

## JOHN KELLY.

THE REMARKABLE CAREER OF "THE BEST ABUSED MAN IN AMERICA."

**A Born Leader—Begins Work as Office Boy to the Elder Bennett—From a Mason and Grate Setter He Rises to a Seat in Congress.**

(Special Correspondence.)



New York, March 2.—This was the sign which hung from a modest two-story house in Mott street, New York, in 1844. It indicated the humble beginning of one who, twelve years later, was a member of congress, and who, for thirty years since then, has been one of the most prominent political figures of this city. His name is familiar to everybody, and his features have

been portrayed so frequently by the caricaturists that even children will recognize it. I know for a fact of the editor of an illustrated paper, who at one time instructed his artists to remember that when timely subjects did not present themselves, a cartoon on John Kelly was always in order, and I have seen him on a street car poring this very paper, and watched the merry twinkle in his eye when he found a humorous representation of himself. John's strong characteristic was his unostentatiousness, and for that reason people know very little about his private life.

Meeting Mr. J. Fairfax McLaughlin on Broadway the other day we talked about the old "boss." Mr. McLaughlin had been associated with Mr. Kelly for some thirty years and has published his life. He said: "Yes; I probably know more of Mr. Kelly than any living man. He was born in New York city, April 20, 1822. His father died when he was 8 years old.

When The New York Herald was in its infancy, young Kelly walked in to the office one day and asked the elder Bennett if he wanted an office boy. Bennett was a good judge of character and quick in deciding. He talked with the youth a few minutes, then told him to go to work. He became a great favorite with Bennett, and when at length he grew older and determined on learning a trade, so as to better support the large family that was depending on him, Mr. Bennett offered him strong inducements to remain, and on parting with him predicted that he would succeed anywhere. The elder Bennett was as strong a friend of Kelly's as the present Bennett is a bitter enemy. Kelly learned the trade of soapstone cutting and grate setting, at which he afterward made a considerable fortune. He proved to be a remarkably shrewd business man and his faith in the future of New York city was so great that with every \$200 or \$300 he would get, he bought a lot up town, these lots are worth to-day from \$5,000 to \$10,000, and Mr. Kelly is reported to be a millionaire. Though his charity has been distributed most secretly, it is estimated that he has dispensed a quarter of a million dollars in that way. When a young man John was notable as an athlete. The notorious John Morrison said of Kelly that he had the build of an ideal pugilist. Though the cartoonists have always represented him as a dumpy man, he is nearly six feet in height and weighs about 240 pounds. He ran with the "fire ladders" in his early days and made hosts of friends, who elected him alderman in 1853. Tweed, of ring fame, afterwards said of this body: "There never was a time before that you could not buy the board of aldermen, and if it was not for John Kelly's severity you could buy it now.



JOHN KELLY'S RESIDENCE, NEW YORK.

In 1854 he was elected to the thirty-fifth congress. He resigned his seat before his last term was completed to take the office of sheriff of this county, to which he had been elected. It was while in congress that Gen. Cass, President Buchanan's secretary of state, spoke of him as "Honest John Kelly," which he has been commonly called since. In 1858 he was chosen the candidate for the majority in opposition to Bill Tweed's Tammany Hall candidate, but an awful burden of domestic affliction in the loss of his wife and son compelled him to withdraw and take his two daughters—all that was left of his family—to Europe for his own health as well as theirs. He remained away three years; and during his absence New York city was given over wholly to the plunder of the Tweed ring. Prominent men like Mr. Tilden, Seymour, Hewitt and Belmont sought Mr. Kelly to help them in this crisis. He had vowed never to again enter politics. Their importunities continued for a year, till at last he entered the fight, and while Mr. Tilden and Charles O'Connor attacked the Tweed ring in the legislature and in the courts, Mr. Kelly had a hand to hand tussle with them in Tammany Hall, their citadel, and routed them, as is well known. This gave him a prestige which he has held since. An

idea of the tremendous power this ring wielded may be obtained from the fact that they gave employment to 12,000 persons and disbursed \$30,000,000 annually. In 1876 Mr. Kelly was appointed comptroller of the city, and not only stopped the debt of the city increasing, something unprecedented, but actually reduced it \$12,000,000 during his term of office. Mr. Kelly's career for the past ten years is more familiar to the reader. In private life he is the most convivial of companions. Temperate, witty, a good story teller and possessed of a flexible baritone voice, with which he has often enlivened political gatherings.

In 1876 Mr. Kelly re-married, and has two children, a boy and girl, to brighten his home. S. H. HORGAN.

### George Gould's Flare.

If any one of our fair maidens had hoped to draw into her net Mr. George Gould, she will be disappointed to hear of his engagement to Miss Edith Kingdon, of Daly's theatre. Although Mr. Gould has never been within a long distance of the inner circle, the fact that he is a millionaire's son, and therefore an excellent party, would make him welcome anywhere, and the news of his engagement may be a blow to those who have thought of him as a possible captive. He is to be congratulated on his taste. Miss Kingdon is a most charming girl—pretty, refined and vivacious.—Town Topics.

### OUR MAJOR GENERALS.

Those that Are and Those that Are Shortly to Be.

(Special Correspondence.)

CHICAGO, March 3, 1886.—The attention of newspaper reader has been called anew to the generals of our army, since the death of Gen. Hancock. There is a common impression that Phil Sheridan was promoted to the place from which Gen. Sherman retired in 1883, by reason of having reached the age of 62. This is the age at which commissioned officers are to be gently relegated by law to private life.

