ABOUT NOTED MEN

Anecdotes and Incidents of Prominent Men.

SAYS HAY WILL NOT RESIGN

Senators and Representatives Enjoy Telling Stories and Relating Funny Experiences of Their Private and Political Careers.

THE talk about Secretary Hay's possible resignation has started speculation as to who would succeed him in case he decided to surrender his post as head of the state department. Among those mentioned in this connection is Senator John C. Spooner of Wisconsin, who is one of the most eloquent debaters of the senate, a man thoroughly posted on diplomatic affairs and a brilliant and able statesman. Senator Spooner has quite a reputation as a wit and is considered to possess one of the keenest legal minds in congress, yet when confronted one evening recently with a simple conundrum he was unable to frame a correct reply. He therefore enjoyed trying it on others. This conundrum was, "Which has more feet, one cat or no cat?"

JOHN C. SPOONER.

"I pass it over to you" or something like that was the almost invariable reply.

"Why, no cat, of course," Mr. Spooner would respond. "One cat has four feet. No cat has five feet."

The senator tells this incident about his son, now a lawyer in Milwaukee, which shows that wit runs in the family:

"When he was a boy we were walking on Washington avenue one evening when the lad announced that he was tired and would return to the house as soon as I gave him some money.

"'You don't need any money to get back to the hotel,' I said. 'It's only a few blocks.'

"'Yes, but you see, papa,' he replied quickly, 'suppose I should be held up by a highwayman and he should say, "Your money or your life," like they always do, and I didn't have any money? You wouldn't want your little boy killed for being broke, would you?'"

It is scarcely necessary to add that the lad got the money.

Samuel H. Piles, who not long ago was chosen a member of the United States senate from the state of Washington, is a leading lawyer of Seattle. In the campaign preceding the legislative session the business men of Seattle formed an organization and urged Mr. Piles to enter the race for the senatorship. There was a spirited contest, which ended on the thirteenth ballot by the withdrawal of Charles Sweeney, the millionaire mining man of Spokane, and the election of Mr. Piles. The senator elect was born in Kentucky forty-four years ago. Before he reached his twenty-first birthday he had begun practicing law. He removed to Kansas, but hard times drove him out of the state, and he journeyed to Arizona. He worked for a time in a railroad camp. The year 1883 found him in the state of Washington. He earned his bread by the sweat of his brow in logging camps for a time, but ultimately resumed the practice of his profession. He became assistant prosecuting attorney at Seattle and for some years has been the legal adviser of the Pacific Coast company, in which J. J. Hill is interested. Mr. Piles succeeds Addison G. Foster in the senate. Although recognized as one of the leaders of the bar of his state, Mr. Piles has never accumulated wealth, and it is said that the small necessary expenses of his senatorial campaign were paid by the business organization at whose request he entered the race.

SAMUEL H. PILES.

Judge Alton B. Parker, who has been practicing law in New York since his defeat for the presidency, is responsible for accrediting a flash of wit to a horse trainer in a riding academy near Central park, where the judge occasionally goes in pursuance of his devotion to equestrianism.

It seems that an elderly man had taken a horse to the place to be broken to "an old gentleman's pace," a gentle amble.

As the riding master after several attempts did not immediately succeed in his object, the old man petulantly exclaimed, "Great Scott, man, do you call this an amble?"

"No, sir," was the reply; "I call it a preamble."

ASTON B. PARKER.

Judge Parker, as is well known, is very fond of his farm at Esopus. One feature of this is the strawberry patch. Last summer he was showing it to a visitor and remarked:

"We have far more strawberries than we know what to do with. Last spring the Methodist minister at the village came over in great distress and disclosed the fact that they had organized a strawberry festival for the church, but at the eleventh hour had awakened to the startling fact that they lacked one prime essential to a strawberry festival—strawberries. The reverend gentleman, very much perplexed, asked Mrs. Parker if she could help them out. She sent out here to have some gathered and managed to send him away with a bushel. But what impressed me most was the improvidence of these good people in getting up a strawberry festival without strawberries."

Herman Whitaker, whose tales of the bleak northwest, "The Probationer and Other Stories," are attracting favorable attention, is a personal friend of Jack London, the successful novelist. Five years ago, when Whitaker was still in business, yet beginning his literary work, he took counsel with London.

"Would you advise me, Jack," Whitaker asked him, "to throw up business and have a 'go' at fiction?"

At that time Whitaker had written only one little story, published in the Overland Monthly, which, he said, netted him the princely sum of $7.50.

"No," London answered, "I certainly wouldn't."

"Well, I am going to anyway," retorted Whitaker.

"And so would I," said London quickly.

