

Current Topics

The Late Gen. Palmer.

Gen. John McCauley Palmer, whose death occurred at Springfield, Ill., last week, was born in Eagle Creek, Scott county, Kentucky, on September 13, 1817. In 1832 he removed to Illinois and in 1839 settled in Carlisle. He was admitted to the bar in 1840 and was delegate to the state constitutional convention in 1847. He was a member of the state senate 1852-54, a delegate to the national republican convention in Philadelphia in 1856, a presidential elector on the republican ticket of 1860 and a delegate to the peace convention in Washington, February 4, 1861.

He was elected colonel of the Fourteenth Illinois Volunteers in April, 1861, accompanied General John C.



GEN. JOHN M. PALMER.

Fremont in his expedition to Springfield, Mo., and was commissioned brigadier-general of volunteers in December of the same year.

From 1869 to 1873 he was governor of Illinois. In 1891 he was elected United States senator and served a full term.

The Gold Democrats placed the name of Senator Palmer before the Indianapolis convention of 1896, and he was nominated on the first ballot for the presidential office.

Because of Blighted Love.

Rich, talented and finely educated, Frank D. Van Nostrand of Kingston, N. Y., has for the past twenty-five years chosen the life of a hermit.



F. D. VAN NOSTRAND.

Van Nostrand was the youngest child of Elias T. Van Nostrand, a well known Kingston contractor, who upon his death, twenty-seven years ago, left a fortune of \$100,000. At the time the Van Nostrands were living in one of the most imposing mansions in the city. The children continued to live there after their father's death until they married and only Frank remained.

Old residents say that one day, not long after the last of the family had married and left the homestead, Van Nostrand was seen moving his personal effects from the stately ancestral mansion to a small building in the rear where he has since remained. For years he has not been seen on the street in daytime and there are only a few who know the man.

Some of the old people remember a beautiful New York girl who came to spend her summers in the mountains back of Kingston. Van Nostrand owned the smartest horses in the city and he was often seen driving with this beautiful girl. He never talked about the girl and his friends believed that he regarded her name as too sacred to be spoken. For two summers this went on. Then the girl went back to New York. The next spring Frank Van Nostrand moved to his hermitage.

A War Board Likely.

Gen. William Ludlow, whose visit to Europe will probably result in the creation of a board of general managers for the war department, has been long a student of continental and insular military institutions. When he went abroad three months ago for the special purpose of inspecting foreign army methods he had already re-



GEN. WILLIAM LUDLOW.

viewed these matters with some care. Gen. Ludlow (then a colonel) was formerly military attaché of the American embassy in London. In 1896 he investigated the ship canal systems of Europe and Asia and made an elaborate and valuable report to the government on this head. He is one of the most brilliant of the officers of the engineer corps, and won high distinction as an actual fighter on many fields during the war of emancipation.

A Brave Naval Officer.

Capt. Willard H. Brownson, who has been selected to command the new battleship Alabama, has an excellent record as an officer. He is 55 years old and was born in Lyons, N. Y. In 1865 he was graduated with honors from the Naval Academy and received his first assignment to the Gedney, a coast survey vessel. While in command of the Detroit, C o m m a n d e r

Brownson had an adventure which showed his bravery and intense devotion to duty. It was in 1893 that Rear Admiral Custodio de Mello, of one ironclad cruiser, two torpedo boats and several merchant vessels seized the harbor of Rio Janeiro. No vessels could pass into or reach the piers in the harbor, and much distress was occasioned. A small fleet of American warships was in the neighborhood, among them the Detroit, in command of Commander Brownson. An American merchantman was also there with a cargo to discharge, but was prevented from landing by Mello's fleet. Her captain appealed to the commodore in command of the American warships, with the result that the Detroit was detailed to act as an escort to the American vessel and to see that her captain had an opportunity to discharge her cargo. Clearing decks for action and with every man at his post, Commander Brownson sent word to Admiral de Mello of what he intended to do, and then gave the command that sent the Detroit and the smaller vessel on their perilous way. Through a lane formed by the rebel navy they sailed. Some gunner of the Brazilian fleet fired a shot at the merchantman, and before the smoke had cleared away one of the big guns on the Detroit belched forth. Brownson shouted from the bridge to the Brazilian admiral that if another shot was fired he would deliver a broadside. This had the effect of scaring the Brazilians.

