

TWENTY-FIRST YEAR.

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MILLIONAIRE DITCH DIGGER.

Lincoln's Richest Man Once Worked with Pick and Shovel.

JOHN FITZGERALD'S EVENTFUL LIFE.

Evicted from Ireland He Came to America and Has Amassed a Fortune—Incidents of His Career.

LINCOLN, Neb., Aug. 22.—[Special to THE BEE.]—Hon. John Fitzgerald is one of the most unique and at the same time most prominent characters in the financial circles of Lincoln. He is the richest man at the capital city and is the most modest and unassuming. He is quoted as being worth over \$1,500,000, but is not at all puffed up over his remarkable success in life. He is as approachable as the lowest, mental in his service. The honors that have been thrust upon Mr. Fitzgerald have come unsought as he believes in strict attention to business and avoids all public notoriety as much as possible.

Mr. Fitzgerald was born about fifty-five years ago in Limerick county, Ireland. His father was a tenant farmer, holding at the same time a few acres of freehold property. The remainder of an estate belonging to well-to-do ancestors. Misfortune visited the home and Edward Fitzgerald, the son of the noble Geraldine race, was evicted from his farm and with his family came to America to commence life anew. John was then seven years old.

Already the lad exhibited the ceaseless energy and sagacity that have been the secrets of his success in later years. John did the work of the ordinary Irish laborer and that was anything in the line of manual labor that came along.

It was during those years that one day while digging with a number of fellow laborers in a ditch for a farmer, the lad commenced figuring up "in his head" about how much it would cost to dig a ditch. The idea then flashed into his head, why not try his luck in taking the contract for the construction of the ditch. To think was to act and in a short time he made a proposition to the farmer that was accepted and John Fitzgerald, laborer, was transformed into John Fitzgerald, contractor, and he commenced the ascent of the ladder that led him to wealth.

The job proved a financial success to John and the farmer was pleased with the expeditious manner in which the young contractor pushed forward the work. Fitzgerald found out that brain work was more remunerative than physical toil and he adopted the calling of a contractor. His continued success as a contractor led him to greater ventures and in a few years in partnership with his brother Edward he turned his attention to railroads. Early in the sixties they completed several important contracts in New England and later went to Wisconsin where they put in several hundred miles of railroad also. Later they secured big contracts in Iowa and gradually worked westward. Some of the contracts secured by him were for the construction of the Chicago and North Western, the Chicago and St. Paul, the Chicago and Milwaukee, and the Chicago and Canada railroad in Michigan and Indiana.

He took a prominent part in the affairs of the First National bank at Plattsmouth and eventually became its president which position he still retains.

A humorous story is told concerning him when he first became an officer of the bank. As president it was necessary for him to affix his signature to the bank notes issued by the institution. A pile of crisp ten dollar bills was brought to him one day for that purpose. Seizing a pen, Mr. Fitzgerald set to work to inscribe his autograph on each one. The careful contractor had never had much time to practice an ornamental style of chirography and the first autograph written caused him to knit his brow with disgust and he deliberately took the ten dollar bill and tore it up. He then tried the next one, with no better success and the fragments of ten dollar bills No. 2 followed No. 1 into the waste basket. Again and again he tried to write his name in a style that would suit him and when the pile of bank notes began to look unacceptably smaller, he struck a style of autograph that suited him. He duplicated this on the remainder of the bank notes and saved them from annihilation. To the astounded officials of the institution he explained that he proposed to have the currency issued by their bank to be on a par in appearance with those of other banks.

Mr. Fitzgerald is also the president of the First National bank at Greenwood. He is a director of the First National bank of Lincoln also and of the First National bank of Chicago. He is president of the Nebraska Stock yards company and proprietor of the West Lincoln Brick and Tile works. He owns a large store in Lincoln and mercantile establishments in various portions of the state. He has a magnificent farm of 8,000 acres at Greenwood and another of 6,000 acres in Cass county. He also owns several farms in Wisconsin and other states. In addition to the splendid wholesale business located at the corner of Second and I streets, he owns several store buildings and dwelling houses in various portions of the city of Lincoln. He has a magnificent residence surrounded by ample grounds, situated on a fine piece of ground that he has purchased. The place is on a fine eminence and is known as Mount Emerald.

