"CARP" TALKS WITH DEPEW

Delightful Gossip About One of the Interesting Men of the Day.

DEPEW MAKES THREE SPEECHES A WEEK.

A Glance at the Every-Day Life of a Busy New Yorker-His Impressions of Foreigners, Etc.

New York, Oct. 15 .- [Special Correspondence of THE BEE. |- I had a long chat today with Chauncey M. Depew on after-dinner speaking. He is the greatest after-dinner orator in the United States, and, by and all, he is one of the most remarkable men in this country. As a lawyer, he stood for years at the head of the New York bar and as an attorney for the Vanderbilts and for other great corporations he has held his own against such men as Roscoe Conkling, William M. Evarts, David Dudley Field and the other great lights of this, the strongest legal center of the union. As president of the New York Central railroad, he has for years managed one of the biggest corporations in the country, and as a leading New York politician, he has refused the United States senatorship and has declined the request of the republican party of this state to have his name put before its national conventious as its candidate for the presidency. Chauncey Depew has all his life been associated with monopolists and capitalists, still the masses and the laboring men look upon him as their friend, and though he is a strict republican the democrats desight to listen to his speeches. He is one of the busiest men in the United States and apparently the one of our greatest business men having the most leisure. He attends more dinners perhaps than any other great rallroad president in the country, and makes more speeches than any professional lecturer or noted statesman. He receives ten requests a day to deliver addresses or to reply to speeches and toasts, and he told me this afternoon that he made more than three speeches every week year in and year out, and that his average had been more than a hundred speeches per annum for years. In these speeches Mr. Depew never repeats himself. The charge that he retails his own stories until they become chestnuts, is not true, for all of his speeches are published and he speaks again and again, year after year, to the same associations, and of course has to have a new speech every time. How he does it is a wonder to every one. The only explanation of it is that he is a genius and that he knows how to work his genius so that it will produce the greatest re-

The President of the New York Central. The daily life of a man like this ought to

be interesting. I have had some chance to study Mr. Depew's habits today. I called this morning at the New York Central offices and spent a part- of the day watching the president's work, noting the stream of callers which flowed almost constantly in and out of his room and chatting with his private secretary, Mr. Duval, about him. You reach these offices by narrow iron stairs. A forbluding looking negro, as black as Erebus, opens the door of the president's room, and your card must pass from him to Mr. Duval before it gets to Mr. Depew. Mr. Duval's room is about six feet wide and twenty feet long, and the desk in the center of it runs almost across the width of the room, and in front and behind this are doors which lead into the office of the president of the New York Central. This office is perhaps twentyfive feet square. Its finishing is of black walnut and it has on three sides walls of glass extending five feet from the ceiling down to where they meet the main walls of walnut or plaster. The room is simply furnished.
At a rolling top desk sits Mr. Depew and at
some distance away are tables occupied by
his two stenographers. Mr. Depew's desk is littered with papers, and you note by the postage stamps on his letters that his mail comes from all parts of the world. Here are cables from England and France, there is a package of social letters and before him lies a tabulated statement showing the work ing and progress of some of his latest rail road manipulations. "He receives," sai Mr. Duval, "an average of fifty personal let-ters a day, and his business man runs up into the hundreds. Some of his mail he never sees, a part of it he answers by sten-ographers, but the most of his personal let-ters receive repties in his own hand writing. he is a very rapid writer is rarely at loss for a word to express his meaning and he dictates quite as readily as he writes. He gets to his office between 9 and 10 o'clock every morning, and first taxes up his mail and his morning, and first cases up his main and his newspaper clippings. He is probably as much quoted as any man in the country and he receives comments upon his work from newspapers both in this country and in Europe." He is a patron of the clipping bureau, and Mr. Duval says that he often pays these bureaus as high as \$100 a month for newspaper cuttings which they send him concerning himself, and that these cuttings number from one hundred and fifty to three hundred a day. These clippings come from foreign papers as well as from American journals and yesterday one was received from a London newspaper which severely criticized Mr. Depew's remarks on White-chapel and which in reply quoted a Chicago newspaper correspondent who stated that Chicago surpassed Whitechapel in vice.

