PARKER IN THE LIME LIGHT

Thumbnail Sketch of the Bearer of Democracy's Golden Banner.

ILLUMINATING INCIDENTS AND ANECDOTES

The Home and Home Life of the Jurist-Esopus and How it Blooms in the Sunlight of Pub-

Helty.

Judge Alton Brooks Parker of New York, democratic nominee for president, has been pictured and his career reviewed frequently since he became a prominent candidate for honor of party leadership. The main facts | Esopus has. of his career will bear brief repetition now. supplemented with characteristic incidents and anecdotes, his home life and his home. brought more prominently into print since his triumph at St. Louis.

Judge Parker was 52 years of age on May 14. He was elected judge of the New York court of appeals in 1898. He is rix feet tall, with strength in proportion. reddish hair and weighs 196 pounds.

There is a grave dignity and a suggestion of immense power in Judge Parker which as life lasts. go well with his black silk robe when he attentive to argument and keeps his eyes steadily on the lawyer who may be pleading. Ills courtesy to lawyers is well known When he makes a ruling he does not waste words. It is useless to argue. The thing All his associates say that he does unnecessary work, and it is indicative of ment made made in court

The Judge at Work.

He goes at his task without nervousness. It is hard to imagine a less nervous man. He works with method and deliberately. After dictating an opinion he goes over the sary or rhetorical. But his corrections ofdinarily relate merely to details; he does not have to pull his work to pieces. Nor is there anyone who ever heard him speak discourteously or in anger to a subordinate. His tact and natural kindliness make things move smoothly. Yet there is an iron firmness about him.

At the end of every week and during the summer vacation Judge Parker is to be found on his farm at Esopus, which overlooks the Hudson river. He has three farms in New York-one of 150 acres at Cortland, another of 150 acres at Accord and another of ninety acres at Esopus. He manages these three farms and makes them, on the whole, pay. He is no dilettante stranger to the country, playing with agriculture as with a toy, but a real farmer, who directs the work, superintends the plowing and, in harvest time, goes out his shirt sleeves to work with his men in the hay and sorshum.

A careful estimate of Judge Parker's wealth places the value of all his posses sions at about \$30,000. This property he has acquired mostly by saving and good business judgment. His farm at Cortland came to him from his farmer father. He attempted to have a strong fiduciary instiwas born on it and worked along its furrows as a boy

It is on the farm at Esopus that Judge Parker's personality has full swing. There he writes his most important judicial opinions. There, too he works in his fields, prunes his trees and cares for his thirty red poll cattle, his full-blooded Poland-China pigs and fine flock of Shropshire sheep.

The situation of the house and its gen eral aspect have been likened to those of the mansion at Mount Vernon. The view his approval. Judge Parker went out from the porch is far finer than that at Mount Vernon. The opposite shore of the river is very beautiful, with rolling hill and dale, dotted at wide intervals with farm houses or country seats. Down the river, on the western bank, a foothill of the Catakilla looms high, linked by other undulating ridges and bills with the great range itself. Judge Parker is very fond of driving in that direction, and one of his favorite objective points is "Slab Sides." paturalist and poet, which is on a rugged, deeply wooded hill, almost overhanging the Hudson. At the foot of Judge Parke 's lawn is his private wharf, near which his paphtha launch is moored. A megaphone is always kept on the porch, and when the judge or any of the family wish to go upon the river it is used for the purpose of communicating with the man in charge of the

It is doubtless the belief of the millions of newspaper readers to whom the name Esopus has become familiar within the last few weeks that it is at least a village or a hamlet, and that it is somewhere where trains stop and people can go and come with the ordinary ease which belongs to places on a main trunk line in the state of New York

This is an impression which should be promptly corrected by anyone that desires to get an accurate idea of the place which is Judge Parker's postoffice address.