Mr. Fitzgerald has always been ardently attached to the cause of Ireland. He has always supported every movement consecrated to Irish liberty, and has attended every prominent convention held for the promotion of that cause. With John P. Sutton and Hon. Patrick Egan he has helped make Lincoln the headquarters of the Irish national league of America. Mr. Fitzgerald was first elected president of the local organization and in 1886 was unanimously elected president of the national league, which position he still retains.

HONEY FOR THE LADIES.

White suede and chambray gloves are popular in London with all kinds of gowns.

Pretty Louis coats of lace are worn with skirts of surah, China silk, net and foulard.

Some fancy combs with two teeth have cut garnet cabochon tops, which look well in light or dark hair.

Shirtings of brilliantine is a dressy and serviceable fabric noted among many of the stylish traveling suits of the season.

Feather trimmings are announced for coats, caps, dresses, coats, hats, etc., the ostrich and egret leading.

Handkerchiefs are very elaborate. I saw some of the prettiest ones having the center and hem of different colors that contrasted well.

The newest things in hosiery are black silk stockings with white Brussels lace fronts and stockings embroidered in forget-me-nots.

Bright Miss Kit, who writes so entertainingly for the Toronto Mail, has no use for the young man with a sash. She would have him chloroformed.

A youthful toilet is of cream colored beige, dotted with bouquets. The upper part of the corsage is of tulle, and the riband and girdle are of tulle colored satin.

Handsome gowns of magnolia white cloth, which always looks rich and tasteful on every occasion are made with vests of white silk cord embroidery, applied directly to the dress-front.

The latest chemises are cut en cour, or in the form called "Josephine," which is rounder than en cour, and all ornamented with lace and open work insertion.

The novelty in millinery alike up to the present is shaded velvet and satin antique. Among the noticeable combinations are

GRAND OPERA HOUSE.

COMMENCING

10-NIGHT. Sunday Evening, Aug. 23. 10-NIGHT

AND MONDAY, TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY.

THE

GARRICK OPERA COMPANY,

IN A GRAND PRODUCTION OF

Balfe's Beautiful Lyric Opera,

★ BOHEMIAN GIRL ★

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OMAHA

—THE—

Bohemian Girl

WILL BE

PRODUCED IN ITS ENTIRETY

Including the Grand March of the Gypsies and the Czardash.

Grand Chorus of 40 Voices.

PICTURESQUE SCENERY.

Balcony Reserved Seats, 35c and 25c.

Note the Great Cast of Characters:

Count Arnheim, Governor of Presburg... Mr. JOHN E. BRAND
Thaddeus, a proscribed Pole... Mr. HENRY HALLAM
Florestin, nephew to the Count... Mr. J. O. POLAND
Devilshoof, Chief of the Gypsy Tribe... Mr. CHAS. H. DREW
Captain of the Guard... Mr. JESSE JENKINS
Arline, the Count's daughter... Miss LAURA CLEMENT
Buda, her attendant... Miss LILLIAN SWAIN
Queen of the Gypsies... Miss CLARA CHIESMAN

Nobles, Soldiers, Retainers, Peasants and Gypsies.
N. B. Twelve years are supposed to elapse between the First and Second Acts. The action of the Opera is laid in Hungary, during the beginning of this century.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENERY:

ACT 1—The Chateau and Grounds of Count Arnheim, on the Danube, near Presburg.

ACT 2—Scene 1. Gypsy camp in the outskirts of Presburg.
Scene 2. On the road to Presburg.
Scene 3. Public square and Hall of Justice in Presburg.

ACT 3—Conservatory in the Chateau of Count Arnheim.

THURSDAY EVENING, 27TH.

Gilbert & Sullivan's Greatest,

THE MIKADO

PRICES—RESERVED SEATS:

Lower Floor, - - 50c

Box Seats, - - 75c

CLOSELY AKIN TO DEMOCRATS

Kentucky and Tennessee Alliance Men Are Built in That Way.

REPUBLICANS A COMMON ENEMY.

Farmers Name Their Candidate and the Democrats Elect Him and Manage to Absolutely Control Him.

