

Belmont Visits Parker.

The New York American is authority for the following interesting story:

When Mr. August Belmont, Wall street agent for the Rothschilds, capitalist, railroad magnate and president of the Jockey club, went to Washington to confer with certain senators on the subject of Judge Alton B. Parker's candidacy for the presidency, he did so with an ingenuous publicity that won national comment. The fact that Belmont was the real power behind the Hill-Parker forces was surprising to many democrats throughout the country, and the cold water douche which withered the Parker aspirations immediately after the disclosure of Belmont as the moving spirit of the active canvass that is being made in favor of Judge Parker taught the Wall street magnate a lesson. This was the result:

On Saturday last, not many days after Mr. Belmont had visited Washington, the eminent financier and trust magnate paid a visit to Judge Parker himself at Esopus. On this occasion Mr. Belmont abandoned his open methods in favor of more discreet methods of statesmanship—methods in favor with David B. Hill, his political associate, and, when he has a chance, his adviser. Mr. Belmont, by the employment of his great influence with railroads, disarranged schedules, discommoded passengers, held trains, ferryboats and the mails, in order to conceal the fact that he was bound for Judge Parker's home at Esopus, and it was by the merest chance he was recognized when the express train on which he was a passenger stopped at the little station, where Judge Parker was sitting in a victoria in the driving rain awaiting the arrival of Mr. Belmont.

August Belmont spent Saturday night and Sunday at the home of Judge Parker, and David B. Hill was present at the Sunday conference. This conference has given rise to the interesting query:

"What could Mr. August Belmont possibly have to say to Judge Parker and David B. Hill that made necessary precautions so extreme to escape observation and publicity?"

Mr. Belmont has declined to throw any light upon this visit which he adopted such elaborate precautions to conceal and Mr. Hill is discreetly silent.

The Evening Mail of this city, in its issue of Monday evening, prints as a leading feature the facts of Mr. Belmont's visit to Judge Parker. The Mail says:

"August Belmont, banker and railroad man, with elaborate attempts to conceal his destination, made a pilgrimage Saturday to the house of Chief Judge Alton B. Parker, at Esopus.

"The schedules of the West Shore Railroad were upset to prevent Mr. Belmont's departure for Esopus becoming known in this city, and the financier put himself to no little inconvenience so that the Tammany opponents of the judge should not get wind of the conference.

"Ex-Senator David B. Hill's candidate drove to the little railroad station to personally welcome Mr. Belmont, and sat in a driving rain in a

victoria awaiting his guest's arrival. The two drove off together to Rosemont, where the Wall street man was the guest of the chief judge of the court of appeals.

"The country, with its eye on the recluse of Esopus, might have gone on in ignorance of the conference but for the fact that Mr. Belmont was recognized by a smoking car coterie. Their attention was attracted to the banker by the fact that he incautiously interfered with the habits of the West Shore's crack train, the Continental Limited.

"When Mr. Belmont set about to carry comfort from Wall street to Judge Parker he did not proceed directly to Esopus by the West Shore railroad, as would a drummer bound for that hamlet with samples of summer headgear.

"Instead, he proceeded to Fishkill Landing by the New York Central. There was no suggestion of Esopus in that move. Nor did the loungers about the sleepy ferry scent political news of national importance in the fact that the passenger from this city hurried aboard the boat, and that it put off without delay for its slip on the west side of the river.

"Meanwhile, the Continental Limited, delayed in starting from Weehawken by the fog holding back the train boats, was trying to make up lost time. It is a heavy train, with Boston connections, and running through to Chicago and St. Louis.

"At Newburg the train stops for a fraction of a minute, on its arrival there at 4:25, but on Saturday it 'lay to' for twenty minutes, while passengers wondered and fretted at the delay, and the dispatcher himself was at a loss to comprehend the imperative orders that held up the train.

"Presently the ferryboat came wheezing into the slip, Mr. Belmont, escorted by a railroad official, hurried up to the train, got aboard and the official released the tied-up train.

