East Oregonian.

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CHAMP CLARK STORIES

Reminiscences of Noted Funmakers In the House.

There Have Been Five Real Top Notchers — Difference Between a Congressional Humorist and a Humorist In Congress—How John Allen Got There—Generals and Privates — A Maiden Speech That Brought Fame.

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Many congressmen use humor as an aid in expressing their ideas to the house—as a mere incident of speech. First and last there have been five humorists of the first class in "the more numerous branch of the national legislature"—Tom Corwin, Abraham Lincoln, Samuel Sullivan Cox, J. Proctor Knott and John M. Allen. Four of these were congressional humorists—Corwin, Cox, Knott and Allen. It will thus be seen that I differentiate between a congressional humorist and a humorist who is in congress. Unquestionably Lincoln divides with Artemus Ward and Mark Twain the honor of being the greatest American humorist—for it is an honor no matter what the dry as dusts may say by way of dissent, detraction or carping criticism—but most assuredly and most emphatically Lincoln was not a congressional humorist. Indeed there is precious little trace—the merest color, as miners would say—of his humor or of any other of his many great faculties in his congressional career. The truth seems to be that congress did not suit him and that he did not fit congress. At any rate in his brief service in the house there is not even the faintest prophecy of that astounding career which wrote his name in the scanty list of the immortals.

Private John Allen.

With the possible exceptions of McKinley, Bryan and Roosevelt there is perhaps no American statesman of this generation whose name is more familiar to the ears and tongues of the American people than that of Hon. John M. Allen of Mississippi, yclept "Private John" Allen. He has not only immortalized himself, but he has lifted into continental fame Tupelo, the little town where he resides. After a long and distinguished career in the house he voluntarily quit public life for the practice of law.

How John Got There.

The dry as dusts solemnly asseverate that humor never did any good. They are cocksure of that. Now, let's see. How did John Allen get to congress? He joked himself in. One fetching bit of humor sent him to Washington as a national lawmaker.

The first time John ran for the congressional nomination his opponent was the Confederate general Tucker, who had fought gallantly during the civil war and who had served with distinction two or three terms in congress. They met on the stump. General Tucker closed one of his speeches as follows:

"Seventeen years ago last night, my fellow citizens, after a hard fought battle on yonder hill, I bivouacked under yonder clump of trees. Those of you who remember as I do the times that tried men's souls will not, I hope, forget the humble servant when the primaries shall be held."

That was a strong appeal in those days, but John raised the general at his own game in the following amazing manner:

"My fellow citizens, what General Tucker says to you about the engagement some years ago on yonder hill is true. What General Tucker says to you about having bivouacked in yon clump of trees on that night is true. It is also true, my fellow citizens, that I was vedette picket and stood guard over him while he slept.

"Now, then, fellow citizens, all of you who were generals and had privates to stand guard over you while you slept vote for General Tucker, and all of you who were privates and stood guard over the generals while they slept vote for 'Private John' Allen."

The people caught on, took John at his word, sent him to congress, where he has staid until he has filled the land with his acclaim.

John's Maiden Speech In Congress.

Of course every representative must make his "maiden speech" in congress—that is, if he intends to try the oratorical caper at all. Frequently it is a painful ordeal. Much depends on that effort. The congressional tyro feels that the eyes of the house, of his constituents, perhaps of the whole country and of posterity, are fixed upon him. Generally he is mistaken as to the number of eyes riveted upon him, but nevertheless he feels as he rises to say "Mr. Speaker!" for the first time that he is a sort of universal optical target, and so feeling he is liable to an attack of heart failure or stage fright. Lucky the member who catches the ear of the house and of the country in delivering his "maiden speech." He is not only lucky. He is scarce, almost as scarce as hens' teeth.

