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GEN. F. E. SPINNER.

The Old "Watch Dog" of the United States Treasury.

The news of the recent illness of ex-United States Treasurer Spinner brought regrets to all who have ever known him either in a business or a social way, for he was a straightforward business man and a genial friend and companion. But none



Spinner

will feel more sincere sorrow over the news of his ill health than the women employes of the treasury department, and in fact of the whole government. For it was Gen. Spinner who broke down the barrier which prevented their performing clerical work for the government. This occurred during the war when the regular clerks were disappearing to enlist in the army, and it looked as if there were not going to be men enough to go around. Then it was that the chivalric Gen. Spinner suggested to President Lincoln that an opportunity be given women to take the men's places where possible. It is astonishing when we look at it to think of the opposition this idea met with. But Spinner gained his point, and the entrance of women into the government service may be looked upon as a "war measure" just as Ben Butler's suggestion to make the "darkies" contrabands.

Gen. Spinner was born in New York state in 1812. His father was a clergyman and the pastor of the Mohawk Valley bank for twenty years. He gave his son a classical education. He learned several trades and then embarked as a merchant. He was appointed and held responsible positions in the New York custom house from 1835 to 1838. He was elected to the Thirty-fourth congress as an anti-slavery Democrat, and re-elected to the Thirty-fifth and Thirty-sixth congresses, though he was elected to the latter as a Republican. On March 16, 1861, President Lincoln appointed him treasurer of the United States, soon after which his wonderful autograph on the paper money became a welcome visitor in the households of the land. This signature, which we reproduce in fac-simile, will always remain one of the curiosities of chirography. Since the general's sojourn in Florida during the past ten years, it was remarked that the alligators avoided his locality. Why this was could not be determined, until one day a large "gator" was noticed crawling out on the bank of a bayou where the general had, as was his habit, inscribed his name with his cane in the soft mud. The alligator stopped when he came to the signature, looked at it in a puzzled sort of way and then dashed back into the bayou as if the mysterious hieroglyphics portended some terrible calamity for him, at least this is the way the story goes.

Gen. Spinner retired to private life July 1, 1875. When he did so all the wealth in the United States treasury till had to be counted. Then it was that a deficiency was discovered amounting to one cent. To account for this a memorable recounting took place, requiring days upon days, until the missing cent was found and the general retired from the treasury, leaving balanced books.

ALWAYS ON HIS BEIGIN OF UNIVERSITY and his Alway he worked fifty years without interruption. He left his great task at the last unfinished, but in such a forward state that other scholars may take it up and complete it. His system was called panarchy.



STEPHEN PEARL ANDREWS.

Mr. Andrews was born in Templeton, Mass., in 1812, the son of a Baptist preacher. He graduated at Amherst college and studied law. In the practice of his profession he went to New Orleans. He speedily there gained reputation and wealth as a powerful lawyer. He was it was first introduced the celebrated lawsuits of Myra Clarke Gaines to the courts. But in New Orleans also slavery so revolted him and aroused him that he became a burning Abolitionist. Texas was then an independent republic. Mr. Andrews went there and used all the powers of his intellect to prevent its being a slave-holding state. He failed. Then he went to England to raise money to buy off the slaves, and get the British government to interfere for freedom. This aroused the attention of the United States government, and President Tyler annexed Texas to the Union. That in turn originated the Mexican war. Stephen Pearl Andrews may be said to have caused it. The pantarch died in New York city at the residence of his son. He had made and lost several fortunes.

President Chicago University.



DR. W. R. HARPER.

The newly elected president of the Chicago university is Dr. W. R. Harper, whose portrait is presented herewith. Though youthful in appearance, Dr. Harper has achieved a reputation for the clearness of his intellect and the profound erudition he has already attained. He had under consideration an excellent position offered him by the authorities of Yale college, when his name was suggested to turn the waning fortune of the Chicago university. At a meeting of the trustees of this university, he was unanimously elected president. He will bring to this college his vigorous talent as well as strong pecuniary support.

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN J. O'NEILL,
Chairman of the Labor Committee of the House of Representatives.



JOHN J. O'NEILL.

A valiant champion of the cause of the workingman is John J. O'Neill, the St. Louis congressman. He is chairman of the very important committee of labor of the house of representatives. Just now he has his hands full in investigating the causes of the recent labor troubles throughout the country and principally in his own city.

Mr. O'Neill was a St. Louis boy, and will be 40 years old on June 25. He received a common school education, and was in the civil service of the government during the war, after which he was engaged in manufacturing pursuits. For the indomitable energy, perseverance and pluck which is shown so well in his portrait he was elected to the legislature of Missouri in 1872 and was twice re-elected. The workingmen's party nominated him for congress in 1878, but he withdrew from the four of his party's nominees through a lack of defeat. He was elected to the Forty-eighth congress as a Democrat, and immediately received a place on the labor committee of which he became the head on his election to the present congress.

Mr. Gould's Country Home.

Mr. Gould's country residence at Irvington was considered by its owner, George Dawson Merritt, the most elegant, attractive and thoroughly equipped summer residence in the country. Mr. Gould paid \$500,000 for the property in 1881, and it is now worth \$1,000,000 at a low estimate. The house is Gothic in style, and is 3,000 feet from the Hudson river, commanding a magnificent view. It has twenty rooms above the basement. On the second floor is a fine art gallery extending the entire depth of the house. Amongst the steward at Irvington, has been in Mr. Gould's employ for over twenty years, and receives a salary of \$4,000. The lawn about the house is unobscured, and next to the main building is a long and narrow terrace, a quarter of a mile long. There are in the estate 510 acres, 300 of which are woodland. The live stock consists of twenty horses, six mules, a herd of 500 head of Scotch sheep and a lot of head of cattle. English meadows are the place constantly, and in summer the number is nearly a hundred. The potatoes and conservatory cover a space 100 feet long and 450 wide, and with their contents are valued at \$250,000. The taxes on it amount to \$250 a month.—New Orleans Picayune.

The Actor Irving and His Children.

Charles Irving and his children were set up for hours in the city. We entered into an argument, and in the midst of the discussion I admitted that as Charles I, his father, to his children was so realistic in affected me to tears. "So it does me," he replied, and then in the cold, gray morning light he told me the story of his early struggles and despair, and how, when light had come, his wife, unable to agree with him, had gone he knew not where with all his little ones, who were hers under English law. "When on the stage," he said, "I say good-by to the children and kiss them; it is not Charles but Henry Irving you see before you, who, amid the applause, the glitter and the glare, is thinking of his own lost babies." By recent papers I see that Irving and his wife have become reconciled, and the "babies," who have now grown to be strapping young fellows have just made a successful debut on the stage.—John C. Freund.

The English Preacher Spurgeon.

The famous Spurgeon has the gout, or, rather, the gout has the famous Spurgeon. 'Tis an honest melody, and yet it should spare preachers. Probably Mr. Spurgeon is expiating the sins of some thirsty and portly ancestor who lived in the days when port was fit to drink and men were fit to drink it. It is a consolation to any Englishman to feel that, if he must have a disease, he has an hereditary one. Besides, the gout has a fondness for great company. The mightiest monarch, awful to his foes, must bow when grim Arthritis nips his toes. —New York Sun.

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