BEN BUTLER'S NEW OPTIC.

You Can Hardly Distinguish It From the Old One.

HE GETS A DOLLAR PER WORD.

The Great Lawyer's Immense Income From His Practice-A Pen Picture of General Banks-Sage as a Lobbyist.

[Copyright, 1890, by Frank G. Carpenter.] Washington, April 17.—[Special to The Ber. |-General Ben Butler has been spending considerable time in the two houses of congress during the past month. He is as bright as a dollar, as fat as butter, as rosy a a milk-maid, and his eye, which used to be cocked, is now as straight as a string. I made a study of him from the press gallery today and I saw that he took in the house without spectacles. The scar from the surgical operation repairing his eyes was not to be seen, though he was not twenty feet away from me, and his sight is now as good as that of any public man in the United States. General Butler was sitting side by side with that other Massachusetts septuagenerian, General N. P. Banks. The two made a remarkable picture. Both men are long past their seventies, and the skins of both are rosy with the from in their blood and they both show sap in brains and limbs. Both have been many times in congress. Both have served as governors of Massachusetts. Both made national reputations during the war, and when General Butler left New Orleans General Banks took command in his place. Since then both have been in the thick of public affairs, and both are still keeping their

Fingers on the Key-Board to which are attached the political wires o

the United States. General Banks is the elder of the two and he was a national character when Butler was still practicing law at Lowell, and was in vesting his surplus funds in buying little houses at auction, and thus laving the founda tion of his big fortune. It was then that N. P. Banks was the candidate for speaker of the anti-southern element of congress, and the contest was so close that for two months the balloting went on. One hundred and thirty three ballots were taken before Banks was elected and he was the leader for that congress of the north against the south. I chatted with him the other day as to the influence which Jefferson Davis held in that congress and with the administrafion of President Pierce; and he illustrated his statement by giving a description of a call which he then made upon Caleb Cashing, who was then attorney general. Congressman Banks had a Massachusetts man with him for whom he wished to get an office, and he wanted Cushing, who was also a Massachusetts man, to help him to it. Attorney General Cushing was supposed to have the command of the appointment. General Banks presented his friend and asked for it. General Cushing replied that he could not grant it as the office had been asked for by Jefferson Davis. "And," said Cush-Inc. wit should be thoroughly understood and it will certainly be known seen if it is not known now that nothing can be gotten from this present administration without the consent of Jefferson Davis." Davis dominated congress as well as the president. and it was the coalition made against him and his friends that elected Banks speaker.

The movement to place General Banks on the retired list of the army as major general will probably pass. He is, I understand, not in good circumstances, and the contrast between him and Butler in this respect is remarkable. Butler is worth his millions. He makes, it is said, \$10,000 a month at the law, and he still owns his Washington mansion with the big mort ge. He has investments all over th United States and he has been largely interested in West Virginia mines. His law practice at Washington is so great that he keeps an office here in a little white brick building just across from the capitol, and he can sten out from his papers into the supreme court room and open his mouth at the rate of

A Dollar a Word

almost any day of the week. He is one of the hardest workers of the lawyers who practice before the supreme court, and he scruples not to burn the midnight oil upon occasion. He uses a stenographer and typewriter to help along his work, and he is as methodical as the calculators of the treasury. He never destroys a letter and as a rule answers all of his immense correspondence. He notes on the back of every letter he receives its contents, and in shortband notes the answer which has been sent to it. These letters are filed away and General Butler can lay his hand on anything that he wants at a moment's notice. His correspondence would made a very interesting book, and it is said that he began work on his memoirs some years ago but the matter seems to have

Two curious things about Butler are his cigars and his button-hole boquet. The button-hole boquet he wears summer and winter, year in and year out. The cigars he wears between his lips periodically every day, but unlike the flowers in his button hole, you never get any fragrance from them. He is one of the dry smokers of the United States. in this he surpasses General W. T. Sherman. He will take a Hayana It happened to be a big day for Kentucky and cigar and putting the lighting end in his mouth and chew and think and talle, and think and talk and suck and chew, for hours at a time. Now and then as he becomes animated be will take the half chewed rigar from his rosy lips and gingerly lay it down upon the table while he utfers a paragraph. At the close he picks it up, blows at t to remove any particle of dust that may adhere to it and puts it back home between the teeth. General Butler has little respect for the divinity which hedges the judges of the supreme court, but he has not tried a dry smoke in the court room for three years. He tried it once but Marshal Nicolay made him take the eigar out of his mouth, and though Butler said he was not smoking he would not permit him to chew it. The supreme court gets more dignified as it grows older, and some of the judges look upon themselves as judicial gods. It was different fifty years years ago when Henry Chay practised in the same way that General Butler does now, and when he once stopped in his speech and walking up to the chief justice's bench, asked his honor to give him a pinch of snuff.

