

THE HOUSE CHAPLAIN

Rev. Henry N. Couden and His Stirring Public Career.

Lost His Sight While Serving as a Defender of the Union—Afterward Studied for the Ministry and Won Success.

Five or six years ago the relations between England and the United States were strained over the Venezuelan affair, and it seemed as if only a spark were needed to ignite the flames of war.

One morning Dr. Couden entered the chamber just on the stroke of the clock and was taken to his station below the desk of the speaker. He was nervous, for he had not been long in the house, and he was not quite certain of his ground.

He prayed for God's blessing upon the congress and the speaker of the house of representatives. Then, as he neared the end of the prayer, he raised his voice so that it could be heard in every corner of the vast hall.

"Heavenly Father," he said, "let peace reign throughout our borders, yet may we be quick to resent an insult to this our nation!"

To-day Dr. Couden's home life, says the Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post, is as full of quiet and sweetness as his younger days were of hardship and vicissitude.

His reading is done by Mrs. Couden, who keeps him in touch with the doings of the world, and reads aloud the books which he uses in preparing his sermons and other writings. She is his lost sense regained.

At the outbreak of the civil war Dr. Couden was a boy of 17, overflowing with life and spirits, and ardent in his patriotism. So, when President Lin-



REV. HENRY N. COUDEN. (The Blind Chaplain of the House of Representatives.)

coln issued his call for 75,000 men for three months, young Couden was among the first to present himself for enlistment.

Before the three months had expired he had enlisted again in the Sixth Ohio Infantry for a period of three years. He fought in the battles of Laurel Hill and in the skirmishes at Carriek's Ford and Green Brier. He was in the battle of Shiloh and Perryville. But it was after his transfer to the Mississippi marine brigade that the engagement in which he was wounded took place. It was there that the light failed him forever.

Young Couden became blind immediately, and he says that he felt then that he would never see again. When the doctor came to examine him the young sufferer heard that his case was hopeless.

"Will I see, doctor?" he asked anxiously.

The doctor smiled sadly: "If you're a good boy, you'll see—after you die!" he answered.

When young Couden went back to his home in Cincinnati he began the manufacture of brooms, and afterward the selling of confectionery. But he soon determined to study for the ministry. This he did in a seven-year course at the institution for the blind at Columbus, O.

Negroes in Porto Rico.

Dr. H. K. Carroll, of Plainfield, N. J., the president's special commissioner to examine into the political and social conditions in Porto Rico, was much impressed by the high character of the negro population there. The most capable builders, carpenters, bricklayers, masons, printers, plumbers and artisans generally are negroes, he said. They mingle with the white workmen on terms of perfect equality, and, so far as Dr. Carroll could find, there is no color line. When he held public hearings in the different towns on the island to get at public sentiment, representatives of the artisans' guilds or gremios came before him. More than half of the delegates selected by the gremios to meet him were negroes. He found them, he says, practical and hard-headed thinkers.

Commercial Plants in Europe.

It is interesting to know that 4,200 species of plants are gathered and used for commercial purposes in Europe. Of these 420 have a perfume that is pleasing, and enter largely into the manufacture of soaps and soaps. There are more species of white flowers gathered than of any other color—1,124 in all.

Mushrooms as a Medicine.

Mushroom juice is a sure cure against snake poison, according to an eminent scientist. He has found that all mushrooms possess a substance which acts as an antitoxin against serpents.

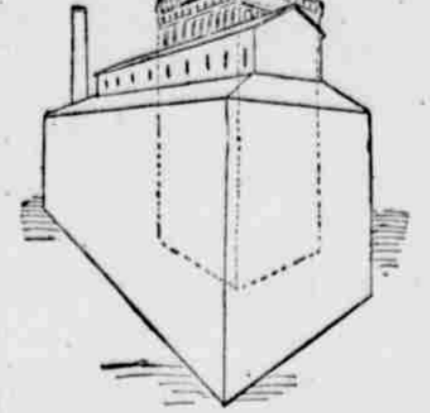
IMMENSE ELEVATOR.

To Be Erected at West Superior at a Cost Estimated at Two Million Dollars.

A good way to get an idea of the size of the enormous grain elevator, contracts for which were let at West Superior, is to compare it with the Masonic temple at Chicago. The dimensions of the two buildings are as follows:

Table comparing dimensions of Masonic Temple and New Elevator: Height, Width, Depth.

While the temple is 72 feet higher, the elevator is more than twice as wide



IMMENSE STRUCTURE. (Chicago Masonic Temple dwarfed by a Grain Elevator.)

and is also somewhat deeper. If it was cut down to the same ground dimensions as the Masonic temple and raised corresponding in height it would tower up 175 feet further into the air.

Nor does even this comparison do the new structure justice, for about the central elevator, the dimensions of which are here given, are to be grouped connecting 30 steel storage tanks, each of which will be 50 feet in diameter and 65 feet in height. Each of them will have a storage capacity of over 1,000,000 bushels of wheat.

