

SMART BOYS ARE THEY.

MEANING THE PAGES AT THE NATIONAL CAPITOL.

Every One Has Heard of the Pages Who Have Become Legislators—Capt. Basset's Career—Ways of Making Money.

(Special Correspondence.) WASHINGTON, July 17.—The smartest lot of boys in this country are the pages of the house and senate. They are a half hundred precocious, quick witted, self confident chaps, ranging in years

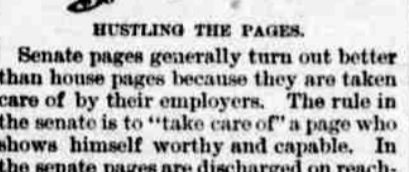


A SLEEPY MOMENT.

from twelve to twenty-five. A majority of them live away from home, and, enjoying pretty good incomes for boys, their habits are not always of the best. Pages as a rule imitate the men whom they serve in chewing tobacco, smoking cigars and cigarettes, playing the races and drinking beer. All the world has heard of the pages who came back to congress as members or senators—Governor of Maryland, Townshend of Illinois, "Bill" Scott of Pennsylvania and others. The world has concluded, therefore, that the page's path leads invariably to fame or fortune. Unfortunately this assumption is not warranted by the facts.

A majority of the pages, particularly those of the house, turn out badly. Mr. David S. Barry, who rose from pagehood to be the accomplished Washington correspondent of The New York Sun, tells me that a number of his old associates are in jail, one or two in inebriate asylums, and only a few have advanced to anything in the world. "One of the brightest boys of my day," says Mr. Barry, "and the one of whom most was expected, I saw the other day driving a carriage, clad in a green coat with big gilt buttons and yellow top boots."

The trouble with pages appears to be too much knowledge at an early age. What they do not know at fifteen they think they know, and the result of this sort of precocity is often bumpiness and disaster. Happily there are many exceptions to this rule, as to all others. Some of the pages now in the service of congress attend night school regularly, save their money, and are preparing to make names for themselves. One of the most promising young lawyers in town rode a horse for several years between the Capitol and the departments.



HUSTLING THE PAGES.

Senate pages generally turn out better than house pages because they are taken care of by their employers. The rule in the senate is to "take care of" a page who shows himself worthy and capable. In the senate pages are discharged on reaching the age of sixteen, and they are then given places in the folding or document rooms and are afterward made door messengers and promoted from time to time. Many of the employes of the senate started out as pages, a conspicuous example of this class being old Capt. Basset, the white haired patriarch who sits at the left of the presiding officer. He was appointed a page through the influence of Daniel Webster.

Old man Basset and his boys make a very pretty scene about the dais on which sits the vice president. A striking contrast is formed by the captain's venerable features and patriarchal beard in such close proximity to the youthful faces of the pages. When there are few senators in their seats and the proceedings are dull and drowsy the old man lets his head fall on his breast. He appears to be asleep. The boys lounge lazily. But pretty soon Senator Edmunds or Senator Sherman claps his hands or snaps his fingers, and it is discovered that Capt. Basset has been sleeping. He jumps up nervously, cracks his old fingers loudly to rouse the drowsy boys, waves his long arms, and away scamper two or three little fellows as fast as their nimble legs can carry them. Sometimes disaster follows this sudden display of energy. Two boys heedlessly rush together in the center aisle, collide and go sprawling upon the floor. On such occasions it is interesting to watch the faces of the dignified, elderly senators. They have witnessed the collision and its results, but they try to look as if they had seen nothing.

The pages of the senate show a wonderful variety of sizes and stages of maturity, considering that their ages are supposed to range between twelve and sixteen. Some of the little shavers appear to be no more than eight or ten, while some of the larger ones have faces which indicate that they are shavers indeed. It is here to be noted that the age of a boy is uncertain as that of a woman or a horse. Much depends upon stature. This Mr. Barry of whom I have spoken was appointed a page to succeed one Ringgold, who was transferred to the document room "on account of over age." Later on Barry and Ringgold became acquainted, and made the startling discovery that the former was a year and ten months his predecessor's senior. But Barry was short and Ringgold was tall. In the house there are thirty-five boys. One is a riding page, one attends to the telephone in the members' lobby, one is assigned to the press gallery and two carry cards to and from the ladies' reception room. This leaves thirty boys for service on the floor, and as there are a dozen members to each boy they are kept pretty busy. Ordinarily the pages are required to reach the house at 10 in the morning. They must tidy up each member's desk, file upon it a copy of The Congressional Record and get every-

IN THE CHURCH FIELDS.

NOTES AND NEWS GATHERED FROM ALL QUARTERS.

A Few Interesting Remarks by Hon. W. E. Gladstone on the Curatorship of the Apostles—The Undeniable Advance and Power of Christendom.

When the apostles, charged with the commission of our Lord, went forth into the world and preached the gospel to every creature, then an engineery was set at work capable of bringing into the whole range of the mischief brought into the world by sin, and of completely redeeming the human being from its effects and consecrating our nature to duty and to God. It is impossible here to do so much as even to skirt this vast subject. But at once these three things may be said as to the development through the gospel of the Abrahamic promise. First, that in the aggregate of genuine believers the recovery of the divine image has been effectual and the main spring of their being has been set right before their quitting the world by the dedication of the will to God. Secondly, that the social results of the change have been beneficial and immense in the restriction of wars, in the abolition of horrible practices publicly sanctioned, in the recognition of rights, in the elevation of woman (whose case most and best of all represents the case of right as against force), in the mitigation of laws, in the refinement of manners and in the public acknowledgment of higher standards of action.

