## THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH, PHILADELPHIA, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1869. WINDYS THAS MHT

## GEORGE D. PRENTICE.

From Lippincett's Magazine for November.

Mr. Prentice's forte as an editor consists in his wit and sarcasm. At his table, with his spare notes and a rapid amanuensis before him, he pulls forth strings of witty sayings from his brain as a magician pulls forth coils of silken ribbons from a hat. Whenever a point suggests itself he will jot it down no matter where he is or what accommodations for jotting down are at hand. He generally has a pencil and a slip of paper, sometimes only the debris of an old envelope, about him, but for a desk he will with could readiness make need bis not of a lead wall or a lamp-post. The note, consisting probably of only word, is then consigned to apparent oblivion in the depths of a pocket or the inside of his lint, to be brought out only by chance among a number of boon companions in the same place. When he feels inclined to wit, he takes from receptacles where he has placed his more fortunate y notes, thick slips of tiny manuscripts, with bare suggestions of a joke. On these he commences a process of incubation that is quite He dictates in a slow and serious manner, with his eyes fixed alternately on his own litthe slip of paper and on the ceiling, punctuating as he goes, never halting to supply a word or two to embellish a figure, but straight on as fluently as Wondell Phillips or Susan B. Anthony answers a retort. His conversational powers, strangely enough, are very de-He becomes painfully dull and ficient. awkward when brought into brilliant Introduce him to a noted company. wit, and although he may laugh at the jokes of his new acquaintance, the laugh is partially forced, and his replies, if he attempts any, are irrelevant and pointless. He is shy of anaking any attempt at wit and humor, and scents strongly inclined to dis-counterance such an attempt of the part of another. His wit is apparent only in the colnmns of a newspaper, for it requires to be pruned and finished before it is presentable. He does not say things that are bright, but

he thinks and writes a great many. During the days just preceding the way. Mr. Prentice became a great favorite with the hardy backwoodsmen of Kentucky, who usually came to see him when they were in Louisville on business; not that they were acquainted with him, , but, as they themselves would tell him, just to see what he looked like. Such visits were of course peculiarly painful to a sensitive nature, though Mr. Prentice had no recourse but to endure them. Reception rooms are not generally in use among the "provincial" newspapers, and a knock at the door is the only infination of a visitor before he enters the room. One of these enthusiastic individuals shook Mr. Prentice warmly by the hand one day, when he had come, as he said, on a visit of "enriosity," and after scanning the editor's features in various lights, drew himself up and said:-

"So, you're old George P. Prentice, air ou? Well, I'm mighty glad to see you. Jim Dodd bet me you was good-looking, and I bet you wasn't: and I think I ve won it. Mr. Prentice probably enjoyed that visit even less than usual.

