

PAST ADMINISTRATIONS.

INCREASE IN THE BUSINESS OF THE DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS.

Interesting Interview with an Old Washingtonian—How Early Administrations Compare with the Present in Magnitude—The Postoffice Department.

The other day I met an old Washingtonian, who has lived in this city ever since he was born in 1820. He has lived under the shadow of the administration of Monroe, John Quincy Adams, Jackson, Van Buren, Harrison, Tyler, Polk, Taylor, Fillmore, Pierce, Buchanan, Lincoln, Johnson, Grant, Hayes, Garfield, and Arthur, and he is now living under the administration of Grover Cleveland, a man he never heard of till within three years. I looked upon him as a rich find, and invited him to my room, and set my interviewing machine at work.

"How do the early administrations under which you lived compare with our modern administrations in magnitude, and will you please tell me about the personnel of the government in the different departments?" "I was born, as you will understand, during the administration of Monroe. Of course I have no recollection of him, but have an indistinct recollection of Adams, for he went out when I was 9 years old. I remember Jackson very distinctly, for he went out when I was 17. He was a small, spare gentleman, with a thin determined-looking face, with his gray hair brushed backward, standing up. He was never very particular in his dress, although on state occasions he would handsomely up and look quite spruce. I remember the yellowish white beaver hat he wore, which gave him a distinguished appearance. I have seen him lots of times sitting on the back verandah of the White House smoking a corncob pipe.

DEPARTMENTS IN OLD HICKORY'S TIME. "The difference between the executive branch of the government and that of today is about the same as it is between a country store and a wholesale dry goods house. Why, my dear sir, in the treasury department there were not more than seventy-five clerks and employes, and now they have if I am not mistaken, about 3,000, including the employes of the pension and printing bureaus. You must remember the revenue under Jackson's administration only amounted to an average of about \$25,000,000 per annum, now it is about \$300,000,000. He did not have 300,000 pensioners to provide for, which alone requires an army of clerks; he had no printing bureau to run, which also requires about a regiment of employes. He was not engaged in putting up immense and costly buildings, as our government is now doing. The war and state departments probably employ about three times as many clerks as they did under Jackson. The interior department was not in existence then, which employs a good many hundreds of clerks. The employes of the postoffice department, including postmasters and their clerks, did not number more than 5,000. Now they number 75,000.

"The number of letters handled in those good old days did not equal one hundredth of those handled to-day. You see postage then was rated 6 1/2, 12 1/2, 18 1/2, and 25 cents per sheet, no matter how large or how small each sheet might be, and these rates were charged according to distance. On a letter written on a sheet accompanied by an envelope, mailed at New York for Cleveland, Buffalo, or other points of equal or greater distance the postage was 50 cents!

NOT QUITE SO LARGE A MACHINE. "The mails were almost universally carried by stage coaches or on horseback. You can see from this the early presidents did not have quite so large a machine to handle as the president of to-day have."

"Didn't they weigh their letters to ascertain how much postage to charge?" "Why, no. The postmasters were required to find out from the appearance and thickness of a letter how many sheets composed it. It was generally mere guess work. They used no envelopes then. Two small sheets would frequently be charged twice as much as a letter written on a sheet several times as large."

"Were there as many callers at the White House in those days as there are now?" "Why, bless your soul, there were not one-fiftieth as many. In those days there were not 1 per cent. as many strangers visiting in Washington as there are now. We had only one prominent hotel, called 'Gadsby's hotel.' It stood on the site of the National hotel. There were no railroads to bring people here. Washington was a mere village in size."

"Do you remember anything very peculiar about Old Hickory?" "He had this peculiarity. He would stand by his friends cost what it would, even if it involved his reputation. He was very marked in that respect."—Bill Nye in Chicago News.

The Journalistic Garibaldi of Russia. Ivan Aksakoff, who died at Moscow recently, was the journalistic Garibaldi of Russia. He was the only man in Russia stronger than the czar, who had to follow where Aksakoff led. Aksakoff was the author of the last war against Turkey, and Gen. Skobelev was his military lieutenant. Aksakoff's fierce attacks on the czar's policy in the present Bulgarian imbroglio brought him warnings from the press censor, all of which the editor of the Russ disregarded.

As Aksakoff was the head and leader of Russian Pan Slavism, it would be dangerous to suppress him; so he died of heart-disease, like Skobelev, and the Russ will appear no more. The special correspondent of The London News says he has been shown proof by a distinguished member of the Russian Pan Slavist party that "Aksakoff was murdered, as Gen. Skobelev had been." The informant declared that both murders were accomplished by the German faction, acting at the beck of Prince Bismarck.—Chicago Tribune.

