Great Men Begin Early.

BY EDWARD PIERREPONT.

The strong man who has not made his mark before he is 45 will never make it; and the young man who has not set his ambitious foot upon "the ladder leaning on a cloud," before he is 25, will never ascend it. Look back 300 years and more, and you shall not find a single instance of a man illustrious in great affairs, who did not early begin his great career. Gustavus Adolphus ascended the throne of Sweden at 16; before he was 34 he was one of the great rulers of Europe. Condé conducted a memorable campaign at 17, and at 22, he, and Turkenne also, were of the most illustrious men of their time. Maurice of Saxony died at 32, conceded to have been one of the profoundest statesmen and one of the ablest generals which Christendom had seen. The great Leo X. was Pope at 38; having finished his academic training he took the office of cardinal at 28—only twelve months younger than was Charles James Fox when he entered Parliament. Martin Luther had become largely distinguished at 24 and at 36 had reached the topmost round of his world-wide fame. Of Napoleon it is superfluous to say that at 25 he commanded the army of Italy. At 30 he was not only one of the most illustrious generals of all time, but one of the great law-givers of the world. At 46 he saw Waterloo. Wellington, be it remembered, was born the same year. From the earliest years of Queen Elizebeth to the latest of Queen Victoria, England has had scarce an able statesman who did not leave the university by the time he was twenty, and many of them left at an earlier age. Lord Bacon graduated at Cambridge when sixteen, and was called to the bar at twenty-one. The great Cromwell, by all measures the ablest ruler that England ever had, left the University of Cambridge at eighteen, was a student at law in London at twenty. John Hampden, after graduating at Oxford, was a student at law in the Inner Temple at nineteen. William Pitt entered the university at fourteen, was Chancellor of the Exchequer at twenty-four, and so continued for twenty years, and when twenty-five he was the most powerful uncrowned head in Europe, and like his great father, Lord Chatham, he was charged with "the atrocious crime of being a young man." Charles James Fox was in Parliament at nineteen. Peel was in Parliament at twenty-one and Palmerston was Lord of Admiralty at twenty-three. Gladstone was in Parliament at twenty-one, and at twenty-four was Lord of the Treasury. John Bright, one of the ablest statesmen of England, never was at any school a day after he was fifteen years old. The late Lord Beasonsfield left the cloister and entered the great world early—as did John Bright—and commenced his political career by writing a book at 19, in which he predicted that he would be Prime Minister.

Washington was distinguished as a colonel in the army at 22, commander of the forces at 43, and president at 57. Webster was in college at 15, gave earnest of his future before he was 25, and at 30 was the peer of the ablest man in Congress. Henry Clay was in the Senate of the United States at 29; contrary to the constitution. William H. Seward commenced the practice of law at 21; at 27 was president of a state convention, and at 37 governor of the great State of New York. John Quincy Adams, at the age of 14, was secretary to Mr. Dana, then minister at the Russian Court; at 30 he was himself Minister to Prussia; at 35 he was Minister to Russia; at 48 he was Minister to England; at 50 he was secretary of state, and president at 57. General Grant was but 39 years old when he gained his victory at Fort Donelson, and only 41 when he took Vicksburg. Jonathan Edwards acquired early renown as the greatest metaphysician in America, and as unsurpassed by any one in Europe. He commenced the reading of Latin when 6 years old. At 10 he wrote a remarkable paper upon the immortality of the soul. At the age of 13 he entered Yale College, where he graduated four years later. Before he was 17 he had completely reasoned out his great doctrine concerning the freedom of the will. Before he was 16 he commenced preaching at one of the first churches of the city of New York. At 24 he was installed over the church in Northampton. From Leo X. down to General Grant and Prince Bismarck there is not one name of large renown in war, church, or state whose career of greatness did not conspicuously begin in very early manhood. Goethe was a marvel of precocity. When but six years and two months old the terrible earthquake which destroyed Lisbon occurred, and he amazed the people of his native town by his discourse upon the event as against the goodness of Providence. Before he was nine years old he could write in several languages, including French, Latin and Greek. He was in the university at 16, and was made a doctor of laws before he was 22. At 25 he projected the writing of "Faust," and published the first part of it 27 years before he finished the play.—Youth.

The great theater now being built in Chicago—the Auditorium—will, says Mr. McVickar, be too large for opera. Every theater with a seating capacity of 6,000 must be. A single human voice can not fill as large a theater as that. For oratorio or monster concerts, where there are 800 in the orchestra and twice that many in a vocal chorus on the stage, it is admirably well suited. It is also well fitted to hold conventions in and will be ready in time for the presidential nominating conventions next year.

A Glimpse of the Czar.

A few nights ago, says a St. Petersburg correspondent of the New York Sun, I attended the illuminations at Peterhoff in honor of the czarina's birthday. The czar's palace is on a peninsula, and the grounds and buildings occupy almost a mile square—the most superb structures, fountains, and miles of the finest parking and drives in the world. Scores of buildings and fountains, hundreds of trees and great crowns, crosses, and figures, besides miles of high walls, were covered with colored lamps. There were millions of lights and it required a regiment of soldiers and hundreds of civilians weeks to put them in place. All was paid for from the public treasury, or rather the czar's treasury, repleted by the people.