In due time John delivered his "maiden speech" in congress, proved to be one of the lucky ones and took an instant secure hold on the auricular appendage of the house, which he held to the end and which he would have continued to hold had he remained in the house till the crack of doom. The members regarded Allen as a godsend, as a welcome and grateful relief from what the late lamented Mr. Mantalini would have denominated "the demnition, horrid grind" of the congressional mill. John arose to begin his "maiden speech" an obscure member. Next morning he arose to find himself famous, as did Lord Byron after the publication of the opening cantos of "Childe Harold," and the fame of the Mississippi humorist was as fairly won and as justly bestowed as was that of the English poet.

Retired to the Cloakroom.

The river and harbor bill was up. John wanted to offer an amendment making an appropriation for the Tombigbee river. The chairman of the committee, Mr. Willis of Kentucky, had promised John time and had then forgotten it. John asked unanimous consent to address the house, and Willis tried to help him get it, but some one objected, whereupon John, with tears in his voice and looking doleful as a hired mourner at a funeral, said with lugubrious accent, "Well, I would at least like to have permission to print some remarks in The Record and insert 'laughter and applause' in appropriate places." That was his astonishing exordium. The palpable hit at one of the most common abuses of "the privilege to print" tickled the house greatly, and he secured the unanimous consent which he desired. He closed that speech with an amazing exhibition of gall, which added to his fame more than the speech itself. He wound up by saying, "Now, Mr. Speaker, having fully answered all the arguments of my opponents, I will retire to the cloakroom a few moments to receive the congratulations of admiring friends," which set the house and galleries wild with delight. He did retire to the cloakroom, did receive the congratulations of admiring friends, a performance which has been going on at frequent intervals ever since.

John Jokes With Governor Dingley.

In many respects the late Governor Nelson Dingley of Maine was a most admirable character. He was a learned and able man, dying in the great position of chairman of the committee on ways and means. It in no way detracts from his just fame to say that he was almost totally destitute of a sense of humor. He was so matter of fact that it approximated cruelty to joke with him, but nevertheless Allen did it. When business was at its worst during the panic which began in 1893, one morning John and the governor met on a street car. "Governor," remarked John, solemn as a billygoat, "I hear a vast deal of talk about trouble in making paying investments, but I find no difficulty whatever in the matter. In fact, less than ten minutes since I made an investment which paid me 20 per cent. I consider that a rattling good speculation." "So do I," replied Governor Dingley, pricking up his ears. "How did you manage it?" "Oh," said John, with a straight face, "I bought six street car tickets for a quarter," which convulsed everybody within hearing except the chairman of the ways and means committee, who looked as though he thought the Mississippian was trifling with momentous not to say sacred things. When the tale reached the capitol, men wondered at John's temerity.

John Astonishes General Grosvenor.

As is well known, on the 8th day of March, 1898, the house of representatives, Democrats, Republicans, Populists and Free Silverites, without a man missing, performed the most stupendous act of confidence recorded in the entire annals of the human race by voting to place $50,000,000 without restrictions and without strings in the hands of the president to be paid out on his order. As a Democrat I am happy to state that in my judgment William McKinley never violated the confidence thus bestowed. As an American, proud of my country, I delight to think that no man ever has been or ever will be president capable of betraying such a colossal trust.

The vote declaring war against Spain was also practically unanimous. So were the votes on appropriations to carry it on, but such unanimity was too beautiful to last. So when the bond bill came up we separated and took different paths. During the debate there was considerable crossfiring as to who were the more patriotic, the Democrats or the Republicans. General Charles Henry Grosvenor of Ohio threw out certain insinuations which roiled the Democrats generally and Allen in particular. John rose to the occasion, made a fiery speech, winding up by proposing that there and then General Grosvenor should open up a recruiting station to enlist a company of congressmen of which Grosvenor should be captain to serve during the Spanish war without pay. John dared the general to do it, asserting that though the Republicans had a large majority in the house there would be more Democratic congressmen who would enlist than there would be Republicans. The proposition took General Grosvenor's breath away and set the house and galleries in a roar. The venerable and doughty general did not set up his standard, but John was the hero of the hour. My firm belief is that had Grosvenor accepted John's proposition every Democrat in the house would have volunteered, perhaps every Republican. If the Spaniards had seen 360 congressmen advancing on them headed by General Grosvenor, Cuba might have surrendered at discretion to avoid being talked to death. Quien sabe?

