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Pen and Picture Pointers

SPRING SHOOTING has its advocates as well as its opponents. Each side brings much reason to bear in favor of its position, and agreement will probably never be reached. With the disappearance of snow and ice from meadow and pond, shotguns are cleaned and oiled, the dogs sniff the air with real delight, and the Nebraska hunter sallies forth to secure his permitted share of the game birds that are not protected by the closed season. Ducks and geese lead the list in this section of the world, but not far behind them come the snipe. Here is the real test of a sportsman's skill. Many a man has had good success against the slow-flying prairie chicken, the duck and the goose, and has come to look upon himself as a fair field



JAMES B. ANGELL, PRESIDENT UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN.

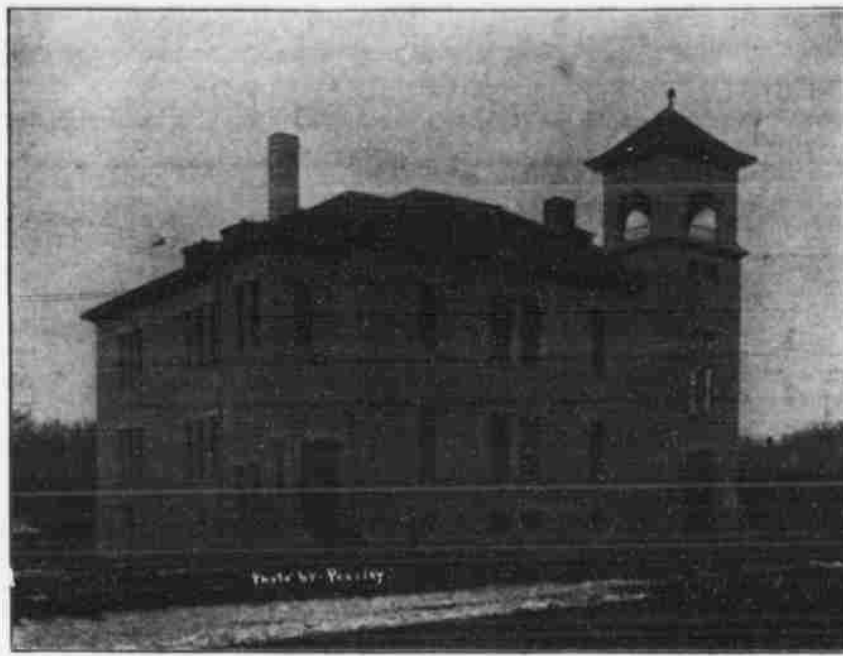
shot, or maybe a little better. This is before he has tackled the snipe. After a few rounds with these birds he alters his opinion of his ability as a marksman. Getting action on these birds is more like shooting at a streak of light than anything else. Their flight is short, rapid and erratic. One time the snipe zigzags, and the next time it corkscrews. Nothing is certain further than that it is getting out of range as fast as its powerful wings and long legs can carry it. Some men tell of never missing a snipe, but they never do this twice among a crowd of snipe hunters. The snipe most common to Nebraska is the Wilson snipe, often erroneously called the

Jacksnipe. The true Jacksnipe has a shorter bill and shorter legs than the Wilson, is slower of flight and more certain of direction. Those shown in the picture today are Wilson snipe. It will not be much longer until his cheerful note is again heard on the sandbar—for he has this in common with his plebeian cousin, the sandpiper—and the snipe hunter will again resume his pursuit of the tantalizing as well as toothsome bird.

One of the best evidences of prosperity in a community is the condition of the public schools. Western people take great but pardonable pride in this institution and cheerfully contribute to its support. In the growth and development of the school is reflected the progress of the community. When the school enrollment is doubled within two years it is a safe assumption that that town is alive. Corning, Ia., has had this experience. Eight years ago the one school house in the town was found inadequate and a second building was secured to accommodate the younger pupils. This was soon outgrown and a third school house was erected. The demand for school room increased so steadily that it was found necessary to provide more commodious quarters for the high school. On Friday next will be dedicated a handsome brick building, modern in every respect, just completed at a cost of \$15,000. It is devoted to the uses of the high school exclusively. The building has seven rooms, an assembly hall and superintendent's office on the second floor and five class rooms on the ground floor. In the basement is a gymnasium. The building has a capacity for 225 pupils and 185 are now in daily attendance at the high school. Superintendent Elliott has five assistants in the school. The Corning school board consists of C. F. Andrews, president; W. C. Chubb, secretary; F. L. La Rue, treasurer; Walter Newcomb, Burg Brown, W. W. Runyon and Henry E. Westrope, directors.

