

Stories in Passing.

It is no easy thing for an American to mark his feelings to the world at large. The stolid Englishman, the phlegmatic German present the same unruffled face to the world under all circumstances. It is for the inflammable Italian, the excitable Frenchman, and in a scarcely less degree the American to give way to every burst of passion, to give expression to every feeling of joy, to lose control of self at every great disappointment.

Facial control is one of the most trying gifts to cultivate. Yet, nothing is more necessary to success in life. This is especially true of the man who is in the game of politics. After a great contest to receive success calmly or to accept defeat gracefully, is the test of a master. Some are fashioned in that mould. Others acquire the art only after years of bitter experience. And still others never find the secret, but make the face a picture of their inmost thoughts for all the world to see.

This is a story of a politician here in Nebraska—no other than Church Howe, who was active in state politics eight or ten years ago. It is a story of his great contest for speaker for the House of Representatives in the early eighties, his defeat and his acceptance of that defeat. And when the story is finished, you are to judge the class to which the man belongs.

The fight for speaker that year had been an unusually stubborn one. Howe, who had been prominent in the preceding legislature, had many strong and ardent friends and was making the first great contest of his life. Besides Howe, there were two or three other candidates for the speaker—a legislator from the western countries, an old favorite from the North Platte country, and a young man from one of the eastern counties. The young man was comparatively unknown. It was his first legislature. His political experience had been limited to the local affairs of his town and county, and to a seat in the state constitutional convention of a few years before. That was about all, but the young man was a brilliant talker with a taking way and the knack of making friends. Down in his own county he had made one or two of the leaders of the party his friends, and these men urged him to stand for the speakership. Such was his stock in trade, as it were, while Howe on the other hand possessed influence, numerous friends and an enviable reputation. To one defeat was almost expected and would mean comparatively nothing—to the other it would mean loss of power and influence and bitter chagrin.

The struggle was a stubborn one, lasting for days. Up to the very last Howe led but with constantly decreasing strength. Now the western man would forge ahead, now the North Platte candidate, but throughout it all the young man from the eastern county stood in the center steadily gathering strength from the three factions. Then one afternoon all of a sudden as so often happens, the western counties unexpectedly came over to the young man and the northern counties followed. Almost in the twinkling of an eye the young man found himself elected, and the house was suddenly given up to the wildest excitement. His friends were crowding about him; his name was on many lips. Great bouquets of roses were being borne to him. And from the galleries above fair faces were smiling down upon him.

All this—and from out among the followers of Howe on the opposite side of the room, the trim, graceful figure of the defeated candidate came forth, walked across the length of the hall, and with smiling face and cordial manner, and never a tinge of ill-will or disappointment, grasped the young man by the hand and wrung it heartily.

"Save myself, there's not another man in the House I rather see in the chair

than you," he said gaily, and turned to his chair his face still bright.

Then the young man stepped to the speaker's desk, accepted the honor, and inquired for the further pleasure of the House.

That she had married beneath her station had to be acknowledged. At best a baker, even in the city, was not the man we would have chosen for her. But she loved him, loved even the morose, melancholy spells that came upon him occasionally,—and there was the end of the matter. They were married and she went to the city with him, taking her many little things with her—her pets, her books and her piano, which she had loved so dearly.

She came back to the village once or twice during those early days of her marriage. Then the panic came on and her visits ceased and she dropped more or less out of our memories. Then came strange rumors of bitter experiences that came to her. Her husband had gone from bad to worse, finally closing his business, sinking into despair, and taking to drink. Their only child had died. Some one had gone into the city and came back with the report that we would scarcely know the woman. Her face had become, they said, pale and drawn, her lips close-set, her hair tinged with gray, and her eyes was the dull, dead look of the despairing. She sat at the piano almost the entire day now—the instrument was about all that remained to her—playing the pieces of her girlhood or running over the keys aimlessly and staring vacantly at the wall before her.

HARRY G. SHEDD.

MUSICAL MENTION.

At the meeting of the Matinee Musical on Monday the violin will be the chief subject for study. A business session will follow the program, when the election of officers for next year will be held.

A very successful vocal recital was given by Mr. Clemens Movius at the Nebraska Conservatory hall on Wednesday evening. Many well known musicians were seen among the large audience that filled every seat of both the gallery and the main floor. Mr. Movius has naturally a good bass voice and is steadily gaining in smoothness and dramatic power. The latter quality was shown to great advantage in the Erlking and the Two Grenadiers, both of which won much applause. All through the numbers, which included a decided variety of style from the best classical composers, the singer was in unusual sympathy with his audience. Miss Young in two piano numbers played with clearness, delicacy and dainty appreciation of the composer's ideas. Her selections were in good taste.

Mr. Menzendorf is seldom heard as a soloist and the rarity of his appearance added to the enjoyment of his very satisfactory violin numbers. The Prize Song, from Die Meistersinger, won a well deserved encore. His accompaniments were played by his pupil, Miss Silence Dale—who is adding one more to her many accomplishments.

Mr. Hadley in his support of Mr. Movius was sympathetic and satisfying. The following program represents the classical as well as the best modern composers:

"Nature's Praise of God," Beethoven; "Thus Saith the Lord" from "Messiah," Handel; Mr. Movius.

"La Fileuse," Raff; Miss Young. "The Two Grenadiers," Schuman; Mr. Movius.

Walters Prize Song "Paraphrase," August Wilhelmj; Mr. Gustav Menzendorf.

"I Murmur Not," Schumann; "Eush of the Sea," Schubert; "Armourer's Song," De Roven; Mr. Movius.

"The Platterer," Chaminade; Mazurka,

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Y. W. G. A.

The young women who took the International examinations were Misses Bertha Stine, Mabel Hoge, Victoria Samuels and Flora Burns in book keeping; Mayo, Smith, Schrader and Flint in English. The result can not be known until the latter part of May.

Tuesday, April 5, all Board members, committee members and any one who wishes to do definite work for the association is invited to a committee tea at 6 o'clock, after which at 7:30 p. m. the public, both ladies and gentlemen are invited to attend the quarterly meeting when all reports will be given. Members are expected to attend this important meeting.

An Easter sale of home made candies will take place at the association Saturday afternoon and evening, April 9, by the devotional committee, and they solicit the patronage of all friends. It

is to procure new song books for the gospel meetings, which are greatly needed.

PHILHARMONIC BENEFIT TO HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY FUND.

The Philharmonic orchestra, August Hagenow, conductor, will give a concert for the benefit of the high school library fund at the High school auditorium on Tuesday afternoon, April 12, at 4 o'clock. A fine program will be given, assisted by vocal and instrumental soloists. Price of admission is only 10c for pupils of the school, others 25c.

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