

PEN PICTURES

SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA.

1851—The Fate of All—De Witt Clinton Cooley—Wm. Taylor Donaldson—An Old Firm—Real Estate—His Personality—Findlay McCormick—Impressions—Indians—Quiet and Undemonstrative—Thomas W. Bourne—Emanuel Good—William S. Combs—Fort Snelling Claim Association—Taught the First Penmanship—The Masonic Fraternity—Civil Officers—Real Estate—The Real Man—Backward—Turn Backward.

BY T. M. NEWSON.

Article XXXVIII.

THE FATE OF ALL.

"Yes, 'twill soon be over. This sickly dream of life will vanish from my feverish brain; and death my wedding veil will redempt From this wild region of unvaried pain.

You brook will glide as softly as before, You landscape-still, you golden harvest grow, You sprightly air on mounting gull will soar, When Henry's name is heard no more below.

I sigh when all my youthful friends caress, They laugh in health, and future evils breeze; Then shall a wife and smiling children bring, While I am mourning in my silent grave, God of the just—"Thou gavest the bitter cup; I bow to Thy behest, and drink it up."

A writer says, "though a century has passed since the birth of the poet Henry Kirke White, and though landscapes smile, and golden harvests grow, and the songs of birds is heard in the grove, Henry's name is still known and cherished and will continue to be, while the poetic muse of Albion is appreciated in all its genius and glory."

We may add—three more old links have been broken—three more old settlers gone—Breuer, Fischer, Stewart—three more places are vacant—and thus, in rounding out our lives we drop by the way side and the ranks become thinner and thinner. 'Tis the fate of all.

"Yes, 'twill soon be over. This sickly dream of life."

DEWITT CLINTON COOLEY.

Judge Cooley, by which name he is more generally known, is one of the familiar personages of the past in the city of St. Paul, a sort of index board marking the years long since gone; and although the younger portion of the community may not know him, the old settlers will soon pick him out of the jostling crowds that swarm our sidewalks. Born in the state of New York in 1824, he received a thorough education, and after the study of law for five years, at the age of twenty-one he passed a searching examination by the late Charles O. Connor, of New York city, and was admitted to the bar of the supreme court of that state. He subsequently removed south, and in 1851 came to St. Paul for the benefit of his health.

OFFICE FIELD.

Soon after his arrival here he was made town attorney (there was then no city), and became city attorney when the town assumed that dignity. He was also elected attorney for Ramsey county, and held both offices simultaneously. He was sole commissioner to draft and revise the first ordinances adopted by the new city; he was also

FIRST PENSION AGENT

in Minnesota. After practicing law in this city up to 1864, he removed to Wilkesbarre, Penn., but at the expiration of ten years returned to St. Paul, where he has remained almost uninterruptedly ever since.

AS A WRITER.

Judge Cooley possesses peculiar talents as a writer, his principal forte being fun and sarcasm, and yet he prepared a most useful index digest of the tax laws of Minnesota, which not only received the sanction of the state, but elicited high commendation from the bench and the bar. He is well known as the originator and promoter of the Third House of Representatives of the state; that is, many citizens came together voluntarily and went through the formality of organizing the Third House, and then listening to the reading of the governor's message, which was usually written by Cooley, and many times ridiculing men and measures and parties, but more generally a take off on the genuine legislature then in session at the capitol. In these papers Judge Cooley showed point, fun, sarcasm, sense and nonsense. He also later delivered a lecture on "Old Settlers," in which he endeavored to bring out their weak points, and yet in a manner not to offend. He has also written some dramatic composition, as well as verse; and quite recently has compiled a book, but upon what particular subject the public are not yet advised. He dealt but little in real estate, but at one time owned a nice piece of property on the old St. Anthony road, but after the death of his wife, sold it. His domestic afflictions have been very sad.

AS HE IS.

Judge Cooley is a short, thick-set man, with strong features and hair silvered with gray, with a well poised head and a firm step. This nature runs to fun as naturally as the duck seeks the water, and in conversation he is always bringing in some pun or jest. He is always good natured, and when interested in conversation, picks his left hand with his right, and this motion is intensified as the conversation grows more earnest. He is quite unassuming; is not in love with his life sufficiently to practice a great deal, but devotes most of his time to literary pursuits, and when he gets into the proper groove—if he ever does—the public will stop and examine his merits.