On Friday evening, March 21, at the Omaha club, the alumni of the University of Michigan of the middle west will tender President James B. Angell of the University of Michigan a banquet. President Angell is descended from ancestors who went with Roger Williams from Massachusetts to Rhode Island and helped to found the colony. He was born at Scituate, R. I., in 1829 and was graduated from Brown university in 1850. After his return from Europe, where he stayed three years, he spent seven years as a professor of modern languages at Brown, meanwhile contributing to the Providence Journal. From 1859 until 1866 he had editorial charge of the Journal, during the absence of its editor. In 1866 he was chosen president of the University of Vermont and in 1871 became president of the University of Michigan. Early in 1880 he was appointed minister to China by President Hayes, his errand being to negotiate a new treaty bearing upon Chinese immigration to this country. This duty he discharged successfully and resigned his office the following year. In 1877 he was appointed one of the commissioners to settle the fisheries dispute with Great Britain. In 1897 he was appointed minister to Turkey. The sultan objected to Dr. Angell because he had been advised that the Congregational church, of which the doctor is a prominent member, was a

THE ILLUSTRATED BEE.



NEW HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING AT CORNING, Ia., WHICH WILL BE FORMALLY DEDICATED ON FRIDAY.

Jesuitical body and therefore he feared the proposed minister would be obnoxiously active in propagating his doctrines among the Mohammedans. Assurance as to the true character of the church in question removed all objections to the appointee and an official announcement to this effect was sent to Secretary Sherman. Dr. Angell resigned in 1898 to resume his duties as president of the university.

The pathway by which William Larrabee of Iowa achieved success is not greatly different from that trod by other successful men of the west; his methods were the prosaic methods of every self-made statesman or financier; he stands one of a type.

William Larrabee thumbed his primer on the benches of a Connecticut school house and when he had achieved sufficient learning to enable him to teach others he removed to Iowa and began his career. Tiring of school teaching, he became a farmer for a few years, then turned to the milling trade and from 1855 to 1873 he was the miller of Clermont. It was during this period that he demonstrated his great capacity for hard work, often putting in long hours each day for many months at a time; but success followed this tireless industry, and when he sold his milling business thirty years ago he was able to take his first vacation and spend some time traveling in Europe. He had already begun a career of service to his state and his travels aided in fitting him for still greater service.

Fayette county elected William Larrabee to the senate in 1858. He devoted himself assiduously to his work and soon became one of the recognized leaders of the senate. Four times thereafter he was elected to the senate. He was for several terms chairman of the committee on ways and means of the senate and was virtually the financier of the legislature during a long period. In 1885 he was nominated by the republicans of Iowa for governor and resigned his place in the senate. He was elected by a large majority over Charles

A. Whiting and two years later was elected in opposition to Major T. J. Anderson.

Governor Larrabee attended personally to every detail of the work pertaining to the executive office. He inaugurated the system of making irregular and frequent visits to state institutions to give them personal inspection. He devoted himself to a study of the pardon cases and insisted on personally attending to this work. He gave many hours of painstaking labor and much thought to the problem of taxation, and especially to the problem of railroad taxation. It was during his term of office as governor that he made himself an expert in the matter of railroad rates and management, and later wrote and had published a valuable book on the subject. It was during his administration that the present railroad law was placed on the statute books of the state and the authority of the state over rates was firmly established. It was during his administration, also, that the prohibitory liquor law was undergoing a test in Iowa, and although Mr. Larrabee, as senator, had not been in sympathy with the movement for state wide prohibition, he gave to the law his earnest support and insisted on strict enforcement of the law, no matter what might be his own views.

After retiring from the executive office Governor Larrabee continued to live quietly in his Clermont home, until called again to the public service by an almost unanimous demand of the people to become head of the newly created State Board of Control. He accepted only through a sense of duty to the state, and continued only until he saw the principle of the board firmly established and its work organized so that it could not be other than a permanent success.

Governor Larrabee is of a Connecticut family well known. Captain Adam Larrabee, the father, was a soldier in the war of 1812 and a graduate from the United States Military academy. One step further

back and we find the grandfather of the governor fighting in the Revolution. Governor Larrabee's wife is a woman of strong personality and they have had seven children, one son now being a representative in the Iowa legislature from Fayette county. In business matters Governor Larrabee has devoted himself to banking and farming in later years. He is the owner of large areas of land in Iowa and other states. He is one of the most democratic of men, a man of simple life and homely virtues, strong in his convictions and one whose honesty and integrity have never been questioned. He is now 70 years old.