As soon as Mr. Depew gets to the office his callers begin to come. They besiege bim at his residence before he starts down town and they are here in force by the time he arrives. The number waiting for him ranges from ten to fifty, according to the times, and he receives all who have any business with him. He is in fact one of the most accessible men in New York, and he is so even tempered that he remains cool when all of the rest of his officers about him are angry. He never gets worried and never loses his grip and he works steadily on from the time he gets to the office till about 1, when he goes out for his lunch.

A Lunch of Millionaires. Mr. Depew takes his lunch at the Murray Hill hotel cafe and during the half hour which he spends there he meets some of the biggest millionaires of the country and some of the most noted railroad men of the United States. At the same table with him sit per-haps Cornelius Vanderbilt, H. Walter Webb and General Lang, and at other tables are other men who represent millions. Mr. De-pew's lunch is a temperate one and he is one of ne most careful eaters in the country. I don't think he knows he has a stomach, but he con-fines himself to the substantials and a plate of oyster soup, a bit of chicken and a cup of coffee make him a good meal. He is just as simple as to his breakfasts and dinners. He cats the first at about half past 7, and a plate of oatmeal, a couple of soft boiled eggs, some buttered toast and a glass of milk are all that he needs. If he takes any coffee, it is not strong, and he sometimes varies the repast with tea. His dinner is without wine. As for smaking, he gave that up entirely years ago when he found it hurt him, and he takes no stimulants. I am told, except at a big dinner when he sips a little champagne to wards the latter part of the feast.

How Channey Depew Speaks.

I first heard Chauncey Depew Speaks.

I first heard Chauncey Depew speak at an annual duncer of the Gridiron club at Washington. The Washington correspondents who make up this club, are the pick of the newspaper men of the United States. Their dinners are noted and United States senators, supreme court justices, famous generals, and men prominent in all branches of life are glad to attend them. They come knowing that what they say will not be reported, but they also know that they must leave their dignity outside the club doors, and the unconventionality which prevails at the table is to the guests the charm and the fear of the is to the guests the charm and the fear of the dinner. In the speeches made, no one is per-mitted to be prosy or duli. If the president of the United States should tell an old story, it would be greeted with the word "chest-nut" from all parts of the room, and the phrase-monger and the platitude-neddler had better keep his seat. The speeches are interrupted again and again with the sharp-

est of witticisms and a chance is offered for the brightest of repartee. Mr. Depew's speech at this dinner was as full of wit and ideas as an egg is full of meat, and he was given several speeches during the evening. His manner of speaking was a surprise to me. He uses the conversational tone, seldom makes a gesture and has no mannerisms nor trick cards of oratory. His speaking makes me think of Joe Jefferson's acting and he says he got his first ideas of good speaking from Wendell Phillips, who simply talked to the brains of the people in front of him.

Let me give you a picture of Chauncey Depow as he makes an atter dinner speech. He looks more like a preacher than a club He looks more like a preacher than a club man, and as he stands swinging his glasses in his hand, looking out of his sober blue eyes up and down the table, his cultured cierical face makes you wonder when he stepped out of the pulpit and whether after all it is not a mistake and he is not about to ask grace. He begins to talk. His words come freely and naturally. He smiles a little as he tells a good story, and his bine eyes twinkie as he wittly replies to the saily of one of the men from the other side of the table. As he grace on his face peams with table. As he goes on, his face beams with good fellowship and you note that his fiftyeight years have not made him old, and that though his hair and beard are frosted silver, his soul is as young as that of any boy about the board. As he continues, you find that his speeches are; more than stories. You note that he has ideas as well as wit and you realize that the speaker is not only an orator, but a man and that a great

Chauncey Depew Talks of the After

Dinner Stage. Returning to Mr. Depew's business life, I waited for several hours to have an interview at his office, but imperative work kept piling up, and it was 3 o'clock before 1 got access to him. At 3:15 he had to make the train for his summer home at Pawling, two were all full for the morrow, and he finally suggested that I jump on the cars and run up to Pawling with him and we could have our talk on the train. He ordered a pass for me, and ten minutes later we were seated in a chair car on the New York Central rail-road, the train going at forty miles an hour and Mr. Depew talking in response to my questions at the rate of 150 words per minute. The following is the substance of our

Said I: "Mr, Depew, how do you find it possible to get your mind away from your business and railway down to your after dinner speech?