WM. TAYLOR DONALDSON.

Mr. Donaldson was born of English parents, in Ohio in 1820, on his father's farm until eighteen years old, when he came to Cincinnati to become acquainted with the practical working of business; came to St. Paul in 1851 and formed a partnership with J. D. Pollock, and this firm has existed from that day to this, or

THIRTY-THREE YEARS.

being the oldest firm in the city, although Wm. Constance individually has been the longest continuously in business here. An old firm man. Mr. Donaldson early identified himself with the fire department of this city; indeed he was among the very first, and remained with it as an active member until it passed out of the hands of the volunteer members into the control of the city. While performing his duties as a fireman he was injured, and was disabled for some time. Although Mr. Donaldson did not enter the army, he contributed toward the support of the government during the war, and by strict attention to business has secured a comfortable property. Married a Miss Thorne in 1873; has two children.

REAL ESTATE.

In 1851, in connection with Mr. Pollock, his partner, Mr. Donaldson purchased four lots on the corner of Broadway and Fifth streets, for \$100. He sold some of them for \$1,700 and the balance for \$30,000. He bought thirty acres on the shores of Lake Phelan for \$125, worth now \$5,000; secured two five-acre lots in Hoyt's addition for \$100; sold for \$3,000; worth now \$12,000.

HIS PERSONALITY.

Mr. Donaldson is tall, slender gentleman, unpretentious, cool, cautious, methodical, and honest. He and his partner have worked harmoniously in the same harness together for thirty-three years, and during that period have passed through some very depressing times, and yet they have withstood the financial storms and have the honor—and it is an enviable one—of being the oldest firm in the city. Mr. Donaldson was about twenty-

six years old when he came here; then a young man with no gray hairs or wrinkles; now he is on the shady side of life, and prefers the old rocking chair to the merry jig of hilarity in the ball room. Possessing a handsome house and surrounded with all the comforts vouchsafed to the family, very few enjoy to a greater degree than Mr. Donaldson; and this in declining years he has become meliorated with contentment and is satisfied with a life well spent.

FINDLAY MCCORMICK.

"Full many a flower is born to blush unseen," etc., and this seems to be the case of Mr. McCormick, who, though an old settler, is scarcely ever found posting before the public. Born in Pennsylvania in 1818, he worked on a farm for a few years; then attended a common school; became a teacher and taught school; was employed as book-keeper for four years in an iron furnace establishment in Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, and came to Minnesota in 1852.

OFFICES.

Was city comptroller of St. Paul two years; receiver of the Wabasha bridge seven years; engaged in the city and U. S. engineer department for nearly three years; has been and is now secretary of the board of managers of the Reform school, and has held the office since 1869, or fifteen years. His family consisted of a wife and two children; wife and son dead; has a daughter living.

IMPRESSIONS—INDIANS.

Mr. McCormick says he never expected to see St. Paul what it is to-day. He remembers it as a small village with huts, Indians, French and half-breeds, and with no outward evidence of its ultimate growth to its present size. One of the events which impressed his mind most thoroughly, was the visit of a dozen Chippewa Indians coming over Baptist hill in 1852, near the old church, in war paint, with tomahawks, knives and guns, ferociously in pursuit of the Sioux. Their wild, fierce looks and demoralized hearts haunt his memory yet, and he should have known, not knowing their motive, he supposed they were making a raid upon the whites, and one can conceive what feelings a man would have under such circumstances.

QUIET AND UNDEMONSTRATIVE.

A more quiet and undemonstrative man does not live in St. Paul, than Mr. McCormick. Of ordinary size and of a pleasant nature, he glides in and out among the busy thorough almost unrecognized except to the few who know the inner paths of his life for the past thirty-three years. He is a man of unblemished character, retiring in his nature, strictly attentive to business, honorable, unambitious, and an excellent type of an honest man. Mr. McCormick's long connection with the Reform school renders him an important spoke in the great wheel of youthful reformation, which is one of the grandest institutions in the state of Minnesota.

