

SENTIMENT has a good deal to do with things, even the most matter-of-fact things. We are all influenced to a certain degree by the sentimental. A present instance is the statement that the old Hartford, now lying at Mare Island, "isn't worth repairing," and is to be broken up and sold for old junk.

As a plain, prosaic fact, the Hartford is probably a broken down old hulk, good for nothing but to be broken up for firewood and old iron.

But here steps in memory, sentimental recollections and the glorious associations that cluster so fondly about the old flag-ship of Farragut's, as lashed in the rigging he met and whipped the confederate ironclads in Mobile bay, in the spring of '62.

A quarter of a century has not dimmed the patriotic recollections of that sea fight, and the brave admiral's bronze statue is no more intimate reminder of that encounter and victory than the mute timbers, eloquent in their dumbness, of the old Hartford.

Long years ago it was proposed to break up and sell "Old Ironsides," the frigate Constitution, around which hung many glorious memories of American supremacy on the ocean. Oliver Wendell Holmes grasped his pen and wrote the following:

"Aye, tear that tattered ensign down; Long has it waved on high; And many an eye has danced to see That banner in the sky. Beneath it rang the battle's shout, And burst the cannon's roar; The meteor of the ocean air Shall sweep the seas no more. Her deck once red with heroes' blood, Where knelt the vanquished foe, When winds were hurrying o'er the flood, And waves were white below, No more shall feel the victor's tread, Nor know the conqueror's knee. The harpies of the shore shall pluck The eagles of the sea.

Oh, better that her battered hulk Should sink beneath the wave, Her thunders should be muffled deep, And there should be her grave. Nail to the mast her holy flag, Set every threadbare sail; And give her to the God of storms: The lightning and the gale."

We quote from memory and may not be literally exact, but, anyhow, Holmes' stirring stanzas saved the Constitution. Where is the lyric poet to save the Hartford?

REGARDING Cleveland's alleged assertion that he wouldn't be a candidate for a second term, the editor of the New York Star, the administration organ, in yesterday's issue of that paper says: "In view of the reports which have been sent out by Washington correspondents of some western newspapers, I think it proper to make the following statement: In January last the president said to me that he had in contemplation the making of a public document, which would take him out of the field as a candidate for 1888. He said that he was led to this conclusion, not only by personal considerations, but because he thought such a course would relieve him from imputations, which were daily cast upon him and which interfered with his usefulness in his office. After listening to the president's declaration and supposing that he wished an expression of my opinion, I told him that I thought such a declaration would be very unwise, and that it would increase his perplexities rather than diminish them. I also said that it was not for him to say whether he would be a candidate for re-election or not; that was a matter to be decided upon by the Democrats, who have served him greatly, and who had a right to his services if they desired them. I also urged that no election would be broken by his candidacy for a second term, and that it might be most important to his party and the country that he should be re-elected. After a long consultation, the matter was dropped and has not been since alluded to except in a casual way. I have never had in my

possession a letter from the president with reference to a second term, nor have ever seen such a letter or the draft of one. I have not been in Washington since the 4th of the present month. If the president has arrived at the determination suggested in my conversation with him last January, I do not know it, but knowing well his character, I am confident that if he considered it his duty to decline a re-nomination, he will make his intention public in a way which will render a misunderstanding of it impossible. In common with other personal friends, and as I believe with the great body of the Democrats and a large body of the independent and Republican parties, I sincerely hope that Mr. Cleveland will accept the nomination, which, according to present appearances, will be tendered to him without a serious dissent."

The interstate commerce commission, which in the minds of many was to have freed the country of all abuses by the railroad corporations, is, although very young, already drawing the guns of the people and legislators upon itself, and, says a Washington dispatch, no doubt it will receive some pretty sharp overhauling at the next session of congress. The members seem to wield their scepters of office as though accountable to no one for their actions. Representative Payson, who is one of the leading railroad men of the house, says he is disgusted and disappointed at the manner in which the law is being carried out. The commission, he declares, had no right to dispense the long-and-short-haul clause, and has exceeded its authority in so doing. If there was anything which congress insisted on, it was that clause, and the only arguments which they have made to sustain their action, he says, are those that were made against the passage of the bill in congress and then overruled. Mr. Payson thinks congress will insist upon a trial of the long-and-short-haul clause, and that the provision which enables the commission to extend favors right and left, as they have been doing, will be repealed, and leave them without any discretion whatever in the matter.

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