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HON. SIMON CAMERON.

HIS 87TH BIRTHDAY PASSED HAPPILY AT HIS OLD HOME.

A Lively Talk About Old Times—In Perfect Health and Spirits, He Would be Quite Equal to Being Senator Again.

HARRISBURG, Pa., March 30.—Ex-Senator Simon Cameron, of this state, has just had another birthday. He is a year older than this century, being now 87. Yet he is hale and merry, full of enthusiasm, and enjoying life far more than his son does, if accounts of John Donald's dyspepsia and delicate health are true.

In fact, if it wasn't so much bother, that gray old boy, Gen. Simon Cameron, could be a United States senator to-day just as well as ever. He is living quietly at his beautiful old country home on the banks of the Susquehanna, near this city. For sixty years he has practically carried the politics of Pennsylvania in his pocket. In a monarchy of the old time he would have been a maker of kings. He has been, in fact, a maker of presidents. He made possible the nomination of Van Buren for the vice-presidency in Jackson's time, he made Buchanan senator from Pennsylvania, he turned over the Pennsylvania votes to Lincoln in 1860, in the convention, and nominated him; and again, in 1864, he came home from Russia to renominate Lincoln.



EX-SENATOR SIMON CAMERON.

Simon Cameron was the poorest of poor boys. He who was to be adjutant general of Pennsylvania, United States senator for eighteen years, minister to Russia, secretary of war, railroad builder and railroad president was the son of a tailor who had more children than customers. They were so poor that Simon was put to live out with one of the neighbors when he was 10 years old. There is something pathetic in the story of his early struggles. From his mother he gets the strength and courage that has led him to success.

He learned the printing trade, and wandered to Washington, where he put into type congressional debate in 1821, "by the light of a tallow candle," as he himself says. He worked twelve hours a day and got \$10 a week pay. But he had a liking for presidents even then, and though only a "jour" printer, while in Washington he made the acquaintance of President Monroe, and he has known personally every president since. It would not be easy for a jour printer to be on friendly terms with a president to-day. At the age of 24 he was elected public printer of Pennsylvania. Before that, however, he had been a newspaper editor. He went with the governor of Pennsylvania to meet Gen. Lafayette in 1825. Besides the other irons he had in the fire, he began to take contracts for canal building. He got his start in life from a canal running from Lake Pontchartrain to New Orleans. President Jackson was about to be renominated, but he wished to defeat John C. Calhoun for vice-president. This he did by calling a national nominating convention, the first ever held in the United States. Cameron had begun life as a Democrat, and Jackson summoned him home from his canal building at New Orleans to look after Pennsylvania. Cameron was a leader of men from the beginning.



SIMON CAMERON'S HOME.

He was a delegate to that first convention. There were only four states more than the original thirteen then.

On the formation of the Republican party, in 1856, Cameron joined it. He has worked for it with enthusiasm ever since. He had been a Democratic United States senator under Polk. Buchanan had been senator before him, but went into Polk's cabinet. He asked Cameron who should succeed him.

"If I am not mistaken, I will," answered Simon, pert enough.

And he did succeed him, but Buchanan never liked him afterwards.

Mr. Cameron admits modestly that he had a talent for money making. But he also had a talent for politics, and he could not let that alone. Between one and the other he has passed his life "a busy but pleasant one," he says. It was on Simon's own recommendation that Edwin M. Stanton succeeded him as secretary of war in Lincoln's cabinet. Chase and Seward had conservative, not to say timid, notions about carrying on the war. Cameron was for bold and thorough-going measures. So there was a disagreement and Cameron became a minister to Russia. But Lincoln could not do without his plunger of campaigns. Simon came home. Some of those whose names we revere as patriots now—Chase, Seward and Ben Wade among them—were trying to defeat Lincoln for the second term. Lincoln sadly and anxiously talked with Cameron about it. Cameron said: "Why, Mr. President, don't you remember what was done when Andrew Jackson was a candidate for the second time? They went around and got the legislature of every state in the Union to sign a paper asking him to be a candidate for re-election. This created such a sentiment in his favor that no other man could stand against him. I shall go to Pennsylvania to-

night and it shall be the first state to start the ball."