More Than Humorist.

While Mr. Allen's fame is entirely that of humorist, he is much more than that. No man that I ever heard in congress or out of it can use invective to better effect than the Mississippian. At times he is absolutely merciless. The two excoriations which he gave Colonel Josiah Patterson of Tennessee, one in the debate on the bill to repeal the purchasing clause of the Sherman law, the other when Josiah was trying to unseat Carmack, were terrible to listen to. Patterson was John's bete noire and the Mississippian flayed him alive and then poured aqua fortis on his quivering body. CHAMP CLARK.

Tipping Quick Lunch Waiters.

Two men sat side by side on the high stools of one of those quick lunch places lined with pale tiles like a bathroom that abound in Philadelphia. One of them said to the other: "In a cafe like this few persons tip the waiter behind the counter. They think it would be a waste of money, because the waiter calls their orders down a tube into a kitchen somewhere under ground, and they hold that he has no jurisdiction over the portions and that they are served just the same whether they tip them or not.

"Well, they are altogether mistaken. I know, for I have made a study of this matter. The waiter here has two tones with which to speak through the tube. One tone is for the patron who tips, the other for him who doesn't. Now, watch a minute." The waiter in an ordinary voice now called three orders and then in a strange falsetto called that of the man who had been speaking. "You see?" said he to his companion. "I tip and those other fellows don't." A moment later he added triumphantly: "Look at the difference between my order of roast beef and our friend's over there. I've got a big cut out of the heart of the roast, and he's got two or three little chunks of 'end.' Oh, yes; it pays to tip in these places as well as it does anywhere!"—Philadelphia Record.

Forcing a Pension.

When Thomas Snodgrass, ex-collector of Ganjam, Madras, was expelled from the service of the East India company owing to his extravagance, he applied for a pension, but the company turned a deaf ear to him. Accordingly he arrayed himself in tattered clothes and, armed with a broom, set to work sweeping a crossing in Leadenhall street in front of the East India house. Immediately all London was agog with the intelligence that an old and distinguished officer of the East India company who had ruled over 100,000 people and reveled in a palace was now reduced in the evening of his life to the necessity of earning his bread by sweeping the streets. The king was thunderstruck and implored Mr. Snodgrass to take himself and his broom away. This he did when the company gave him his pension.

The Celts and Green.

The early Celts worshiped the dawn and the sunrise. It is more than probable, therefore, that their liking for the color green which we see in their flags, sashes, etc., arose from a mistake among those who had lost a thorough knowledge of the Irish language. The sun in Celtic is called by a word pronounced exactly like our word "green," and it is likely that the Irish fondness for that color arose through the striking similarity of the two words. In the same way, when we talk about a greenhouse we think they are so called because plants are kept green in them during the winter; yet it is far more probable that the word is derived from the old Celtic word for sun, because greenhouses are so built as to catch the rays and heat of the sun and store them for future use.

Eased Consciences.

A well known English dean recently had the misfortune to lose his umbrella, and he rather suspected that its appropriation by another had not been altogether accidental. He therefore used the story to point a moral in a sermon in the cathedral, adding that if its present possessor would drop it over the wall of the deanery garden during that night he would say no more about it. Next morning he repaired to the spot and found his own umbrella and forty-five others.

Sharks as Game Fish.

As game fishes sharks do not, I think, stand high. The most common of them, the dusky shark, when hooked, circles round on the surface and usually bites off the lines and escapes. If so hooked that the line cannot be cut, the struggle is furious but short, the shark giving up in much less time than a game fish of half his size, such as the channel bass, salt water trout or snapper would do.—Forest and Stream.

His First Year of Law.

Young Physician—What is your practice mostly?

Young Lawyer—Domestic economy.—Chicago News.

A HOME FOR THE HORSE.

Stable That Boasts Not Only Artistic but Sanitary Points.

