

### SARGENT S. PRENTISS.

Reminiscences of a Typical American Stump Speaker.

Saturday Chicago Herald.

Sargent S. Prentiss, of Mississippi, was undoubtedly the most eloquent man who ever addressed the House of Representatives. A carpet-bagger from Maine, he went to Mississippi poor and friendless, and not only became foremost among her sons, but acquired a national reputation. Edward Everett, after having listened to one of his impassioned bursts of eloquence in Faneuil Hall, turned to Daniel Webster, who sat near him, and said: "Did you ever hear anything like it?" "Never," said Webster, "except from Mr. Prentiss himself!" He was, indeed, a remarkable orator, his intellectual endowments presenting a remarkable example, in which great logical power and the most vivid imagination were most happily blended. As Dryden said of Halifax, he was a man.

Of piercing wit and frequent thought. Endowed by nature and by learning taught To move assemblies.

The great secret of his oratorical success was his readiness; he seemed never at a loss for an epigram or a retort, and his impromptu speeches were the best.

Prentiss used to tell a good story about his second canvass of the State of Mississippi. He had arranged a route, and one of his friends had gone ahead to make arrangements for a hall in each successive town, and to advertise the meeting there. The proprietor of a traveling menagerie took advantage of these congregations, and followed, exhibiting at each place on the day that Prentiss spoke. The first intimation that the orator had of this rivalry was at a small town in the northern part of the State, near the Alabama line. After Prentiss had been speaking for about an hour, holding the attention of the audience, he observed some of the outsiders looking over their shoulders, and this movement was gradually followed by more of his audience. He began to think he was growing dull, and endeavored to rouse himself up to more animation, but it was all in vain. He at length looked in the popular direction, and there, to his horror, just coming over the hill was the elephant, dressed in his scarlet wrappings and Oriental splendor. A foolish feeling of vanity not to be outdone by the elephant came over him, and he continued to talk. He found it was no use, so he said: "Well, ladies and gentlemen, I am beaten! But I have the consolation of knowing that it was not by my competitor. I will not knock under to any two-legged beast, but I yield to the elephant."

Prentiss afterward made an arrangement with the proprietor of the menagerie to divide time with the monkey and the clown, the first hour being given to politics. One of the cages was used as a rostrum. Soon he heard a low sound, which resembled a growl; and he learned that the hyena was his nearest listener. There were large augur-holes in the top of the box for the admission of air. Prentiss commenced speaking, and when he reached the blood and thunder portion of his speech he ran his case into the cage, and called forth a most horrible yell from the enraged animals, at the same time gesticulating violently with the other hand. "Why, fellow-citizens," he would exclaim, "the very wild beasts are shocked at the political baseness and corruption of the times. See how this worthy fellow just below me is scandalized. Hear his yell of political shame and indignation!" The effect was electrical; he called down the house in a perfect tempest of enthusiasm. He hurled his anathemas at his foes and enforced them by the yells of his neighbors. The people of Mississippi worshiped Mr. Prentiss, his habits, which would have been condemned in other sections of the country, only endearing him the more to them. Generous to his foes, faithful to his friends, he won the confidence and affection of all who knew him.

### The Cost of Sickness.

I think, then, that we can not escape from the reasons to believe that we lose in England and Wales every year, in consequence of sickness, 20,000,000 weeks' work; or, say, as much work as 20,000,000 healthy people would do in a week.

The number is not easily grasped by the mind. It is equal to about one-fortieth part of the work done in each year by the whole population between 15 and 65 years old. Or, try to think of it in money. Rather more than half of it is lost by those whom the Registrar General names the domestic, the agricultural, and the industrial classes. These are more than 7,500,000 in number, and they lose about 11,000,000 weeks; say, for easy reckoning, at £1 a week; and here is a loss of £11,000,000 sterling from what should be the annual wealth of the country. For the other classes, who are estimated as losing the other 9,000,000 weeks' work, it would be hard and unfair to make a guess in any known coin; for these include our great merchants, our judges and lawyers, and medical men, our statesmen and chief legislators; they include our poets and writers of all kinds, musicians, and philosophers; and our princes, who certainly do more for the wealth and welfare of the country than can be told in money.—Sir James Paget, in *Popular Science Monthly*.

### How Whisky Saved Washington.

The story has often been told, but I do not know that it was ever verified. Montgomery Blair told it to me himself a year or two before he died. We of Washington can never forget the threatening days in July, 1864, when the city was defenseless, and a large force of rebels, under Early and Breckinridge, was not ten miles distant from the capital. No one denies now that the rebels could have marched in and taken Washington almost unimpeded. The Sixth Corps of the Army of the Potomac was en route to defend the city, but it was not quick enough.

The enemy was halted at Silver Springs, the country residence of the elder Blair, and very near the residence of Montgomery Blair. Upon the approach of the army the families of both

fled to Washington. The rebel officers searched the house and found in the cellar of Frank P. Blair's house a barrel of whisky. This did the business. Nearly all the officers became drunk on this whisky, and many of the men were in a like condition. Such an orgie was never known. The dresses of the ladies were taken possession of, and in them the officers masqueraded and held a jollification the whole night long, falling into a drunken slumber in the morning, and unable to do any duty whatever. Early and Breckinridge, riding up in the morning, saw the situation, and merely said: "It is too late," and so Washington was saved.—"Ramsdell," in *Philadelphia Press*.

