

MONUMENT TO GEN. LEE.

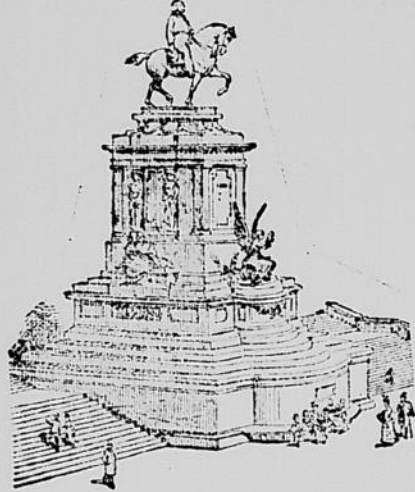
HOW THE BRONZE STATUE WILL LOOK WHEN COMPLETED.

The Richmond, Va., Ladies Give the Commission for Making It to Niehaus, of Cincinnati—American and Foreign Competitors.

[Special Correspondence.]
 RICHMOND, March 23.—America is rapidly filling up with statues of her great men. The country being so big it is a good thing we have great men enough to go around. The late war produced a vast crop of them on both sides of the line. There are major generals and brigadier generals without end. If we shouldn't have any more wars for the next 500 years we shall not have more than need up the great names the late war left at our disposal for marble immortality.

The revered leader of the lost cause himself is at length to have a suitable monument erected to his memory. It is to be here in the city of Richmond; very fittingly, too, for here the chivalrous, melancholy soldier made the last struggle for the south, knowing full well that it would be the last, and that it would be in vain, though fighting like a hero the while.

Richmond is a beautiful and interesting city, and is magnificently situated. A high table land descends by a steep bluff to the James river. As one approaches the river and looks up or down the valley, a splendid sweep of country bursts on the sight. Really it is one among the grand natural views of the country. At a suitable spot, where the plateau is somewhat broken, the equestrian statue of Gen. Robert E. Lee is to be placed.



PROJECTED STATUE OF GEN. R. E. LEE.
 The site of the monument is in a park. The foundation is to be a broad elevated terrace overlooking the city, the river and the valley. An avenue of approach to the statue has been designed which will make the effect still more imposing.

A massive pedestal supports the statue, which is to be heroic size, on horseback. The pedestal is of granite, with inlaid tablets of colored marble. On each of two opposite sides are two caryatides in granite, four in all. They represent peace, justice, religion and patriotism. Fame, war and charity are also figured in bronze. At opposite sides of the base are bas-reliefs of "The Departure" and "The Return."

Six years will be required to make the statue and set it upon its pedestal. This will require another trip to Europe on the part of Charles A. Niehaus, the fortunate sculptor who got the commission. It has not been long since he returned from the old world with his completed statue of Garfield for Cincinnati. Every time an American artist obtains an order for any fine work in his native country he must go abroad to make it. America has not the facilities. For stone we have not the skilled marble cutters, if indeed we have the fine marbles. For bronzes we have not the art foundries. Americans with fine bronzes to execute usually go to Munich to the government foundry there.

The history of this Lee monument is interesting. Gen. Lee died in October, 1870. Three days after his death some Richmond ladies met at a private house and formed an association to raise funds to erect a memorial to him. The south was very poor then, especially Virginia, and ill prepared to subscribe for anything outside of the actual necessities of life. Nevertheless, Virginia contributed largely. The people of Georgia, who are called the Yankees of the south, also gave generously. Other states helped.

At length the ladies' committee opened negotiations for designs. This was a number of years after the project was first set on foot. A prize of \$2,000 was offered for the best design for the monument, \$1,000 for the second best, and an honorable mention for the third. Artists of all nationalities were permitted to compete at length. Fourteen sculptors entered designs for the prizes. France, Germany, Italy and Switzerland were represented among the foreign artists. Some of the foreigners' designs were exquisite, but they did not seem to catch the true idea of the soldier who was to be commemorated, nor would their monuments have suited the site chosen.



CHARLES A. NIEHAUS.

Niehaus, the successful competitor, is a young man, only 30 years old. Though born in Cincinnati, he is of a German family. It will probably take a good while for a great sculptor to be developed from the simon pure Yankee blood. It can make wooden clogs and sewing machines, but it is not artistic, and its best friend cannot deny that.