"It is hard sometimes," replied Mr Depew, "but I have the faculty of leaving my business at my office, and such success as I have had in life I attribute largely to the fact that I can drop my business and get rest by thinking of other things. As a rule, whatthinking of other things. As a rule, whatever be the cares of the day, ten minutes after I have gotten to my house I have dismissed them altogether, and 1 do not take
them up again until the next day. I have
a peculiar theory of the working of the
mind, and that is that it tends
to keep up the same pace in which it has been
running when it enters a new field. The trouble with most men is that they have only one pace and they never get out of it. They confine themselves to thinking about three things, their business, themselves and their families. They run at this business and personal pace their lives through, and if they over chance to speak in public they use busi-ness terms and their language is that of the commonplace. They surround their souls with the most practical environments, and they never get out of it. Now, the plane of the dinner-table is a higher one than that of business life, and in preparing for a speech, I find I must first get my mind on a different level from the one I have been working on all day. I do this by reading "Macaulay's Essays." Ten minutes' reading turns my thoughts into a new channel. I cast off the clothes of every-day work and my soul seems to be renabilitated into a more intellectual to be rehabilitated into a more intellectual and critical garb. I can then think of the audience I am to address, and by remembering the people I am to meet, I adapt my remarks to them. It doesn't seem to make much difference which part of Macauley I read, and a few minutes changes the pace of my mind entirely."

"The very write out your speeches Mr.

my mind entirely."

"Do you write out your speeches, Mr. Depew!"

"Not my after-dinner speeches," was the reply. "I only write out such as I have to make for an important occasion, as for fustance such as my speech at the celebration of the Barthold statue. I try to think up my speeches before I go to dinner. On most occasions I leave my office at 4 o'clock and I compose my talks between 4 and 6. I first take a taste of Macauley and then go over my line of thought fixing as far as pos sible what I am going to say. I find that my speeches, however, that I make at the din-ner are often far different than those I plan out. I have dictated, I venture, at least a hundred speeches in the street cars and un-der the light of the street gas lamps. News-paper reporters who are assigned to report the dinners find that it is not convenient for them to be present and they often come and ask me for my speeches the afternoon of the evening on which I am to speak. They some-times come to the railroad offices, but as I haven't composed the speeches I can't, of course, give them to them. When they in-sist, however, I tell them to come to the house at 6 o'clock and I will dictate the speech to them before going to the dimer speech to them before going to the dinner. As a rule, however, I don't get started at my comoposition until nearly 5 and it is often 6 before I am dressed. If I am not ready for them when they call, they wait, and I often have them jump in the cars with me and I dictate what I am going to say as we go along. The dictation is sometimes concluded in front of the banquet ball, and 1 think I dictated at least twenty speeches in this way last year. When the speeches are published, the difference between the dictated speech and that inspired by the surroundings of the evening is often apparent, but I find that the dictation enables me to make a better speech. t clarifies my thought and gives me a better control of my ideas.'

"How long, Mr. Depew, do you think an after-dinner speech should be!"
"The platform orator of today who speaks more than one hour at a time," replied Mr. Depew, "is tiresome and no after-dinner speech should extent over forty minutes. Twenty minutes is better than forty and the speech should be short and nithy." speech should be short and pithy."

The Age of the After-Dinner Speech. "This is the day of the after-dinner speech," Mr. Depew went on. "Stump speaking is to a great extent a thing of the past. In the days of Webster and Clay, the announcement of a speech by a prominent statesman would have filled any ball in New York. Now, were it not for the machinery of the political clubs, half of our great politicians would speak to empty benches. The lecture platform used to be the popular stage for the dissemination of truth. It has, however, been degraded by mountebanks, and it is fast becoming a thing of the past. The dinner speech is now the speech maken medium The dinner speech is now the spoken medium of the communion of thought among all bodies of men. When the railroad men of the country want to discuss the situation in-stead of a convention or a meeting they have a dinner. When the great politicians want to lay out the intellectual part of a campaign they give a dinner, and it is the same with the scientists and all classes and professions of men. The dinner meeting and dinner speaking is becoming a part of the church work, and some of the biggest churches of New York find that their best method of advancing the cause and of laying out the plans which will produce the greatest results is through their monthly dinners, at which they discuss the situation and the ways and means to better it. It is, I think, a much better stage than either the lecture platform or the stump. You can say things in an after-dinner speech that you would not dare to say in a lecture or in the pulpit, and the varnish of good nature and politeness permit much sensible advice to be administered that must otherwise go

Critical New York.