The law of libel has killed many a good newspaper invective. Emphatic abuse is in-consistent with a eweful use of the word "afnames. In the great cities of our Eastern that contain but https://www.and.few andown-right editorial invectives are seldom used. Editors cannot trust themselves to be severe, lest they should also be unparliamentary. To be sure, Grattan once conclusively showed Corry in the English House of Commons how to do it, but that was a long time Shadrach Penn was one of these worthy foe-ago, and editors now-a-days are not Grattans men, and the battle generally raged fiercely as a general thung. HTO\_O Western and Southern communities In The fast resort of an individual outraged cditorially would be a suit for libel. Whatever statutes there may the upon the subject have become null and void through long disuse. The courts would probably look spont a case of the kind as raisen-lous and the plaintiff as a man of no spirit. His suit would be lost through want of sympathy on the part of the gury, or else he would receive a nominal verdict, which would neither line his pocket nor plaster his wound, An efficir, therefore, unDannaellad by for-malities or parliamentary decorum, can use vituperation without stint. printing his terms in provokingly clear type, without the fell of Chancery before his eyes. But it is quite likely that he will be called out or shot on sight, or knocked down at any moment on the morning of Dultlication. This mode of procedure is considered far preferable to that in New York, for instance, where, if the same editor entered the arena with the same weapons of abase, he would most probably be compelled to devote "colored the people, gladly accepted it as the all his spare substance to paying the costs of all his spare substance to paying the costs of rue narrative. It may well be assumed that Mr. Prentice, The was the victum of a shrewder for the base of the standard s although comfortably exempt from all vera-although comfortably exempt from all vera-ting dangerous personal rencontres. He does not e know how often he has been shot, or how coften his life has been despaired of. In all his numerous rencontres he has seldom if ever come out second-best. Many of them were sought by himself in retaliation for abuse heaped upon him by rival editors, for free as he is in his abuse of others, he is peculiarly sensitive to abase heaped upon himself. Reuben Darrett was editor of the Louisville Courier, the principal local opponent of the # Journal, in 1858, and kept a sly paragraph in its columns; for several days, intimating that Mr. Prontice, while "audor Acloud," had fallen from a gaugidank of a steamboat into the water. Mr. Prentice was intensely aggravated by this little paragraph. He did not deny its truth. It might have been true, bab it was certainly no less objectionable on that account. Probably he felt that even his great command of language would not permit him to do justice to the subject. The simply annonneed that if the paragraph appeared again he would hold the editor personally responsic ble. Of course the paragraph appeared next morning. Mr. Prentice immodiately waited upon Mr. Durrett, fired twice at him, received atwo shots in return, the police interfered, honor was satisfied, the paragraph was "can-celed," and each editor had a ball extracted from under his hide. William E. Hughes, another rival editor, sent his belligerent card up to Mr. Prentice during a popular excitement, and received the soon as I load my pistols. Hughes, however, unwilling to give his enemy every advantage of ground and preparation, withdrew in haste. The popular excitement at the time was in consequence of \* Know-Nothing election, which, in Louisville, was a contest of muscle more than anything else, and every prominent politician felt bound by the obligations of party to shoot or disable some prominent man of the oppo- | clared that he had a tricky horse, but that he sition. The day of election was a day of commenced taking the Journal again, and the

in the annals of the city. Mr. Prentice un-doubtedly assisted in allaying the popular. a very line Catholic cathedrai from desirate-tion. On several occasions, however, he has himself been compelled to flee before the wrath of the people. During the Ward riots, when Matt. Ward, who murdered the school teacher Butler, was the object of vengeance, Mr. Prentice, who defended Ward in his school teacher putter, was the object of in his columns for reasons never definitely known, took horse at midnight and galloped to a place of safety

When the news of the Bull Run fight reached Louisville, the intensest excitement prevailed, and the Rebel population paraded the streets swearing vengeance against all loyal men who came in contact with them. The Journal office had long been floating a United States flag from a staff on the roof, but the staff being too short for the flag, a carpenter had been sent for early in the day to put up a longer one. He arrived at the time put up a longer one. He arrived at the time quite a threatening demonstration was being made in front. The *Contrier* office, which was on the opposite side of the same street, was intensely Rebel, and it was bruited about that a Confederate dag would be hoisted upon it during the day. The crowd between the two offices was clausers, for the wischer of two offices was clamorous for the raising of one flag and the lowering of the other. At this juncture, Mr. Preutice was informed by an excited employe from the counting-room that somebody was on the roof pulling down the flag. The old man's eyes flashed tire.

"Then, by G-," said he, "go up there and throw the scoundrel down among the mob. Up rushed the willing employe. The ilag was already half-masted, and the carpenter, intent mainly on earning his wages, though not insensible to the cries of the admiring. crowd beneath, was busily engaged in untying it from the halyards. To his infinite dis-gust, however, before his work was com-pleted, he found himself hurled back ard by a strong hand, which in the next breath flirted the flag again to the peak and tied the hal-yards in an insoluble knot to the staff. The honest carpenter was then lustily kicked down the skylight, and thrust the rest of the way down two pairs of stairs to the street door, where he received an energetic partiag salute, and found himself landed among his late admirers, without having a single chance to receive or tender an explanation. This bold stroke touched the generous impulses of the mob, if they had any, and all demonstrations against the Journal and its flag ceased. The crowd, in fact, turned its ridi cule on the unoffending carpenter, who with difficulty made his way to his shop with anbroken bones.

