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New News of Yesterday

By E. J. EDWARDS

Decided By Night Wait

How Connecticut Candidate's Knowl-
edge of Telegraphy and Opponent's
Honesty Follied a Scheme De-
vised by Tammany Men.

Only those who are on the inside
realize on what queer and often un-
expected turns and seemingly little
things the fate of even national elec-
tions sometimes hang. The hitherto
unpublished incident I am about to re-
late illustrates the point aptly, and I
might add that I have always viewed
with some satisfaction the minor part
I played in probably helping to decide
a national election.

When Gen. Grant was president the
elections in the state of Connecticut
were held on the first Monday of
April. A state election was to be held
near the close of Grant's first admin-
istration, and it was expected that as
Connecticut went so would the nation
go in the presidential election of the
following fall. Marshall Jewell was
governor and a candidate for re-elec-
tion. His Democratic opponent was
James E. English, who had also been
governor. All the politicians were con-
vinced that, whether Jewell or English
won, the majority would be small.

One slushy night in the latter part
of March Jewell was driven from a
country village where he had been
campaigning to the railway station at
Meriden, ten miles distant. While he
was all alone in the station the tele-
graph key began to click. When a

young man he had studied telegraphy,
and almost unconsciously he read that
New York was calling Albany by way
of Hartford. Then, with a suddenness
that made him stand stock still, he
heard his own name spelled out over
the wire. Listening now, with all his
senses alert, there, in the solitude of
that deserted railway station, he
caught every word of a message going
through to Albany from some of
Tweed's cronies in New York city,
which clearly indicated that Tweed's
friends intended sending repeaters
into Connecticut on election day.

Instantly Jewell's plans were
changed. Instead of going to Hartford,
he took the first train to New Haven.
Arrived there, he immediately called
at a newspaper office and said to the
editor, in whose judgment he had
great confidence:

"I have here a telegraph message
from some of the Tammany men of
New York to some one in Albany. It
shows that they are to send repeaters
into this state on election day. What
had I better do?"

So highly respected was James E.
English, and so certain was it that he
would not be a party to any contem-
plated fraud upon the ballot, that it
seemed the better part to notify him
of the telegram in Gov. Jewell's pos-
session.

Summoning me, the editor placed in
my hands a sealed envelope, instructed
me to deliver it to Gov. English in per-
son, to tell him that it was from Gov.

Jewell, and to wait for his reply. Ig-
norant, at that time, of the envelope's
contents, I hastened to carry out my
instructions, routed the Democratic
candidate out of bed, saw him start
visibly as he read the slip of paper,
and carried back with me his assur-
ance that he would be at the newspa-
per office as soon as he could dress.

It was midnight when he entered.
"What is this about a telegram?"
asked Gov. English, when the formal
greetings were over.

Gov. Jewell read the telegram, and
then handed the slip of paper upon
which it was written to Gov. English.
"This is, indeed, a surprise and irri-
tation to me," said Gov. English. "I
hope you know me well enough," he
continued, "not to make it necessary
for me to assure you that I would not
for an instant keep the office of gov-
ernor unless I received the honest vote
of a majority of the electors. Let me
take a copy of this telegram." A copy
was handed to him.

There is every reason to believe
that next day Gov. English communi-
cated with some of his party heeled;
at any rate, he discovered the genuin-
ness of the telegram to be unques-
tioned, and summarily checked the at-
tempt to run Tammany repeaters into
Connecticut. In other words, because
of his sterling honesty, a Democratic
gubernatorial candidate caused the
election of his opponent by a plurality
of 150, and, probably, the re-election of
President Grant the following Novem-
ber. None except Gov. Jewell and one
or two of his more intimate friends
knew until this day how that decisive
telegram was obtained.

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"No" Made Arthur President

He Escaped from Political Trap Set
by the Hayes Administration to
Get Him Out of the
Country.

Everyone interested in the career of
Theodore Roosevelt is familiar with
that curious destiny by which what
was meant to be a political plot to re-
tire him from New York politics re-
sulted in his accession to the presiden-
cy by succession and to his nomina-
tion and election as president a little
over three years later.

Whenever I recall this incident I al-
ways think of the moment when Ches-
ter A. Arthur stood unconsciously at
the parting of the ways—when, had
he gone the other way, he probably
never would have sat in the presiden-
tial chair. Not until now have I told
the incident, although I came into pos-
session of the facts years ago, a few
days after Gen. Arthur had been re-
moved by President Hayes as collec-
tor of the port of New York.

This occurred in 1877, and those who
were in the inner circle of politics of
that day had reason to suspect that
Arthur was removed as a part of the
game of political chess which had for
its object the nomination of John
Sherman for president to succeed
Hayes. At that time the New York
custom house was the most powerful
political influence, in the sense of con-
trolling party organization, in the
United States. If John Sherman were
to be nominated for president it would
be of the highest importance that the
New York custom house should not
be unfriendly to him. Gen. Arthur
had been for years an intimate per-
sonal and political friend of Roscoe
Conkling. The latter was opposed to
the Sherman candidacy, and under
Gen. Arthur the custom house could
not be so employed politically as to
aid in the proposed John Sherman
nomination. So Arthur was removed
as the port's collector, that one friend-
ly to Sherman might wield the great
influence of the custom house.

