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THE LATE ANN S. STEPHENS.

Rich, Old and Famous. She Wrote Till the Last.

The death of Mrs. Ann S. Stephens, the veteran novelist, will recall to many a person now middle-aged the absorbing interest which, years and years ago, he read "Fashion and Famine," "The Rejected Wife," "The Gold Dredge" and other novels by the same author. Over fifty years ago that industrious pen began to wag, and it has kept at it without intermission ever since till now.

Ann Sophia Stephens died at Newport, R. I., Aug. 23, aged 73 years. She wrote more than thirty books in a period of twenty years. These, with a son and daughter, who were with her when she died, she leaves to posterity.

She was probably born in Derby, Conn. Her maiden name was Winterbotham, her ancestry English. She was the first American woman novelist of note, and if the truth must be told, there are none among the various female novelists of the present generation who can write a better story.

The lady was married very young to Edward Stephens, and went to live in Portland, Me. She had written even before this early marriage. In the old time it was thought that women were fit to write only verses, therefore all female literary aspirants, like Mrs. Wiggs,

"dropped into poetry." Mrs. ANN S. STEPHENS followed the fashion. Her first published writings over her own name were poems. One of them was "The Apple Tree."

She was editor of The Portland Magazine awhile. Then she came to New York and Frank Leslie engaged her as editor of the first magazine he ever published. She wrote serial novels for it, and became thereby so popular that the Petersons of Philadelphia engaged her to write novels thereafter exclusively for them. She was with Frank Leslie as editor of The Ladies' Companion four years, then she went to Philadelphia to edit Graham's Magazine. After that she took charge of Peterson's Magazine and was its editor over a quarter of a century.

She started two magazines of her own, but they did not have a distinguished success, and were soon scuttled out. Her greatest novel was "Fashion and Famine." It went through three London editions, and three different translations were made of it in French within a year from the time it first appeared.

All her books except three were novels. These were two early volumes giving instruction in fancy needlework and a "Pictorial History of the War for the Union." This was published in two thick volumes in 1865. It is said that Mrs. Stephens was the anonymous author of the famous story "That Husband of Mine," and that she got money enough from it to buy a handsome house in Washington. Ann S. Stephens was the first woman who ever received a message across the ocean. It was sent by Queen Victoria.

The long ago became well to do from her novel writing, which is more than one author in ten thousand can do. For many years she has lived in a pleasant home of her own in New York city. Her husband died some years ago. She was an indefatigable worker and a kindly, bright, good woman.

OFFICERS OF THE LAND LEAGUE.

President, John Fitzgerald, of Nebraska, and Treasurer, the Rev. Dr. O'Reilly.

John Fitzgerald, the present president of the Land League, elected at the recent convention in Chicago, is one of Nebraska's millionaires. Forty-two years ago he landed in New York, a poor emigrant boy. He began work as railroad laborer in the east, and worked west in laying down the paths of the locomotive.

He started two magazines of his own, and by laying away little savings at the same time he soon became able to undertake contracts for himself, which prospered, and he finally settled in Nebraska, and is now identified with nearly every prominent industry of the state. But notwithstanding all his prosperity, he is the man of the hour.

John Fitzgerald was during his early days. On his arrival at the Grand Pacific hotel in Chicago the clerk thought that the countryman, who wished to register, was evidently going beyond his means, little thinking that the name he placed on the register could render valid a check of sufficient amount to cover the cost of the hotel. Mr. Fitzgerald has to-day at least \$2,000 upon his pay rail. He has always contributed largely to the funds which have had for their object the amelioration of burdens on the people in Ireland. He cares so little for fame that he begged to be excused from the publication of his portrait.

The re-elected treasurer of the land league is the Rev. Dr. Charles O'Reilly, of Detroit.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

FARMERS

WHIDDEN BROTHERS'

Having purchased the stock and premises formerly owned and occupied by Bowden & Buck, will remove from their old stand on Lenham Avenue to their new quarters on Burrell Avenue; where with more room and better accommodations they will be able to serve their customers to a better advantage than heretofore. Balance of summer goods from both stocks, will be closed out low, to make room for a large and complete line of fall goods, now purchased, and on the road.

WHIDDEN BROS.

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SANBORN & COOPERSTOWN RAILROAD.

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—T H E —

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FARM LETTER HEADS,

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