Notwithstanding his frequent personal reucontres, Mr. Prentice never accepted a challenge or fought a duel. James E. Clay, the son of the Sage of Ashland, once challenged him, for remarks made in his paper in animadversion on Clay's sale of his father's homestead. In his reply declining, Mr. Prentice made probably the most effective argument ever urged against duelling. After offering as a side issue the fact of his arm being paralyzed and young James being the son of one of his dearest friends, he urged that the anxious nights precoding a duel were tortures that he could not endure. He would be will-ing to fight on sight, but he could not deliberately plan how, when, and where.

Wordy retorts between rivals of note geneinteresting when all parties are personally known to nearly every reader. Mr. Prantice was an adept in the art, and usually found formen worthy of his steel among the editorial fraternity in Kentucky.

between the two. He and Prentice were intimate friends and almost continually to- and he is employed upon it as an assistgether, but they would time and again violate each other's most sacred confidences for the purpose of some paltry joke or home thrust. On one occasion the two were failing in a "sanitasium," and Mr. Prentice fell fast asleep in his bath-tub. Penn saw him, and lauging immoderately at the prospect of a good joke the next morning, betook himself to his office. where he prepared an elaborate sketch for publication, detailing the fact that Prentice was drunk in a bath-tub. He had no foolish scruples, about mentioning names. Prenhowever, was awakened by Penn's tice profonged laughter, and, beclouded as his brain was, he immedi-ately comprehended the situation. He also returned instantly to his office and prepared an elaborate account of the affair, embellishing and coloring it to suit the desperate circumstances under which he labored, but substituting the name of Penn for Prantice in the cast of characters. Both paragraphs appeared next morning, each in its respective

sheet, but as Prentice's was the most highly

blood, and wyet known as Bloody Monday | animal became mild enough for a country | doctor. Such good humor had its effect. The old subscribers laughed in their sleeves and tumult, and probaby saved a rival office and subscribed again. When his course in favor a very fine Catholic cathedral from destruc-tion. On several conduction the subscribed again. scribers, who were in a large majority on his list, dropped off rapidly, but the large cities of the North sent him long lists of new ones. He vented his ridicule on his Southern deserters in many instances through his columns. Here is one instance:-"UNIV. VIRGINIA, May 17, 1861. "Prentice:-

"Stop my paper; I can't afford to read abbo-lition journals these times: the atmosphere of old Virginia will not admit of such filthy sheets as yours has grown to be.

GEORGE LAKE. "Yours, etc.,

"Louisvillar, May 24, 1861, "Lake:-I think it a great pity that a young man should go to a university to graduate a traitor and a blackguard—and so ignorant as to spell abolition with two b's. G, D. P."

Prentice and William G. Brownlow, until a few years ago, were devoted friends, and during the early years of the war, when the fate of the latter and his Tennessee compatriots hung in the balance. Prentice suffered no little uneasiness on their account. He had a great regard for Maynard and Etheridge, who were closely allied at that time with the present Senator from Tennessee. But he was especially anxious about Brownlow. I was in his room with him, acting as his amanuensis, when he met them after their escape. He was dictating when a knock came at the door, and not wishing to be disturbed, he called a deep frown to his brow to warn unwelcome intruders off.

"Come in," he said, snappishly. The door was quickly opened and three rather roughlooking figures stood in view.

"Prentice, my old friend, how are you ?" said a hearty voice.