Besides being classical Esopus is an old name in the history of the state of New York. The original Esopus is now Kingston, a prosperous city of 25,000 or 30,000 inhabitants, with several lines of rallroads. trolley cars and the old state house. Kingston was once the capital of the state of New York. It was settled shortly after New Amsterdam and about the same time as Albany. Its name was that of the creek which the first settlers located. The Dutch were there first and then the Huguenot Franch, whose lineal descendants are whose names and their quaint spelling are

of the old Kingston Reformed church. The principal inhabitants of Esopus are George Washington Bedford, the flagman who stops the trains; Patrick Quinn, who for some forty or fifty years has run the the old natural use of bens, which, he his fixed ambition to run in the guberna-

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says, excell those produced by Judge torial campaign of 1910, his prudence sug-Paraer's membratura and brooders. isedioid indisis the W. stairds for Werts that runs from the pickerel pond and spend the day watching George Washington Bedford hag the train to set reporters get on

and on. Accous ever gets on or off the cars except reporters and arcasts. The tarmers hitch general, when Postmaster General Vilas enup and drive to rangston or Poughkeepsle when they want to so anywhere and save railroad fare. And the "bloods," which is Colonel Vilas," remarked the president. applied to the people who have country The colonel looked at the young man and piaces along the ritioson river, drive to the said: slingston station to take the express train when they desire to go anywhere, because It is more convenient and quicker than a tich to accept one at \$3,000," answered the three-times-a-day flag accommodation surrogate. which is the only passenger facilities

Buck from the river the land has little value and the farms could not sell for as much as the barns on them originally cost. The houses are old and filled with traditions and large families. Mr. Quinn's Is a fair sample, consisting of forty-seven de-

acendants. at is a most democratic community. Everybody is addressed or spoken of by broad of back, deep-chested, brown eyes, his first name except when he has had some office, in which case he is spoken of by his official title, which endures as long

There are many Parkers. Rance Parker, presides in the court of appeals. He is the the freman, was the best known of that youngest man in the row of judges. He is mame until Judge l'arker moved from Accord, farther back in the county, seven

years ago. Down at the foot of the road which crosses the railroad track is the old pier, where the boats stop to take on board the apples and potatoes, which are the princieverything in his power to save them from pai crops of the farmers. If the day is not too warm the three colored gentlemhis nature that he is the only member of who sit on the railing of the bridge to the court of appeals who is always present | watch the accommodation trains go down when the court is open. The other judges to the pier and watch the boats. There is take their weeks off regularly, but Judge a shoal in the river near the pier, marked Parker serves every day of the session, so by a stake, and ever since the boats have that there shall always be someone on the been stopping there the inhabitants have bench familiar with every ruling or agree- been expecting a wreck on this shoal and assemble to see it.

Resourcefulness Saves Bank.

Kingston locally has occasion to remem ber the quick resourcefulness of Judge Parker in a business emergency. Parker was one of the trustees of the Ulster sheets and strikes out everything unneces- County Savings cank of Kingston, which one day in September, 1891, closed its doors because of an embezzlement by the treasurer and the assistant treasurer which no longer could be concealed. The deposits of the bank amounted to \$2,500,600. The embegglements footed nearly \$400,000, wiping out the bank's surplus and making a big deficiency. The bank had invested nearly \$1,500,600 of its deposits in real estate mortgages, one-half of which were in Ulster county. To have closed the institution and wound up its affairs in the hands of a receiver would have meant the foreclosure of these mortgages and the sale of the lands at sacrifices, working ruin to both farmers and depositors.

When the failure was announced Judge Parker was on his farm near Accord. He hastened into town to meet the other trustees of the institution. But it soon was apparent that, so far as ways and means went in the emergency, Judge Parker was the only trustee.