Speaking of Henry Clay, General Banks attended his funeral in the capitol at Washington, and he tells me it was the most impressive scene he ever witnessed. Clay died in 1852, and the funeral ceremonies were held in the retunda under the dome. This vast hall was packed with spectators, and while the sermon was being preached a great storm came up. The thunder roared and the lightning flashed, and the crowd half shrouded in darkness was illumined now and then by the great sheets of flame which shot across in Washington looking after the school bands which it is claimed has been unjustly approto it. I thought of this as I looked at him in Vernon but couldn't make it. He is now "Ring of puts and calls," and he was the last | generosity he gave a half deliar to the driver. | in the results of modern knowledge.

man you would take for a Wall street speculater. He is worth, it is said, about \$50,000,-000, and he always has a million or so in the bunk ready for any turn that may come up. He appreciates, however, the loss of interest if nothing offers, and it worries him to think he has to lose on this money between Saturday and Monday, as the Stock Exchange is not open Sunday and besides Mr. Sage is a church-goer. Like most millionaires, however, he watches the small corners in charities and gives in a lump. Not long ago Dr. Paxton preached an eloquent sermon on missions and at its close he urged the congregation to give liberally. Ex-Secretary of the Treasury Benjamin H. Bristow was sitting just in front of Sage, and as the usher started up the aisle with the plate he turned around to Sage and said:

"Well, Sage, what are you going to give!" Sage opened his closed hand and showed a illver dollar.

"O, is that all " said Bristow. "I'll go you wenty-five better."

"No you don't," said Sage. "I can give as much as you can," and with that he put his hand in his pocket, drew out a roll and counted out five crisp five-dollar bills. It may be that the bills were new and that their beauty appealed to him, but at any rate Sage held those bills in his hand tightly clasped until the plate got close to him and then thrusting them spasmodically into his pocket he put the silver dollar into the plate with a jerk. Bristow caught his eye as he did so and Mr. Sage

"I can't do it, Bristow. I've got Three Million Dollars Lying Idle in the bank and I'm not getting a cent of in-

terest on it. Tid like to do it but I can't."

Russell Sage is said to be one of the most even tempered millionaires in the United States. You notice no change in his features after a bad day in Wall street, and if he makes a pile he does not become over-elated. He is a man without enemies and he is a sort of father to the present congressmen when he goes about among them. He calls each member "My son," as he lobbles in favor of his charities and he has a sort of patriarchal patronizing air about him which is fatherly and brotherly and almost motherly. He attributes his good health and sustained vigor in his old age largely to his habits. He gets up and goes to bed at about the same hours the year round and he rises between 6:30 and 7, and turns over the second time before going to sleep every night before the clock has struck II. He breakfasts an hour after ris ing and is a great advocate for the healthfulness of wheaten grits and baked apples. A chop, an egg and a roll, some baked potatoes, a cup of coffee, the grits and the apple, costing all told not more than fifty cents at a marketing, are all that tickle his \$50,000,000 palate every morning, and he goes to bed after a supper quite as simple, washing down the homemade bread with a cup of black tea. He is regular in his exercise, drives a good horse, drinks but little that intoxicates and does not even smoke in Ben Butler's dry way. He has not grown a year older in a decade and he will last until be drops to pieces all at once like the old deacon's chaise. Senator Bate of Tennessee gives me some

interesting matter about Mark Twain's fathor. Everybody knows Colonel Sellers and most people are aware that the play is a dramatization of Mark Twain's book, "The Gilded Age." Few know that the characters are taken from real life and that "Colonel Sellers is a representation of Mark Twain's father who was fully as visionary as Mark's fancy paints Lim. The Clemens family came from the mountains of Tennessee. Mark's father had put all the money he could make and scrape into the rough lands of the Tennessee mountains. He owned thousands of acres about him and he would look over these and say: "These lands are underlaid with the finest of coal and iron. There's millions in them! Millions! Millions!" At that time, however, the lands were worth nothing. Everyone laughed at Mark's father and Mrs. Clemens who was of a more ambitious and practical turn than her husband irged that they sell the property and move into civilization. She finally persuaded him to do this. The lands brought a mere song and the family went to Missouri where Mark Twain first saw the light of day. The recent developments in Tennessee, says Senator Bates, have made these lands which Colonel Sellers-Clemens owned immensely valuable, They contain valuable deposits of coal and ron asold man Clemens stated, and did Mark Twain own them today he would have a bigger business than in his book publishing and book writing. He is now worth \$1,000,000. Had his father stuck to his lands and to his theories he might have been worth his tens of millions. Had the fortune come, however, during Mark's childhood the world would