At a time in the evening when the fountains and lights glistened most, the bands played loudest, and the pyrotechnics and cannon from the men-of-war in the gulf glared and roared best, the royal family gave the assembled multitude a rare treat, it showed itself. Seldom it is that people in Russia see their emperor, their czar, because he suspects them of designs.

I was making my way between two of the great blazing walls of colored lights, through one of the drives, when a detachment of Cossacks came dashing along, slashing their sabres and driving the people out of the way. In their wake came soldiers on foot and great detachments of men in citizen's clothing. The latter stationed themselves in front of the lines of the masses. A din of voices—lusty cheering is heard in the distance. It comes nearer, then nearer. More Cossacks, more soldiers, more men in citizen's clothing, and farther back we are crowded. The tier of officious citizens is re-enforced in our front, and many linger in the driveway. Finally the caravan comes in view. More Cossacks, soldiers, citizens. Eight white horses, each one on the left bearing a liveryman, are next seen; then the royal equipage, an immense gold-mounted chariot. The czar, a great burly fellow with full beard, crown, and uniform, is on the left seat in front. The brother, the crown prince, the czarina, and grand dukes, &c., make up the load. On every hand of the carriage, four deep, are Cossacks, while the driveway in front and rear is blocked with soldiery, making a perfect shield against violent attack.

The "citizens" who were so very plentiful and officious were the most experienced detectives and body guards in the empire. There were thousands of them. It would have been impossible for one to raise his or her hand against the czar or any member of his family. It is the boast of the Russian authorities that their detectives have eyes in every portion of their heads and bodies. The whole service of protecting the crown and members of the family, and suppressing all thoughts of dissatisfaction with the present form of government is in full charge of Gresser, chief of the secret service. The authority of this officer is appalling. He can order into exile or the execution yard any one suspected of unlawful or disrespectful acts or intentions. He attends the theaters, and may be said to run all places of amusement. If he is displeased with anything he suppresses it, and there is no redress.

A German Famous for His Wit.

Moritz Gotlieb Saphir, a Jewish journalist, is regarded as the foremost wit and humerist of the German-speaking people. Many examples are cited of his readiness in retort.

While living at Munich he incurred the displeasure of King Ludwig by criticising the royal author's party. An opportunity subsequently offered for expelling the offending journalist from the Bavarian capital, and he was ordered to leave within four and twenty hours. The court chamberlain, commissioned by the king, waited on him and asked if he could manage to get away in so short a time.

"Yes," replied the unabashed journalist, "and if my own legs can't take me quickly enough I'll borrow some of the superfluous feet in her majesty's last volume of verse."

He once accidentally knocked against some person when turning the corner of a street in Munich. "Beast!" cried the offended person without waiting for an apology. "Thank you," said the journalist, "and mine is Saphir."

When introduced for the first time to the prompter of the Leipsiger Stadt theatre, a pompous personage too much in evidence at times, Saphir remarked: "I heard a good deal of you. Hear A—"—the prompter bowed his acknowledgments of the expected compliment, while the wit added—"in the course of a performance last evening."

Driving out in the suburbs of Vienna one day, his coachman, a peppery miethkutscher, got into an altercation with a rival Jehu. Words soon led to oaths, and oaths to blows, and the pair set to in good earnest to decide which was the better man. Popping his head out of the fiacre window, Saphir mildly implored the pair to oblige him and drub each other as quickly as they could, for he had "engaged the carriage by the hour."

A young couple, newly engaged, were favored with a letter of introduction to him, which they duly presented. Now, the gentleman was notorious for his effeminate habits and ways, and his appearance at once struck the eye of the observant journalist, who had heard about him. He said nothing, received the pair with empressement, insisted upon their being seated in his most comfortable easy chair, assured them how pleased he was to hear of their engagement, and wound up with: "Now, pray, you must, you really must, tell me which of you is the bride."

He once described a theatre as being so full that people were obliged to laugh perpendicularly, there was no room to do so horizontally. Of a dull townlet he visited, he remarked it was so quiet that but for an occasional death there would really be no life in the place.

MINNESOTA NEWS ITEMS.

In some places the mercury changed 50 degrees in 48 hours, at the beginning of the cold spell.

There are eleven cases of diphtheria in the orphans' home at Vesa.

Rev. D. Henderson of Worthington has accepted a call to the First Congregational church of Cannon Falls. He will assume charge January 1.

The Catholic fair at Austin netted $800.

At Brainerd, Thomas Wadham, a veteran engineer of the Northern Pacific died at the age of eighty-eight. He was born in England, where he ran a locomotive in one of the earliest practical applications of steam to railways. He came thence to Canada to the Grand Trunk, and next served the Wabash at Toledo, coming thence to the Northern Pacific.

The state university regents have instructed their committee on law school to go ahead and complete the organization. It will probably be in operation in January, with a corps of eminent instructors.