It is proposed to place a tablet in the old Fitchburg railway station in Boston to commemorate the fact that it was there Jenny Lind sang for the first time in the United States, the big station being the only place in Boston large enough to accommodate the crowds that came to hear her.

Elected an Insane Man.

The re-election of Charles A. Boutelle of Maine, to a seat in congress is an extraordinary event in politics, because of the fact that Mr. Boutelle is now an inmate of an insane asylum. Boutelle has represented the Bangor district in the house of representatives for a score of years. He has been an active man at Washington, and, as chairman of the naval committee, has been responsible, to a large extent, for the great development of the navy in recent years. The great mental strain told upon his health, and last spring

he was a total wreck. He was taken to an asylum at Waverly, Mass., where, for a time, he was a raving maniac. In spite of this he was re-nominated by the Republicans of his district and re-elected by a great majority last week.

James R. Reid, organizer of the Old-Time Telegraphers' association, superintended the construction between Washington and Baltimore of the first telegraph line. He taught Andrew Carnegie to be an operator, and is now manager of the steelman's Scotch estates.

Rev. Samuel F. Pearson of Portland, Me., was recently elected sheriff of Cumberland county, the best paying office in Maine, although he stands pledged to only take \$3,000, and to cover the balance of the fees back into the county treasury. He was nominated by the Prohibitionists and was opposed by Mr. Despeaux, the Republican, and Mr. Barton, the Democrat.

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In taking steps to secure possession of \$50,000 Mrs. Mazie Winston of Chicago has astonished her friends by divulging the fact that African blood coursed in her veins. The woman is fair as any daughter of the north, with blue eyes and chestnut hair. Her father was Dorse Hamner of a wealthy Virginia family. Dorse Hamner committed suicide, but not until he had provided in his will for his daughter, Mazie, who was born in 1873. The will was lost, but Luther Luffin Mills, the noted Chicago lawyer, who believes in the justice of Mrs. Winston's claims, will go to Virginia to secure evidence to establish them.

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The Weekly Panorama.

Society Woman in Lighthouse.

For the past six years, the lighthouse keeper at Point Pinos, at Monterey, on the Pacific coast, has been Mrs. Emily S. Fish. Previous to her acceptance of the government position, Mrs. Fish, who is the widow of a former surgeon in the United States navy, lived in a beautiful massive house in Oakland which was the center of gay life and many important social functions. The home was noted for its elegant exclusiveness, the perfection of its cuisine and the good taste of its handsome and elegantly attired mistress.

Ruined by Speculation. Ot Oceanic, N. J. Charles B. Foote, a prominent New York broker, is suffering physical and mental torture. He permitted his fondness for speculation to carry him to a dangerous extreme and his life is paying the penalty for his firm's ruin. Foote was the junior partner of the firm of Hatch & Foote, which has done business on Wall street for 40 years. For some time Mr. Foote has been worried. He appeared to be under a terrible mental strain. September 1 his mind broke down and paralysis followed. With his absence from the office came an investigation of his books and it was found that he had involved the firm, through unauthorized speculations, to such an extent that an assignment was necessary.