Unusual interest pertained to the election in West Virginia last November because of the fact that the Democratic party had taken as its candidate for vice president a distinguished citizen of West Virginia, former United States Senator Henry Gassaway Davis. To offset the effect of the action of the Democrats on the result in the state the Republicans searched for the strongest man they could find to lead their state ticket. They agreed on William M. O. Dawson of Charleston as the man most likely to carry the ticket to victory. He has long been one of the leading men of the commonwealth and enjoys a wide popularity. He was nominated on a platform pledging tax reform. Mr. Dawson was elected and last month entered upon the duties of his office. He will serve until March 4, 1909.

W. M. O. DAWSON.

Representative McCleary of Minnesota enjoys telling stories of the time when he was a teacher in a public school of that state, says Collier's Weekly.

"One day," says Mr. McCleary, "during a lesson in grammar, my pet study, I bade one of my pupils to give me a sentence in the indicative mood. He did so in the following words:

"'The horse draws the wagon.'

"'Very good,' said I. 'Now change the sentence to a neat imperative.'

"'Git up!' was the logical rejoinder."

The name of Samuel Untermyer, the New York lawyer, has figured in print recently on account of his relations as legal adviser of James H. Hyde, vice president of the Equitable Life Assurance society, and as one of the counsel of the Standard Oil company. Mr. Untermyer has long been prominent as a Democrat, and it happens with appropriateness that he has for a country home the fine estate at Yonkers, N. Y., which was once the residence of Samuel J. Tilden. This historic property is known as Greystone, and Mr. Untermyer purchased it in 1899. The Democratic sage bought it in 1879 for $125,000 and spent about $500,000 in improvements. He made it his summer residence until his death in 1886. Mr. Untermyer is a patron of art, and he has adorned the estate in many ways. One of its most artistic features is a fountain which is the work of the noted sculptor Isidore Konti.

SAMUEL UNTERMEYER.

Senator Allison of Iowa, who is fond of a joke, one day attempted a little fun with Amzi Smith, who for thirty years has been handing out bills in the senate document room. "Send me a copy of the poor food bill," wrote Allison on a slip of paper which he directed to Amzi. The latter adjusted his glasses, read the note and laughed. Instead of sending the Heyburn pure food bill Amzi hunted around and found a bill of fare from the senate restaurant, which he forthwith dispatched to the Iowa senator.

James W. Alexander, the president of the Equitable Life Assurance society, who has been conspicuous in the controversy within that organization, is a man of all around attainments. Though eminently successful as a business man and an expert in all matters pertaining to life insurance, his horizon is not bounded by Wall street and the Equitable building. He is a graduate of Princeton university and is one of the trustees of that institution. He was for eight years president of the University club of New York and is a popular member of several other clubs. He is interested in social settlements, in natural history and in municipal art and is such a pleasing after dinner speaker that he is in much demand socially. Mr. Alexander was born in Princeton, N. J., in 1839 and is a son of the Rev. Dr. James W. Alexander. In 1864 he married Miss Elizabeth Beasley Williamson, daughter of Chancellor Benjamin Williamson of New Jersey. For some years he practiced law. For years he was vice president of the Equitable and on the death of the founder of the society, the late Henry B. Hyde, in 1899, succeeded him as its president.

J. W. ALEXANDER.
(Photo by Rockwood.)

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WANTED—A GIRL FOR GENERAL housework. Inquire at Astorian office.

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CALL FOR BIDS.

BIDS FOR A RESIDENCE FOR E. A. Fisher, to be erected on Franklin avenue, will be opened May 5; plans and specifications at Architect J. Wicks' office, Star Theater building. The owners have the right to reject any or all bids.

OFFICE CONSTRUCTING QUARtermaster, Astoria, Ore., May 3, 1905—Sealed proposals, in triplicate will be received at this office until 10 o'clock a. m., May 13, 1905, for replanking approach to wharf at Fort Columbia, Wash. United States reserves the right to reject any or all proposals. Plans can be seen and specifications obtained at this office. Information furnished on application. Envelopes should be marked "Proposals for Repairs" and addressed Captain Goodale, Quartermaster, Astoria, Ore.

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WANTED—AT GASTON'S FEED stables, No. 105 14th St., Wool mohair, hides and furs.

DESSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the partnership heretofore existing between the undersigned, doing business as Kallunki & Anderson, in Alderbrook, Cedar street, Astoria, Ore. has this day been dissolved by mutual consent. Jacob Anderson retiring from said firm, and Andrew Kallunki continuing in the business. All outstanding accounts are due and payable to the said Andrew Kallunki, who will pay and does hereby assume all the debts of said firm existing to this date

Dated at Astoria, Ore., May 3, 1905.
J. ANDERSON.
A. KALLUNKI.

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