

THE LATE SENATOR BRICE.

Mr. Erskine M. Phelps, one of the leading and most astute wholesale merchants of Chicago, recently paid his tribute of personal friendship and respect to the late Senator Brice in a fervid and sincere eulogium. Among other things appropriate to the occasion Mr. Phelps said of Mr. Brice:

"His first great enterprise was the putting together of the Lake Erie and Western road, of which he was president at the time of his death. He was the head and front and really conceived the plan of the Nickel Plate road, which was afterward sold to the Vanderbilts. The amusing incident that resulted in the sale of that road and saved Brice from financial ruin is worth repeating.

"Brice invited Gould to take a ride over the line. The great railroad king was placed in a chair on the rear end of an observation car. Brice and Burke invited the newspaper men to take the trip with them and fixed it with them so that word should be telegraphed from every station that Gould was making an inspection of the road, with a view to purchasing. The Vanderbilts bit at the bait and closed the deal for the purchase of the road within forty-eight hours. Mr. Gould remarked when the story was told him that it was the only time in his life that he had been 'worked for a sucker.'

"I have been associated with Brice in politics and business, and the longer I knew him the more I admired the transcendent genius of the man. He was strong as an organizer and a man of great breadth. In the second Cleveland campaign he was chairman of the national committee and was associated with such men as Arthur Sewall of Maine, William C. Whitney, Senators Ransom and Gorman and myself. He spent \$150,000 of his own money in the campaign.

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"Only a few days ago it was my good fortune to meet him at a dinner given in New York to Chief Justice Fuller by J. W. Doane. There were such men present as General Schofield, M. E. Ingalls, Daniel S. Lamont and ex-Governor Flower of New York. Brice was the light and life of the whole dinner and kept the guests in a continuous roar of laughter by his shafts of wit.

"Take him all in all he was one of the most remarkable men that I have ever met or ever expect to meet. When you met him it was like coming into sunshine. He was cheery, never despondent, always looking up, never looking down; always looking forward, never looking backward. He was never discouraged, never blue and always had a cheerful smile for all. He was a wonderful conversationalist, probably the most charming after-dinner talker in the country. When Lord Coleridge visited this country he made the remark that Brice was the best conver-

sationalist that he had had the pleasure of meeting. The senator was a good story teller and delighted in telling good ones on himself.

NO MONEY FOR TAILOR.

"I have always remembered one he told me on himself several years ago. He said that when his wedding day arrived he did not have enough money to pay for both his dress suit and the minister, and finally compromised by paying the parson and standing off the tailor.

"A great man is dead. Probably there are very few men so universally respected and beloved in all phases of society as Calvin S. Brice. His death will be a shock to all and he will be mourned by thousands whom he helped, who loved and adored him. He was a man of small stature, Titian hair, bushy, was quick and active, almost to nervousness, with an eye as bright as a diamond and a nose like one of Napoleon's field marshals. He was well informed on every subject, religion, politics, science or finance. He was a ready debater and quick at repartee. He was a late riser and one who burnt long and late the midnight oil. He used to reach his office at 11 o'clock and seldom went to bed before 2 in the morning. His word was as good as his bond, and nothing was ever too large for him in the way of a scheme. He was never appalled by millions. He would talk about \$20,000,000 deals as unconcernedly as you or I would mention a \$20 transaction."

The average farm in North Carolina contains 120 acres, and the average value of improved land is \$14.25 per acre, and of unimproved \$5.75.

DEAD IN THE YEAR 1898.

The last hours of this year are drawing near. During the twelve months millions of human beings have passed from life to death. But only a few, a very few, are world-missed or world-mourned. In the great stream of humanity which pours along the surfaces of the globe the individual is like the drop of water hurled by obstructive rocks from a mountain torrent, lost but not missed.

Gladstone and Bismarck in the Old World and Thomas Francis Bayard in the New are among the renowned of earth who have gone during this year. Of the two first much has been said and published. Of Mr. Bayard not so much as his long, honest and efficient service to the country would warrant. Therefore, as an admirer and personal friend of Mr. Bayard, the editor of THE CONSERVATIVE takes upon himself the sacred duty which sincere friendship always imposes, of telling the world something of the aims and ambitions of the life that has gone out.

Thomas Francis Bayard was born in Wilmington, Delaware, October 29, 1828,

and was the son of James Asheton Bayard and Anne Francis Bayard. \* \* \* At the age of 13 years he went to the school of the Rev. Francis L. Hawks at Flushing, Long Island. During the few years when his father lived in New York, young Bayard entered the mercantile house of his brother-in-law, Mr. Schermerhorn, and his business training was supplemented in the house of S. Morris Waln, of Philadelphia. At that time it was the intention of his father to train him for mercantile pursuits, but upon the death of his elder brother, Richard Henry Bayard, his father decided to train him for the legal profession. Upon his return to Delaware he was entered as a student at law in the office of the elder Bayard, and was admitted to the bar in 1851, and at once engaged in active practice in copartnership with his father. In 1853 he was appointed United States district attorney for Delaware, but resigned this office the following year and associated himself with his friend William Shippen, in Philadelphia. Mr. Shippen died in 1858, when Mr. Bayard returned to Wilmington, which city he made his home always afterward. He soon acquired an extensive legal practice.

Like his father, Mr. Bayard was an active, conscientious democrat, and took a prominent part in the stirring political events that immediately preceded the civil war. He was not, however, in favor of secession, but was what was then known as a peace democrat, signaling his convictions in this direction by a famous speech at a peace meeting in Dover, in June, 1860, in which he advocated a settlement of the pending questions without resort to war, and earnestly opposed the severance of the relations of any of the states with the Federal Union.

Mr. Bayard's interest in local politics continued unabated until, in February, 1869, he was elected United States senator to succeed his father, upon the same day and by the same legislature that chose his father to fill the unexpired term of George Read Riddle, which ended upon the 4th of March following.

The career of Mr. Bayard in the United States senate is a matter of public record. But there are few men who recall his antagonism to the reissuance clause of the law which provided for the non-bonding of three hundred and forty-six millions of dollars of greenbacks. In the senatorial discussion of that question Mr. Bayard was more than a match for John Sherman. Time has verified the patriotic wisdom of Bayard and condemned the position taken by Sherman. The greenback circulation and its continued reissuance are a primary and major cause of all the financial fallacies and monetary evils which have befallen the United States since 1879.

In 1884 Mr. Bayard was urged by many democrats as a candidate for the presidency. But the national conven-