"Mr. Depew, you have addressed audiences in every city of any size in the United States. What is the most difficult after-dinner audience to please!"

"A New York dinner party by all means," was Mr. Depew's reply. "There is nothing like such an audience on the face of the United States. Take one of our big dinners at which 200 distinguished men sit down, and you have as able and as critical an audlence as you will find in the world. Some people sneer at them as a collection of do-nothing millionaires. They do not understand the men they speak of. Ninety-five per cent of the guests at such a dinner is composed of seif-made men. They have come to New York from all parts of the United States because they have grown too big for their surroundings elsewhere and have needed a larger field. New York city is made un of that sort of men, and these are the successful men of New York. Do you know what that means! Well, out of every 100 business men in New York, ninetyeight fall. New York takes the cream of the whole country, and these men are the cream of New York. They are well read men and they are men of brains. They are men to whom time is money, and who appreciate it. They feel that they can't afford to waste a minute, and if your speech drifts into prosiness or is loaded with chestnuts, their walches come out and the area of areas. watches come out and the eyes of every man call 'time.' They want new ideas, and unless you can give them they don't want you. The same speech which will be ap-planded in a country town, where the diners come in on the broad grin and expect to be pleased, will fall flat in New York, and most of our so-called 'sliver-tongued orators' fail when they speak at one of our big dinners. The dinner itself, to a New York diner-out, amounts to nothing. The men at the table have not come to eat. They are used to good dinners, and many of them have better dinners on their own tables than you will get at any club dinner. They have come for the feast of reason and the flow of soul, and they are not happy unless they get it."

Depew's First After Dinner Speech. "Will you tell me, Mr. Denew, the story of "Will you tell me, Mr. Denew, the story of your first after-dinner speech!"
"It was at Yale college," was the reply. "Myself and several of my chums had been initiated into a Greek letter society. We found after we had gotten in that the fraternity was insolvent. It had been made up of a set of spendthrifts who had been drinking and spreeing and it was loaded with debt. We were too poor to waste our money this way and we discussed the situation and debated whether we should the situation and debated whether we should change the character of the fraternity or leave it. We decided to make it a good fraternity. We organized a debating society and before the end of that year we had made it a firstelass college literary association. We then rented a hall and gave a dinner, and at this dinner I made my first after dinner speech. I don't remember very much about it, save that I got through with it all right."
"How about the English! Are they good

atter dinner speakers!"
"No, they are not," replied Mr. Depew.
"The English lack that element of humor which makes up such an important part of the American character and they don't ap-preciate the after dinner speech as we do. They make some speeches at their dinners, but it is not uncommon for a speech to be two hours long, and a two hour speech with-out the humorous element has to be extraor-dinarily good to be worth listening to."

Great Foreigners as Chauncey Sees Them.

From after dinner speaking the conversation drifted to other matters, and Mr. Depew chatted with me concerning some of the noted people across the water. He is a close friend of the prince of Wales. He knows Gladstone intimately, and there is hardly a prominent man in England with whom he

has not been more or less associated. I asked him to give me an idea of the prince of Wales. Said Mr. Depew:
"The prince of Wales is more of a man than he gets credit for being. The English government is so constituted that he is not able to show what is in him. Born the neir to the great English throne and to that of the great empire of India, he has been forced to spend his more than lifty years in inactivity. His sole duties have been to preside at openings of avnositions to make speeches ut the ings of expositions, to make speeches at the laying of corner-stones and to act as an ornamental figure at charity balls or church fairs. As far as he has been permitted to do anything he has done it perfectly. His speeches have been excellent and he is noted for being able to say just the right thing at the right time. He has a good memory for faces and names, is personally very popular, and he is a man of great common sense and of good average abilities. He is what we would call an all-around good fellow. He is naturally very industrious and he has not a lazy hair in his head. Had England a different very most reaction. ent system of treating her to-be rulers, she might have made of him the great bureaucrat in Europe. Suppose the prince of Wales, on arriving at his majority, had been treated as the son of one of our great railway managers is treated. The railway man's son is given a place low down in the offices of the road. After he has learned this, he is advanced step by step to the operating department, and if he shows himself worthy, he continues to advance until he learns the whole machinery of the railway and is fitted at last to take charge of the road. Suppose the prince of Wales had been given an assistant secretaryship of the treasury—a place where he would have had to do with all the routine and detail of the office without being able to affect its policy. After he had been here for some time, suppose he had been transferred to a similar place in the cotonial office, and after some years transferred to an under ministership of war. In this way he might have learned the inner workings of the great government of which he is in the future to be the head. He would have learned men, as well as parties and government ma-chinery, and he would now be fitted to take charge of the government at any moment His nature is of that kind that such a life would have been a pleasure to him. His tastes are all for work and when they put him on the commission to investigate certain questions, not long ago, I understand he worked like a Troian. "How about his love for American girla!"