"Brownlow!" The two leaped forward and clasped one enother in a genuine embrace. "Etheridge! Maynard!" and a hearty shaking of hands greeted the others. But to Brownlow. Pren-tice immediately turned his eyes and his at-tention. At intervals, even in the midst of the conversation that ensued, the two, as if by one impulse, would grasp each other's hands and look affectionately into each other's eyes. Since the war these two old friends have become bitter enemies politically. I cannot say that the old affection does not still exist. It is, however, highly improba-ble that they will ever embrace so cordially again

In appearance Mr. Prentice is short and rather stout, but he has a spiendid head. His forehead is massive and full, and his eyes are very black and of the medium size, although they are so overshadowed by his shaggy eye-browse that at a glance they are supposed to be small and snaky. His nose is shapely, his checks are full, and the whole conhis checks are full, and the whole con-tour of his face is round. His hair retains a jetty blackness, but is thinly distributed over his head, although only a small space of the scalp is actually baid. He is careless about his clothes, and feels atterly desolate in full dress, which he is sometimes compelled to undergo on state occasions.

Mr. Prentice was born in Preston, Connectient, on December 2, 1803, and is consequently nearly sixty-six years old. He was graduated at Brown University at the age of nineteen, and became principal of a high school in Hart-ford. He afterward edited the Hartford Review, and became a personal enemy of Mr. Gideon Welles, who at the time was a rival editor in the same town. In 1839, however, he established the *Journal* in fourisville, and remained chief proprietor and editor of it until a few months ago, when, by a strange concatenation of circumstances, he lost his partnership. The paper since then has been consolidated with its oldest rival. ant editor. The last ten years of his life have been full of trouble to the old man. During the war, notwithstanding his Unionism, both his sons went to the Rebel army. The elder was killed in battle. The younger, in a personal affray in Virginia, killed a comrade, and was tried by mili tary commission for murder. The old man obtained leave from President Lincoln and from Jeff. Davis to pass through the hostile lines, and remained at his son's side in the Rebel camp during the trial, which resulted, partly through his efforts, in acquittal. His wife, who was a musical composer of considerable note and a leader of the ton in his city, died only about a year and a half Apparently, the flowery paths through ago, which he wandered to poesy have become thorny and rugged at the end. He teaches in sorrow what he learned in song. He has still the old fire, and his genius would yet be dominant in Kentucky politics, but, forced by circumstances to adopt a creed in which he ins no faith, he does not work with his old spirit. He lets younger heads and stronger wills usurp his accustomed place. His Jour al was his idol, but it has been taken from the temple where he worshipped, and he and his idol are none the better for the separation.

RATLEOAD COMPANY, No. 363 WALNUT RATLEOAD COMPANY, No. 363 WALNUT Street. PHILADELIPHIA, Sept. 15, 1698. The Stockholders of this Company are bursely notified that they will be emplited to subscribe at par, for ONE SHARE OF NEW STOCK for each eight shares or fraction of eight shares of stock that may be standing in their respective names at the closing of the books on the ORE instant. DELAWARE MUTUAL SAFETY IN RANCE COMPANY, Incorporated by the L Office, S. E. corner of THIRD and WALNUT Stre Office, S. E. corner of THHED and WAINUT Stree Philadelphia MARINE INSURANCES On Vessels, Oargo, and Freight to all parts of the wor Diagoods by river, canal, lake, and hand carriage to parts of the Duion. FIRE INSURANCES On Merchandise generally, on Stores, Dwellings, Hone Etc. ABSTR OF THE COMPANY. November I, Tess. Salo,000 United States Five For Cent. Loan, 10400 1861. 1960 With instant. Subscriptions will be payable in cash, either in full at the time of subscription, or in instalments of twenty five

SPECIAL NOTICES

the time or summerplicin, or in instantants of October, 1860, and January. April, and July, 1870. Etock paid for in full by November 1, 1860, will be enti-tled to participate in all dividends that may be declared after that date.