MORRISTOWN, Tenn., Aug. 21.—[Special to THE BEE.]—The alliance men of eastern Tennessee and southeastern Kentucky acts very much like a full-blooded dyed-in-the-wool democrat. He attends the various alliance meetings and calls himself an alliance man, but when he attends political primaries and conventions he is first, last and forever a democrat and a "wah" democrat at that. He has not fully forgotten the animosities incurred during the great American conflict, and he keeps these in his mind's eye when he goes to the polls. He remembers how he and his republican neighbor tried to kill each other thirty years ago and he votes as he shot.

There have been seven marriages among the female clerks of a New York weekly paper in seven years, and they each occupied the same desk, which has become a greatly prized one among the remaining clerks. In an article entitled "Marriage as a Life Preserver," published in a New York literary journal, the writer says that "if longevity is desirable, then it is better that we should marry than remain bachelors; for it appears that at every age from twenty to eighty-five, the death rate of the Benedictine is very much smaller than that of their married brethren."

Deceitfulness is excited over the approach of the first Chinese wedding in Kansas. The bride—Miss Young Lee—has been a teacher at the Chinese schools in San Francisco. She arrived in Leavenworth the other day wearing a yellow China silk dress made in the latest mode, and is said to be pretty and intelligent. She is going to marry Joe Lee, a laundryman employed at the post, and she is already a favorite with the officers.

A young wife in Georgia is about to sue for divorce on the ground of violation of the marriage contract. She alleges that when, before marriage, she told her sweetheart she was willing to share his poverty and live on bread and water, he pledged his sacred honor that if she would furnish the bread he would hustle around and get the water. And so they were married; but he has been the highwayman ended before the collector came around and cut off the street pipe for non-payment of the water rent.

Languages of the World.
A German authority says that almost a third of all humanity—that is 400,000,000—speak the Chinese language. Then the Hindu language is spoken by more than 100,000,000. In the third place stands the English, spoken by almost 100,000,000. Fourth, the Russian, with 89,000,000, while the German language is spoken by 57,000,000 tongue and the Spanish by about 48,000,000. Of the European languages the French is fifth in place.

"Johnny," said the minister severely, "Do you know where little boys who swim on Sunday go?" "Oh, most any place where they ain't likely to be so wimmin' passin'!" was Johnny's reply.

alliance measures. The idea of a separate and distinct ticket does not seem to enter his head.

None of the farmers whom I met could give any clear reasons for joining the alliance. They had a vague idea that the tiller of the soil "ought to have a better show," but no definite plan was suggested or apparently known for the amelioration of his condition. The lazy, half-careless way in which he cares for his crop is characteristic of the manner in which he cultivates his politics. He is too far behind the Nebraska farmer to catch up with him in twenty years. Even the democratic politicians I met could not give any tangible reason for the existence of the alliance organization. They were either too ignorant or affected ignorance of alliance principles. The general idea prevails with them that all the farmer wants is a chance to put men of their choice in office, and the average democrat asks: "Ain't we electing the men that the alliance people select?"

This argument is deemed conclusive by the democratic colonel and none dare gainsay it. Meanwhile the colored gets there just the same and swells the democratic ranks with the votes of alliance men who have left the republican ranks. It is an excellent device to meet a political necessity and it works well.

It was my good fortune to be in Middleborough, Ky., at the recent state election. Middleborough is the magic city that has sprung up within the last two years near the Tennessee line and just above the famous Cumberland Gap. The style of voting was a revelation to me. Nearly every vote cast was by a negro. I could not see any white men voting at all. The colored men came up in droves under the guidance of white men. I looked in vain for the traditional shotgun. It was not in sight. The shot gun was in its den and had been superseded by the dollar of our dads.

Darkies living across in Tennessee were brought over the line in droves and voted. None that I met knew that the election was to vote a number of times at the same place. One old colored fellow openly boasted in my presence that he had made \$15 that day by the manifold process of voting. He declared:

"I don't have to walk for a dollar and a quail like dose damn Eysettians flaxin' up Yellin creek."

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No corner appeared, no inquest was held, no arrests were made. In answer to my astonished queries I learned that although Middleborough had but 3,000 inhabitants, that nearly a hundred murders had occurred in that city in the brief two years of its existence.

