

WASHINGTON LETTER.

The Recent Senatorial Fight in Minnesota—Interesting Sketches of the Two Leading Contestants.

[Special Correspondence.]

The liveliest Senatorial contest of the winter has just closed at St. Paul, where the seat occupied for the past six years by Senator Sabin became the center of a grand scramble among the North star politicians, with Mr. Sabin and ex-Congressman Washburn as chief contestants. Ignatius Donnelly coming bravely and brilliantly into third position. Senator Sabin was elected six years ago largely in consequence of the accidents by which Senator Windom was retired to private life. He has made an excellent record in the Senate as a thorough going and pains-taking committee worker. Without demonstrating any particular forensic ability, he has made several strong speeches in the course of several debates.

Not long after Sabin entered the Senate the Northwestern Car Company, of which he was president and the largest stockholder, failed in consequence, it is said, of a lethargic state of trade in the Northwest and the Senator's inability to divide his attention between Senatorial duties and private business. In the interval he has been unable to reorganize the ruins of that splendid concern and establish it once more in successful operation. At the time of this failure, Senator Sabin was said to be a tri-millionaire. While he can not now be said to have a large fortune, he has undoubtedly recovered much of what he lost and is on the road to his former prosperity. He began life as a farmer boy under peculiar disheartening conditions.

His father, leaving a fine farm in the Connecticut valley, moved to Illinois and there laid out all that he had in fine cattle and horses, being one of the first importers on a large scale of short-horn cattle in the West. He had not been in Illinois a year before he died and young Sabin, eighteen years old, had thrust upon him the responsibilities of settling his father's estate and supporting his widowed mother and young brothers and sisters. He demonstrated his business capacity by selling the Illinois farm and all the cattle and horses for a good deal more than what they cost his father, and took the family back to Massachusetts from the old farm which came back into their possession.

For the next four years he was a farmer. He has told me with a good deal of satisfaction how he used to haul wood into Springfield with his trousers tucked in his boot-legs, and stood about the streets from early morning until night waiting for some one to buy his load, stamping his feet and slapping his hands most of the time in order to keep his blood in circulation. He enlisted in the army when twenty-one, and served until the close of the war. In 1863 he went to Minnesota on an excursion trip, became pleased with the opportunities for business there, settled at Stillwater, and invested what little money he had in a shop to make threshing machines.

His gift for managing men soon took him into the political field, and it was not long before he had a contract for the prison labor of the State, out of which by teaching the convicts a trade and employing them under strict and salutary discipline, he not only amassed a fortune for himself but made the State prison self-supporting and an industrial school for the criminal classes

SENATOR SABIN.
principle." The exchange was made some time later and Major Goff went to Washington and urged President Lincoln to adopt a more liberal exchange policy so that Union soldiers would suffer less in Southern prisons. It was not long before his advice was followed. Some time afterwards Major Armsay was captured by the Union troops, and was put in jail at Clarkburg, Goff's native town.

When Goff's friends learned of the fact a mob gathered to hang Armsay, and it was only upon the intercession of Major Goff that his life was spared. While he was in Libby prison Goff somehow got hold of law-books and began to read. After the war he went to the New York University and in time returned to West Virginia to practice law. Andrew Jackson appointed him district attorney in 1868, and he was reappointed four times by Grant, Hayes and Garfield. In 1870 he ran for Congress but was beaten. In 1870 he ran for Governor, and was again beaten. In 1881 President Hayes called him into his Cabinet as Secretary of the Navy. In 1882 he was elected to Congress, and in 1884 was re-elected. General Goff is a strong speaker, and has been heard in campaigns all over the country.

BUSY MR. BARRETT.

A Newspaper Man Who Has Hustled Himself Into Prominence by Hard Work and Use of Brains.

One of the most interesting young newspaper men of recent times is William E. Barrett, who has just been elected Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Barrett has always called himself the "baby editor." Before he was twenty-five the Boston Advertiser sent him to Washington as their correspondent, where, by great persistence, steady industry and no particular display of talent or brains, he managed to make a good newsgatherer. He has displayed the same qualities since he went back to Boston to become the business manager of the Advertiser and its evening colleague, the Record.

It is said that he has made both those newspapers self-sustaining, and has secured for himself a large amount of stock from owners who were only too willing to part with it for little or nothing. Barrett

was born in Melrose, where he now lives, in 1858. He is a graduate of Dartmouth, in the class of '80, and began newspaper work as soon as he got out of college. He was a member of the Legislature last year, and says plainly that he intends to be elected to Congress as soon as he gets a chance.

About the Fruit Season.

Teacher—How long did Adam and Eve remain in the Garden of Eden?

Boy—I don't know.

Teacher—They remained in the Garden of Eden until—

Boy (glee-silly)—O, yes, until the apples were ripe. Texas Siftings.

A BLOWN in the dark—the Brooklyn gas explosion.

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