THOMAS W. BOURNE.

Born in Canada in 1838, where he learned his trade; came to St. Paul in 1851; engaged with Borup & Oakes in 1851; mills; then in their flouring mills; then had charge of the old Winslow mill; then worked in the Government mill in Winnebago county; went to California in 1858; returned to St. Paul in 1866, when he continued to follow his trade in different parts of the state up to 1878, when he engaged as head miller in the Brainerd mills, where, we believe, he now is. He is a man who thoroughly knows his business; is industrious, and is an active worker in the great, busy beehive of life.

EMANUEL GOOD.

Mr. Good was born in Pennsylvania in 1837; received a common school education; came to St. Paul in 1850; when he arrived he saw a large crowd of Indians on the levee, even greater in numbers than the whites, which startled him; commenced his career here in the lumbering business; worked in

THE FIRST SAW MILL IN ST. PAUL.

And he studiously followed his business in the lumber trade for upwards of thirty-two years. He has accumulated a fine property consisting of houses and lots, and had a family of nine children, six of whom, however, are only living. He is a very quiet, industrious man, and a property in saving, and is a substantial citizen, really a Good man.

WILLIAM S. COMBS.

A small, delicate, slender, exceedingly pleasant young man, then only twenty years old, came to St. Paul thirty-three years ago, and who does not remember him? His pleasant smile, his affable manners, his genial ways, his ready wit, his ready tongue, his ready hand, and his ready eye, have made him a familiar name to many a citizen, and his name is still there, the old warm and generous heart is still there, the sincere real man is still there.

William S. Combs was born in the city of New York, in 1826, was educated at the public schools of that city; removed to Kentucky in 1843; resided in Lexington five years; in St. Louis in 1848, and located in St. Paul May 1, 1851, opening a book and stationery store in the fall of that year; broke his leg when at the time purchasing goods; returned to St. Paul, sold out and kept books at Mendota for Gen. Sibley, in the winter of 1851-2; married Miss Carrie White, May 10, 1852, while at Oxford, Ohio; took an active part in the public schools and served as president of the board of education, as well as secretary for several years, and as chairman of the building committee gave his personal attention to the erection of some of the largest and most expensive school buildings in the city, among which were the Jefferson, Madison and Lincoln schools, and was connected with the school board for sixteen years, giving his time freely to the public good to the detriment of his legitimate business.

THE FORT SNELLING CLAIM ASSOCIATION.

In early days a body of men associated themselves together to protect each other in holding their claims, and of this body of men H. M. Rice was president, and Wm. S. Combs was secretary. Very often it happened that a valuable claim would be taken possession of by some interloper, and then the power of the association was called in to evict him. On one occasion a man and his family had erected a shanty on a claim owned by Dr. Bidwell of this city, and as he would not go off, the members of the association met and commenced tearing down the building. When the shanty had become nearly destroyed of its outer covering, Dominick Troyer, a rugged and powerful man, seized the upright of the support of the roof, and then gave the man and his family fair warning that if they did not get out in three minutes he would let the roof down upon their heads, and seeing that he meant business, they "got," and Bidwell again took possession of his claim.

TAUGHT THE FIRST PENMANSHIP.

While Mr. Combs was carrying on his book business, in a building on Third street, next to the old Times office, he divided off a little room in the back part of his store, and there carried on penmanship and book keeping, the first of the kind ever taught in Minnesota. He was an industrious and ambitious young man, and filled up the time in this way to advance his pecuniary interests.

HIS MASONIC HISTORY.

Mr. Combs is a member of Ancient Landmark Lodge, No. 5, Minnesota Royal Arch Chapter, No. 1; St. Paul Council of R. and S. M., all of the Scottish Rite bodies, to the 30th degree; served the grand lodge as its grand secretary from 1866 to 1877; and the Grand Royal Arch chapter as grand secretary from 1867 to 1877; was M. P. G. M. of the Grand Council for a year.

CIVIL OFFICES.