A few days after his removal by
President Hayes I called upon Gen.
Arthur at his newly opened law office.

While we were talking I noticed that
the general opened and shut a drawer
in his desk several times. At last,
with some sign of hesitation, he took
a letter from the drawer. He turned
to me and said, "I have been wonder-
ing whether I should let you know
what is in this letter. I think I will,
but I can't give you a copy of it, be-
cause copies are sometimes lost or
mislaid. I wouldn't let anyone take a
copy of it."

Having said this, he drew the letter
from its envelope and read it to me.
It was a communication from Wash-
ington, in which Gen. Arthur was in-
formed by John Sherman that, if he
were willing to accept the mission to
The Hague, or to Belgium, or to
Switzerland, or even to Denmark,
the president would be very glad to
appoint him.

As he read the letter I realized its
great importance, and when he had
finished I assured him that I would
carefully guard the missive if he
would let me take it away and show
it to Charles A. Dana, the editor of
the New York Sun, who was then and
always a warm personal friend of
Gen. Arthur.

"No," said the general, "I had rather
not let the letter go out of my hands,
but you can tell Mr. Dana what it con-
tains, and say to him that I will gladly
show it to him if he will call here."
"Have you answered it?" I asked.
"Yes, I have answered it," I said

that I would prefer to remain a private
citizen, and return to the practice of
law in New York, rather than to live
outside the United States.

"That offer was made so as to pre-
vent the necessity of removing you as
collector of the port," I said.

Gen. Arthur returned the letter to
the envelope. Then, looking at me
with a whimsical smile, he said: "It is
capable of that inference."

Had Gen. Arthur fallen into the
political trap, so to speak, set for him
by the Hayes administration, to keep
it from having to perform the dis-
agreeable work of removing him as
collector of the port of New York, he

How Lincoln Won Bennett

Timely Offer of Appointment as Min-
ister to France Ended the Great
Journalist's Criticism of the
Administration.

The following hitherto unpublished
anecdote, related to me by one who
was a lifelong friend of Thurlow
Weed, illustrates Lincoln's supreme
gift as a politician in the best mean-
ing of the term.

In the darkest days of the civil war,
when there had been severe and con-
tinued reverses to the union army,
when it was known to Mr. Lincoln
that France and England were con-
templating interference, or, at least,
the raising of the blockade, and when
Secretary of the Treasury Chase was
trying to establish a satisfactory cur-
rency system, the New York Herald,
in an earnest, not unkindly, but se-
verely critical way, reproached the ad-
ministration at Washington. At that
time the Herald was regarded in Eu-
rope as the leading American newspa-
per, and because of this fact the po-
sition taken by the founder of the
Herald, James Gordon Bennett, gave Mr.
Lincoln serious concern. He was an-
xious to obtain the support of, and to
put an end to criticism by, the Herald.
He did it by one master stroke of tact,
skillful diplomacy and an intuitive un-
derstanding of the character of Mr.
Bennett.

Late one afternoon Thurlow Weed,
the master politician of New York
state, called by appointment upon
James Gordon Bennett at his beautiful
country place, as it then was, on the
upper end of Manhattan island.

The two great journalists strolled
for an hour or so through the beautiful
grounds and national park that was
a part of Mr. Bennett's country estate.
They talked of men and events for a
while, and also of the growth of New
York city, which, Mr. Bennett said,
would ultimately convert the upper
end of Manhattan island, then a forest,
into a residence district.

At last Mr. Weed said—and I am re-
peating the words as they were told
to me by Mr. Weed's friend:

"Mr. Bennett, I have recently seen
President Lincoln. He is greatly dis-
turbed about the situation in France.
You know, of course, that Louis Napo-
leon was just prevented, and by fortu-
nate accident, from recognizing the
southern confederacy, or, at least, from
declaring that France would attempt
to lift our blockade?"

"Yes," replied Mr. Bennett, "I know
about that. I know the part you had
in it, and what signal service you were
able to give to the United States at
that time. Tell me more about it."
Thereupon Mr. Weed narrated to
Mr. Bennett the extraordinary circum-

would have been out of the country
when the Republican national conven-
tion of 1860 met. He would have been
our minister at either The Hague, Bel-
gium, Switzerland, or Denmark,
of three years' standing. He would have
lost his immediate personal grip on
New York politics. He would not have
headed the New York delegation to
the convention. He would have been
"out of sight, out of mind." And be-
cause of this fact, in all probability,
when the New York delegates were
given the privilege of selecting the
candidate for vice-president the name
of Chester A. Arthur would not have
been considered. And so another than
his bearer would have succeeded James
R. Garfield as president of the United
States.

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