But Sheridan did not take Sherman's place. He is the last, so to speak, of our little army, but his title is that of lieutenant general, and his pay is \$11,000 a year. Sherman was the general of the army, with a pay of \$13,500 a year. This title and place were created after the last war. It was really done to provide for Gen. Grant. Gen. Grant's country was always providing for him. He at least could not say that republics were ungrateful. Grant was general of the army till his inauguration as president in 1869. Then the office and title devolved on his friend "Cump." Sherman, who some how never had the knack of getting on with the newspapers. The general's title has lapsed for the present. If anybody gets it anyway soon, it will of course be little Phil, whose manly round white head appears herewith.



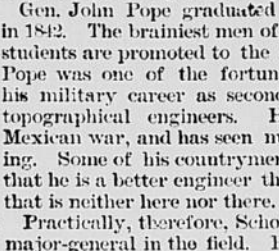
GEN. SHERIDAN.

The military question is now who is going to be major general in Hancock's place. The law limits the major generals to three. Their salary is \$7,500. Gen. Hancock was so hospitable that he could not live on this pay, and died poor. Since his death there remain of the major generals two, John M. Schofield and John Pope.

Gen. Pope has reached the age of 62, and goes out the 16th of this month, to live on his retired major general's pay of \$5,425 a year. Thus two of the major general's places are vacant. These officers are each at the head of one of the military divisions into which the United States is divided. Military division No. 1 is that of the Missouri, with headquarters at Chicago. It is commanded by Schofield. No. 2 is the military division of the Atlantic, headquarters New York. This is now without a head. No. 3 is the military division of the Pacific, commanded by Gen. Pope, headquarters San Francisco. Each division includes a number of departments. These are commanded by brigadier generals, of which the law allows six, no more. A brigadier general gets a salary of \$5,500.

Gen. John Pope graduated at West Point, in 1842. The brainiest men of the West Point students are promoted to the engineer corps. Pope was one of the fortunate. He began his military career as second lieutenant of topographical engineers. He was in the Mexican war, and has since much solid fighting. Some of his countrymen have a fancy that he is a better engineer than general, but that is neither here nor there.

Practically, therefore, Schofield is the only major-general in the field. His command is the most important in the country, comprising a slice down the middle of it, which takes in about two-thirds. He can go to New York city if he likes, being the senior major general. But he would go from a large department to a small and less important one, simply for the sake of being in New York. John McAllister Schofield was born in New York state, in 1831. He was born the same year Sheridan was, and graduated in the same class at West Point. He was for a while a schoolmaster, though he does not look it. He was professor of physics at West Point, and afterward at



GEN. POPE.

Washington university, St. Louis. He got his boom through distinction at the battle of Franklin, Tenn., in the late war. He was president, or whatever the proper military title corresponding to it is, at West Point for a time.

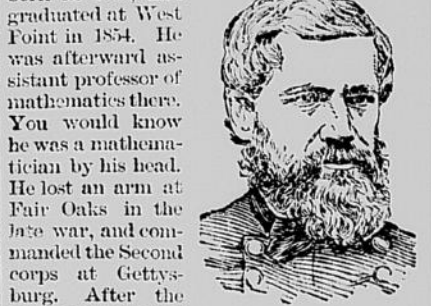
There will be two brigadier generals to step into the empty major general's shoes this month. They will be Gens. Terry and Howard. Gen. Terry is a brother of Rose Terry, the writer. He is now 58 years old, and will only have four years to enjoy his major general's triple stars. Gen. Terry was educated at the Yale Law school, and is the only one of the subjects of this sketch who is not a West Pointer. He is the man who captured Fort Fisher, in 1865. He is in Dakota.



GEN. TERRY.

Brig. Gen. Oliver Otis Howard is at present out in the department of the Platte. He was born in 1830, and graduated at West Point in 1854. He was afterward assistant professor of mathematics there. You would know he was a mathematician by his head. He lost an arm at Fair Oaks in the late war, and commanded the Second corps at Gettysburg. After the war he was detailed to serve as commissioner of the Freedmen's bureau, at Washington. In this connection his name has been mentioned in an unpleasant way, on account of the collapse of the Freedmen's bank, and a rank injustice thereby was done him.

JANET ELMER.



GEN. HOWARD.

NOTICE OF FINAL PROOF—Land Office at Fargo, D. T., Feb. 13, 1886. Notice is hereby given that the following named administrator has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of the claim and secure final entry thereof on the 30th day of April, 1886, viz: Peter A. Nelson, administrator of the estate of Christian G. Nelson, deceased, who filed D. T. No. 14,389, during his life-time for the south west quarter (sw 1/4) of sec. 32, tp. 13n, r. 20w, and names the following as his witnesses, viz: Benjamin B. Brown, Peter A. Melgard, John O. Ole, Carl Skarke, all of Cooperstown, Griggs county, D. T.

The testimony of witnesses to be taken before J. N. Jorgensen, clerk of the district court, at Cooperstown, Griggs county, D. T., on the 27th day of April, A. D. 1886, at his office. And that of said administrator before Hon. Register or Receiver of U. S. Land office, at Fargo, Dak., on April 30, 1886.

HORACE AUSTIN, Register. Wm. Glass, att'y. 9-14

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