He was an active member of the first board of trade and its secretary for several years. When the chamber of commerce was formed he was an active member of that body also for several years. He was also an early member of the Pioneer Guards, the first military organization in the state.

REAL ESTATE.

Mr. Combs did not deal much

in real estate, but he purchased in 1853, eighty acres of land near what is now known as Post's Sliding, for \$700; at present worth \$80,000. Of course, like all the rest of the old settlers, he let it go for just what it cost him. It is not now to be had for less than \$100,000. He has saved a home, however, on Pleasant avenue, which is now quite valuable, and is a lovely retreat for his declining years.

THE REAL MAN.

For thirty odd years, during which time we have known Mr. Combs quite intimately, he has always been an agreeable and pleasant gentleman. His sunny nature has never left him, and clings to him even now. His early history was full of romance, and very few could pass through the many trials he encountered when a mere boy, without greatly marring even a less perfect disposition. Born in Pennsylvania, he was owned by Mr. Combs, and yet he is as genial to-day as he was over a quarter of a century ago. A fine looking man, straight, commanding, with a frank, free, open countenance, he wins his way among his fellow men, and though not blessed with a superabundance of this world's goods, yet he scatters pearls of sunshine wherever he goes, and thus we leave him—"the noblest Roman of them all."

BACKWARD, TURN BACKWARD.

Backward, turn backward, O time in your flight, Make me a child once more for a night! Mother, come back from the echoless shore, Take me again to your heart as of yore, Kiss me again, and I will never more, Smooth the few silver threads out of my hair; Over my slumbers your loving watch keep—Rock me to sleep, mother—rock me to sleep.

MR. LANGTRY.

The husband of the actress finds a Chicagoan, Volger Gebhard. [New York letter in Detroit Times.]

Society over this way is thrilled by the announcement that Mrs. Langtry is going to become an American citizen, sue her husband for divorce, and come here to live permanently. The inference is that she means to get married to Mr. Gebhard. Mr. Langtry, so say the gossips, has at last consented that such a programme shall be carried out, up to the divorce part of it. He is not, of course, expected to know anything of the Gebhard item upon the programme. So much for gossip, which, as is often the case, knows nothing about it. Mr. Langtry would be heartily glad to see his wife come back to him, and he has generally been held in rather light esteem by reason of the lady's curious conduct. As a matter of fact, there are points which ought to bring him some degree of sympathy. When Mrs. Langtry's beauty first became known her husband, who was passionately devoted to her, had an income of about \$10,000 a year. The flattery of the titled snobs who surrounded her, quite turned the woman's head, and she began to fly beyond her husband's means. He was weak enough in his affection for her to let her go her own way, and she practically ruined him. But out of the wreck she fortune he has pulled together to get along upon a comfortable, and the story that she sends him \$15 a week to live on is only another of the lies that are spread about to begot sympathy for the precious creature and contempt for her husband. Long, long ago Mr. Langtry became convinced that his wife was not behaving in a manner exactly wifely, and since then they have not been together, but each at his time. But his name has been on every tongue, while all sorts of vile insinuations regarding her good name and his manhood have been rife, even under the expansion of the miserable Gebhard business, he has remained silent and reserved, to the great credit of his name. It is a full of chivalry to strike at the woman he once called his wife, and too many to call attention to the ruin she had wrought in his fortune, his position and his honor. He would have been glad if he had seen her in the street, but he would not, though he would take no step toward that end on his own account. Freedom from a woman whose vanity, whose love of adulation, and whose utter disregard of anything but the gratification of her petty whims which he had to make a very welcome thing, it happens to know these things are true. Mr. Langtry is an amiable but rather thick-headed Briton, with a good deal of strength of character, very much spirit and a great amount of personal property. So as Mr. Gebhard is concerned, I fancy the divorce proceedings will be somewhat likely to cool his ardor. To be the partner of a woman like Mrs. Langtry in a national scandal is one thing, to marry her is quite another. Mr. Gebhard is a man of some means, and a club, where a notorious liaison is a big thing. But to marry the other party is not so fine among club men, who in New York seem to rather like that which is dishonored and to frown upon anything savouring of scandal. It is a pity that the club, where a notorious liaison is a big thing, where a notorious liaison is a big thing, where a notorious liaison is a big thing.

