

CLOSING HOURS OF CONGRESS.

A Scene in the Lower House that Beggars Description.

Washington special: It is improbable that such a scene was ever witnessed in the house, at 10 o'clock this morning. Paper and tobacco quids and stumps of cigars and other filth covered the carpet so completely that one could not discover the color of that article. The members had been up continuously for almost forty-eight hours and were sore-headed, sleepy and uncharitable. The speaker, anticipating a stampede, had posted a trusted sentinel twenty feet in front of the desk to assist him in the event of an emergency. Springer, Holman and Curtin were designated for this purpose, and one of them occupied a chair at the head of the center aisle in a semi-circle in front of the speaker all the time. During the last half hour of the session Curtin sat in the chair, but he appeared so nearly exhausted as to be of no assistance to the speaker. The duty of these sentinels was to object to consideration of bills under a suspension of the rules, introduction of resolutions and anything else which might embarrass the presiding officer or the house. It was their special duty to see that nothing was considered which was to be to the disadvantage of the predominant party. There was a great clamor to get recognition, and some members stood up and howled themselves hoarse, and in anger tore up the bills and reports and flung them on the floor in full view of the speaker. One of the most persistent for recognition was Mr. Weaver of Nebraska. He had a bill appropriating \$100,000 for the enlargement of the government building at Omaha, and for an hour he stood beside his seat and called for the speaker's eye. He tried every possible scheme in parliamentary tactics, even resorting to rising to a question of privilege, to a question of order, to make parliamentary inquiry, which he would turn into a plea for getting recognition for the consideration of his bill. Then Mr. Weaver went down in front of the speaker's desk and spent the remaining hour pleading, trading, combining and then denouncing, but it was all to no avail. He finally labored for fifteen minutes with Mr. Springer who objected to the consideration of the measure and also stately refused to withdraw his objections. When Mr. Reed offered the resolution on the part of the house thanking the speaker for his uniformly impartial administration of the functions of the presiding officer, and the speaker had replied in feeling terms, and when all was quiet and everybody else was in his seat, Mr. Weaver stood alone in the semi-circle in front of the chair with his Omaha bill and accompanying report ready to ask recognition. This is but one of the very many instances of how hours were spent in anxious effort to do what should not be done. In the Senate days ago should not be done. In fact, one could not have been impressed by a casual glance there that a session was drawing to a close, while in the house there was an uproar on the floor which rivaled bedlam and a crowd in the galleries and corridors, making it almost impossible for one to move about and breathe. There was the same cold and seeming indifferent atmosphere in the Senate which at all times marks it from the order of the house. By tomorrow night two-thirds of the legislators will be out of the city and on their way home, and before the end of next week very few will be left. At least one person will be glad of the riddance, and that is President Cleveland. He says he will be happy to have a rest from the harassing importunities for office which he has had to withstand for months. There will be a lull in Washington for a few weeks, then it will grow breezy, statesmen and politicians will come in for official business or offices, talk will begin about nominations next year, the presidential bureau will open and schemers will begin to scheme, so that before autumn the national capital is expected to present the most active and interesting field it has for two years.

BRIEFS BY THE WIRE.

General Mahone declares himself as unalterably opposed to the repudiation of one cent of the just indebtedness of Virginia, and hopes to see the amount ascertained by the employment of outside financiers. The Illinois Central railroad has given notice of its withdrawal from all pools on account of the interstate commerce law. The congregational clergymen of Chicago, at their regular monthly meeting, declined to send resolutions of condolence to the family of Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, for fear that they would be considered as an endorsement of his views on future salvation and punishment. Judge Jackson of the United States circuit court has dissolved the injunction obtained by the Baltimore and Ohio express company against the Ohio and Mississippi railway. A vagrant lying in bed at Augusta, Kentucky, was sold at the highest bidder for seventy-five days. He was knocked down for \$1 to the jailer, who turned him loose. Humphrey, Blake & Co., cotton commission brokers of St. Louis, have failed with \$40,000 liabilities and \$35,000 assets. They expect to resume soon. In a wholesale drug house at Des Moines, a driver named Joseph rows killed Constable E. S. Logan, after the latter had struck and fired at him. The officer showed no warrant to search for beer, but had evidently entered the store for that purpose, although three members of the firm hold pharmacy permits. The convention of school superintendents will be held in Washington beginning next Tuesday. The recent earthquake at Nice caused such a panic that hotel-keepers are selling out at a great sacrifice. The license tax imposed in Tennessee on salesmen from other states has been declared unconstitutional by the United States supreme court, as interfering with interstate commerce. Seven thousand seven hundred and sixteen applications for pensions have already been filed by Mexican veterans. The St. Paul road has let a contract for an extension of its track from Merrill to Tomahawk lake, fifty-three miles, on the way to Lake Superior. Matthew A. Manning of West Virginia has been appointed chief of a division of the pension office. Three hundred and fifty stove molders of St. Louis have struck for 15 per cent increase in wages.

MATED WITH A LORD.

London dispatch: Miss Ellen Stager, daughter of the late Gen. Anson Stager, this afternoon became the wife of Lord Arthur Butler, brother of the Marquis of Ormonde. Inasmuch as Lord Ormonde has no son the bridegroom is his presumptive to the title, and the former New York belle is a possible marchioness. The bride wore a dress of white silk, with a full, plain train. The front and panels of the skirt were made of pearl-embroidered tulle. The tulle veil was surmounted by a wreath of orange blossoms and secured to the hair by diamond stars. There was an enormous crowd in and around the church. Lord and Lady Arthur Butler will pass the honeymoon in Buckinghamshire, not far from London, at the seat of Lord Chestham, who made one of the Duke of Westminster's daughters.