The young man began life a poor boy. He commenced to learn wood engraving when 15 years old. But marble chiseling had a strange fascination for him. Even when trying to cut artistic designs in wood something seemed always to whisper that there his field

and fortune lay. Now longing to work in stone at length became so strong in him that he left the engraving trade, and entered that of stone cutting. He worked in a regular marble factory, making tombstones, not to put too fine a point upon it. Here he soon began to design monuments. The first that attracted considerable notice was an ideal design of a fireman, seven feet high, for an interior town in his native state. Ohio fostered her young sculptor, and has a right to be proud of him. The success of Niehaus' marble fireman decided him to go to Europe and study for a sculptor. He spent a number of years there, mostly in Munich.

SARAH KING

THE MANDOLIN CRAZE.

The Latest Frenk of Fashionable Society. Women—Pianos and Banjos Abandoned. [Special Correspondence.]

NEW YORK, March 23.—The young people of fashionable society are simply children of larger growth. This is discerned in the shallowness of their conversation and exhibited in the vagaries of their tastes. No sooner they acquire one fad than they quickly tire of it and look around for some other toy. In this exclusive set in society there is but little originality of thought, so that if one of their number but stumbles against a novelty in the way of amusement it is likely to develop into a craze for a season and be as quickly forgotten. A dozen years ago "Jim" Bennett fitted up a hall and introduced roller skating. It became the rage that winter, but was not heard of afterwards until its recent popular revival. So it was with polo, which was brought over here by this same eccentric newspaper proprietor. It was considered an essential an accomplishment for the duke of that day that this continent and Europe were scouring to find ponies with low enough draft to permit the rider's feet to touch the ground while playing the game. To-day it is remembered only by the name given to the grounds here and in Newport, which were then devoted to it. Then came bicycling, fox hunting and walking as fashionable sports. The present youth's mind seems to turn to horse riding. With the young ladies, the various franks in which their tastes exhibit themselves are too variable to be easily defined, but certain it is that the latest craze is mandolin playing.



A SPANISH MANDOLIN PLAYER.

It was not long since that the banjo was the rage, when all the negro minstrel-looking chaps in town that could raise a respectable suit of clothes were in demand as teachers. What possessed society girls to take up the banjo is as easily answered as the question, Who assailed Mr. Patterson? The banjo, besides being an imperfect instrument at best, is the one that affords the least satisfactory accompaniment to the popular airs of the day. Then it is not likely that their delicate fingers could ever become sufficiently callous to withstand the painful wear on the strings. So it is likely that it was for this last reason that the mandolin was adopted, as the strumming on the strings is performed with what is called a plectrum, instead of the delicate fingers. The mandolin is an instrument of Spanish origin, and was possibly brought to our attention of our public first by the numerous troupes of Spanish students who visit this country. It has eight strings, strung in couples, representing the same tone, so that the strings themselves represent but four notes. The object of the double string is to produce the trill upon which the effect largely depends. Mandolins vary in price from \$5 to \$200, and it is said that one factory in Connecticut is running night and day, turning out the "unimported" mandolins that average about \$25 in price. With the rage for mandolins came the necessity for instructors, and it is astonishing the number that have appeared, and the slight knowledge of English they possess.



THE AMERICAN MANDOLIN PLAYER.

These Mandolin maniacs are mostly Italians, who withal roar "Ma! ze banjos no good. Ze mandolin is a better instrument, and a compensation of the popularity of their instrument is a corresponding one in the usual string of mandolins and violins, or on mandolins and guitars. The artist has painted his name a little, then in the above picture, and portrayed the singer as he appeared but a few years ago in his native country, before he was shaven, and covered into the broadcloth he wears at present. And these are the gentlemen who are now admitted into the most fashionable parties. The artist has also caught exceedingly well the awkward manner in which the instrument is handled by the American amateur. This primitive instrument itself is as much out of place in the elaborate surroundings of a fashionable parlor as its compass is ill adapted to the requirements of modern music, and it cannot be long before it will be abandoned and hung in company with its predecessor, the banjo,

as a piece of wall decoration, and the future beaus will have it pointed out to them as one of the instruments on which the young ladies could play so "lovely." But for the present, inexorable fashion must have its fancy gratified, and when the dusky descendant of the Caesars finds his present occupation gone, he will let his beard assume its old-time growth, once more sling the strap of the neglected hand organ across his shoulders and proceed to grind out his living as before. S. H. H.