Was I Worldy.

[N. Y. Robby, Editorial.] We would like to know how Gen. Butler explains his conduct in the case of the Smith Brothers, of New Orleans, who sued him after the war and made him restore to them \$70,000 that he had taken from them while in military command there in 1862. The facts are largely on record in the United States District Court of New York and they are not to be dispelled with that evasive flippancy so characteristic of the Sun's candidate for the presidency.

The Smith brothers were New York men who had gone to New Orleans and established a private bank. Butler had no more right to invade their establishment and take their money than he had to burglarize a private residence. But he did it under the guise of military authority, and as the commander of the army of occupation he had the undoubted right to confiscate the property of persons in a state of actual rebellion, but the Smith brothers were northern men and had committed no disloyal act. Even supposing they had committed such an act, the right to confiscate, it would have been his duty, of course, to turn the money realized into the United States Treasury. But he did not do that.

The war closed, and Smith Brothers, believing they had a valid claim against the government, went to the treasury at Washington, but were told that the money had not been turned in. They then put their case in the hands of Mr. Edwards Pierpont who brought suit for them in the United States Circuit Court, New York, against Butler. The suit was decided in favor of the plaintiffs and Butler had to disgorge. If this is not a truthful statement of this case we would like to see one made by some one authorized to do so by Gen. Butler himself. But if it is really true, it places Butler in a very bad light. He took the \$70,000 from the Smith Brothers on the pretext of confiscating it, or any other pretext, and failed to report it to the Treasury department at Washington, but kept it in his own pocket and carried it there until compelled, by a lawful order of the court, to restore it to its rightful owners, we desire to know how far such conduct is removed from robbery. That is what it would be called if it had been done by Frank James or other distinguished highwayman or bandit.

The Favorite Pupil.

[Chicago Herald.] In one of the school-houses on the West Side are a teacher and a pupil, between whom there are no tender ties such as those which united the souls of Dickens' sick scholar and his teacher—the West Side teacher—this is not a public school—went to the favorite scholar Friday just before school was out, and stroking the little fellow's head, said: "I have a ribbon for you. The boy looked up under the influence of the teacher and answered: "This is straight!" "Straight and on the dead q. t.," the teacher replied.

"And I'm in with it!" asked the lad. "You are," said the kind-hearted teacher. "All right; what's the racket?" asked the boy with two black eyes. "I want you to turn up missing next Monday. I will read a note signed by your mother saying that you are sick and not expected to live. But you are not sick, and I don't want to see you." "Monday?" "Monday," said the boy.

"Well, if Monday suits you it will suit me. Go on with the scheme," said the boy. "Then I tell the children that I can't teach school any more, and that I am going to tell them of the uncertainties of life and spread a gloomy feeling over them. I tell them to go home and not to go a way and play, as that would be very wicked. I dismiss school." "And I am dying said the boy."

"Exactly. You meet me behind Blinckum's blacksmith shop at 1 o'clock." "Make it 12," said the boy. "Can't do it; can't dismiss school too early. Henry Wright, I don't care if I see you, meet me there and we'll take it in." "Good enough. I am with you," said the boy, and as the kind-hearted teacher took him by the hand he asked: "Not any tobacco?" "Nothing but fine-cut," the bright-faced child answered, as he handed out awad to the teacher.

A Long Thief Stick.

[New Orleans Special.] There arrived in this city last evening at 5 o'clock at the head of Soraparu street an old and dilapidated skiff which had brought and safely landed three persons who embarked on it at St. Louis five weeks ago and who had made the voyage of the river between these cities during the time. The persons referred to consisted of a man wife and child. The husband, Timothy O'Callahan, who is about thirty years of age, is a native of St. Louis, and some ten years younger, being desirous of coming South, but not having sufficient means for their journey determined upon making the trip in a skiff, which Mr. O'Callahan purchased in St. Louis for a small dog sled, and started on several towns and cities en route, and twice exhausted their money to the last cent. On arriving at New Orleans last evening Mrs. O'Callahan was discovered to be so worn out by the trip, and so prostrated with malaria or swamp fever, from exposure to malarial winds conveyed to the Charity Hospital, while Mr. O'Callahan and their three-year-old daughter were kindly taken care of by a German, Mrs. Stoenburger, residing near the Soraparu Market.