Hundred Million Laughs. "Innocents Abroad" would never have been written, and "The Prince and Pauper" yould probably have remained unpenned Senator Bate tells me that the Rugby colony is doing very well and that the lands which

they own are growing valuable. Senator Jee Blackburn of Kentucky had a ride the other day quite as wild as that of Sheridan on his way to Winchester. It was he day of the races and Senator Blackburn and Correspondent Stealey of the Courier-Journal had driven out together. They were in a closed coupe to which was hitched a tall thoroughbred Kentucky sorrel, managed by a big colored driver. "This horse," said Senator Blackburn, "is a goer, and he will take us to the race track inside of twelve minutes." His prophecy became true, and the two were driven out at the rate of sixteen miles an hour.

the horse named after Schafor Beck made the heavens. After the funeral the corpse was taken to Philadelphia stopping at the cities on the way and General Banks accompanied the funeral cortege. This was a ful generation or more ago and General Banks though he is fine looking now, was then one of the handsomest young men of the United States. Now in his seventies he is as straight as a Norwegian pine. He is tall and slouder and his long narrow face has a high forehead.

from under which shine out

Friendly Blue Eyes. His head is covered with a thick thatch of alver hair and this is brushed well up froms the forehead. He is one of the most observed men of the house and he always has a crowd of callers about his desk. As I chatte I with him the other day an old negro with an army medal tied into one of the fraved buttonholes of his vest came up and with his face shining with admiration said:

"How is you, general, and don't you renumber me! I am one of your old soldiers. "Are you, indeed?" replied Banks, reachng out his hand, "and were you with me at

"Yes, sah, I was there and I sailed through all the shot and sholl sah, and I want to say that I'm glad I done it sah, and I would do it again if you was over me sah."

The general thanked the man for his good will and referred to the scenes at Port Hudson as the most exciting and dangerous of the

I saw Russell Sage in the Arlington hotel last night and speaking of Banks recalls the fact that Sage was in congress when Banks was making his noted contest for the speakership. Sage managed his canvast and he palated by Cornell university. This college | was one of the youngest members of congress, some of Mr. Sage's pet charities, and it is He made a good record and he did his best said that he has given several large fortunes | to get the United States to buy Mt. the Arilington hotel last night. A rather tall | the best run of the day. Both Blackburn and man of seventy, his white whiskers well | Stealey had invested slightly in the French trimmed and his upper lip clean shaved, he | mutual peels and Blackburn was so happy looked more like a preacher than the noted over his winnings that in a spasmodic fit of als, but to educated persons interested

get gloriously drunk before the races were over and when Senator Blackburn and Correspendent Stealey were ready to go home he old hardly sit upright. Senator Blackburn told Stealey that the man had promised to take them back in ten minutes. This was

I With this half dollar the driver managed to

just as the horse started and the two men in side the coupe could see through the glass door the driver reciling from side to side. "The man is drunk," said Stealey, "and I'm afraid he'll kill us."

"Yes," said Blackburn, 'that's all right.

He's just drunk enough to drive well." All this time the driver was lashing the Kentucky sorrel and Blackburn's rig shot out and in among the teams and around corners and over gutters at a 2:30 pace. Black

burn and Stealey poked their heads out of the

windows and Tried to Yell to him but he would not listen but only

whipped up harder than ever. "We shall certainly be killed," said Stealey and Blackburn replied: "I'm a believer in predestination and if fate

has ordered that we are to die this way we

can't help it. I think we're destined to be saved and we will get through.' Just before reaching the Ebbitt house the driver dropped his whip and he whirled the horse running as he was five times around in a ring in the endeavor to strike the exact spot where it lay. He finally got it and then con-

tinued his 2:40 galt to the Ebbitt house.

Both Stealey and Blackburn look upon their

escape as miraculous. FRANK G. CARPENTER. LITERARY NOTES.

