Blaine's friends. On the day of election for a long time he sought a Blaine ticket in vain. There were no such tickets in his precinct. He searched an adjoining precinct, and finally obtained what he sought. Chagrined beyond expression, he organized a Republican club. There were thirteen members. For months they met in the family kitchen. This organization is today the foundation upon which the party organization is built. The young men had no experience in practical politics. All they wanted was an opportunity to vote for the man of their choice. Emboldened by their success they made a fight at the primaries for delegates to the city convention, and won it. In 1885 Lorimer became a member of the central committee, and has retained the place ever since. In the following year he was elected constable by 127 majority. He afterwards became assistant superintendent of water pipe extension, and wound up as superintendent of the water office. These are the only political offices he held prior to his election to Congress. He sought the nomination for county clerk, but failed to secure it. He was nominated for clerk of the Superior Court, but was overwhelmed in a landslide. Meantime, he paid strict attention to the ethics of the organization. He grew to gigantic political proportions, and finally became the

master workman of his party in Chicago. In Congress Lorimer promptly made his mark—not as an orator, but as a shrewd and tireless worker. He astonished the veterans by teaching old dogs new tricks. An appropriation for the construction of a new postoffice in Chicago had been passed at a previous session. It was evident that the plans and specifications would be delayed four years in the Treasury Department, owing to a pressure of work. Lorimer managed to crowd through another bill appropriating \$25,000 to expedite the work of the architect. It was done while the House was dazed in a discussion over the rules, and so deftly that the veterans of legislation are even today entirely unable to analyze the parliamentary process by which it was accomplished.

Lorimer seldom takes the floor, but when he does enter the realm of argument talks slowly and deliberately, measuring his words with great care and stating his propositions tersely and explicitly. He makes no gestures and resorts to none of the arts of oratory. Such is an epitome of the career of the man from Illinois treading in the footsteps of Thomas C. Platt and Matthew S. Quay. He bids fair in time to rival if not surpass both in political power. He has developed all the qualities required in the business department of true political leadership. Like Platt and Quay, he may lose his seat in Congress and still retain the reins of power. He may rather strength from defeat, and become stronger than ever.

The minority of the House lost many killed and wounded in the late fight. The one most deplored is John J. Lentz, of Columbus, Ohio. Lentz has more vim, mentally and physically, than Lorimer; but he lacks Lorimer's balance and judgment. Figuratively, he will attack anything from a wild-cat to a buzz-saw. He is fairly as hard-some as Lorimer, and far more self-conscious. His face is a picture of determination, and he has the frame of an athlete. Above everything else, he is a blue-eyed man, and can soar into the blue empyrean and return to earth without dropping a feather. When political discussions are the order of the day, he roams the floor, looking for a fight, and usually gets one. In hot discussion, he is a picturesque figure. There is nothing grotesque about him. He fights like a man inflamed with passion and bursting with indignation. Paul Cassagne and Rochefort combined could not create more excitement in the French Corps Legislature than can Lentz in the United States House of Representatives. His bouts with his colleague, Gen. Grosvenor, have been singularly frequent and sanguine. His abhorrence of imperialism surpasses either that of Wellington or Carl Schurz.

Early in the year his magnetism was so great that he fairly hypnotized an audience in Cooper Institute. They broke into loud cheers for Aguinaldo, and stirred Lentz to the acme of oratorical effort. It is said that it was this speech that converted George S. Boutwell to the faith, and led to the stirring pronouncement of the anti-imperialists. The loss of such a man is irreparable to those wearied with routine work and dreary discussion. Mr. Lentz has not appeared in the House up to the present writing. It has been said that he is editing some country newspaper. Certain it is that he is as great in the newspaper field as in the oratorical field. Two years ago it is said that the editor of a small country newspaper printed in his district asked him to contribute a brief article on free silver. Within a few days Lentz sent in the article. When put in type

it made forty columns. The editor was paralyzed. He was unable to print more than a column and a half at a time. After a consultation with his foreman they decided to print it in sections. The pages of the manuscript got mixed up and they printed on one week a section from the beginning of the article and the next week a section from the end of it. This was continued for several months, until all was printed. Whenever advertising was short and there was a vacancy in the news columns, the editor shouted to his foreman, "Snip a piece off from Lentz and fill in with it. It's a dandy, and everybody is buying the paper to find out what it means." Lentz, however, like a true gentleman, never complained, and sent the editor, in recognition of his kindness, a copy of President Cleveland's message. Lentz has been a close fighter in the Twelfth Ohio district. He won it in 1894 by a plurality of 49 votes. Re-elected two years afterward by a plurality of 702 votes, he lost the district last month by nine votes. When President McKinley was Governor of Ohio he appointed Lentz a trustee of the Ohio University.

