PUBLIC MEN UNDER FIRE

How They Act When Subjected to Newspaper Bombardment.

MUCH DEPENDS UPON THE TEMPERAMENT

Attacks Upon Secretaries of the Treasury and Their Effect—A Tale of Samuel J. Tilden—Charles O'Conor's Revenge.

An interesting chapter by the Washington correspondent of the Boston Transcript on the misunderstandings which animate criticisms of men in public life and the various ways in which the objects of attack parry or return the blows they receive. A few notable instances are quoted to illustrate the conduct of public men under fire:

"The manner in which men in public life take assaults upon their reputations vary widely according to their temperamental peculiarities," remarked an experienced politician. "When I was a young man beginning politics from the inside, I had the common notion that it was the business of a candidate for office to retort whenever assailed. My surprise was therefore great when I approached Samuel J. Tilden, in the midst of the fierce fight for honest government in New York City in the fall of 1871, to ascertain what would be his method of meeting the Tammany charge that he was a railroad wrecker, a thief and various other unpleasant things. Mr. Tilden was writing at his desk when I approached him with the question. He looked up with the air of one who had been asked, perhaps, what he thought of the latest exposition of the Darwinian theory of development. 'Possibly I miss the drift of your question,' he answered, without a shade of disturbance on his face; 'what are they saying about me?'

"I then recited the main features of the attack, and a queer smile played on Mr. Tilden's lips as he responded: 'Thank you! Now, what is it you want to know?'

"'How do you intend to meet these accusations?'

"'Oh! Well, come and hear my speech at Cooper Union tomorrow night, and you'll see. Here's a card to the platform.'

"The invitation was gladly accepted. I stood just inside of an open door which led from the stage to the retiring room on the evening designated, and listened with breathless eagerness for Mr. Tilden's defense. Period after period rolled from the lips of the orator, as he slashed the Tammany bosses and their following, showing up their iniquities and fortifying his successive charges of fraud with facts and figures drawn from their own account books and private memoranda; but not one word about himself. As he left the platform amid a storm of huzzahs, he passed by the anxious listener in the doorway, and, nodding pleasantly in recognition and clapping his hands together with a triumphant gesture, exclaimed: 'You hear me? Didn't I give them h—l?'

"'But your defense'—I ventured to suggest.

"'One thing at a time. I'm after them now,' was his quick reply. And that was all the satisfaction I ever got on the subject.

"From this it must not be assumed that Mr. Tilden was indifferent to the sort of warfare made upon him. It was merely his way of fighting. 'Never mind me—hit the other fellow,' was his general motto, and he lived up to it."

Treasury Secretaries Assailed.

Secretaries of the treasury have been more viciously assailed than perhaps any other single class of public servants. The Transcript correspondent once happened to throw out in Daniel Manning's presence a remark which drew from him a sudden question: "What do they say about me in congress?"

After some effort to head off his inquiry, which I supposed would be followed by an explosion when he heard the full story, I repeated to him some of the ugly reports reflecting upon his integrity which his enemies had set afloat.

"H'm!" was his only comment, accompanied by a shrug of the shoulders. "When you hear any more of that stuff, bring it straight to me." I do not think he ever dignified the attacks with an answer, either direct or indirect; but he probably nursed his opinion of the men who gave them out.

Mr. Carlisle let men's tongues wag as they would, apparently secure in his own sense of right intent. He never seemed quite to grasp the meaning of the things said. It was as if the talk were about some other man in whom he took no interest, or as if it were in a language he did not understand. He would treat his maligners with the same courtesy, when they came to see him, as if they had been his friends always; and in one instance I knew him to sit down patiently with a man who had just been holding him up in print to obloquy, and tell him several confidential facts on the same subject, evidently under the impression that the fellow had been innocently misled.

Sensitiveness of Mr. Gage.