One of "Old Abe's" Stories.

Said Lingo: "Some friends are opposed to an accommodation, because the south began the trouble and is entirely responsible for the consequences, be they what they may. This," he added, "reminds me of a story. Out in Illinois, where I lived, there was a vicious bull in a pasture, and a neighbor passing through a field, the enraged animal took after him. The man ran to a tree, and got there in time to save himself, and being able to run around the tree faster than the bull, managed to seize him by the tail. His bullship, seeing himself at a disadvantage, pawed the earth and scattered gravel for a while, then broke into a full run, bellowing at every jump, the man holding on to the tail and cursing him, and asking the question, 'D— you, who commenced this fuss? Now, our plain duty is to settle this fuss we have before us, without reference to who commenced it.'—Lamborn's Life of Lincoln.

CHARLES S. PARNELL'S MOTHER.

The Likeness and a Sketch of Mrs. Delia Stewart Parnell. [Special Correspondence.]

NEW YORK, March 23.—They say that Mrs. Parnell, the heroic mother of the champion of Ireland, is ill and dying here in New York. It is said, too, that she is in reduced circumstances. She is entitled to sympathy from the well wishers, both of America and Ireland. She is herself an American, being the daughter of Commodore Stewart, who commanded the old frigate Constitution in the war of 1812, and with it captured several British vessels. The Constitution was called "Old Ironsides." This name was given to the commodore's estate at Bordentown, N. J.

Charles Stewart Parnell ought to be somebody. He has a noble blood in him from both sides. On the Irish side the Parnell family have been remarkable for generations. There were soldiers, there were distinguished mechanical geniuses, there were learned scholars and writers, there were strong-minded women. Sophia Parnell Evans, great aunt of the liberator of Ireland, was a housewife. Her face looked like one. She was a woman of splendid brain and executive ability, and a debt of the old school, being an outspoken follower of Voltaire and Hume and Gibbon. Through her urging her husband entered politics, and had a victorious career as a Whig, she being throughout a Miss Roland to him.

Of such blood comes Charles Stewart Parnell.

His American mother has always been a zealous supporter of liberty for Ireland. She has been an active worker in the Irish National league. On one occasion, at a meeting for Ireland in the Academy of Music, New York, the whole vast audience rose to their feet and cheered her when she made her appearance in one of the boxes. For a few minutes the speaker on the stage was quite lost sight of, and round after round of applause rang to the dome of the great building, and for this one Irish woman.

She was a warm advocate of the election of President Cleveland, and wrote a letter giving reasons why he should receive the votes of Irish-Americans. She thought the Republican party would do more for Ireland than the Republican world.

Later Mrs. Parnell fell into financial difficulties. Her neighbors broke into her grounds at Bordentown, destroying fences, cutting shrubbery and killing and maiming farm stock. It was supposed that this was done at the instigation of political enemies. Then other and deeper troubles came. There was a sheriff's sale ordered at the Old Ironsides home itself to satisfy a judgment for debt. In some way this sale was stopped, I believe, as nothing has been heard of it in some time. This I know, however: Papers were circulated in New York city asking for subscriptions to relieve the poverty of Mrs. Parnell. Her picture was printed upon the back—the very picture from which this illustration is taken. How it happens one may be permitted to wonder. The death of Miss Fanny Parnell was a great blow to her mother, and it may be that since then Mrs. Parnell is too prostrated to look after her financial affairs. But her famous son, in Ireland, is a job man. Why should charities be asked to relieve the wants of his mother in America? ELIZA ARCHARD.

A Senatorial Orator.

[Special Correspondence.]

WASHINGTON, March 23.—Senator John E. Kenna, of West Virginia, who delivered the sober oration by his maiden speech, is the youngest member of the body. His speech was a defense of the present administration to give the same his reasons for making proposals from office. He talked for three hours extemporaneously, and it is seldom that a speaker is listened to with the attention that the young senator received. Even Senator Edwards, on whom this speech was a most scathing attack, did the young senator the honor of remaining throughout his oration. When the tall West Virginian arose it was evident that his fellow-members were eager to see what sort of a figure he would cut as a speaker, but he engaged their interest immediately, and it was noticed that they settled themselves back in their chairs as if to say, "It is worth hearing out. And it was. At its close he was congratulated on all sides, and it is more than likely that he will be heard with even more effect hereafter. Senator Kenna is a tall, heavy, loose-jointed man, though slow in his movements, with a clean shaven face, blue eyes, chestnut hair and a pleasant expression. He is apparently careless about his dress. He is but 38, while his opponent, Senator Ed-