Thirdly, that Christendom is at this moment undeniably the prime and central power of the world and still bears, written upon its front, the mission to subdue it. In point of force and outward impulsion, it stands far ahead of all rivals, while every other widely spread religion is in decline. Critical indeed are the movements which affect it from within. Vast are the deductions which on every side are to be made from the fullness of the divine promises when we try to measure their results in the world of facts. Indefinitely slow and hard to trace in detail as may be, like a glacier in descent, the march of the times, the Christianity of today is a Christianity of a non-Christian, an amount of ascendancy such as it has never before possessed; and if it retain its inward conquest, the only question seems to be as to the time, the circumstances and the rate of its further, perhaps of its final, conquest.

—W. E. Gladstone in Churchman.

Mr. Stanley's views on the Bible in light of the present day are to discourage young people from studying it. So many who do study it do so in a critical, supercilious spirit, under the guidance of teachers whose chief aim appears to be to diminish its authority, that it is well to have it made known how it is regarded by men of eminence, who are held in high respect for their achievements in the cause of science and humanity. An incident in point was related a few days ago respecting Mr. H. M. Stanley, whose recent achievement in the rescue of Emin Pasha places him in the forefront of the distinguished men of our time. A personal friend of the explorer says: "I was sitting a few days ago next to Mr. Stanley, the great African traveler, and in conversation he said to me, 'Just before I started for Africa Sir William Mackinnon said to me, 'Now I want to give you something, but I should like you to choose for yourself. I shall have the utmost pleasure in presenting you with anything you like. Never mind the expense. Just say what you would like.' 'I replied, 'said the traveler, 'Give me a Bible.' The desired gift was soon in my possession, just the Bible I wanted. And during my absence in Africa I have read that Bible through three times.'"

Christian Endeavor Figures. The statistics of the Christian Endeavor societies, as presented at the international convention at St. Louis, show clearly the great advance that this society has been making. These societies exist in every English speaking land in the world, the total number being 11,013, with a membership of 260,000—a gain of 3,341 societies and 185,000 members in eleven months. New York leads the list with 1,795 societies, Pennsylvania follows with 818, then Massachusetts with 813, Illinois with 809, Ohio with 681, Iowa with 494, Connecticut with 442, New Jersey with 414 and Michigan with 408. An interesting development of the movement is the "Floating Christian Endeavor societies" recently formed on some of the revenue cutters and other vessels. From cutters Dexter and Gallatin come excellent reports of work already done.

Dr. Beecher's Famous Sermons. A gentleman in Cincinnati has in his possession a copy of the original edition of the Rev. Dr. Lyman Beecher's famous "Six Sermons on the Nature, Occasions, Signs and Remedy of Intemperance," delivered in Litchfield, Conn., in 1826. These sermons awakened the most lively interest in temperance throughout the United States, and may almost be said to have originated the temperance movement in this country. Their publication immediately caused the formation of the "American Society for the Promotion of Temperance," and many other kindred societies. In these sermons may be found the famous misapprehended quotation from the Bible "I want to know not, handle not," Dr. Beecher, usually acute, does not seem to have paid any attention to the context of this passage.

Curiosities of Chemicals. Certain substances which are deadly in their effects upon man can be taken by animals with impunity. Horses can take large quantities of antimony, dogs of mercury, goats of tobacco, mice of hemlock and rabbits of belladonna without injury. On the other hand dogs and cats are much more susceptible to the influence of chloroform than man and are much sooner killed by it. If this invaluable anesthetic had been tried first upon animals we should probably have never enjoyed its blessings, as it would have been found to be so fatal that its discoverers would have been afraid to test its effects upon human beings. It is evident, then, that an experiment upon an animal can never be a safe one for a certain number of reasons. First, the animal is not a human being, and its reactions are not the same as those of a human being. Second, the animal is not a human being, and its reactions are not the same as those of a human being. Third, the animal is not a human being, and its reactions are not the same as those of a human being.



FITZ-ROYA AND JOCKEY LANE. On a big favorite, but he, but what a triumph to bring an outsider to the winning post, especially so when a fellow has to contend with such jockeys as Fred Webb, Watta, and Fred Harrett, three of the finest whips now living. Tom Lane is undoubtedly a fine rider, and is entitled to a good deal of credit for his victory. A victory won on a big favorite, but he, but what a triumph to bring an outsider to the winning post, especially so when a fellow has to contend with such jockeys as Fred Webb, Watta, and Fred Harrett, three of the finest whips now living. Tom Lane is undoubtedly a fine rider, and is entitled to a good deal of credit for his victory. A victory won on a big favorite, but he, but what a triumph to bring an outsider to the winning post, especially so when a fellow has to contend with such jockeys as Fred Webb, Watta, and Fred Harrett, three of the finest whips now living. 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