Mr. William Henry Hurlbert, the well known American journalist has been studying the present condition of France and the result of his investigations will be published shortly by Longmans, Green & Co., under the title of France and Her Republic: a Record of Things Seen and Heard in the Centen-

nial Year, 1889, Longmans Green & Co. will shortly publish both in London and in New York, "The House of the Wolf, romance by Stanley & Weyman. It tells the perils and bravery of three young brothers in the fortnight before and after the massacre of St. Bartholomew's

The success of "A Saratoga Romance," Mrs. Caroline Washburn Rodmod's society novel, which has reached its twelfth edition in six months, has induced her to engage in another literary venture. Consequently about the end of May her publishers will bring out "Seemingly, romantic and somewhat tragic story Beverly Farms, one of New England's most picturesque summer nooks. This story will be the joint production of the pens of Mrs. Rodmod and Mr. Lew Vanderpoole,

The American academy of political and social science organized in Philadelphia in December last has met with an unexpected success. It has already over three hundred members, though its working organization is scarcely months old. Its membership list embraces many of the leading thinkers and workers in the economic and social field in this country and Canada. The first volume of its proceedings will appear early in June.

The Worthington company announce is No. 9 of their International series "The Feet of Love," a study of American social life, by Anne Reeve Aldrich, au-thor of the "Rose of Flame."

"Stanley's Story; or Through the Wilds of Africa," just Issued by the Messrs, John E. Potter & Co., the old and well-known publishers of Philadelphia, is a fine royal-octavo work, hand-somely printed from large, open type, on most excellent paper. The work covers Mr. Stanley's entire career in Africa, and is wholly disconnected from the ac-counts of other explorers. It is exclusively confined to its subject, Henry M. Stanley, and gives all the interesting and highly thrilling incidents in his most remarkable career. It is Stanley story exclusively, of what he saw and what he experienced, and not what others saw and experienced in years past with a coating of Stanley at the end.

The Jenness-Miller Magazine for April is the largest and most complete number of this publication yet given to the pub-The system of dress advocated by this magazine is now in such constant demand, that the present issue of the magazine devotes eleven pages of discusion and presentation to the most artis tic styles in gowns, wraps, etc. The articles on physical culture, published monthly, grow constantly more instruct-Not only are there articles telling women how to be beautiful, as well as how to dress beautifully, but there are papers on social etiquette in every num-

Since the death of the late distinguished and learned editor-in-chief, Rt. Rev. Mgr. Corcoran, the future editorial lirection of the American Catholic Quarterly Review has been a subject of eep concern to its friends throughout the country. The feeling has been happily dissipated by the selection of famous Archbishop Ryan of Philadelphia, who will take editorial charge of the Review beginning with the July number. His staff of assistants comprise Rev. Ignatius F. Hortsmann, D. D., Rev Lake V. McCabe, professor of moral and dogmatic theology and George Dering Wolff, L.L.D. With this eminent writers, the Review will not only maintain its position as one of the leading Catholic peri odicals published in the English language; it will voice the opinion of the hurch on all pressing public questions

Hardy & Mahony, proprietors, Philadel-In answer to inquiries concerning George Kennan's articles, the editor of the Century states that the concluding papers in Mr. Kennan's series of Siberian travels were interrupted by the author's illness and by his succeeding course of lectures. Mr. Kennan has, however, prepared brief articles on the general ubject for the April and May Century and hopes soon to be able to write one or two more papers concluding his Siberian and Russian travels. The latter will appear later in the year. In the May Cenury Mr. Kennan will have an article entitled "Blacked Out," in which he de scribes the methods of the Russian prescensor. Two pages of the Century for August, 1889, are reproduced in fac-simile, showing how the censor endeavored to prevent Mr. Kennan's article in

that number from being read in Russia. Pastels in Prose," recently published by Messrs, Harper & Brothers, contains elections from the works of a number f young writers whose names are destined to live in the history of French lit-One of them is Ephriam Mik-He obtained the first prize for poetry in the recent literary competition instituted by the Echo de Paris. The jury which awarded the prize in-cluded Leconte de Lisle, Theodore de Banyille, Paul Borget, Francois Coppee, Stephane Mallarme and Cautelle The literary reputation of these men lifted the competition above all cavil, and made their decision the talk of Paris, "Pastels in Prose" contains seven prose poems by M. Mikhael, one of which was written especially for the

Dr. Martineaei's forthcoming book "The Sent of Authority in Religion," will be published almost immediately by Longmans, Green & Co. The book is addressed not to philosophers or schol-

HIS LOT NOT A HAPPY ONE

How the Unfortunate Congressman is Kept Between Two Fires.