The first act of Judge Parker as trustee was to swear out warrants for the embesslers. The assistant treasurer was locked up that night without ball. Next the judge tution take over an assignment of the mortgages and continue as the bank's agent. This could not be accomplished. Then his ingenuity was brought to the test He apepared before the court of equity. asking of the judge that instead of his appointing a temperary receiver the court bank's business. Charles M. Preston, the state superintendent of banks, was a resident of Kingston, and the idea met with ong the business men of the place who had the confidence of the people and made a list of twenty-five men willing to serve. These were appointed by the local court. Judge Fursman of the supreme court the lamied an infunction against any depositor drawing out more than \$5 per cent of his

cipitated a run on the bank Prevents Run on the Bank, Parker had anticipated the trouble. He had brought money from New York and with the coin heaped in bags behind the teller's window, he jumped up on the counter, calling to the depositors to come on and asking them if they thought the bank's officers were there to waste time on a broken bank. The action and the question were sufficient. The run was at an end as suddenly as it began. Only if per cent of the depositors presented checks for their 25 per cent of deposits, and the bank was saved.

The treasurer and his assistant were convicted and sent to state's prison. Then Judge Parker was called for to become president of the institution, a position which he took on the stipulation that no salary attach to the office. He remained president of the bank during several years, and when he left the place the deposits of the institution were several hundred thousand dollars greater than they ever had been. Thus ended the most stirring incident in all Judge Parker's life, and it ended to the advantage of scores of the good citizens of Kingston and Ulster county.

Testing the "Parker Luck." It is two years since the name of Judge Alton B. Parker was first promineatly and persistently mentioned as the Moses who might lead the democratic party out of the populistic wilderness. There is no question that David B. Hill was the original Parker man or that he is as earnestly convinced of his protege's right to the honor of leadership as he is known to be imstill back in the new Plats valley and pressed by what he calls "the Parker luck." Other New York politicians equally close found on be tombstones in the archives to Judge Parker advised him from the first mention of his possible candidacy this year to not test his good fortune too fast or

too far. He had refused a portfolio in Grover Cleveland's cabinet, and early in 1902 it country inn at the forks of the road, and was understood by all his intimates that Isane Burger, who sells beer made of real he would not accept a presidential nomihops, and hatches and raises chickens by hation before 1908. It is said to have been

Every woman covets a shapely, pretty figure, and many of them deplore the

loss of their girlish forms after marriage. The bearing of children is often destructive

to the mother's shapeliness.

All of this can be avoided,

gesting that if he should ever be chosen to lead his party nationally his best chance There are also three colored gentlemen who of success would come in 1912, when with rise in the morning and sit on the rall of a record of two years as governor of New the brings which crosses me fittle stream York he would be in proper alignment for the presidential candidacy.

Odd Incidents of Later Years Judge Parker and Grover Cleveland, then president, were discussing the choice of the former for first assistant postmaster

tered the room. "Purker says he doesn't want the place,

"May I inquire why?" "I cannot afford to give up a \$5,000 post-"But I gave up a \$10,000 position to accept one of \$5,000," said Vilas.

"Well, Colonel Vilns," retorted Parker, "if I had been making \$10,000 a year for ten or twelve years I, too, might afford to accept the president's offer." One day in Albany recently, while Judges Gray and Parker were waiting near the department for a car, a pretty girl acquaintance of the former came to h'm and

"Oh, Judge, we're going to the circus to night. Won't you come with us?" A merry twinkle came into the judicia

"Do you know, I'd like to," he sighed. "Come ahead; please come, judge," pleaded the gfrl. "It's such a nice circus There'll be lemonade and peanuts."

The smile left the judge's face. Evidently the suggestion of peanuts recalled another world, in which circuses have no part. "I'm afraid," he said wearily, "that since have refused three dinner engagements I hardly could be seen at the circus with a good grace. But I'd like to, you know." The old elevator man who overheard the

conversation repeated it to his partner, and . raising his hand in deprecation added: "She never knew she hit him-peanute peanuts and David B. Why didn't she ask him to go to see the tiger?"

His Confidence in Himself.