The total capacity of the elevator will be 6,500,000 bushels, which is 2,500,000 greater than that of the largest elevator now in existence.

The central structure will be a clearing elevator, with a capacity of 3,000,000 bushels, and will be the first clearing elevator built of steel, over 2,000,000 pounds being used in its construction.

The total cost is estimated at \$2,000,000, the contract for the foundation, just let, amounting to \$85,000. It is an enterprise of the Great Northern railroad and its president, James J. Hill.

Mr. Hill, says the Chicago Tribune, would only have to build 65 elevators of the same size to handle, at the same time, the total grain crop of the United States.

JUDGE BARTLETT TRIPP.

Representative of the United States on the New Tripartite Samoan Commission.

The president has selected Bartlett Tripp, of South Dakota, formerly minister to Austria, as the United States representative on the Samoan joint commission. Mr. Tripp is a leading lawyer of Yankton, S. D. He was one of the pioneer settlers of the territory of Dakota, and has been intimately associated with its progress and of the states which succeeded it. His chief interests now, however, lie with the state of South Dakota. During Mr. Cleveland's first term he appointed Mr. Tripp chief justice of the supreme court of Dakota.

Mr. Tripp was conspicuous as a democrat in the movement for the division of the territory when statehood was to be

given to it, and his earnest support of the movement took away its partisan character and made the consummation of the plan possible. When Mr. Cleveland was elected to a second term Mr. Tripp's name was prominently mentioned when the cabinet was being made up, but later he was sent as minister to Austria-Hungary, a position he filled with honor.

Mr. Tripp lately attracted the attention of the public by his open letter to the leaders of the democratic party in his state renouncing silver and declaring himself a firm believer in the gold standard.

No Longer Fashionable. Chrysanthemums are going out of fashion in England. One society for raising the flowers, after having had ten prosperous years, has been obliged to wind up its affairs owing to the bad business of the last two years.

Peruvian Quicksilver Mine. There is a quicksilver mine in Peru 170 fathoms in circumference and 480 feet deep. In this profound abyss are streets, squares and a chapel, where religious worship is held.



JUDGE BARTLETT TRIPP. (American Representative on the Samoan Commission.)

PAY OF PREACHERS.

Not Many Receive Over Ten Thousand Dollars Per Year.

Dr. Hirsch, the Famous Chicago Rabbi, in the First Rank, with a Salary of \$15,000 and a Fifteen-Year Contract.

In offering Dr. Emil G. Hirsch \$15,000 a year for 15 years to remain as its pastor, Sinai congregation, of Chicago, will pay him as large a salary as is received by any clergyman in the United States. It is the same as is paid Bishop Potter, of New York, who, however, has a rectory furnished, heated and lighted free of cost, and is provided with a private secretary. The late Rev. Dr. Hall, of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian church, of New York, during the last years of his life received the largest salary ever paid to a clergyman in the United States, which was \$20,000 a year, with a manse. Mr. Beecher received \$20,000, without the manse. Dr. Hall's proper salary was \$15,000, and \$5,000 additional was contributed by Robert Bonner and two other wealthy members of the congregation. His successor, Mr. Connell, who comes from Regent's Park Presbyterian church, of London, is offered \$10,000 and a residence. That is the salary paid to Dr. Gregory, dean of St. Paul's cathedral, and Dr. Bradley, dean of Westminster abbey, London. Dean Farrar receives \$7,000 a year. The hierarchy of the Church of England enjoy enormous salaries, which are necessary to maintain the large establishments required of them. The archbishop of Canterbury receives \$60,000 a year, but he needs every cent of it to meet his social and ecclesiastical obligations at Lambeth palace, the home of the primate of the Church of England. The salary of the archbishop of York and that of the archbishop of London is \$50,000 a year. The archbishop of Ireland receives \$12,500. The other bishops of the Church of England are paid from £2,000 to £5,000 a year. The average pay of a vicar in England is \$5,500 outside the large cities. In the cities the salary varies

according to the wealth of the parish, from \$2,500 to \$10,000.

The Episcopalians and Presbyterians, says the Chicago Record, pay larger salaries than any other denominations, but the pulpits most envied in the United States are those of the collegiate Reformed Dutch church, of New York city. There are seven or eight churches of that denomination under the same management and supported from an endowment that is exceedingly rich. Its income is next to that of Trinity church, and amounts to several hundred thousand dollars a year. The pastors of the collegiate churches are paid \$10,000 for life and are allowed to retire from active pastoral work when they reach the age of 65 years.

Trinity parish is the richest in the world, and has an income of about \$300,000 from buildings and other investments. It supports five or six churches, several schools, hospitals and other charitable institutions and pays the manager of its business a salary of \$10,000 a year. The rector of Trinity church receives \$12,500. The same salary is paid by St. Thomas' and St. Bartholomew's. I was informed by good authority that five clergymen in New York city received the salary of \$10,000 a year. The average pay of a clergyman in New York city, excepting the pastors of mission churches, is probably \$6,000.