Several months ago Jervis Howard, living in the northern part of the state, near White Earth reservation, was arrested on the charge of defrauding a woman out of $1,200 pension money while acting as a pension agent. He was tried at the October term of the United States district court, found guilty and sentenced by Judge Nelson to thirty days' imprisonment and to pay $500 fine. His term of imprisonment was finished a short time ago, and through his attorney he immediately made application to take the poor debtors' oath to escape the fine, but the application was denied on the ground that it was too soon after the expiration of his term of imprisonment.

At Anoka, Arthur Johnson, son of James Johnson, aged eighteen, went to a local drug store and called for an emetic. Four ounces of tarter emetic was given, and it appears that he did not understand its power, and took nearly the whole of it, or about 400 grains, while ten are a dose. The result was fatal poisoning, and he died after severe suffering.

Friends of Horlong, the murderer at Fergus Falls, will endeavor to secure commutation of sentence.

A. B. Shipley, a restaurant keeper of Faribault, was found in his cellar with a bullet hole in his right temple and dead. For several months he had been in ill health, and of late has been laboring under the belief that he was about to fail in business and that his friends had gone back on him. His business is in good shape and was paying well.

A house owned and occupied by Aaron Safford, at Read's Landing, was burned with its contents.

Frederick Kroeger, twenty years of age, employed at digging clay in Goodhue township, was instantly killed by the caving in of the clay.

At Sauk Center, W. L. Russell has made an assignment to A. H. Pettit for the benefit of his creditors. Assets, $2,600; liabilities, $7,000.

At Albert Lea, the grocery firm of Boone & Benson assigned for the benefit of their creditors. The liabilities are $2,500.

Dr. Brewer Mattocks of Faribault, a former resident of St. Paul, who has for some time past been engaged in writing poems of undoubted merit and literary ability, but who has hitherto kept himself secluded from the public, has at last consented to give readings from his works.

The State Historical society has received eighty-six volumes on American genealogy, which was purchased by an agent of the society at the sale of the Guild library, which took place at Boston. Some of the books are exceedingly rare and valuable. The society is now in the possession of about six hundred volnmes on American genealogy. Here is a chance now, for the people of Minnesota to find out something about their ancestors.

The wedding of Fred S. Moore, son of J. K. Moore, secretary of Gov. McGill, and Miss Callie G. Brandt of San Diego, Cal., which was postponed from Oct. 31 on account of the death of the sister of the bride, took place Nov. 22. Mr. and Mrs. Moore will reside at San Bernardino, Cal.

Hon. Aaron Ozmun of Rochester, died a few days ago, at the age of 73 years. Mr. Ozmun was one of the eldest and most respected residents of the state, and was prominent in politics some years ago, having represented Olmsted county in the state legislature during 1859 and 1860. A. M. Ozmun, president of the firm of Farwell, Ozmun, Kirk & Co., and Edward H. Ozmun, attorney, both residents of St. Paul, are sons of the deceased.

Duluth had a $11,000 fire on Monday Nov. 28th. The principal sufferers are C. Stenson, O. Alden, Pezarde and Fenoti, and Mr. Kramse.

The Fergus Falls Journal states that Capt. George A. Thompson, of Deer Creek, a well known and active politician, was indicted by the last grand jury for using $200 of the funds of his school district of which he was treasurer. A warrant has been issued for his arrest but he cannot be found.

At Sauk Centre, a man named Schwallon, employed in the Keller factory, had his arm cut off, just below the elbow, in the planer. His sleeve was first caught and drew his arm in.

Even Kleven, of Freeman, Freeborn county, has lost 30 hogs from hog cholera. No other cases of the disease are known in the county.

At Hastings, Fred Fischer attempted to commit suicide by taking a dose of strychnine, but the prompt use of emetics saved him.

The Fergus Falls Ugeblad, a Norwegian weekly paper at Fergus Falls, is opposed to the hanging of Holong, and it is understood that several prominent Norwegians are circulating a petition asking the governor to commute his sentence.

John Callie, a tramping Scotchman, was in jail at St. Cloud, bound over for a slight theft. A short time ago a friend of his family in Scotland, which is most respectable and well-to-do, traced him to St. Cloud. He was released, the county attorney allowing him to plead guilty to petty larceny and pay a fine of $75 and costs. He left at once for Scotland.

About 1,000 saddles of venison had been shipped from Brainerd up to the 30th ult.

David Alexander, one of the oldest residents died at his home at Howard Lake. He was seventy-seven years of age. He served with great credit in the war of the Rebellion, and his constitution was undermined by sufferings contracted during a lengthy confinement in Andersonville prison.

An opinion on the relationship existing between village and township organizations in the matter of township improvements has been made by Attorney General Clapp and filed with State Auditor Braden. Village and township officers are elected jointly, and together vote on improvements, which by custom have heretofore been paid for out of the funds of both. The opinion, however, is to the effect, that the village is not compelled to pay any part of such improvements. Should this system be inaugurated it would work a hardship to the township, as the village authorities could, if they so choose, order extensive township improvements for which the village would not be compelled to share the expense. Whether or not the village can now present claims for the money which it has already paid, the attorney general is non-committal.