"That is true," replied Mr. Depew, "the prince is fond of American girls, and I am not surprised at it. He likes their vivacity, their independence and their originality, and they are quite refreshing in English society where the girls are taught to be timid and backward. I have, however, never heard of any scandals being connected with the prince of Wales and any American girl."

G'adstone's Wonderful Versatility.

"How did Mr. Gladstone impress you?" I "Mr. Gladstone," replied Mr. Depew, indoubtedly a very great man, but I do not think he would be as great in America as he is in England. He is in some respects the most wonderful man I have ever heard of. and he is the most versatile man I have ever known. We have no one here now nor in our history who compares with him. The nearest approach to him was Edward Ever-ett. Daniel Webster was a great orator, but he confined himself to politics. Roscoe Conk-ling was another great orator, but he never spoke except on politics. Our greatest preachers never get out of the pulpit, but Gladstone can make great speeches in half a dozen different fields and surprise you by his wonderful ability in all. You may bear him in the buse of commons delivering and the property of the present of the pr in the house of commons delivering a great speech counciating a new policy of govern-ment for England and her colonies. It is eloquent and full of thought and you are carried away with the rea oning powers and the statesmanship it displays. It is perhaps the statesmanship it displays. It is perhaps accepted by the house and it may be that it does not need the immediate attention of Mr. Gladstone upon the floor. Then the great statesman may leave the house of commons and if you follow him, you may find that he goes to some scientific association or circle of noted literateurs. If among the scientists you may hear him discuss the subject before the meeting with all the ability that he displayed in the house of commons. In scien tific language he will plant the fine shades of thought in biology or evolution, or with equal learning give you an opinion on a new phase of a discovery in geology, or as to the constituent elements of the protoplasmic age. Among a body of scholars he may disc the effect of Greek literature on the literatures of Europe, or show how the soul of Homer is travelling through the works of the poets of today.
"I remember," Mr. Depew went on, "an evening I spent with Mr. Gladstone. I was the only guest at a dinner which that gentle man gave to enable me to become more acman gave to enable me to become more acquainted with him. We sat two hours at the table and during the meal Mr. Gladstone taiked of the great questions of European and American politics, and I found him thoroughly versed in all the issues relating to this country. He discussed other matters with equal facility. After the dinner was over it was proposed by our hostess that we all so to the opera and Mr. Gladstone consented. During the opera Mr. Gladstone was sonted. During the opera Mr. Gladstone was absorbed. He did not speak nor take his eyes off the stage. Between the acts he talked of music. He showed an inexhaustive and critical knowledge of all the great composers. He entertained us with a lecture as it were on the present opera and its nk among the other great operas of the world and he left me surprised at his wonderful knowledge of music. It is the same in art and I doubt whether there is as versatile a man in the world today as he." A Ficture of Lord Salisbury.

"Can you tell me anything of the Premier, Lord Salisbury ?"

"Lord Salisbury!"

"Lord Salisbury is undoubtedly a very able man," replied Mr. Depew "As to his foreign policy, both the English people and the statesmen of other countries consider it the ablest England has had for years. As to his items of home rule and other matters there is of course great difference of opinion, but no one discustes his ability in foreign of but no one disputes his ability in foreign afEngland and I found him a very pleasant talker and a man of ideas. He is over six feet tall, and he is a man of great independence of thought and action. This gives you the impression at first meeting that he is an egotist but this wears aff upon acquaintance. He is, you know, a man of a history. He was for years a writer on the London Press and his father gave him, a small allowance when he went through college and allowed him to make a large part of his own living thereafter. He was dofug very well in news-paper work, when his father died and he occeeded to the title and the estate."

Germany's Young Emperor.

"Did you ever meet the young emperor of Germany t" 1 asked.