The following story, told by a New York ker, would seem to show that he is not aling in a well founded confidence in himself. The lawyer who is authority for the story was at luncheon with the judge and the talk became friendly and familiar. "How do you feel over the prospect that

you may become president of the United States?" asked Parker's guest. "Do you think you can manage such a big job?" "I have no doubt about it," returned

Judge Parker. "I have no fear that my lack of familiarity with life at Washington will seriously handicap me. If I am elected I believe I can fill the job. I may not know all about it now, but I can warn it. There are men from whom one can learn a great deal about the presidency before taking the office, and the rest will come after one gets in. I feel about the possibility that I may become president of the United States just as I felt when I took the office of chief justice of the court of appeals. I realized was the youngest man on the bench and said to myself, 'Parker, what you want to do is to go slow for a time and keep your mouth pretty well shut till you get on to your job.' And I followed that rule. I am following it now as to this presidential talk and shall continue to follow it for a time. There is one thing I feel sure of. This is, that no matter what happens, nothing can swell my head."

A Scarce Article. Parker stories are scarce. There is no public man about whem fewer anecdotes are told. This is due largely to his reserved life and reticence, although no one

loves a good joke or story better. One is related at the judge's expense A very able New York aut quite deaf and very sensitive, was arguing a case before the court of appeals, He dwelt at length upon a fundamental law or principle. Finally Judge Parker interrupted

"It would seem, Brother -, that you infer that this court is not well versed in this elementary law point." Now, the attorney didn't catch what was said, but he made it a rule to agree always with what the court said.

smiling and bowing, he said: deposits in the institution. This order pre-"Precisely, your honor, precisely. You have stated the proposicion correctly." The court laughed, Judge Parker smiled and the lawyer continued his argument.

His Mother's Switch. The judge's mother, Mrs. Harriet Strattor Parker, lives at Derby, Conn., but spends the summer months at Rosemont. She is of Puritan stock and a firm believer in temperance and humility.

Whenever she sees something printed about her distinguished son she writes him to beware of pride and urges him not to become too fond of worldly things. She also lectures him frequently on temperance, and the judge listens gravely. He is a very abstemious man, once in a while indulging in a Scotch highbail at his din-

"Mother is the best mother in the world," he often says. Then, with an amused twinkle, "and she always used the best and strongest switches."

PRATTLE OF THE YOUNGSTERS.

"For goodness' sake, Dorothy," exclaimed namma impatiently, "why do you talk so much 7" "I guess," replied the little girl, "It's beause I've got so much to say."

Willie-Ma, you ain't much of a prophet, Ma-Why, what do you mean, Willie?

Willie-You said if I ate that cake that was in the pantry it would make me sick, out it didn't Bobby's Papa-Bobby, hold your fork the right way. Don't let me have to speak to

derstand it. It's German silver, and I don't inderstand German. Teacher was explaining the meaning of the word recuperate.

Bobby-I don't like this fork. I can't un-

you about it again!

"Now, Willie," she said, "If your father worked hard all day he would be tired and all worn out, wouldn't he?"

"Then, when night comes, and his work s over for the day, what does he do?" "That's what ma wants to know."

The Philadelphia Press relates that a 5year-old Jack is very brave in the daytime, but a coward when it is dark. The other night, after having prayed for all his reintives, he mournfully concluded his supplication in the following words: "And, oh, Lord, do take care of Jack when it gets dark and the light is all gone; don't let anything hurt him, please, and don't let anybody get him." Then, changing his tone to a very cheerful, confident one, he said: "You needn't bother about him in the daytime. Lord; just let him alone and he can have a good time and take care of himself."

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How it Adopted the Hawkeye State's Laws All at Once.

REASONS GIVEN FOR PECULIAR ACTION

Strange Story of the Transplanting of Civil, Military and Criminal Codes from lows to

Oregon.

How many people know that the laws of Oregon were transplanted bodily from the statute books of Iowa? Here is the story dug from the documents and presented by great detail by Prof. Frank T. Herriot is

contribution to the annals of Iowa. As the course of empire swept westward and new territories were carved out of the forest and the prairie, the early settlers usually adopted the laws of their peatest eastern neighbors, afterward making such changes as the new conditions demanded, Thus, when Wisconsin was separated from Michigan, the laws of Michigan were "extended" over the new territory, and when lowa was given separate existence in 1825 the Wisconsin laws were "extended" over Iowa until the people were ready to make their own laws. This, after all, was the natural method, as the pioneers knew more about logs than they did about laws and would have been helpless when it came to enacting ordinances for the government of the new territory had they not had some proved foundation to build on.