The most sensitive of men, when it came to anything touching his honor, was Secretary Gage. He was both pained and indignant. On one occasion he was charged with entering into a conspiracy with the National City bank regarding the transfer and rental of the old custom house building in New York City. His response was to request a member of congress to introduce a resolution of inquiry so that he could answer it by spreading all the facts on the record. He treated in the same way some stories set afloat regarding his handling of the Spanish war loan. At another time two prominent daily newspapers told a circumstantial story of a trip he had made to New York over Sunday to confer secretly with certain trust magnates, describing even how he stayed at a leading hotel in disguise. As the newspapers which printed the stuff had had every opportunity of knowing that he was in Washington all that Sunday, one of them even having gone so far as to call him up by telephone and talk to him at his home, he considered that insult had been added to injury. From that moment he refused to see, or hold any communication whatever, even over the telephone, with any representative of either newspaper. This was a bold thing to do. He was warned that it would mean a succession of ugly attacks. But he answered simply that he must take what came in that line, having no control over it; what he could control, he would, and the only means left him for doing that was ceasing to hold any intercourse, however harmless, with a publication which could be guilty of such conduct. His action is probably unique in the history of the department.

Mr. Gage's successor, Mr. Shaw, plays battledore and shuttlecock with his critics, and does not seem to mind being a target for missiles in type. He smiles through it all as if it were "part of the game." Usually an attack reminds him of a story or furnishes him with a text for a quotation from his favorite poet, John G. Saxe.

The most sensitive postmaster general in recent times was the late W. S. Bissell, who literally went to pieces when fault was found with his administration. The most indifferent at the moment of attack was Henry C. Payne; but after the first disturbance was stilled and the air was clear, he would think the matter over and grow very earnest in denunciation of his calumniators.

Mark Hanna was sensitive, but too proud to publish the fact. He could take any amount of satire and ridicule, when it was evidently not intended to be malicious. But woe betide the man who attacked him on a point of personal integrity with a purpose; the assailant was apt to find that Mr. Hanna had a vocabulary at command. One thing which he always resented most bitterly was the caricature which displayed him as a mere getter and dispenser of money. He might never express publicly his feeling about that, but he was deeply hurt by it.

How O'Conor Resented an Insult.

Charles O'Conor never had any aspirations to serve his county in office. He allowed his name to be used once in a surely innocuous way as a candidate for the presidency, very much as John M. Palmer did in 1896. A group of citizens wanted some one to vote for and were not satisfied with the nominations made by the regular organizations, so he consented to run as a candidate of protest and nothing more. How he would have acted under fire may perhaps be guessed from an incident which the present writer has never seen in print, though he had the facts from one of the persons most intimately concerned in the proceedings. Edwin Forrest, the tragedian, quarreled with his wife, and a divorce suit was the consequence. Mrs. Forrest resolved to have the best counsel the country would afford, made an effort to retain O'Conor. The old gentleman declined on the ground that that was a branch of practice in which he never engaged, and Mrs. Forrest, deeply disappointed, set out to seek assistance elsewhere.

Mr. Forrest had had his emissaries watching the movements of the other side, and as soon as the report was brought to him that his wife and O'Conor seemed to be in negotiation, he marked the eminent lawyer as a target for his wrath when the next opportunity should offer. This came the same afternoon. Mr. O'Conor had boarded a street car to ride uptown, taking his seat at the forward end, and unfolded an evening newspaper to read, when Mr. Forrest entered from the rear platform. He swept the car with his eye, which, the instant it fell upon Mr. O'Conor, kindled with rage. With dramatice deliberateness he strode the whole length of the aisle, and in the presence of the entire group of assembled passengers planted one of his large feet full upon Mr. O'Conor's small pair and threw his weight upon them.

Mr. O'Conor was a small man, and slight. Mr. Forrest was of heroic build. The physical pain of the affront must have been great, and retaliation in kind would have been ineffectual in view of the disparity of the combatants in stature. The lawyer concealed any outward expression of his feelings for the time, but left his seat, quitted the car, and made his way back to his office, where he wrote at once a note retracting his decision of the morning, and saying that he would take Mrs. Forrest's case after all. He offered no explanation of his change of front, but went to work for his client from that hour. His fight against the tragedian was said by persons who watched it throughout to have been the most bitter one he ever made against anybody in his long career at the bar. He won. Mrs. Forrest called for his bill, and he declined to render any or to accept remuneration for his services. A good while afterward he was presented by Mrs. Forrest's friends with a service of silver plate in recognition of his chivalrous conduct. The motives which induced him to change his mind so suddenly were known only to a few persons; and the incident is of interest chiefly as indicating the spirit with which he would have received an attack had one been made upon him when figuring conspicuously in public life.

News and Religious Papers in Rome.