"Yes," replied Mr. Depew. "I met him four years before he became emperor. At this time his father was living and his grandfather, Kaiser Withelm, was the emperor. I met him with them and I was very much improved the strength of the restart. I pressed with his strength or charcater I. regard him as a great man and a strong one. No one but a strong man would have acted as he has done since he has come to the throne. The policy of his grandfather's and his father's administration have been dictated and controlled by one man, Prince Bismarck. He was in fact the emperor and his ability and statementally was looked access. marck. He was in fact the emperor and his ability and statesmanship was looked upon as the greatest in Europe. As soon as the young emperor was crowned he began to think for himself. He criticized the policy of Bismarck in that the working man was oppressed and kept down as a national foe. He wanted to give him a chance to see what he could do for himself. He wanted to give him a chance to see what he could do for himself. He wanted to give him more liberty. himself. He wanted to give him more liberty but Bismarck told him it would never do and if he acted so he would lose his throne. Bismarck insisted upon this, but the young emperor thought differently and told Bismarck that he intended to try it. " 'In that case,' replied Bismarck, 'I hand you my resignation.'

' 'All right,' replied the emperor, 'I accept "This is plain every day language," con-tinued Mr. Depew, "is the story of the trouble between Bismarck and the emperor,

A weak man would have submitted. Only a strong one would have refused, and I be-lieve that strength here was allied to great-IV.

New Stories of Lincoln By Our Greatest Story Teller.

I asked Mr. Depew something as to his connection with President Lincoln. He replied:
"I became well acquainted with Lincoln during the war. I was secretary of state for New York and went to Washington to take the vote of our soldiers, and I think this vote carried New York for Lincoln at his second election. I heard a number of stories of him at this time, some of which have never been published. One I remember related to John Ganson, a democratic congressman from western New York. Ganson was a war demo crat, and when he came here to Wash-ington, he rather felt that the republican president was under obligations to him for supporting him. Lincoln was anx-ious to please this class of northerners, and the relations of the two men became quite intimate. As the war went on, however, disasters continued to come, and in the darkest days of the struggle when calamity followed calamity and when congress was asked to vote money and men, only to see the first ap-parently lost and the latter destroyed, many of the members became anxious to know what the president's policy was. Ganson was among them and he called at the white nouse and had an interview with President Lincoln. Mr. Ganson was peculiar in that he had not a hair on his head. His pate was a held to a new certain are mad his face. as baid as an ostrich erg and his face, whether from shaving or from nature, showed neither a hair nor a bristle. He came in to President Lincoln's room, was received cor-dially, and made a most earnest plea for information. After saying what he had given up for the cause of the republican party and for President Lincoln, he continued:

"'Now, Mr. President, you know what I've done for you and the union. I don't want you to do anything for me, but I do went you to take me into your confidence. You're a lawyer and I'm a lawyer and you know you can trust any secret to me. Now, won't you

tell me your plans!"
"As Ganson said this, his bare sober face became more sober than ever and the serious look in his eyes seemed to crawl up over the front of his forehead until his white baid cranium became the personification of anxious inquiry. The president looked at him half a minute and then his homely mouth twitched, a laughing look crept into his eves and he leaned over and, putting his hand on lanson's knee, said in the most quizzica tones these words:
"Gans, why don't you shave?

"This was all Ganson could get out of him, and there was, in fact, no more cautious president in our history than Abraham Lin-

How Lincoln Won a Case. "President Lincoln," continued Mr. Depew, "was one of the greatest men I have ever met, and he was the best story-teller I have ever listened to. He knew how to frame a story and he located his anecdotes so they seemed to be made for the very occasion upon which he uttered them, and when finished, they fitted the question at issue like a glove and supported Lincoln's idea better than volumes of logic. I remember one of the stories he told me which I found of use to me in a speech I made concerning Henry Ward Beecher. The story was about a trial in which Lincoln was defending a man for having committed assault and battery. Lincoln's client pleaded not guilty of the charge, but the circumstantial evidence was against him.