Bad Morals in Trade. Chicago consumers complain that the grocers use colored paper bags, three times as heavy as the Manila variety, and that these paper bags are "weighed in" as groceries at the expense of the customers. A month or more ago the Chicago Federation of Labor made a protest against this weighing in of the paper bags and for a time it stopped, but the custom seems to have been revived, says the Chicago Daily News. A similar complaint, it will be remembered, was made about Sir Thomas Lipton's teas some months ago, purchasers claiming that the paper package was also "weighed in" as pure Oolong, Ceylon or whatever other brand of tea the said packages might contain. Experts even figured out quite a comfortable income to the credit of Sir Thomas from this source alone. The grocers should be straight and honest about it, continues the News in an editorial. If they cannot afford to furnish the bags free let them supply them to customers at cost and when the latter call for a pound of tea or sugar give them what they call for and not a pound of paper and sugar or paper and coffee. The item may seem small to the grocer, but the principle is there, and should be observed. Morally, it is just as much a theft as to take a penny as a pound—a distinction, however, that many people seem to overlook.

Went Farthest North. Capt. Cagni of the Italian army led the party of the Duke of Abruzzi's expedition which set out from the Stella Pollare in Terpitz Bay and reached

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Heavy Receipts Continue. SOUTH OMAHA, Neb., Sept. 29.—Heavy receipts at the stock yards continue, and from this time on there will be busy times about the yards, exchange building and packing houses. Receipts of range cattle are increasing and stock is coming here from competitive territory, which shows that south Omaha is one of the best markets in the country. The stock yards management has been doing everything possible to boom this market and to give the shippers the best possible price for stock of all kinds. The price is what tells, and that is why shippers in competitive territory are sending their stock here.

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Neighbors Come to the Rescue. ARBORVILLE, Neb., Sept. 29.—York county farmers are made of the right material and are always ready to assist a neighbor who is in need or distress. Lew McKenzie, one of Arborville township's farmers, has been quite sick and at present lies in the hospital at Stromsburg, where he is receiving treatment. His neighbors and fellow members of the Modern Woodmen plowed, harrowed and drilled in a large acreage of winter wheat, and did other farm work, assisting his wife and family during his sickness.

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Heavy Receipts Continue. SOUTH OMAHA, Neb., Sept. 29.—Heavy receipts at the stock yards continue, and from this time on there will be busy times about the yards, exchange building and packing houses. Receipts of range cattle are increasing and stock is coming here from competitive territory, which shows that south Omaha is one of the best markets in the country. The stock yards management has been doing everything possible to boom this market and to give the shippers the best possible price for stock of all kinds. The price is what tells, and that is why shippers in competitive territory are sending their stock here.

Found Dead at Saloon Door. TILDEN, Neb., Sept. 29.—W. H. Ansen, a farmer living one mile south of town, was found dead in the alley in the rear of L. B. Carleton's saloon by H. W. Davis and John Mahon. When found the dead man was lying on some refuse straw thrown from a near stable, face downward. The village marshal was notified, who, in conjunction with John Ashburn, justice of the peace, notified the coroner. He arrived on the eastbound passenger. A jury was impaneled and resulted in bringing in a verdict of paralysis of the heart, brought on from alcoholic poisoning.

Burglars at Coleridge. COLERIDGE, Neb., Sept. 29.—Burglars Sunday night entered O. S. Grant's blacksmith shop, and, securing tools, went to O. G. Ritchie's general store and postoffice and, prying open the front door, drilled a hole in the safe, but before they could blow open the safe they must have been frightened away, leaving everything but the drills. They did not secure anything. The safe contained about \$250 and stamps.

Hurted by a Train and Escaped. GREENWOOD, Neb., Sept. 29.—As No. 5 pulled in at 10 o'clock it ran into a team crossing the track, demolishing the wagon and throwing the driver, Alfred Bonnelle, into the air about twenty feet, knocking him unconscious. By a miracle he was not seriously hurt. There were two other men in the wagon, but they jumped out just before the train struck it.

Fall Two Stories. FORT CROOK, Neb., Sept. 29.—The little 4-year-old boy of J. W. Lowry pushed a loose screen out of the second story window of their hotel and fell to the sidewalk below, striking on the side of his face and head, rendering him unconscious. A doctor was immediately called, but was unable to say how great was the injury, as the brain may be seriously affected.

Cass County Land Valuable. PLATTSMOUTH, Neb., Sept. 29.—Fritz