The old-fashioned undertaker long ago gave way to the modern funeral director. His rooms have become parlors and the workshop in which the slabs of lumber were kept pending the mortuary needs of some departed mortal has advanced to the dignity of "chapel" room. Everything that would materially aid in robbing the process of preparation for sepulture of its suggestive associations and ghastly significance has been taken in by the modern disciples of the ancient art. Not alone in the nomenclature of the craft has the advance been noted, but in its more tangible aspects as well has there been improvement. While the funeral director today moves about silently and with deferential mien and subdued air he doesn't wear the lugubrious face of his predecessor of only a few years back. His association with abandoned earthly tenements has left no outward impress on him, and aside from the absolute obligations of



WILLIAM LARRABEE OF IOWA.

his condition he is usually a healthy member of society, with all the desires, appetites and impulses of a well ordered mental and physical entity. Moreover, the advance in his occupation has been such as to bring it well high up to the dignity of a learned profession. To keep abreast of the times he must be a student and absorb much information of which the early members of the craft knew nothing, unless it were by hearsay. A group of Nebraska funeral directors who recently assembled in Omaha for practical instruction in one of the branches of their business was photographed, and the picture shows them to be as fine looking a body of business men as one would care to meet.

Episodes and Incidents in the Lives of Noted People

DURING a lull in a cabinet meeting some time ago one of the cabinet members spoke of driving cows to pasture, when the question was asked, "How many of us in our boyhood days drove cows to pasture?" It was developed that every one of the president's official family had performed that service in his youth.

A congressman whose parents came from the green isle jokingly remarked to Benton McMillin of Tennessee that St. Peter was an Irishman. "Maybe he was," said McMillin. "Anyway, he wasn't a negro. No colored man would have allowed that rooster to crow three times."

Once when Sir Charles Hotham, governor of Victoria, was out driving, his coachman nearly came into collision with a wood carter, an Irishman, in a narrow lane outside Melbourne. The Irishman would not pull off the middle of the road, as he had the heavier load, and, by the rough rule of such things, was thus entitled to keep there. The incensed governor thereupon put his head out of the carriage window and shouted: "Do you know who I am, my man? I'm Sir Charles Hotham, the governor of Victoria!" "Ye are, are ye?" responded the other. "Well, ye've got a thunderin' foine job, ould man, an' I'd advise ye to shlick to it!"

Previous to appointing General "Joe" Wheeler to a command in the war with Spain President McKinley consulted with the late Senator Davis of Minnesota about the matter. "I think it would be a splendid appointment," said Mr. Davis. "I am a living witness of Joe Wheeler's grit and persistence. During the civil war he chased me like the devil through five states."

Alexander R. Shepherd, who for three years was at the head of the government of the District of Columbia and who spent \$40,000,000 in improving Washington, is returning a millionaire. When he left in 1879 taxpayers called him a "hoodler" and charged all sorts of corruption. Many of these citizens, some of whom were almost

bankrupted by his lavish expenditures, now say Mr. Shepherd's work will stand as a monument to him. It is admitted that but for his indomitable will Washington would not be today the beautiful city it is. Shepherd went to Mexico practically penniless, but was fortunate in mining ventures. He is 67 years old.

The late Lord Dufferin, when governor general of Canada, was one of the earliest promoters of free Niagara and gave all the weight of his great influence to that project. His original suggestions applied to the Canadian side, but the state of New York did its share of the good work before Canada was ready to act. Streets islands, opposite Victoria park, were renamed in honor of Lord Dufferin.

Early in his career as a lawyer William McKinley was accustomed to pass a butcher's shop on the way to and from his office and for a long time was puzzled by a certain notice which he saw there. In the morning he would read: "Good pork sausages, 20 cents." On his return in the evening he would sometimes find these sausages still 20 cents a pound, but more often the notice was changed and the sign read: "Fine pork sausages, 12 (or sometimes 10) cents." The matter, he said, used to worry him. Sausages were not of so perishable a nature that they would not keep till the next day and he could not understand it. So one evening he stopped at the shop, made some casual remark and then inquired the price of sausages.

"Ten cents," said the shopkeeper.

"But," replied Mr. McKinley, "they were 20 cents this morning."

"So they were, Mr. McKinley," replied the butcher; "so they were. Then I had 'em, now I haven't. Sausages at 10 cents is simply to get me a reputation for cheapness. See?"

The future president saw and was in the habit of saying that a great many reputations were made in that way.