Training Dogs for Picket-Post Duty. The experience of the Soudan campaign has induced the military authorities of several European countries to try the experiment of training dogs for picket-post duty. In dark nights their qualification for that business is evidently superior to that of the most sagacious biped, and the plan of utilizing their talent has been tried centuries ago. During the conquest of Nicaragua, Balboa's camp was always guarded by four-legged sentries, and Baryatinski's scouts were repeatedly baffled by the vigilance of the watch-dogs that accompanied the Circassian guerrillas on all their campaigns.—Dr. Felix L. Oswald.

"The free shooter" is the name given to a hunter or marksman, who, by entering into a compact with the devil, procured balls, six of which infallibly hit, however great the distance while the seventh, or, according to some, one of the seven belonged to the devil, who directed it at his pleasure. Legends of this nature were rife among the troopers of Germany of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, and during the thirty years' war. The story was adapted in 1831, to the opera composed by Weber in 1831, which has made it known in all civilized countries.

A Remarkable Case.

Under the above heading the "Dancer Reporter" of July 6, 1887, publishes the following in its editorial columns:

Our readers may recall the circumstance of a young clerk, named Arthur Richold, falling insensible on the Wheatley Lane in this town some time ago, and being picked up, as he continued perfectly helpless, and taken in a cab by two gentlemen to the office of F. W. Fisher, Esq., the solicitor who employed him. On restoring him to consciousness it was ascertained that he was afflicted with what seemed to be an incurable disease. When he was able to speak he said he had been to his dinner and was on his way back to his work, when suddenly his head was in a whirl and he fell in the street like a man who is knocked down. On coming to his senses in the solicitor's office he thought what this might mean, and feared he was going to have a fit of illness, which we all know is a very dreadful thing for a poor man with a family to care for.

With this in his mind he at once sought the best medical advice, telling the doctors how he had been attacked. They questioned him, and found that his present malady was exhaustion of the nervous system, resulting from general debility, indigestion and dyspepsia of a chronic nature. This in turn had been caused by confinement to his desk and grief at the loss of dear friends by death. The coming on of this strange disease, as described by Mr. Richold, must be of interest both to sick and well. He had noticed for several years previously, in fact, that his eyes and face began to have a yellow look; there was a sticky and unpleasant slime on the gums and teeth in the morning; the tongue coated; and the bowels so bound and costive that it induced that most painful and troublesome ailment—the piles. He says there was some pain in the sides and back and a sense of fullness on the right side, as though the liver were enlarging, which proved to be a terrible fact. The secretions from the kidneys would be scanty and high-colored with a kind of gritty or sandy deposit after standing.

These things had troubled Mr. Richold a long time, and after his fall in the street he clearly perceived that his fit of giddiness was nothing more than a sign of the steady and deadly advance of the complaint, which began in indigestion and dyspepsia. His story of how he went from one physician to another in search of a cure that his wife and little ones might not come to want is very pathetic and touching. Finally he became too ill to keep his situation and had to give it up. This was a sad calamity. He was appalled to think of how he should be able to live. But God raised up friends who helped to keep the wolf from the door. He then went to the seaside at Walton-on-the-Naze, but neither the change, nor the physicians who treated him there, did any good. All being without avail he visited London, with a sort of vague hope that some advantage might happen to him in the metropolis. This was in October, 1885.

How wonderful, indeed, are the ways of Providence, which dashes down our highest hopes and then helps us when we least expect it.

While in London he stated his condition to a friend, who strongly advised him to try a medicine which he called Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, saying it was genuine and honest, and often cured when everything else had failed. He bought a bottle of a chemist in Piccadilly, and began using it according to the directions. He did this without any faith or hope, and the public may, therefore, judge of his surprise and pleasure when after taking a few doses he felt great relief. He could eat better, his food distressed him less, the symptoms we have named abated, the dark spots which had floated before his eyes like smuts of soot gradually disappeared, and his strength increased. Before this time his knees would knock together whenever he tried to walk. So encouraged was he now that he kept on using Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup until it ended in completely curing him.

In speaking of his wonderful recovery Mr. Richold says it made him think of poor Robinson Crusoe, and his deliverance from captivity on his island in the sea; and added, "But for Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup the grass would now be growing over my grave."

Our readers can rest assured of the strict truth of all the statements in this most remarkable case, as Mr. Richold (now residing at Swiss Cottage, Walton-on-the-Naze,) belongs to one of the oldest and most respected families in the beautiful village of Long Melford, Suffolk, and his personal character is attested by so high an authority as the Rev. C. J. Martyn. We have deemed the case of such importance to the public as to justify us in giving this short account of it in our columns.

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