Early Settlement of Oregon. In the late '30s the territories of Wi-con ain and Iowa were yet in their infancy, Iowa was the most westerly of the regu larly organized territories and all that vast region between the Mississippi river and Oregon was practically uninhabited. Oregon had several little settlements, but there were no established laws, no courtand 'no system of government. Crimical cases were settled by the common rense of the community and the strong arm, but civil cases led to much perplexity and lawyer, who was a boyhood friend of Par- strife for the lack of a fixed code as a guldance. The people were sadly divided ways reticent and also that he is not lack. over many matters. The Hudson's Bay company had both friends and enemies, both actively engaged in interminable dis putes. "Lecal dissensions, personal jealousles, contentions with the Indians and religious rivalries" all had their part in stirring up strife. In 1841 a civil case over a will thrust upon the settlers the absolute necessity for some system of government and legal procedure. Various attemp s were made without success, until in May, 1843, at a meeting in Champoolck, a committee was appointed to "draft a plan and report to the people on the 5th of July following."

Their report "exhibits the political thought and habits and wishes of the pioneers uninfluenced by the immediate surroundings of civilization." The plan first sets forth the principles of civil liberty and then the fundamental rights and privileges underlying all popular government. Then note what follows. Article 12, section 2, reads:

The laws of Iowa territory shall be the laws of this territory in civil, military and criminal cases, where not otherwise provided for and where no statute of Iowa applies the principles of common law and guity shall govern. The people made a few alterations, but

none which materially changed the original enactment.

Why Iowa Laws Were Preferred. But why Iowa? We must go back some ears to find the reason. From 1820 to 1838 offorts were made at different times to establish the national jurisdiction over Oregon and to "give the ploneers the benefit and protection of the laws and institutions established in accordance with our forms." Senator Lewis F. Linn of Missouri was the constitutional government for Oregon, and his first thought would have naturally been to suggest the laws of his native state. But Missouri was a slave state and the north would never have listened to such a suggestion. Iowa and Missouri's neighbor and was the newest of the self-governing territories, and as the laws of all frontier communities must of necessity be much alike lowa presented the most convenient example from which to copy. It has also been suggested that Senator Linn's half brother, Henry Dodge, was responsible for the mention of the Iowa constitution as suitable for Oregon. Dodge had helped to frame the laws originally as member of the council in Michigan and had signed some of them afterwards as governor of Wisconsin and Iowa. He had seen the laws in operation and believed them to be what was required.

Some of the Prompting Reasons. But whatever the real reason was, the bills were defeated in the house and any relief for Oregon had to come from within. It is said that the Oregon settlers, after watching the efforts of their staunch friend Senator Linn, and seeing the final defeat of the bills, adopted the lowa laws of their own volltion, because their action would commend itself to their friends in the east, but this is mere conjecture. Another explanation is that Iowa simply

from its position as the nearest to Oregon of the regularly organized territories, was the most convenient place to obtain a copy of a constitution upon which to base the laws of Oregon. This simply means that chance of propinquity settled the matter. Perhaps they did. Whatever the real reason was, it matters little now. The fact remains that Oregon deliberately adopted, bodfly, the laws of Iowa, and they are today the basts of Oregon's laws.

This case of one territory adopted en bloc the constitution of another territory, from which it was separated by several thousand miles of unbroken wilderness, is probably unique in the annals of political history. It illustrates the methods which circumstances forced on the ploneers of the great west in organizing their territory under settled laws and institutions and working out the complex problem of selfgovernment.



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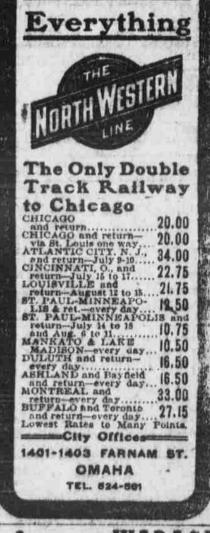
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