SCHEMES OF FINANCIAL QUACKS.

All Sorts of Wild Plans for Making Everybody Righ-Why One Man Favors Fractional Currency-Federal Courol of Railroads.

Washington, April 17. - Staff Corresponds ence of THE BRE.] - At no time in the history of the government have there been so many remarkable propositions before congress as now. The genius of all classes has been exercised to invent some proposition which will relieve the closeness of times among some of our people, especially the farmers. Some of the propositions are extremely remarkable in their character. Some of the farmers of Iowa have petitioned for the abolition of the supreme court of the United States. They contend that it is a useless tribunal, often im-pure and unjust, and that it is a great and grinding institution run for monopolists and the wealthy, and that it is as un-American as

t is unjust.

Early in the days of this session petitions Early in the days of this session petitions were received from elements of labor and agriculture in the west and southwest proposing to abolish the national banking system, distribute the surplus in the treasury pro rata to the people, and enact a law which would compel the government to issue all of the money values of the circulating medium and place it directly in the hands of American citizens. American citizens

Scarcely a suggestion of general character is made in congress that has not two strong sides presented. There has not been a meas are introduced during the last quarter of a century which was so popular that it did not

find very strong opposition.

Some of the propositions which have been presented to the house committee on banking and currency relating to the circulation of national banks have been bitterly opposed by granger organizations. I was shown the other day by Chairman Decision 2 converted. other day by Chairman Dorsey a copy of a petition which is being received with thoupetition which is being received with thou-sands of signatures, in which it is represented that there is pending before this committee a bill "authorizing the issue of \$2,300,000,000 worth of bonds to perpetuate the present banking system," and the petitioners say that if it is made a law it will prove disastrous to the farmers and laborers. There never has been any kind of bill introduced in this con-gress which could possibly be distorted into gress which could possibly be distorted into a bill of this character. The only measure introduced so far proposing a new issue of bonds for national bank circulation, suggests an issue of \$300,000,000; but these bonds are to be given out in exchange for a like amount of maturing bonds. In other words, it is a proposition to refund existing bonds at one-half the rate of interest now paid for by the government. The bonded indebtedness of the government would be increased not one dollar. But against this proposition are being received thousands of letters from merchants, railroad men and capitalists, bankers and others praying for the proposed issue of \$300, 000,000 of 2 per cent bonds to ran 100 years for the perpetuation of the national banking system and to be exchanged for the 4 per cents, which are fast nearing maturity. The petitions in favor of this proposition are quit as voluminous as those against the measure Thus it will be seen that a congressman or a senator is placed between two fires. If he votes for the measure he is damued by one large class, and if he opposes it he will be hounded by the other class. This illustration is applicable to hundreds of measures of almost every conceivable character.

There have been more suggestions offered and more quiet fights, conducted in regard t the issuance of fractional currency than any thing else which has attracted little publi-notice. Enough letters and postal cards have been received to fill a hay wagon, for and against fractional currency. It seems that every man with leisure who reads news-papers sits down on rainy days and writes postal cards and letters to friends in congress offering advice on this subject. At the sen ate committee on finance a "raft" of letters was received the other day in opposition to the reissue of our old fashioned fractional paper currency. Some writers stated that it was dingy, ragged, dirty and inconvenient and that the people had to suffer from loss and mutilation. The next mail brought a loof letters taking the other view of the subect, so that the senators were as much at sea o far as outside advice was concerned, a though they had never heard a word from their constituents. Let me quote a sample of advice given on the subject. It comes from Stevens' Point, Wis., and is written on a

"I see you have been discussing the bill in regard to fractional currency. It needs no discussion. The people all want the old style of fractional currency, the best we ever had for all purposes. I know the mass of our people want it. Don't waste any more time, out push it through. I am an old-time republican and entitled to my say. Fractional cur rency is so handy to put in a letter and send

Hon. Charles T. McCoy, chairman of the republican state central committee of South Dakota and one of the best politicians in the orthwest, has been here for several days and in a conversation last week advanced a lew proposition in the way of legislation which he assured me was growing in popularity and would some time be very for