In eastern Kentucky I learned that the so-called people's party and the alliance were treated and regarded as separate parties. The two seemed to be more distinct from each other than they do in Nebraska, where the alliance is really a branch of the people's independent party. It was noted that while the farmers' alliance had not identified itself with the state ticket of the people's party, that it was a power in the county organizations which it had formed, and that in most local contests the alliance and people's party were making shoulder-to-shoulder fights, and the alliance either supported the democratic ticket to continue the democratic domination, at least that was the democratic politicians as they grew communicative over their draughts of distilled essence of corn.

In the central and western portions of both Kentucky and Tennessee the alliance was reported as being stronger than in the western portions, but this fact does not appear to disturb the democrats in the least. They seemed to regard it as an adopted child. W. J. B.

RELIGIOUS.

The name "The King's Daughters" is taken from the forty-fifth psalm, ninth verse: "Kings' daughters were among the honorable women."

Christopher Columbus is to be made a saint, now that nobody remembers the language he used to his sailors when they wanted to go home.

The international order of the King's Daughters has had its name changed so as to embrace sons as well as daughters, as many men and boys have been admitted to it since 1887.

In the museum of the dead letter office at Washington, D. C., there is a piece of parchment on which is penned a copy of the Lord's prayer, written in fifty-four different languages.

Church statistics show that there are now 931 women either occupying pulpits or licensed to do so. The Universalist denomination heads the list of churches in the number of women it has ordained.

The mother of Hector C. Havenymer at New York City, to whom he left \$200,000 for distribution among charitable organizations has given \$50,000 to the missionary society of the Methodist Episcopal church.

A few days ago Spurgeon in a weak voice ordered his secretary to write down his first belief that God had drawn him back from the verge of the grave as a direct answer to the prayers of the Christian church.

It is said that 500,000 persons are members of the Congregational church in this country, and that more than one-fifth live in Massachusetts, which thus heads the list. The average of benevolent contributions is highest in Minneapolis, Minn.

Mrs. George Roberts, a San Jose (Cal.) spiritualist, has converted the parlor of her residence into "the temple of purity and truth." The furniture and drapings are all

pure white, and all who enter must be clad in white. The temple is for angels to come and hold communion with man. She claims to be a member of the Order of Angels, and that Jesus himself has been in the temple and approved of it. She says she knew Him in life. The Baptists are building a railway chapel. It is to be built up with all the requirements of the modern chapel, including organ, baptistry and hymnology. The Rev. Dr. Wayland Hovey of Minneapolis is to direct it, and Messrs. Colgate Hoyt and Charles L. Colby of New York are among its financial backers.

Of Cardinal Manning a correspondent writes: "Notwithstanding his weight in years, he is still active and well, as busy with his books and as much interested in the topic of the hour as he was at sixty. Perhaps the greatest inconvenience which his age has brought him is a growing inability to face his somewhat trying weather. Until recently he has scarcely been out of doors half a dozen times since last September, and then only to keep important engagements."

The annual statistics of the Presbyterian church, just completed by Dr. William Henry Roberts, the stated clerk, show a growth in the number of churches and communicants and presbyteries, and a decrease in the number of churches and communicants in the total number of communicants is 806,706 against 775,903 for 1890; the number of presbyteries is 216, an advance of three on 1890; there are 6,223 ministers as against 6,155 last year, an increase of only 67; the contributions show a falling off, being \$14,092,920, instead of \$14,368,191.

A novel plan for extinguishing a church debt has been hit upon in Melbourne, Australia. The church committee—or vestry, as the case may be—divided the total debt among themselves, and each man insures his life for the amount that falls to his share. The policies are transferred to the church, and the annual payments on them are made out of the collections. Then, of course, as the members of the committee "drop off," the sums insured on their lives drop in, and later, when the only survivor dies, the last installment of the church debt is paid.

Keep off the Grass.

The schoolmasters of Fresno, Cal., are evidently "abroad." The town supervisors seek to preserve the park from injury by posting the following notice: "All persons are hereby forbidden from lounging upon, lying or tramping upon any grass or plots, excepting respectable women, and children under the age of twelve years, in charge of their parents or attendants."

Whittier's Tribute to Lowell. From purest wells of English undefiled None deeper drank than he, the New World's Child.

Who, in the language of their farm-folks, spoke The wit and wisdom of New England folk, Shaming the monstrous wrong; the world-wide laugh Provoked though might well have shaken

half The war of slavery down are yet the ball And mine of battle overthrow them all.