"The next surprise for the passengers came at Esopus, 23.7 miles above Newburg. Instead of running past the little wooden station at a speed of forty-five miles an hour, as is its habit, the Limited came to a stop, and George Bedford, the venerable agent, was waiting on the platform with an umbrella raised, as if ready to receive an expected visitor.

"Judge Parker was sitting in his victoria which was drawn up in the driving rain alongside the little platform, and the smoking car coterie saw him scanning the closed and barred doors of the vestibuled train.

"One of the doors was opened and Mr. Belmont stepped off the train, shook Judge Parker warmly by the hand, took a seat beside him, and away they were driven to Rosemont through the splashing mud.

"The passengers on the Limited had a subject for conversation as their belated train rolled on, leaving the leading Wall street democrat discussing convention plans with Chief Judge Parker."

A passenger who rode upon the train that ran all out of gear draws a vivid picture of the arrival of the train at Esopus:

"The train began to slow down, and the passengers, who had been chafing at the delay made no attempts to conceal their annoyance. As a man almost they looked out of the windows to learn what could be the cause of the unwonted stop, and saw a little wooden station, with a solitary figure standing expectantly upon the platform, holding aloft a huge umbrella. Drawn up alongside of the station platform was an open victoria. In it sat a man. He had crowded himself into a corner of the vehicle to protect himself as much as possible from the driving rain, and from the

appearance of the vehicle and its occupant it was clear that it had waited long at the station.

"The figure in the victoria looked out expectantly as the train came to a stop. Several persons recognized Judge Parker, for his face was turned toward us when he scanned the full length of the train. After a brief delay one of the vestibuled doors was opened and the old man with the umbrella ran anxiously forward. Then Judge Parker straightened up, and a friendly smile took the place of the anxious look that his face had borne. As Mr. Belmont stepped up to the victoria Judge Parker put forth his hand and warmly greeted the arrival. The horses were whipped up as soon as Mr. Belmont had stepped into the victoria, and off they went at almost a gallop through the sea of mud.

"The passengers heaved a sigh of relief, and conductor signaled the engineer to go ahead, and the train that had been doing diplomatic duty got back again to a work-a-day running schedule."

The interest that Mr. Belmont has in the management of the campaign for Judge Parker can be no more fully demonstrated than by the fact that clippings from the New York Times, favorable to Judge Parker and abusive of any other man whose name is before the people as a presidential candidate, are being sent broadcast to editors of newspapers throughout the country. August Belmont owns the Times and it is his mouthpiece.

At the first glance it would seem that August Belmont had made himself spokesman for Judge Parker when he went to Washington in the latter's interest, with the deliberate, malicious intention to make his nomination impossible.

His later, secretive tactics show that he is in earnest, but their discovery, largely through the elaborate attempts at concealment, makes his friendship to Judge Parker even more distressing. It is hard to think that a man in August Belmont's position could fail to realize that any association with him must be absolutely fatal to a man seeking public approval. It is only necessary to recall who August Belmont is to emphasize this truism.

He is the gentleman that went in with J. Pierpont Morgan to buy the government bonds of this country at 104, or, rather, he acted as agent of the Rothschilds when they picked up the pretty bargain that was offered to them.

August Belmont's reputation is unsavory enough in New York, but one must go to the south if one would learn how heavy a political handicap is involved in Belmont's indorsement.

Governor Goebel, of Kentucky, was an honest democrat, trying to protect the people against railroad extortion and railroad corruption. His bitterest enemy was the Louisville & Nashville railroad—and as a result of that railroad fight Goebel was murdered. A republican governor of another state, controlled by railroad influence, refused to give up the murderer—and August Belmont was the president of the Louisville & Nashville when the murder occurred.

The democrats of Kentucky and of the entire south know what a curse it is to any candidate to be even suspected of August Belmont's approval.

Henry Watterson said, editorially, in the Courier-Journal, February 17, 1900, in commenting on his severe and just charges against Belmont:

"Every man, woman and child in this part of the world knows exactly the part played by Mr. Belmont's money and Mr. Belmont's agents in the late election, and the facts, with their bloody denouement, will never be forgotten, but will come up in judgment against the company during the memory of living men."

Mr. Belmont is the gentleman, with the Rothschild backing, that has con-

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