The Voce Della Verita of Rome, its oldest Catholic newspaper, has just ceased publication, and its staff has gone over to the Osservatore Romano, now the only Catholic paper which the capital contains, and which is but little read. On the other hand there are swarms of secular papers, the Giornale d'Italia, Tribuna, Messagero, Patria, Italia, Avanti and so on, all wrangling and fighting with each other constantly but at one in their hostility to the pope and the church. The Catholic party in Rome is more numerous than all other parties combined, and it therefore seems surprising that it should not be able to sustain active and able newspapers. A sufficient reason, however, for its failure to do so is that the church papers have never contained any news. But a new trial is to be made in a short time, based on the theory that piety, orthodoxy and news can go together without exploding. Up to this time the ecclesiastics have surmised that they could not.—New York Tribune.

Gold from Paris.

NEW YORK, Dec. 2.—A report that the National City bank has engaged gold to the amount of $500,000 in Paris for import to this country is confirmed. The transaction, it is stated, is a special one. It could not be learned whether the gold will take the form of francs, eagles or bars.

NEW LEADERS IN THE CHURCH

Twenty Names Added to the List of American Hierarchy.

STRENGTHENS CATHOLICS IN COUNTRY

Something About the Recently Appointed Archbishops and Bishops for the American Church Organization.

Twenty new names have been added to the roll of the Roman Catholic hierarchy recently. The preconization by the pope at the consistory of November 15, of most of them suggests the great changes that the advent of so large a number of men with new ideals, new vigor and new personalities may mean for the church in the United States.

There are four, Archbishops Glennon of St. Louis, Messmer of Milwaukee, Moeller of Cincinnati and Harty of Manila—to whom might be added also, since the dates of their appointments are quite recent, Farley of New York, Quigley of Chicago and Montgomery, coadjutor of San Francisco—who are forces that will have to be reckoned with in the future.

All who have visited St. Louis during the many ceremonies of the exposition have been struck by the character displayed by Archbishop Glennon, whose handsome boyish face gives no inkling of the qualities of aggressive leadership he has of late so often manifested. "He is the coming man" has been heard from observant visitors more than once.

Archbishop Messmer of Milwaukee, too, has already shown what a positive factor he can be. He has championed the idea of Catholic federation with Bishop McFaul, his old associate at Seton hall, in spite of the opposition of Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop Ireland and those of the hierarchy who side with them; and the federation has come about.

On the public questions of the day he is always ready to talk for publication. He has opinions and is not afraid to let them be known.

A Strong Roosevelt Supporter.

He did not attend the funeral of Archbishop Elder at Cincinnati on November 8, and he frankly said that his reason was that it was election day and he believed it his duty as a citizen to be at home. He was quite as frank in his advocacy of President Roosevelt's election.

As the new leader of the German section of the church, he is certainly not wanting in those vigorous attributes that arouse enthusiasm in loyal following. He is at present waging an active battle against the spread of socialism in his province. As a minor detail of his personality it may be said that he is the only member of the hierarchy who wears a beard.

With the death on November 1 of the venerable Archbishop Elder of Cincinnati there passed away the last of the strong, able and learned bishops of the generation that followed the pioneers of the American hierarchy. There is now no one left, even near that age, except perhaps Mgr. William George McCloskey of the see of Louisville, Ky.

The son of one of the men who organized, in 1825, the first Catholic parish on Long Island, an alumnus of the Old Mountain when the influence of Brute and Dubois was still felt, first rector of the American college at Rome, Mgr. McCloskey alone can survey the really constructive era of the Catholic church in the United States and repeat the old classical sentence, "All of which I saw and part of which I was."

Mgr. Elder's successor at Cincinnati, Archbishop Moeller, made an excellent record while bishop of Columbus, and will no doubt improve it in his newer and larger field of administration.

What Harty is Doing.

Archbishop Harty's stay in Manila has, as yet, been too short to afford him the opportunities to accomplish all that his admirers have hoped, but his progress has been well on to success.

These men, taking the places of Archbishops Corrigan, Feehan, Katzer, Kain, Elder and Riordan, will naturally evolve important changes. Cardinal Gibbons is now 72, Archbishop Ryan is 73. Archbishop Williams is still older. He has asked for a coadjutor, and the vexed question whether he shall get Bishop Harkins of Providence, Bishop O'Connell of Portland or some unmentioned outsider does not seem to have been settled as yet.