JOHN E. KENNA.

munds, is 58. The latter looks like an old patriarch, while Senator Kenna suggests the young apostle. He was born in West Virginia, and was but 13 and working on a farm when the civil war broke out. He entered the Confederate service, was wounded in 1864 and was surrendered in 1865. He then entered St. Vincent's college at Wheeling, and from there his career commenced. He has been a practicing lawyer for the last eighteen years. He was elected to the Forty-fifth, Forty-sixth, Forty-seventh and Forty-eighth congresses, when he was elected to the senate to succeed Henry G. Davis, and took his seat in 1883. While in the house of representatives he proved no ordinary antagonist.

PERRY BARTON.

A WASHINGTON LETTER.

FURTHER CHANGES IN THE PERSONNEL OF A FAMOUS COMMISSION.

The Civil Service Commission is Again Rearranged—This Time It is with a View, It is Expected, of Forming a Permanent Body.

[Special Correspondence.]

WASHINGTON, March 23.—The civil service commission of the present administration has become one of the most prominent features of the government, not so much from the duties it performs, but from the success of its members in keeping their names before the public. Not only has the make-up of the commission been altered, but the rumored resignation of its prominent members came with a frequency that became, to say the least, monotonous. Now another transformation has taken place in the replacement of two of its members with the intention, it is expected, of forming a permanent commission. The new members are John H. Oberly, of Illinois, and Charles Lyman, of Connecticut. They take the places of William L. Trenholm and Norman B. Eaton, respectively, the remaining member of the commission being Alfred P. Edgerton, of Indiana. They have all been college graduates in their lives and ago therefore admirably fitted for high school board examinations, which is about what their office amounts to. Charles Lyman was born in the New England states. He served in the army during a portion of the late war, but was removed by Secretary Stanton before its close. In 1864 he was made a clerk in the treasury department, and in 1877 became chief clerk.

In 1883 he was appointed chief of the civil service examiners, by President Arthur, from which he was appointed to his present position. Mr. Lyman has always been an enthusiast on the subject of civil service reform. He was an active member of the civil service board appointed by Gen. Grant during his administration. John H. Oberly, of Illinois, the newly appointed head of the civil service commission, comes from an old Pennsylvania family, being a great-grandson of Alexander Hamilton, the founder of Schuylkill county in Lebanon county. His father was born in Schuylkill county, where John H. Oberly was born in 1835. From Cincinnati the Oberlys went to Wooster, a small town in central Ohio. Here young Oberly learned the printing business, and for a short period owned and edited a Democratic newspaper. Two or three years before the war he went to Memphis, Tenn., but was driven from there in April, 1861, because of his adherence to the Union cause. He returned to Ohio in 1862 and married. The next year he went to Illinois, where he has since resided. He was in 1871 and 1874 a member of the Illinois legislature, and is the author of important railroad legislation in that state. He declined reelection to the legislature, and was appointed by Governor Culham (Republican) a member of the railroad commission. Subsequently he became chairman of the Democratic state committee. In 1885 President Cleveland appointed him superintendent of Indian schools. His term of service in that place has been short, but it is certain that the administration of the Indian school system has materially improved since he took charge of it.

The transfer of Mr. Trenholm from the civil service commission to be comptroller of the currency places him in a position for which he is better fitted. William L. Trenholm was a commission merchant until made civil service commissioner last November. He is about 50 years of age, and was warmly endorsed for the place of commissioner by leading friends of the civil service reform movement north and south. He is a son of the late Secretary Trenholm of the treasury of the Southern Confederacy, and was brought into prominence lately by his address before numerous bankers' conventions on the silver question and his writings on the same subject, which have attracted wide attention, one paper having been read at the bankers' meeting in Chicago. He served a short term under Secretary Lamar as one of the experts of the labor bureau.

PERRY BARTON.

Very Fast the Hand Travels. Somebody says he has discovered that the hand of a penman who writes thirty-five words in a minute travels over sixteen feet of space in that time, providing he dots all his i's and crosses all his th's.

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