"The federal government," said he, "must control every railroad in the country. may seem an enormous undertaking, but I honestly believe it will some time be a fact. The government already has a parental the government already has a parental charge of our transportation companies, but it should own them directly and control them in the interest of the people. It would be just as easy for the government to issue bonds for the purchase of railroads as for corporation to The railroad securities are the greates in volume and the most stable in character of any of our bonded indebtedness, and if the rovernment issued the bonds and contracted to pay the interest, all business of the country would be done upon a solid foundation, be-cause there would be such an enormous sur-plus in the hands of the people that no excuse could be found for fictitious values as at present. A scarcity of money is the primary inducement for the watering of stock and fictitious prices. Yes, the government should not only control the trunk lines, but every feeder and branch read. Now railroad companies are organized and lines started upon berrowed money. Not only is the inter-est paid upon this borrowed money, but dividends are paid to the stockholders. The government could get money at less than half the rates of interest paid by railroad companies, and there would be no necessity for paying any dividends. The roads under government

control could simply make enough money to keep the lines in repair and pay the interest. The people would get the benefit of the operation. I know this is a very flighty suggestion and will make other people beside yourself laugh in their sleeves, but I tell you it is a growing suggestion, and I expect to live to see the day when it will be in effect.

There has been a great deal of quiet figuring by western and southwestern congress men during the past few years on the prope sition for the government to own or control
in some way the railroads. A number of
some way the railroads. A number of
the some way the railroads of the some
looking to this end. Only recently Mr. Line
of Minnesota itroduced a bill "requiring the nterstate commerce commission to ascertain and report the actual cost of the construction of all railroads in the United States over or upon which interstate commerce is carried originates, or ends, and for other pur

The object of Mr. Lind, although it does not appear upon the face of his bill, is in the direction of the government ownership or control of the railroads. The same kind of schemes are pending in relation to the ascer-tainment of the cost of telegraph lines of the country with the same ultimate object in tainment of the cost of the country with the same ultimate object country with the same ultimate object. Perry S. Heath.

The Important Question. Philadelphia Times: A Kansas man blew off two of his fingers shooting. "You can't pull a trigger again," re

marked a commiserating friend.
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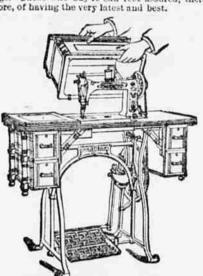


ARE FIGURE. " b.

The figure 9 in our dates will make a long stay. No man or woman now living will ever date a document without using the figure 9. It stands in the third place in 1890, where it will remain ten years and then move up to second place in 1900. where it will rest for one hundred years.

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upon, but is an entirely new machine, and the Grand Prize at Paris was awarded it as the grand est advance in sewing machine mechanism of the age. Those who buy it can rest assured, there fore, of having the very latest and best.



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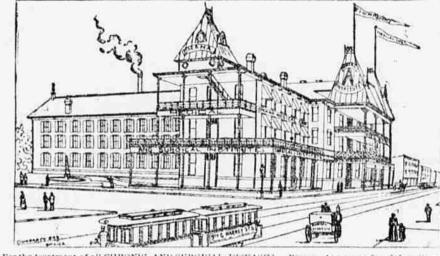
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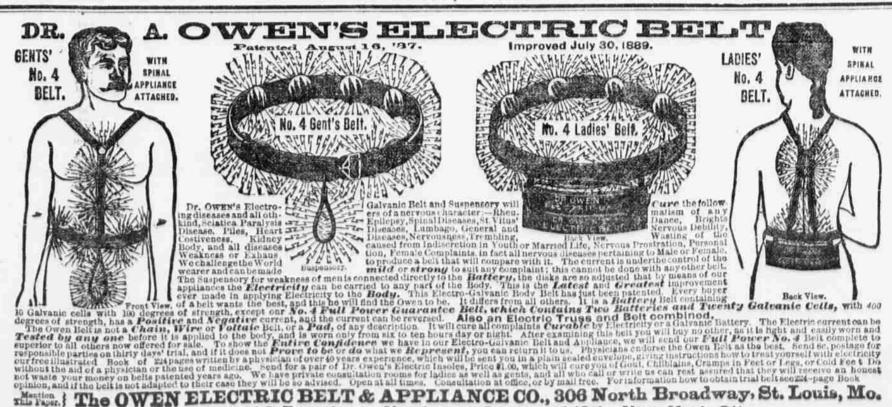


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