The editorial profession is not so well paid. There are probably 16 editors in New York, not proprietors of newspapers, who receive \$10,000 a year or over. The Journal and World have four each, the Herald, the Times, Post, and Brooklyn Eagle one each. The highest editorial salary paid in the United States is \$15,000.

Editorial writers of recognized ability, city editors, news editors and managing editors on the large daily papers are paid from \$5,000 to \$7,500 a year.

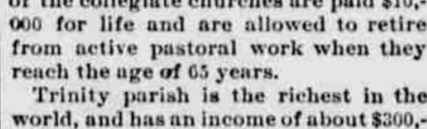
A few physicians in New York make very large fees. There are two or three specialists whose incomes will exceed \$50,000 a year, perhaps ten make \$25,000, and perhaps 15 make from \$15,000 to \$20,000. Ten thousand dollars a year is considered a large practice.

Hello Fences in Australia.

In Australia they are utilizing the wire fences to establish telephonic communication between stations six or eight miles apart. The instruments are connected to the wire strands, thus insuring a "metallic circuit" at no extra expense, for the fences are agricultural necessities and already in place. There is no difficulty, it is said, in conversing with a station fully eight miles distant through telephones connected as described. Several stations are so joined.

This is a Large Tree.

The largest tree in the eastern hemisphere, if not in the world, is a monster chestnut standing at the foot of Mount Kila. The circumference of the main trunk at 60 feet from the ground is 212 feet.



DR. EMIL G. HIRSCH. (Rabbi of the Sinai Congregation at Chicago.)

A NOTED EDUCATOR.

Mrs. Helen Loring Grenfell, State Superintendent of Public Instruction for Colorado.

It is very evident that, as women are being tried in positions of public trust and responsibility, they are not found wanting; on the contrary, they are found to possess ability, judgment and a conscientious devotion to duty which makes them invaluable in many public positions heretofore considered as belonging entirely to men. Especially is this true in matters pertaining to education.

After an experience of several years with a woman as superintendent of



MRS. HELEN L. GRENFELL. (Superintendent of Public Instruction for Colorado.)

public instruction, Colorado has again elected a woman to that position, with the unanimous vote of all parties. No more flattering recognition of woman's fitness and ability in guiding the educational interests of a state could be given than the unanimous choice of a woman, irrespective of party affiliations.

Mrs. Helen Loring Grenfell, the present incumbent, is a beautiful, cultured and earnest woman, who will give a great impetus to education in Colorado. She is a home-loving, domestic woman, whose personal happiness would be best consulted by remaining quietly at home, but having no children she feels it her duty to respond when the office seeks her.

Mrs. Grenfell is a descendant of the old Puritan families of White and Thatcher, her father being one of the Loring's of Boston. While she was born in Valparaiso, Chili, she was brought up in Colorado, where most of her education was received. She attended the Albany normal school, as preparation for teaching, in which work she was engaged for eight years previous to her marriage to Mr. Edwin L. Grenfell.

She was chosen superintendent of schools in Gilpin county in '96, and when the time for election next came, she was nominated upon every one of the four political tickets in the field. Her success in administering to the schools of Gilpin county attracted so much attention that the nomination for state superintendent of public instruction was offered her by the unanimous choice of all parties on the fusion ticket last fall. Mrs. Grenfell has always been a firm republican, and while not a politician in the sense usually attached to that word, has evinced so much clear judgment, sound sense and unwavering integrity upon all questions that her opinions and advice are invariably sought.

A TERRIBLE REPTILE.

Curious Case of Abnormal Development in a Rattlesnake Reported from Texas.

The photograph which we present herewith was sent to the Scientific American by Dr. R. Menger, of San Antonio, Tex., and is a lifelike representation of the head of the much dreaded rattlesnake, the Crotalus horridus. The original reptile was a very large rattlesnake and was killed by a friend of Dr. Menger in the hills of Helotes, about



TERRIBLE TO BEHOLD. (Abnormal Development of a Texas Rattlesnake's Fangs.)

18 miles northwest of San Antonio. The rattles and the head of this snake were presented to him and he prepared the fangs, etc., to show their relation to the poison glands. The head was supplied with four fangs, two full grown and two others near them in the front region of the upper jaw. The exposure was taken by lamp-light. The fact of the snake having four fangs is interesting. In all rattlesnakes there are, besides the poison fangs, rudimentary fangs which, upon the loss of the old fangs, develop and supply their place. In this case, however, the development has been abnormal, and the second pair of fangs have developed before any loss of the old fangs has been sustained.

Mars is a Long Way Off.

The largest telescope in existence does not make the planet Mars appear any bigger than the moon does through an opera glass.

The Result of Accident.

It is said Arabs first made butter. They were carrying milk in skins on the backs of camels, and the steady jogging churned the fluid into butter.

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