

STANLEY OF KENTUCKY

Once or twice a year, when the Honorable Augustus Owsley Stanley is strolling down the busy marts of trade, either in Henderson, Ky., or Washington, D. C., as it happens, he observes in the window of a clothing store a concoction labeled, "Neat

and Nobby!—Take Me Home for Eight-seventy-five!" and goes in and procures it, wearing the same from the store with the label on it—unless, so be, it should occur to the gentlemanly purveyor to remove it.

Once or twice a year he does this, from which it may be gathered that

Augustus Owsley Stanley doesn't give much time to the consideration of his personal sartorial embellishment. Nor does he. A suit of clothes is a suit of clothes with Stanley, contrived for the utilitarian purpose of covering the body, not for the purposes of plumage or parade.

"A. O.," said a friend who observed Mr. Stanley sitting at the head of the house committee that is investigating the steel trust, "you ought to spruce up a little. For Heaven's sake, go and get you another suit of clothes!"

"What's the matter with these?" inquired Stanley. "I've only worn them a year or so."

"You ought to get a new suit," persisted the friend.

"All right," replied Stanley genially. "If you say so, old man, I'll do it." And he went and bought a fine layout for seven-sixty-two.

Clothes are the least of Stanley's concerns. He is of an inquiring turn of mind. For several years he has been crusading against the steel trust and desiring to know about the inner working of that beneficent—as Judge Gary says—organization. Inasmuch as he is a democrat and every house of which he has been a member—until the present one—has been republican, Stanley's thirst for information has not been supplied with an official assuager. The republican majority wanted no investigation of the steel trust, or, if they did want one, restrained themselves with marvelous and stoic heroism. Furthermore, they couldn't see where a democrat from Kentucky could put one over anyhow. Nor did they. However, it so happened that, for this and for many other reasons, the present house is democratic; and no sooner had it organized than Stanley raised the long yell for his cherished investigation and got it, being made chairman of the special committee that is now inquiring into the billion-dollar enterprise, where the witnesses invariably speak of Andrew Carnegie as "Andy," thus showing scant reverence for that busy promulgator of libraries and universal peace.

He is full of curiosity, is Stanley. He goes around asking: "Why?" One day he said: "Comparing men to dogs, if I do not malign the dogs, men naturally divide into the same classes as dogs. Now there is the bird-dog—he's an investigating chap, going about to find out what is going on; and there's the bulldog, who wants to fight; and the hound, who is good for speed—and so on. Taking my own case, I'm of the bird-dog type. I'm an investigator. I want to know what's going on."

And, by the same token, that is what he is doing now—wanting to know what's going on and what has been going on in the steel trust—being reasonably successful in finding out, too.

Stanley was born in Shelby county, Kentucky, of one of the bluest of the blue-grass families, but moved over to Henderson after he began the practice of law. He is a gregarious citizen and would just as lief meet up with night-riders as with preachers—perhaps liefer. At any rate, pursuing his studies of the varied human nature of western Kentucky, he came to be acquainted not only with the high and eminent but also with various other classes of society; and he defended a lot of those various other classes when it happened they were in contravention of the statutes in numerous cases made and provided. He was successful at the bar, being a pleader for fair; and the result was that the various other classes all become his devoted followers. He is a spellbinder who can reach up and yank the burning stars from the everlasting heavens too; and he put in a good deal of time

making speeches for various candidates.

Discussing his political activities with his wife one day, he said: "I believe I could be elected to congress."

"Pshaw!" replied his wife. I don't believe you could."

"I reckon I could," asserted Stanley.

"I dare you!" exclaimed his wife.

Stanley took the dare and went out and was elected to the Fifty-eighth congress, and has been coming back regularly every two years since. Three or four years ago he began his series of attacks on the steel trust in strong, able, analytical speeches; for, with all his occasional extravagance of rhetoric, Stanley is a digger and a student, and he had facts at his control.

Politically he is one of the coming men in Kentucky. He is widely known and very popular in the state, where he is always referred to as "A. O." They wanted him to be a candidate for governor a time ago, but he declined; and it is more than probable that eventually he will get to the senate. Indeed, that is probably his ambition. He is not only good at sustained effort in political speaking but he is quick and ready in rough-and-tumble debate, either on the floor of the house or on the stump.

"I don't say Stanley is a night-rider," asserted an opponent; "but if he is nominated all the night-riders will vote for him." "And," Stanley retorted, "I don't say he is a negro; but all the negroes will vote for him!"—which made a tremendous hit with the crowd.

Naturally Stanley reverences all

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