Emperor William of Germany can talk fluently in six languages. He has written a

play and conducted its rehearsal. He has written a public prayer and conducted a choir. He can cook his own dinner, can play chess, paint pictures and draw caricatures. He has learned engineering and studied electricity. Though he can use only one arm, he can shoot game for four hours at the rate of two a minute. He has over a hundred titles and is an admiral in three of the biggest navies. In twenty-five years he has shot 23,000 head of game. He changes his dress a dozen times a day, has a dozen valets and his wardrobe is worth \$500,000.

Several years ago, when Josiah Quincy was mayor of Boston, records the New York Times, a politician there christened his youngest boy "Josiah Quincy Rosnosky." He had named his preceding son "Nathan Matthews, Jr.," after another democratic mayor, and had this child with him when he called on Mr. Quincy and told how he had honored him.

"What is your name?" asked Mayor Quincy of the boy.

"I'm named after Nathan Matthews, Jr.," replied the boy. And then he added, as if he had said it often: "He was the best mayor Boston ever had."

Everybody laughed except Mr. Quincy, who never does such a thing.

"Oh, well," remarked Mr. Quincy, when the merriment subsided. "Just wait until Josiah Quincy Rosnosky is old enough to talk."

Representative Boutell, the diminutive member from the big city on Lake Michigan, is as apt at repartee as any man in the house, re-ates the Washington Times. His intellectual ability is not measured by his physical stature. Whenever on his feet he always has full confidence in himself and no amount of cross-questioning causes him to lose his equilibrium. He appeared at his best the other day in his humorous reply to Representative Wheeler. He read from Mr. Edward M. Shepard's "Life of Martin Van Buren" an account of Van Buren's son, referred to as "Prince

John," which described the young man as parting his hair in the middle.

"Now, Mr. Chairman, where did the son of this distinguished democrat get his title of 'Prince John'?" asked Mr. Boutell. "Where did he learn to part his hair in the middle?"

"Did Prince John ever become bald-headed like some of the members of this house and have no hair to part?" asked Mr. Sulzer.

Mr. Sulzer could make a remark like this without any embarrassment, for he has a very luxuriant growth of almost pink-tinted hair, which lops over his forehead. But the question was a little more personal, so far as the Illinois member was concerned, for there is a small, but growing, glistering spot under his hat. He was quick to retort, however, and in doing so brought to his aid a couplet of poetry which, being so apt, threw the house into a paroxysm of laughter.

"I do not know," said Mr. Boutell, "whether later in life he joined the ranks of those whose strength goes to brains instead of hair, but at this time we have Mr. Shepard's authority that he had hair and that he parted it in the middle. The gentleman from New York will recollect the old consolation of the men with smooth domes:

If by thy hairs thy sins should numbered be,
Angels in heaven were not more pure than thee."

Among his old newspaper acquaintances in Chicago, Mr. Charles M. Pepper, who has just been appointed commissioner to represent the Louisiana Purchase exposition in Cuba and Porto Rico, is known for his devotion to work. An old Tribune reporter tells in the Saturday Evening Post this story of how Mr. Pepper once astonished the staff of that paper.

"Never had he failed to report for duty at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and when, one day, the hands of the office clock crept on to 5 without his arrival the news of the delay traveled down the corridor like a rumor of a cut in salaries. Charlie

Pepper an hour late! And when he did come he went into the managing editor's office with a guilty, apologetic expression that we had never before seen on his face.

A few moments later the office boy spread the report that the dialogue with the managing editor had been about like this:

"I'm late—a whole hour, sir."
"What's the trouble?"
"Got married this afternoon. But I won't let it occur again."

The New York Times credits Major General Shafter with this story:

An army board, examining a lieutenant for promotion to the position of captain and quartermaster, asked the candidate:

"What is the first duty of a quartermaster?"

"To make himself comfortable," was the reply.

"And his next duty?"

"To make his commanding officer comfortable."

"Very good, sir. And his final duty?"

"To make himself more comfortable!"

Left Its Taint

Baltimore American: "I jest knew," said Mrs. Wayback, "that it was a bad idee 't let Samuel go 't 'th' city this fall."

"W'y, Sary," said Mr. Wayback. "I don't reckon it done the boy no harm."

"Well, Josi, I was lookin' through his things this mornin' an' what do ye think I found hid in his trunk? A toothbrush! I knew all along that he'd come home with some fool city notions."

Patriotism

New York Weekly: Foreign Visitor—You have a glorious country here and fairly revel in the blessings of freedom, I suppose, Mr. Crossroads—Wall, as to that, we don't take much interest in politics up our way. The postoffice don't half pay expenses and so all parties agreed to retire from the political field and let a soldier's widow have it.