

A PRESBYTERIAN ERA.

THE HUNDRETH MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN AMERICA.

Qualification of the Assembly—Important Subjects—Prominent Ministers—Eminent Laymen—The First Church on Long Island—Historical sketches.

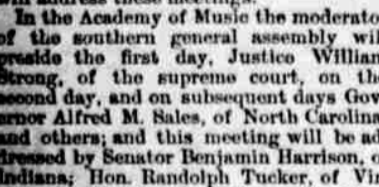
The Presbyterian of the United States are making thorough preparations for a centennial, to begin on the 17th of May next, at Philadelphia. The first general assembly having convened in 1789. The



ILLINOIS CANDIDATES.

Fifer and Ray—Both Self-Made Men—A Lawyer and a Merchant.

Joseph Fifer, nominated by the Republicans of Illinois for governor, was born 45 years ago at Staunton, Va., a region now celebrated from the fact of its having been fought over during the civil war.



LYMAN B. RAY.

Lyman B. Ray, candidate for lieutenant governor, was born in Vermont, but early settled in St. Charles, in Kane county, where he was employed as a clerk in a dry goods store.

Since that time Mr. Fifer has been an eminent lawyer, a states attorney, and a member of the Illinois state senate.

Both men are self-made. Fifer is 50 years of age, five feet in height, spare in flesh, and has a swarthy, rather dark complexion, keen black eyes, with a heavy head.

Ray is 40 years of age, five feet eight inches in height, spare in flesh, and has a fair complexion, blue eyes, and a straight nose.

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AMENS IN A THEATRE.

A GREAT METHODIST MASS MEETING IN NEW YORK.

It Was Held in the Metropolitan Opera House and Was Most Impressive in Its Effect—Pictures with Pen and Pencil Taken on the Spot.

"Methodist mass meetings," writes a New York correspondent of this paper, "is a rather novel phrase, conveying a suggestion of politics; but the particular mass meeting held in the Metropolitan Opera house, New York city, on the afternoon of Sunday, May 6, was all that the phrase implies. It was a 'massed' meeting; the auditorium (or an actors would call it, the proscenium) was literally packed, and all the side circles were filled, even to the lofty gallery. Not less than 8,000 people were present; and yet the powerful voice of Bishop Fowler, suffering from hoarseness though he was, was heard in every corner of the immense room. Part of the success, of course, was due to the splendid acoustic properties of the building.

Howard Douglas, the supreme chancellor of the world, is a native of Cincinnati, where he was born in 1846. He was educated in the public and high schools of his native city, but was obliged to forego a collegiate course on account of illness. He was admitted to the bar at the early age of 21 years, and few attorneys in the west of his years and experience now have a larger clientele or more lucrative practice. He was several times elected member of the school board, the board of education and the workhouse board, but has always refused nomination for any political office. He was president of the board of education during the uneventful term of the school board, the Ohio river, and it was mainly through his forethought and prompt action that thousands who were homeless and destitute were sheltered and provided for in the public school building.

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CHARITY HOSPITAL.

BAD SCENES (AMONG AN UNFORTUNATE CLASS OF PEOPLE.

Mission Work on Blackwell's Island. Nine Hundred Sufferers Under One Roof—A Dying Girl—Noble Deeds of Charity—Outside Work.

The ladies of the mission gathered up their packages and papers and divided in two parties—one to visit the penitentiary and the other the beautiful work which Elizabeth Fry initiated, the other to the Charity hospital; and with the latter I went. A small room is set apart there for the use of the mission. The tables in it were already covered with baskets of fruit, glasses of jelly, bottles of beef tea, cans of oysters, and various other delicacies. By each basket lay a number of papers and religious tracts. After brief religious services the ladies separated, each taking her own basket and reading matter to the ward as she was assigned to. Here, under this one roof, are 800 human beings, in every conceivable stage of suffering. The pangs of poverty are increased by a hungry child whose disease seizes in its cruel clutches the unhappy victim. Few people are fortunate enough to escape the knowledge of bodily pain. Most, indeed, can recollect at least one season of physical wretchedness. To be sure, there was a soft bed and shaded windows, skilled care and loving attention, doctors who said pleasant things and disguised their doses, delicious trifles that appeared by magic, and a thousand ingenious surgeries to create an appetite or win a smile. All that, something like a shudder comes over one at the thought of a repetition of the experience.