MANSIONS MEAN DEFEAT.

Blaine's and Butler's Fine Houses in Washington as Indicators of Coming Events. [Washington Special.]

Large sized photographs of James G. Blaine's \$100,000 palace in this city have been and are now being numerously distributed throughout Maine and other New England states. The object is to show how the members of congress can make money rapidly, and build for themselves palatial mansions. Mr. Blaine has rented his house furnished to Mr. Lefter, of Chicago, a retired merchant. It is said, for \$18,000 per year. The mansion is said to be one of the finest and most elaborately furnished in the country. When Mrs. Blaine was in Europe she purchased all the fine art for the mansion in Paris and it is common gossip that it was admitted through the custom house free of duty, Mr. Blaine at the time being secretary of state.

His opponents two years ago distributed photographs of the mansion of ex-Senator Window of Minnesota, which is said to did considerable towards defeating him for reelection to the United States Senate from that state. The same thing was done in the case of ex-Secretary Ross, who was elected for reelection to the fourth-thirtieth congress from the Camden (N. J.) district. All these statesmen who have built elegant mansions in the city, have so far been defeated when they went before the people for reelection. Ex-Senator Pendleton, who built an elegant house adjoining Robeson's, and near Window's was the last of those defeated. Don Cameron whose stately mansion is in the same neighborhood, it is said, will probably be retired at the end of his present senatorial term, which expires next March.

It is the intention of the Democrats to distribute photographic pictures of the immense granite tower mansion on Capitol hill. It is said that every labor organization will receive one of these pictures. Butler's house is one of the objects always pointed out to strangers who visit the capitol. It is said that it is a finer palace than the White House, and it was occupied by President Arthur in lieu of the executive mansion when he succeeded to the presidency after President Garfield died, and he remained there during the first few months of his administration. Poor Ben Jones, who was the former owner of the building, was a representative wood-pulp monopolist from Massachusetts occupying one portion and the government rents the remainder. When John J. Butler received the property, in one day he had the building divided into three distinct houses, Congressman Russell a representative wood-pulp monopolist from Massachusetts occupying one portion and the government rents the remainder. When John J. Butler received the property, in one day he had the building divided into three distinct houses, Congressman Russell a representative wood-pulp monopolist from Massachusetts occupying one portion and the government rents the remainder.

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Confirmation of Assessment for Grading

Edmund Street.

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS, CITY OF ST. PAUL, MINN., Sept. 2, 1884. The assessment of benefits costs and expenses arising from the grading of Edmund street, from Rice street to Dale street in the city of St. Paul, Minnesota, having been completed by the Board of Public Works and for said city, said Board will meet at their office in said city at 2 p. m., on the 22d day of September, A. D. 1884, to hear objections (if any) to said assessment, at which time and place, unless sufficient cause is shown to the contrary, said assessment will be confirmed by said Board.

The following is a list of the supposed owners' names, a description of the property benefited, and the amounts assessed against the same, to-wit:

Maggoffin & Breckenridge's Addition to St. Paul.

Table with 4 columns: Supposed owner and description, Lot, Block, Benefits. Lists property owners and assessed amounts for Maggoffin & Breckenridge's Addition to St. Paul.

Michel's Rearrangement of Block 14, Robertson and Van Etten's Addition to St. Paul.

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Smith's Subdivision of Block 12, Stinson's Division, St. Paul.

Table with 4 columns: Supposed owner and description, Lot, Block, Benefits. Lists property owners and assessed amounts for Smith's Subdivision of Block 12, Stinson's Division, St. Paul.

All objections to said assessment must be made in writing and filed with the Clerk of said Board at least one day prior to said meeting.

Official: R. L. GORMAN, Clerk Board of Public Works, 24