Nicholas N. Cox, of Franklin, Tenn., is not among the killed and wounded. He has released himself from voluntary servitude in the House. Judge Whitborne, a statesman of national renown, Cox is said to have sought the place for ten years. He seems to have enjoyed the service, although at the end of ten years he voluntarily relinquishes it. He serves on the military committee with Lentz and Sutzler, and is regarded as one of the breeziest characters in the House. He is also an esteemed member of the committee on banking and currency. Joseph H. Walker was its chairman after Cox appeared upon the committee. Mr. Walker had a keen appreciation of Mr. Cox's services and Cox reciprocated. Both thoroughly understood the financial situation and neither found a panacea. The only satisfaction they derived from a consideration of the subject was the enjoyment of each other's society. A hard and conscientious worker in committee, Judge Cox is in no wise backward in participating in debate. Holman was known as the great objector; Cox may well be termed the great interrupter. He pays strict attention to all that is going on and seems to be well posted on every important subject. His queries would puzzle the most expert political savant, and his sallies in return are simply inimitable. The judge's speech against the army bill has thus far been the gem of the session. It convulsed the House with merriment and nearly nonplused the chairman of the military committee. He has been a worthy representative of his constituency in many ways, and his retirement is deeply regretted. These are three of the ninety-odd members who will not appear in the Fifty-seventh Congress. Each has individualized himself in the House, and all have impressed themselves upon the nation at large. They leave behind them a motley array of pudders in national legislation, who will undoubtedly strive hard to pervert the Constitution inviolate and keep the country in a prosperous condition.

AMOS J. CUMMINGS.
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★ **BETHLEHEM.** ★

(By Charles H. Judkins.)

A vision grew out of the night,
A time many ages gone by,
Revealing to all a most beautiful sight,
A star in the east, with a wonderful light,
Was flooding the infinite sky.

★

The people beheld with dismay
The trail of a fiery flood,
That rents on the mountain and tapers
The valleys that gleam in the paleness
Of day
Are bathed in a deluge of blood.

★

A figure in glorious white,
All wrapped in a halo of gold,
With wings all agleam in the radiant light,
Like the angel that stands on the heavenly height,
Appeared to the awe-stricken fold.

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Men's Suits,	1.98, worth 3.75	Boy's Suits,	0.98 worth 2.00	Men's Overcoats,	2.75 worth 5.50
Men's Suits,	2.50, worth 5.00	Boy's Suits,	1.25 worth 2.50	Men's Overcoats,	3.50 worth 7.00
Men's Suits,	3.50, worth 7.00	Boy's Suits,	1.75 worth 3.50	Men's Overcoats,	4.50 worth 9.00
Men's Suits,	4.50, worth 9.00	Boy's Suits,	1.98 worth 4.00	Men's Overcoats,	5.50 worth 11.00
Men's Suits,	5.50, worth 11.00	Boy's Suits,	2.25 worth 4.50	Men's Overcoats,	6.50 worth 13.00
Men's Suits,	6.50, worth 12.00	Boy's Suits,	2.75 worth 5.00	Men's Overcoats,	7.50 worth 15.00
Men's Suits,	7.50, worth 15.00	Boy's Suits,	3.00 worth 6.00	Men's Ulsters,	4.50 worth 9.00
Men's Pants,	.50 worth 1.20	Boy's Overcoats,	2.98 worth 6.00	Men's Ulsters,	5.50 worth 11.00
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Men's Pants,	1.75 worth 4.50	Boy's Reefers,	1.75 worth 3.50	Men's Collars, small sizes, 2c.	
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