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Administration.

continued: mains critical in France. President

declaring it to be France's purpose to raise the union blockade of the confederate ports. Mr. Bennett was deeply interested in this secret history. Concluding his narrative, Mr. Weed "Now, Mr. Bennett, the situation re-



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herman for president to succ nnc ing of the term. Hayes. At that time the 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

influence of the custom house.

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,

president would be very glad to ap-

copy of it."

point him.

Gen. Arthur.

In the darkest days of the civil war, custom house was the most powerful when there had been severe and conpolitical influence in the sense of con tinued reverses to the union army crolling party organization, in the when it was known to Mr. Lincoln United States. If John Sherman were that France and England were conto be nominated for president it would templating interference, or, at least, be of the highest importance that the the raising of the blockade, and when New York custom house should not Secretary of the Treasury Chase was be unfriendly to him. Gen. Artnur had been for years an intimate perunfriendly to him. Gen. Arthur trying to establish a satisfactory currency system, the New York Herald, sonal and political friend of Roscoe Conkling. The latter was opposed to the Sherman candidacy, and under in an earnest, not unkindly, but se verely critical way, reproached the administration at Washington. At that Gen. Arthur the custom house could time the Herald was regarded in Eunot be so employed politically as to rope as the leading American newspa aid in the proposed John Sherman per, and because of this fact the posinomination. So Arthur was removed tion taken by the founder of the Her as the port's collector, that one friendald, James Gordon Bennett, gave Mr ly to Sherman might wield the great Lincoln serious concern. He was anxious to obtain the support of, and to A few days after his removal by put an end to criticism by, the Herald. President Hayes I called upon Gen. He did it by one master stroke of tact, Arthur at his newly opened law office. skillful diplomacy and an intuitive un While we were talking I noticed that derstanding of the character of Mr. the general opened and shut a drawer Bennett. in his desk several times. At last, with some sign of hesitation, he took

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.

but I can't give you a copy of it, be-The two great journalists strolled cause copies are sometimes lost or mislaid. I wouldn't let anyone take a for an hour or so through the beautiful grounds and national park that was a part of Mr. Bennett's country estate. Having said this, he drew the letter They talked of men and events for a from its envelope and read it to me. while, and also of the growth of New it was a communication from Washington, in which Gen. Arthur was in-York city, which, Mr. Bennett said, would ultimately convert the upper formed by John Sherman that, if he were willing to accept the mission to end of Manhattan island, then a for-The Hague, or to Belgium, or to est, into a residence district. Switzerland, or even to Denmark, the

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

As he read the letter I realized its "Mr. Bennett, I have recently seen President Lincoln. He is greatly disgreat importance, and when he had turbed about the situation in France. finished I assured him that I would carefully guard the missive if he You know, of course, that Louis Napo would let me take it away and show leon was just prevented, and by fortuit to Charles A. Dana, the editor of the New York Sun, who was then and nate accident, from recognizing the southern confederacy, or, at least, from always a warm personal friend of declaring that France would attempt

"No," said the general, "I had rather "Yes," replied Mr. Bennett, "I know about that. I know the part you had not let the letter go out of my hands, but you can tell Mr. Dana what it conin it, and what signal service you were tains, and say to him that I will gladly able to give to the United States at that time. Tell me more about it." show it to him if he will call here." "Have you answered it?" I asked. Thereupon Mr. Weed narrated to "Yes, I have answered it. I said Mr. Bennett the extraordinary circum- relative!"-Chicago News.

Lincoln is very anxious that we shall be represented at Paris by a minister who understands the French peopleone for whom Louis Napoleon has cordial feeling-and at the same time by a man who is a conspicuous and influential American citizen. President Lincoln has asked me to put myself into communication with you to say to you that if you will accept the post of minister to France he will gladly nominate you for that office, feeling that your service there would be of the highest value to the United States." Equally delighted and surprised at the unexpected turn of affairs, Mr. Bennett expressed his high appreciation of the distinguished honor that Mr. Lincoln proposed to confer on him, adding that for him it was a greater honor to have been thought of by the president in this connection than any he could obtain by actually filling the French mission. But it seemed to him that he and the Herald uld be of greater service to the union were he to remain in this country in immediate touch each day with his newspaper. He therefore was sure that he ought to instruct Mr. Weed to say to the president that, while he highly appreciated the honor, yet he believed his post of duty was at home. After this interview President Lincoln and his administration had no more cordial or valuable supporter than James Gordon Bennett.

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Preachers Not Overpaid.

In England the early Methodist preacher, when away from home, was expected to get his food from his congregation, and when at home was allowed 36 cents a day, with the stipulation that the acceptance of an invitation to dine led to a due deduction His wife was allowed 96 cents a week, with a further concession of five dollars a guarter for each child. At the Bristol conference of 1752, however, a definite salary was fixed. For the future the preacher was able to call \$60 a year his very own.

At a Distance.

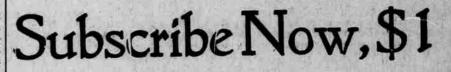
Small Elmer was playing with his mother's opera glasses. Happening to look at her through the big end, he exclaimed: "Oh, mamma, you are so far away you look like a distant

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to lift our blockade?

The following hitherto unpublished anecdote, related to me by one who was a lifelong friend of Thurlow Weed, illustrates Lincoln's supreme