Archbishop Ireland's silence during the recent campaign is taken as an evidence that he also begins to feel the heat and burden of his thirty years in the episcopate. He is reported to have said recently to a friend that he believed that if he were not made a cardinal no American prelate would be during Cardinal Gibbons' lifetime.

Of the new Archbishops Mgr. Glennon and Mgr. Harty are Irish-Americans; Mgr. Moeller was born in Ohio of German parentage, and Mgr. Messmer is a native of Switzerland. Another Archbishop of pure native stock who may come back to the United States some day is Mgr. Robert Seton, formerly pastor of St. Joseph's, Jersey City, but now resident in Rome as the titular archbishop of Heliopolis. He is a member of the Sons of the Revolution and the Grand Army of the Republic.

List of New Bishops.

The new bishops who have been recently appointed to fill vacancies or new sees are:

William Stang, bishop of Fall River, Mass.
Mathias C. Lenehan, bishop of Great Falls, Mont.
Joseph J. Fox, bishop of Green Bay, Wis.
J. B. Delaney, bishop of Manchester, N. H.
Cornelius Van de Ven, bishop of Nachitoches, La.
John Carroll, bishop of Helena, Mont.
James Davis, coadjutor, with right of succession to the bishop of Davenport, Ia., and titular bishop of Milopotamus.
Thomas F. Lillis, bishop of Leavenworth, Kan.
J. J. Hartley, bishop of Columbus, O.
Charles J. O'Reilly, bishop of Baker City, Ore.
Thomas F. Cusack, auxiliary bishop of New York and titular bishop of Temiscyra.
Charles H. Colton, bishop of Buffalo, N. Y.
J. F. Regis Canevin, coadjutor and administrator of Pittsburg, Pa.

Bishops Hendrick, Dougherty and Roxer of the Philippine dioceses.

In the new bishops appointed it is noted that the pope has signalized his admiration of active preachers by naming three of them. Bishops Cusack, Stang and Delaney have worked in the mission bands of secular clergy in their respective dioceses. Three also have been editors of diocesan papers, Bishops O'Reilly, Delaney and Lenehan.

Bishop Hartley of Columbus is the first member of the American hierarchy to be born, baptized, confirmed and ordained and consecrated in the same diocese.

The Only Native Irishman.

Bishop Davis is the only native born Irishman among the new appointees. He is a native of the County Kilkenny and comes of a family that has given five other members to the service of the church.

His brother Thomas was provincial of the order of Calced Carmelites in Ireland; another brother, Richard, is a priest in the diocese of Louisville, Ky. One of his sisters is superior of the Convent of the Sacred Heart at Sag Harbor, L. I.; a second holds the same position at the Academy of the Immaculate Heart, Newport, Ky., and a third is a member of the same order in France.

Bishop Stang is a native of Germany and Bishops Lenehan, Fox, Delaney, Carroll, Lillis, Hartley, Cusack, Colton, Canevin, Dougherty and Hendrick are Irish-Americans. Bishop Rooker comes of an old New York family and Bishop O'Reilly was born in St. Johns, N. B.

There is to be a new diocese established at Superior, Wis., and it is expected that the Very Rev. A. P. Kremer, vicar general of the diocese of La Crosse, or the Very Rev. A. F. Schinner, vicar general of the Milwaukee diocese, will be named as the first bishop of the see. The coadjutor who is to be named to help and succeed Bishop McQuaid of Rochester will add another new name to the list.

In spite of all the clamor set up in Rome a year ago by Polish Catholic delegates, no Pole appears among the new bishops. It will be remembered that Father Kruszka of Wisconsin remained about the Vatican several months interviewing cardinals and officials and trying to impress on the authorities the necessity of naming Polish bishops in the United States if the Catholics of that nationality were to be kept in the faith.

Neither is there an Italian nor a French-Canadian, two other elements in the church that are increasing vastly in numbers each year.

Few of the bishops have as yet paid their formal visit to the new pope. He is reported to be anxious that as many as possible should go over to Rome at once.—New York Sun.

Paper Company Authorizes Bonds.

NEW YORK, Dec. 2.—The directors of the International Paper company have authorized an issue of $10,000,000 5 per cent gold bonds. Of the sum authorized $5,000,000 will be issued at once and the proceeds used to make improvements and to create a larger working capital.