On stock not paid in full by November 1 next, interest will be allowed on instalments from date of payment. Subscription Books will be opened October 1 and closed

November 1 next. 

NOTICE.-APPLICATION WILL BE

S. FIFTH Street, on MONDAY, November 8, 189, at 12 o'clock M., for the contract to pave Thirty dirst street from Bridge street to Powelton avenue. Owners of property arc requested to be present at time and place. JOHNSON & BRO.,

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SAVING FUND SOULETY Commenced business at its NEW OFFICE.

SOUTHWEST CORNER OF WASHINGTON SQUARE AND WALNUT STREET, ON MONDAY, 11th inst 10 12 in DR. F. R. THOMAS, THE LATE OPE-rator of the Colton Dental Association, is now the only one in Philadelphia who devoles his suitre time and practice to extracting teeth, absolutely without pain, by fresh nitrous oxide gas. Office, 1027 WALNUT St. 1 265

Thomas O. Hand, John C. Davis, James C. Hand, Theophilus Paulding, Joseph H. Seal, Hugh Oraig, John R. Penrose, Jacob P. Jenes, Jacob P. Jenes, James Traquair, Fdward Darlington, H. Jones Brooke, James B. Moffarland, Edward Lafourendo, Joshus P. Kyre, FOR THE SUMMER .-- TO PREVENT sunburn and all discolorations and irritations of the skin, bites of morquitoes or other insects, me Wright's Alcounted Gycerne Tablet. It is delicionaly fragmant, transparent, and has no equal as a toilet scap. For allo by druggists generally. R. & G. A. WRIGHT, No. 224 OHESNUT Street. 245 MORNING GLORY. It is an admitted fact that the MORNING GLORY EASE-BURNING HEATING STOVES steadily ahead of all competitors. For superiority conomy in fuel they are unapproached. Call and lem. BUZBY & HUNFERSON, Imap Nos. 30% and 311 N. SECOND Street. 1829. -CHARTER PERPETUA

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With French and English Dresses, Cloaks, Mante-letts, Sleeves, and Children's Costumes, Robe de Chambre and Breakfast presses. Dress and Cloak Making in every variety. Welding Trousseaux furnished at short notice and

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Paris Jewelry, newest style of Jet, Gold and Shell, the rarest and most elegant ever offered. Hair COMPANY.

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For this he received one thousand dollars annually, which, in times of gold and silver, and considering that the wit was more selected than original, was very good pay. Jasper H. Johnson, a queer genius and a rare humorist, who has said many funnier things than Prentice. Artemus Ward and the army of humorists put together, and who does not know his own worth, was an editor-of-all-work on the Courier at the time, and succeeded admirably in burlesquing Prentice's half column in the Ledger by a similar half column in the Courier. The Ledger is usually out two or three weeks before its natural time, being dated well into the future. Johnson saw in his a chance for a point, and after intimating several limes that the public and the Ledge were swindled by wholesale plagiarisms from the Courier on the part of Mr. Prentice, he spring his mine by publishing in the Courier of May 1 the precise wit and wisdom already given to the world in the Ledger of May 11. He again taxed Mr. Prentice with plagiarism. and held up these damning proofs to the public. Prentice, who seldom looked at the Ludger, except to see that his contribution was in its accustomed place, was nonplussed by this comp de plame, and it is doubtful if he ever accurately understood how the thing happened.

Atter the Ward riots, Mr. Prentice found his subscription list woeffully depleted by the withdrawal of subscribers who consured the course he had taken during the trial. In order to retrieve this loss he published daily for a week or two several columns of letters from imaginary subscribers who, having withdrawn, were survious to subscribe again. These writers declared that they had been afflicted with terrible pains and "misories" in the chest or head or stomach, or with rheumatic and consumptive ailings; and solemnly took oath that one reading of the Journal cured them completely. One individual de-

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