

MADE IN CONGRESS.

CATCHY PHRASES THAT HAVE COME INTO COMMON USE.

The First Buncombe Speech Was Delivered In 1820—Blaine and Conkling In Debate. Famous Sentences Pronounced by Statesmen When Not In Congress.

Many of the best known and most quoted phrases with which the American people are familiar originate in congress.

There is no reason why, if a good thing is said upon the floor of the senate or house, the country should not know it in 24 hours. With a press gallery thronged with correspondents who are always ready and eager to pick up the novel phrase or the apt description, with the great press associations distributing the debates from one end of the country to the other, and with newspapers only too anxious to give currency to the latest expression, a man who says a good thing in congress one afternoon may wake up the next morning and find his saying in everybody's mouth. There is something in the atmosphere of congress, too, that develops the latent wit and inspires to repartee. If a senator or a representative has anything in him at all, it is bound to come out in a rough and tumble debate with a political opponent. Many of the congressmen have already had their genius in this direction tested upon the stump and know how to hold their own in the face of all comers. It does not always follow, however, that a statesman who is good in debate will achieve fame by uttering a phrase that becomes popular.

To go back to the beginning of congressional history is to discover many phrases uttered in congress which are still current. It was as far back as 1820, for instance, that Felix Walker, a member of the North Carolina district which included Buncombe county, apologized for the emptiness of his remarks by stating that he had to make a speech "just for Buncombe." This is a saying which has come down through the years as a byword. "Liberty and union, one and inseparable, now and forever," was uttered by Webster in his famous reply to Hayne. Lincoln's "with malice toward none and charity toward all" was first heard in the halls of congress when his second inaugural address was read to the assembled representatives. In later years Senator Ingalls contributed a number of epigrammatic sentences, the best known of which perhaps was uttered in his wordy duel with Senator Brown of Georgia. The latter had a habit of rubbing his hands together as he talked, and Ingalls, with bitter emphasis, described him as "washing his hands with invisible soap in imperceptible water." Another remark by Ingalls was much quoted at the time. He was discussing the oleomargarine bill and said regarding certain dairy products that he stood "in awe at their strength and reverence for their antiquity." In Proctor Knott's widely copied Duluth speech occurs that phrase, "the zenith city of the unsalted seas," a title which Duluth has always proudly kept.

Blaine and Conkling, with all their greatness, left no single phrase as a legacy of their participation in congressional debates. "Burn these letters" was often quoted after the Mulligan affair, but this sentence was not first uttered in congress. The famous debate between the two men, which estranged their whole lives, occurred in April, 1866, over a very trivial matter—the continuance of the bureau of the provost marshal general. It gave Blaine, however, a chance to satirize Conkling in a single sentence. An article written by Theodore Tilton had appeared in which Conkling had been likened to Winter Davis. "The resemblance is great," exclaimed Blaine, with pungent satire. "It is striking! Hyperion to a satyr, Thersites to Hercules, mud to marble, a dunghill to a diamond, a singed cat to a Bengal tiger, a whining puppy to a roaring lion."

Another debate in which Conkling, then in the senate, was a conspicuous figure, resulted in a sentence which has not been forgotten. Senator Lamar of Mississippi had resented as a falsehood a charge of broken faith made by Mr. Conkling, and the latter retorted that Lamar was a coward, a blackguard and a liar. The Mississippi senator, who had never been accused of cowardice, looked over to his opponent and sarcastically apologized for his first remark. "It was one," he said, "such as no good man would deserve and no brave man would wear." Then he waited for Conkling to reply, but the New York senator was silent.

Many of the sharp things said in congress are left out of The Record. Cobb's "Where was I at?" does not appear in official print, and Senator Wolcott's quotation of the Spanish proverb to Senator Carey, "It is a waste of lather to shave an ass," has also been cut out. A few famous sentences came very near having their origin in congress. Davy Crockett, the author of "Be sure you're right, then go ahead," was a member of the house of representatives for two years, but it does not appear that this oft quoted advice was originated with him there. Henry Clay's "I would rath-

er be right than president" was said to some friends at the capitol, but not in public debate. Senator Sherman, too, is the author of the "mending fences" phrase, although he waited until he was at his home in Mansfield before he uttered it. While Hayes was still president and Mr. Sherman was secretary of the treasury he entertained hopes of a presidential nomination. Just before the Republican national convention met he went to Mansfield, and while there was called upon for a speech. In the course of his remarks Mr. Sherman denied having traveled to Ohio to promote his presidential aspirations. "I have simply come," he said, "to mend my fences, which are greatly in need of repair."—Washington Post.

REVEALED AFTER DEATH.

Another California Scandal Revealed by a Lawsuit.