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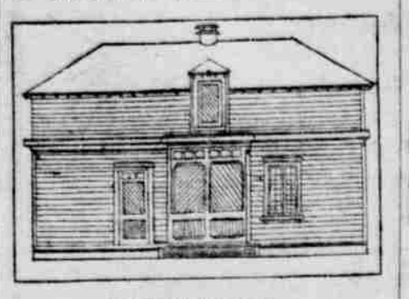
When a man goes to an architect or a builder and makes known the fact that he desires to build a home for himself, the first thing that he demands in the house which he proposes to erect is that it shall be constructed on sanitary lines. No matter how simple or how ornate the design, no matter how little or how great the cost, the prospective purchaser will insist,



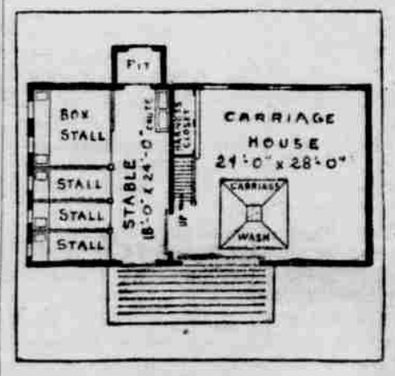
FRONT ELEVATION.

and properly enough, that the building shall be put together in such a way that it will be health protecting, not health destroying. He may not make this demand in so many words, but the demand is in evidence just the same, and the architect is forced willy nilly to pay heed to it.

How different it is, however, when a man wants to build an outhouse or a stable. As a rule, nothing is considered there but the cost, and anything in the way of a home is deemed good enough for the beast of burden. As a mere matter of economy the builder of a stable should realize that it is money well spent to provide a healthy house for his horse.

The plans shown in this article are designed to meet just such a requirement, and, while the stable cannot be called a cheap one in the ordinary sense of the word, yet the reader who builds as suggested will in the long run be forced to admit that his money was put out to good advantage. A stable can be built from these designs at a cost of from $1,000 to $1,500, according to the local price of labor, materials used, and so forth.

The plans provide for a building which shall be not only a stable, but a



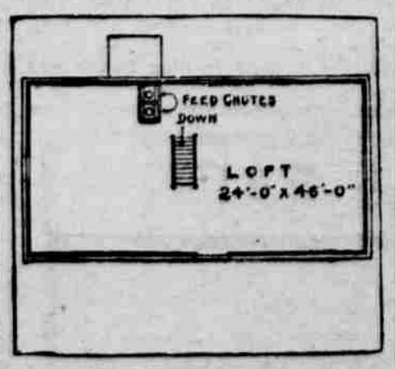
FIRST FLOOR PLAN.

carriage house. The stable section is on the left hand side and has a manure pit at the rear, with doors from both stable and yard. The feed shoots are located near the box stall. In addition to this stall, which is a commodious one, there are three smaller stalls, each having a separate window.

The floors of the stalls are laid on a slight incline to a gutter which runs to a cesspool on the outside of the stable. The bottom of the stable can be of concrete, with a brick floor superimposed. The building is entered by a large swinging door, with inclined platform to the ground. There is also a smaller door to the left of this.

The carriage house is on the right of the stable and is connected with it by a sliding door. It is furnished with a washing place for the carriages, drained to the outside in a similar way to the stable. There is an ample closet for the harness. A stairway leads to the left. Large windows give plenty of light and ventilation.

In the loft is a door to receive the hay, straw, feed, etc., for the animals housed below. If desired, a partition can be put up to give a sleeping place for the man who has charge of the



SECOND FLOOR PLAN.

horses. There is sufficient light and ventilation from three windows and a ventilator in the top of the roof.

The framing should be of spruce, built in the brace frame style and covered with surface hemlock sheathing boards. All trimmings should be of white pine, with the doors of yellow pine.

Dimensions.—Front, 50 feet; side, 26 feet. Height of stories: First, 14 feet; second, 11 feet.