To go through a ward in the Charity hospital convinces you that the primer of misery has yet to be mastered by the rest of us. Imagine yourself on a narrow and lumpy bed, the light from a row of windows heating in your face, the feet of the convalescent shuffling and crawling over the bare floor, the whitewashed walls, devoid of even a wall paper pattern to be deciphered, the callous young doctor to whom you are but a bit of experience, and the food such that if well your stomach and senses would revolt at it. As to flowers, books, music and bright colors, they come only in dreams.

After all no amount of moralizing brings the truth home like a single individual case, and there was one patient in particular that made a profound impression upon me—a girl in the last stages of consumption. Illness had robbed her face of the coarseness it may have had in health. Through the veil that death is drawing over it shine splendid black eyes and a skin painfully brilliant in coloring. A heavy mass of short black hair falls over her forehead, nearly meeting the large dark brows that seem to have been painted rather than grown on the marble skin. There is something curious and shocking in this dread 'makeup' of disease that reminds one of the stage, but there is no counterfeit presentment of health in the long, emaciated hands that he so nervously on the bedquilt. By the side of the bed is a little stand; upon it a Bible and a mug of water—that is all. Mary was breathing in low gasps. Her lips were parched, her eyes despairing. Suddenly they fell upon the visitor. In a moment she was transformed. When that visitor laid on the little table a slice of ordinary white bread and butter and a bit of orange the girl half raised herself on her elbow to look her gratitude. The luxury expressed in that slice of bread and butter no one can imagine until they look at the dark, sticky stuff greased over that is called by that name in the hospital. Then the gentle missionary read and talked to the girl, who listened eagerly. "No one else comes to see me but you," she said, simply, "and the days and nights are so long."

"Is there anything you would like?" asked the lady.

"Yes, ma'am, if you please. I should so like a little mixed candy," said the dying girl. "You see, the medicine tastes so bad, and we don't have anything to take after it." The candy was promised, and with her heart in her voice the lady uttered a little prayer and left the sufferer composed and comforted. It is a dark day in a patient's life when the doctor says she may have anything she likes—that is, that visitors choose to give her—and many and singular are the petitions showing the suffering idea of luxury. One sinking from the effects of mixed pickles, another wants "just one bologna, ma'am," a third asks for a glass of ginger ale, and an old woman begs for "a cup of real tea."

Going from one ward to another it is the same story told over and over again of suffering, for the most part dumb, of moral blindness and moral misery. It is curious, though, to note the difference of reception given to the mission visitors by the new and old ones.

In the surgical wards were many desperately ill women. One of them near the door was nearly over the threshold of life. Her glazed eyes were fixed upon a child—her only one, brought to her for a farewell kiss. The little fellow crowed and sang about merrily in the lap of the woman who held him, unconscious of the meaning of the scene. As his mother's eyelids fell he was laughing outright with delight. It would be painful and dreary to go even in pen from one ward to another in this stronghold of suffering. It seems as if the very walls of it would weep, and the sighs weigh down the heart of the outsider.

A few of the branch charities are the long relief, which lends rubber cushions, invalid chairs, bed water legs and bed rests to the poor convalescent; and the mothers' meeting, where good advice and Bible reading go hand in hand with sewing; the Thanksgiving fund, which supplies fifty five poor families with a good dinner on that day; the bucket trade, which, when the mother is working out by the day, supplies her little ones with a pair of hot feet; the kitchen garden, where little girls are carefully taught, and the protective work, which aims to care for the female stranger from the country or abroad until she finds work.

There is something worth thinking about in the remarks of a Buffalonian returned from California. "Americans native born have no idea of the importance of owning land. They have let foreigners come here and buy hundreds of thousands of acres of land, and just because it is cheap the American citizen wouldn't have it. The result is that when the values rise, as in many cases out west, the foreigner was the one to profit by it. In San Francisco you will find a great many very wealthy Chinamen who own valuable blocks of stock and real estate who are powerful competitors of the American merchants. The rich Chinaman can knock out the rich American when it comes to buying goods in China for export to this country, and so it goes. Every young native born American, of whatever parentage, should acquire at least some real property if he expects to keep up with the 'hand wagon' in the future."

In the Maddening Crowd.

"Garringer, my watch has stopped. Is yours going?"

"Going, broderly, it's gone!" Detroit Free Press.

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Dr. Schenk's Mandrake Pills.

They act DIRECTLY and PROMPTLY on the Liver and Stomach, restoring the constipated organs to healthy activity, and are a positive and perfectly safe cure for Constipation, Liver Complaint, Sick Headache, Biliousness, and all other diseases arising from a disordered condition of the Liver and Stomach. They are the only reliable vegetable Liver Pills.

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