It was done, and in a very short time nearly every state in the Union had done likewise. The great wire-puller then went back to Washington to see the president. He came in during a reception at the Executive Mansion, when hundreds of persons were passing in a line to shake hands with the president, who saw his faithful organizer approaching. He, Lincoln, wore white cotton gloves. He waved one gaunt white hand in the air and cried out: "Cameron, three more states in to-day!"

All this and more the veteran told the newspaper correspondent who visited him on his 87th birthday. SARAH KING.

COL. NICK SMITH AFTER OUR MARY.

Twice a Widower, but He Has a Mortgage on Beauty.

St. Louis, March 24.—Col. Nicholas Smith does not hesitate to say in his modest way that he is the most beautiful of living men. There is reason to believe that he thinks also that he is the most beautiful man that ever did live. Like Grosvenor, in the celebrated opera of "Patience," he has a mortgage on beauty. In the privacy of his chamber he, too, wrings his hands and exclaims: "Curses on me fatal attractions!"

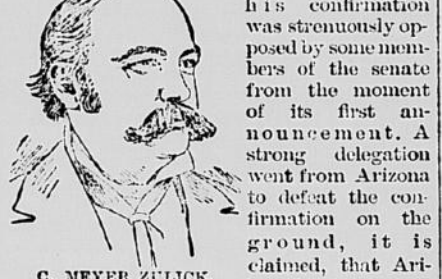
He is 44 years old and does his snow white hair in quince seed lotion to make it curl. He is tall and black eyed, and a native of Kentucky. His first wife was a wealthy woman, it is said, and he spent her money. In process of time he married Horace Greeley's daughter Ida, and spent her fortune too. He likewise made away with that of her aunt, Mrs. Cleveland, who now lives on a small pension allowed her by Reid, of The Tribune. Miss Gabrielle Greeley supports the young Smiths left by her dead sister Ida.

Col. Nicholas Smith spent his wives' money. Rumor declares that this doubled and twisted widower is now crazy to marry "Our Mary" Anderson. He followed her to Louisville, thence to this city. He started to follow her to Chicago, too, and got as far as the railway station. There his money gave out, or something, and he paused. It is about time for him to get some more money to be beautiful on, and Mary has a nice plum laid away. Her private secretary, an Englishman named Abud, gives an amusing account of Col. Smith, unless The Chicago Tribune reporter made the story up, which he probably did. "Yes," said Mr. Abud, "I remember this Col.—er—Smith. We played three nights at Louisville, and I believe he occupied a box at two of the performances. He is an old schoolfellow of Dr. Griffin's, and was merely presented to Miss Anderson, and I didn't hear anything of this sort of nonsense. When Dr. Griffin and I were standing in the rotunda of the hotel at St. Louey"—(the first part of this interview is presented in the United States language, to save time) "one evening, I er—said to him, you know, 'Why, doctah, there comes that er—extraordinary er—man.' For this er—Smith was standing there beside us, you know. He attended some of the paw-fawnances at St. Louey and was at the stah— I mean deppo, you know—when we left St. Louey, but he can't have come to Chicago weally, because he'd have been sure to have been seen by some of us, you know. The man was a most dreadful boah," vouchsafed Mr. Abud, in conclusion. "He was continually begging us to condole with him on the life-long misfortune of having women perpetually falling er—in love with him. I weally had, as you would say in Amewlican, no use for him." MORTIMER WARREN.

The New Governor of Arizona.

The successor of Frederick A. Trillo as governor of Arizona is C. Meyer Zulick, of Newark, N. J. His term of office began in February last, but his confirmation was strenuously opposed by some members of the senate from the moment of its first announcement. A strong delegation went from Arizona to defeat the confirmation on the ground, it is claimed, that Arizona believe in the doctrine of home rule and that Governor Zulick's way of doing business since he has assumed the duties of the office may do very well for the east, but they will not answer for the wild west. The salary attached to the office is but \$2,000 a year. Yet ten times that amount has already been spent in efforts to prevent Governor Zulick drawing it.

C. MEYER ZULICK.



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