Another scandal in the plutocratic life of the Pacific coast has been revealed by the suit of a negro woman who formerly resided in Louisville to establish the right of her son to a share in the estate of the late millionaire Edward Barron of San Francisco. That anything is possible in the picturesque society of the California metropolis is indicated by the fact that the San Francisco press handles this case as an ordinary matter of litigation, in which the principal question is one of legal right.

Back of the suit there is a sensational story of intrigue and intimidation in which Chris Buckley, the former boss of San Francisco politics, figures. It appears that after the millionaire wearied of the society of the colored woman he shipped her off to Louisville, accompanied by an agent, who purchased a house for her there and supplied her with funds.

Afterward the agent sought to keep her in Louisville and prevent her annoying the millionaire by threats that she would be sent to prison if she did not cease writing to Barron. The woman was not to be intimidated so easily, and after the allowances of money were stopped she returned to California. The result is the sensational suit now being fought.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

WIFE SENTENCES HUSBAND.

"Thirty Days In Jail," She Said When the Judge Turned the Case Over to Her.

The novelty of a wife being called to pronounce sentence upon her husband added zest to the proceedings in the police court at Richmond recently. John Trexler had time and time again been fined for drunkenness, and his wife invariably paid the fines. The other day he was up again on the customary charge, with the added offense of wife beating.

Justice Crutchfield, whose unique methods of dispensing justice are well known, turned an unwilling ear to the chronic culprit and called upon the wife to decide the penalty. Mrs. Trexler calmly scanned her derelict husband and sternly said:

"Thirty days in jail."
Trexler pathetically pleaded for forgiveness, alleging a penitent spirit and a yearning to reform, but the oft-abused and now triumphant wife was inexorable, and the court ordered that the sentence should take effect at once.—New York Sun.

Violent Commotion In Lake Superior.

Glen E. Balch, assistant engineer of the United States lake survey, returned a few days ago from Batchewana island, isolated and uninhabited, on the north shore of Lake Superior, 60 miles west of Sault Ste. Marie. He reports finding on that island such an upheaval as might have been caused by an earthquake.

He says that the disturbance was on the south side of the island and affected a strip from 200 to 300 feet wide and about 1,200 feet long. It also extended several hundred feet into the lake, the rocky bottom of which was elevated out of the water. On the shore the earth was thrown up into a series of great ridges, trees were torn up by the roots and broken to pieces, while everything visible showed the effect of some mighty force. Mr. Balch is confident that it was of recent occurrence, the appearance of the broken rocks at the water's edge warranting this conclusion.—Chicago Record.

An Appropriate Hymn.

Chief Big Tree had a powwow the other day at Brantly Baptist church, Baltimore. The big Indian spoke in his native Kiowa. An interpreter named Samuel A. Ha-Tone stood alongside of the mighty warrior on the platform and sandwiched his English versions in between the guttural sounds of the chief. Such was the effect of the presence of this Indian, who, before his conversion a year ago, was rebanded from the slaughter of both whites and redskins, that when he had ended his simple remarks the entire audience spontaneously burst out into that stirring old missionary hymn, "There Is a Fountain Filled With Blood."—Baltimore Sun.

Fresh Water Lobsters.

Now, some say there is no such thing as a fresh water lobster. The Connecticut newspaper man rises to the emergency and gives this in answer: "Bennett French, while fishing in a brook near the home of Charles Bradley, near Zoar, found a fully developed lobster, over 6 inches in length, which he cap-

tured and is to save 'in alcohol as a curiosity. Few people have seen fresh water lobsters, although Sid Victory, the veteran fisherman, states that he has found a few specimens in the same brook. The lobster is perfectly formed and is a perfect likeness of his salt water brethren."—Hartford Courant.

Academicians as Legion of Honor Men.

Sardon's promotion to be commander of the Legion of Honor makes the number of commanders in the French Academy four. There are also two grand crosses—the Duc d'Aumale and M. Pasteur—and two grand officers—Alexandre Dumas and M. Gerard. The six members who have never received the Legion of Honor form a curious list. They are the Duc d'Andiffret-Pasquier, the Comte d'Haussonville, Vicomte Melchior de Vogue, MM. Leon Say, Emile Ollivier and Challemeil-Lacour.

Alleged Discovery of a Murillo.

The artistic world has just been asked to believe in the discovery of another Murillo. The other day Dnez, a well known artist, found near Honfleur an old canvas, very dirty, which the owner valued at less than the frame. The subject was two children, and the style indicated a masterly hand. Sixty francs was accepted gladly for the picture. It now has been pronounced a Murillo, and the purchaser has had an offer of 17,000 francs for his bargain.—New York Sun.

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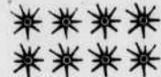
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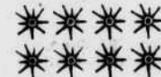
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