Said he to me: "'There had been no witnesses to the as-sault, but the plaintiff had been battered and mashed out of all recognition. His eyes were blacked, his right ear cut, and his nose was broken. My man, on the other hand, did not show a scratch, and I saw at once that I could not clear my client unless I could turn the whole affair into ridicule. The plaintiff was in court, and he had the sympathy of the jury. I saw, however, that he was rather a conceited fellow, and I hoped by chaffing him to get him to say something that would let us off. He was put on the stand, and I said rather jocularly, 'Now, John, I reckon this was pretty much of a fight that you and Jim had here. Now wasn't it, John!' "'Yes,' said the wounded man with a grin, falling in with my mood, "it was a devil of a

fight "'Well, now John,' said I, 'I want you to tell the jury here just how many acres Jim and you fought over in this fight.'
"'John did not see my point. He laughed and said-"Well, Mr. Lincoln, I suppose it might

have been six acres.'
"'Well,' I continued, as I looked at his bat-tered face and then at the uninjured condition of my client, 'now, John, don't you think you got a mighty small crop of fighting off of a mighty big farm?

"At this the crowd burst into a laugh, the jury laughed, the lawyers laughed, and finally the plaintiff got to laughing, and in act we laughed the whole case out of court."
"I used the story at the close of the Beecher-Tilton trial. The trial bung on for six months and the jury did not agree at the close of it. Beecher was a resident of Peekskill, where I was living, and at the close of the trial the people there gave him a congrat-ulatory meeting vindicating their faith in him. I was among the audience, and after the leading butcher, the baker and candlestick maker, the leading merchant and undertaker, etc., bad 'made speeches in favor of Mr. Beecher, they happened to see me in the crowd. I had just arrived from New York and Henry Ward Beecher sent down a man to see me, and urged me to come up and make a speech. I said I was not prepared but upon the man's saying that Beecher had said that a speech from me would be of more weight than all the speeches together. I went upon the platform and told Lincoin's story, applying it to the Beecher-Tilton trial and saying, that for the size of the farm over which the trial was fought, it seemed to me that the enemies of Mr. Beecher had gotten a mighty small crop. The story took. It was telegraphed off that night to the newspapers, and it was published in nearly all the big

Why Chauncey Depew Refused the Japan Mission.

Japan Mission.

Chauncey Depew was offered by President Lincoln the mission to Japan when he was still under thirty. Had he accepted it, he would probably have been the youngest for-eign misister in our history. His name was sent into the senate and he was confirmed but he refused to take the place and I asked him this afternoon why he did so.

He replied: "My refusal to take the mission to Japan was the turning point in my life. I considered it so then and as I look back I see that it was so now. I reasoned in this way. If I go to Japan my career must be a political one. I will have four years of diplomatic service in the sast and then if I do well I may possibly be transferred to one well I may possibly be transferred to one of the missions of Europe. I will be kept there four years and then whether the and ministration changes or not, I am sure to be

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recalled for we never keep a minister abroad more than eight years at a time. As it is, am about 30 years old, I have a fair practice and a good acquaintance. Mr. Vanderbilt has offered me the attorneyship of the New York Central railroad. It is a small corporation, but it may grow and if it does may grow with it. If I stay abroad eigh years I will lose my practice and after hav ing had barely enough to live upon abroad I will come back with changed habits, no money and fit for nothing but politics. If stay in politics I may then get to congress and the senate, but these places will not pay me and when I get to about 561 will be dropped out and like as not will get to be a government clerk and will end by going over the hills to the poor house. On the other hand if I stay my practice will grow and I will soon have enough to get married and if I want to go to the senate or get a mission when I grow old, I can get it, and so I decided to stay at home and I have never regretted it."
"Yes," said I, "and after you had made a

reputation and a competency you had a chance to go to the senate. Why did you not accept that?"
"Well," replied Mr. Depew, "I had not then gotten to be president of the New York Central railroad." "And how about the future""

"A wise man has no time to think about the future. As for me, I find it keeps me busy to keep up with the present."

By this time the train had reached Pawling and our conversation was over. Mr. Depew and myself got out of the cars together. The arms of the rich railroad president were full of bundles which he was carrying nome to his children, and as he stepped across the street to the hotel, Mrs. Depew, a couple of bright looking little girls and young Chauncey Mitchell Depew were on the steps to meet him. As I stood on the steps of the car going back to New York I saw him kiss them all around, and as the cars whisked me away his hearty laugh mingled with that of his chil-dren rang out, and he seemed as far away from capitalists, railroads, politics and so-ciety as though these things were not in ex-istence and his only world was home. Frank G. Carpenter.

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