HENRY WARD BEECHER.

A Biographical Sketch of the Life and Deeds of the Great Preacher.

Henry Ward Beecher was born in Litchfield, Conn., June 24, 1813. At an early age he had a strong desire for a seafaring life, which was relinquished in consequence of a deep religious impression experienced during a revival. He studied at the Boston Latin school, in Mount Pleasant institute, and was graduated at Amherst in 1833, after studying theology at Lane seminary, near Cincinnati, O., under the tuition of his father, who was president of the institution. He first settled as a Presbyterian minister in Lawrenceburg, Ind., in 1837, and married Elizabeth White, daughter of Dr. Artemas Bullard; then removed to Indianapolis in 1839, where he preached until 1847. In that year he received a call from Plymouth church, a new Congregational society in Brooklyn, N. Y., and almost from the outset he began to acquire that reputation as a pulpit orator which has been maintained for more than a third of a century. The church and congregation under his charge were among the largest in the city. The edifice has a seating capacity of nearly 3,000. Mr. Beecher discarded many of the conventionalities of the clerical profession. In his sermons he was not a sectarian, but a man of argument and exhortation and he did not hesitate sometimes to venture so near the comic that laughter could hardly be restrained. He was fond of illustration, drawing material from every sphere of human life, and thought and his manner was highly dramatic. Though his keen sense of humor continually manifested itself, the prevailing impression given by his discourses was one of intense earnestness. The cardinal idea of his sermons was that Christianity is not a series of dogmas, philosophical or metaphysical, but a rule of life in every phase. He never hesitated to discuss from the pulpit the great social and political crimes of the day, such as slavery, intemperance, avarice and political abuses. In 1878 he announced that he did not believe in the eternity of punishment. He believed that all punishment is salutary and that no man should be punished more cruelly than he would be if he were reformed. He believed that the continuance of suffering eternally after all hope of reformation was gone. In 1882 he and his congregation formally withdrew from the association of Congregational churches on account of his belief. Mr. Beecher's theology, under the law of evolution has changed from the strict Calvinism in which he was educated to a disbelief in the eternality of punishment. His sermons, reported by stenographers, have been printed since 1836, and for several years formed a weekly publication called the "Plymouth Pulpit." He very early became known as a platform orator and lecturer, in which he had a long and successful career. His lectures came to be in such demand, even at the rate of \$500 a night, that he was obliged to decline the engagements of lecturing with his ministerial duties, and for a long time he refused all applications for public lectures and addresses except for some special occasion. In January, 1830, he delivered an oration at the Centennial anniversary of the birthday of Robert Burns, which is considered one of his most eloquent efforts. He became a member of the republican party on its formation, and delivered many political addresses from its platform, also addressed political meetings, especially in 1836, when he took an active part in the canvass, not only with his pen, but by addressing mass meetings throughout the northern states. In 1840 he was elected to the presidential canvass of 1844 Mr. Beecher supported the democratic candidate, and by his action estranged many of his political adherents. In a long conflict with slavery Mr. Beecher was an early and an earnest worker and from the pulpit of Plymouth church came many of the severest denunciations of human chattelhood ever uttered before a public assembly. In 1833 he visited Europe and addressed large audiences in the principal cities of Great Britain on the questions evolved by the civil war then raging in the United States, with a special view to disabuse the British public in regard to the cause of the American rebellion. His speeches exerted a wide influence in changing popular sentiment, which had been previously strongly in favor of the southern confederacy, and were published in London as "The American Rebellion" (1844). In April, 1852, at the request of the government he delivered an oration at Fort Sumpter on the anniversary of its fall. Though he desired peace, he did not hesitate to denounce the uniform and appear on parade as the chaplain of a regiment, an office to which he was elected by the 13th regiment, national guard, in 1878. In 1871 one of his parishioners, Mr. Henry W. Sage, founded a lectureship of preaching called "The Lyman Beecher Lectureship," in Yale college divinity school, and the first three annual courses were delivered by Mr. Beecher. In the summer of 1874 Theodore Tilton, formerly Mr. Beecher's associate, afterward his successor, in the editorship of the Independent, charged him with criminality with Mrs. Tilton. A committee of Plymouth congregation rejected the charges, and without formal trial, but meanwhile Mr. Tilton instituted a civil suit against Mr. Beecher, laying his damages at \$100,000. The trial lasted six months and was closed by the jury, after being locked up for more than a week, called to agree on a verdict. They stood nine for the plaintiff and three for the defendant. Mr. Beecher was of stout build, florid and of strong physical constitution. He was fond of domestic and rural life; a student of nature; a lover of animals, flowers and gems; an enthusiast in music and a judge and a patron of art. He owned a charming residence at Peekskill, in Hudson county, which he occupied during the summer. In 1889 he made a lecturing tour in England, his only visit to that country since the war. His biography has been written by Lyman Abbott (New York, 1881).

During his theological course in 1836, for nearly a year Mr. Beecher edited the Cincinnati Journal, a religious weekly. While pastor at Indianapolis he edited an agricultural journal, The Farmer and Garden, and contributions to which were afterward published under the title "Plain and Pleasant Talk about Fruits, Flowers and Farming" (New York, 1859). He was the founder of the New York Independent, and from 1861 till 1863 was its editor. His contributions to it were signed with an asterisk and many of them were afterward collected and published under the title "Plain and Pleasant Talk about Fruits, Flowers and Farming" (New York, 1859). He was the founder of the New York Independent, and from 1861 till 1863 was its editor. His contributions to it were signed with an asterisk and many of them were afterward collected and published under the title "Plain and Pleasant Talk about Fruits, Flowers and Farming" (New York, 1859). 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