### A Wonderful Canyon.

"Did you ever notice what a great whispering gallery the Grand Canyon of the Colorado is?" asked Judge Harison.

"Wonderful," said Judge Kennedy, as he placed his feet gently upon the table, and transferred a quid from his left to his right cheek.

"I was there some weeks ago," resumed the Justice, "and we made some experiments. One of the party fired off a gun near the needles, and when we got to Cottonwood, more than eighty-four miles away, we found the Town Marshal still on the lookout for the fellow who had been shooting in the city limits."

"It's got a fine echo, too," said Kennedy. "I was down at Fort Mojave along in February, and just before I left I got into a little row with a fellow and said he was no part of a gentleman. I said it rather loudly and noticed that the remark hung around the neighborhood pretty well; but when we stopped for dinner, twenty miles away, I'll own up I was surprised to find the rocks still call calling out 'part of a gentleman' in the same tone of voice that I had used, except possibly it sounded a little more husky."

"It's a queer country," said the genial Justice, "and, as you say, its echo is wonderful. I was down there along in the fall, and when I went back last month half the conversation we indulged in was still floating around promiscuously. I had made a verbal contract for a mining claim that the other party had tried to go back on, but I clinched him by getting a stenographer to take down the echo word for word which had been said six months before, and then I got affidavits from those who knew him that the voice was Jim's, and had him where he couldn't squeal. Wonderful thing, that canyon!"—*Leadville Democrat*.

### Amusing Fright.

"Buck fever" and "stage fright" resemble each other in that both paralyze—one the arm, the other the mouth. When an inexperienced hunter sees, for the first time, a deer bounding by him, he forgets to shoot. The would-be orator usually forgets what he wishes to say when for the first time he surveys an audience from a platform. A writer tells in the *Boston Transcript* two amusing stories of stage fright:

During the Harrison campaign, at a great political meeting at Faneuil Hall, a man from Tennessee by the name of Pear (pronounced Pare) had expressed a desire to speak.

Accordingly in due time he was called upon. Graciously rising, and with apparent eagerness, he came forward; holding up one finger to his audience, he began thus:

"I—Pear"—The assembled multitude patiently waited through a long pause for more, but this was all! Pear had sat down.

Another case is that of a gentleman of one of our large New England towns. Being much interested in phrenology, he proposed to give a lecture upon the subject. The time was announced, a large audience assembled, and the lecturer duly appeared. Upon a table was placed a cast of a head. Approaching this, and laying his hands affectionately upon it, he began:

"Ladies and gentlemen—This head—"

A long, long pause.

Fixedly but minutely he looked at his audience; so many heads (!) overcame him. He retired and sat down, while the people quietly laughed and dispersed.

A man at Ironton, Mo., was suddenly dispersed. A brass band was out serenading in that vicinity.—*Paris Beacon*.

An Editor's Testimonial.

A. M. Vaughan, editor of the Greenwich Review, Greenwich, Ohio, writes: "Last January I met with a very severe accident, caused by a runaway horse. I used almost every kind of salve to heal the wounds, which turned to running sores, but found nothing to do me any good till I was recommended Henry's Ointment Salve. I bought a box, and it helped me at once; and at the end of two months I was completely well. It is the best salve in the market, and I never fail of telling my friends about it, and urge them to use it whenever in need."

Abandoned Cases.

A comparatively large number of the cases which Dr. Starker & Paley, at 1109 Girard Street, Philadelphia, are successfully treating with Compound Urticaria Salve are known as abandoned or "deserted" cases. Many of them a class which no physician of any school would undertake to cure. They are, in fact, such as have run the gauntlet of experiment within the regular schools of medicine and quackery without, until between diseases and drugs the patient is reduced to the nadir and most deplorable condition. No treatment can be subjected to a severer test. Write for information in regard to its nature and action.

HAY-FEVER is a type of catarrh having peculiar symptoms. It is attended by an inflammatory condition of the mucous membranes of the nostrils, nose-drools and throat, affecting the lungs. An acrid mucus is secreted, the discharge is accompanied with a burning sensation. There are severe spasms of sneezing, frequent attacks of headache, watery and inflamed eyes. Ely's Cream Balm is a remedy founded on a correct diagnosis of this disease and can be depended upon. 50 cts. at drug-gists; 60 cts. by mail. Sample bottle by mail on request.

HAIR-DRESSINGS should be free from rancidity, should neither gum nor dry the hair, and should be of such a nature that the hair bulbs would receive strength. Carboline is the only one that seems to fill the bill.

CHAPPED Hands, Face, Pimples and rough Skin, cured by using JUNIPER TAR SOAP, made by CASWELL, HAZARD & CO., New York.

Skinny Men. "Wells' Health Renewer" restores health and vigor, cures Dyspepsia, Impotence. \$1.

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