

VICTOR HUGO.

His Life, His Ways and His Character. From London Truth, January 15.

Count Victor Marie Hugo was born in 1802, his father having been one of the most distinguished of Napoleon's Generals. At one time General Hugo held command in the province of Auvergne, in Calabria, where he managed, after a desperate chase, to run Fra Diavolo to earth.

After this time Victor was entered as a student at the Seminary of the Nobles in Madrid. Previously his education had been conducted under the auspices of an old royalist, who was a general into the bargain.

Papa Hugo wished his son to become a soldier, but the boy had other ideas. He had begun to scribble at six or seven; a veritable replica of Pope.

At fourteen he wrote a tragedy—bad, of course, but such as many a man of twenty-eight might have been proud to write. At fifteen he competed for one of those prizes which the French Academy annually offers with the benign intention of encouraging the study of letters among the people most disposed to rush into print of any in Europe.

Three religious, patriotic, odes, all "crowned" by somebody, followed in three successive years; and Victor began to be looked upon by the Royalists pretty much as Mr. Gladstone was looked upon by the Tories of forty years ago.

Like Byron, Hugo awoke and found himself famous. For a time he was happy, this lad of twenty who had become one of the greatest men in France.

In 1822 was published the first volume of "Odes and Ballads." The success was fully equal to that of the two first cantos of "Childe Harold."

His marriage was a happy one in the most essential point, but marred by an uncommon series of calamities.

of Havre, in 1843. It was a singularly gay boating party that had this tragic end. And yet M. Hugo, does not give one the idea of a melancholy man; quite the reverse.

Hugo's political life can only be said to have begun in 1848. The Revolution found him an Academician, a Peer of France, an officer of the Legion of Honor, a rentier. He had everything to lose, nothing to gain by change and disorder.

After the coup d'etat Hugo resided in Jersey till, in 1855, our fellow-subjects of that isle drove him out for having protested against the expulsion of some French refugees.

Hugo has been accused of inordinate vanity; but at all events he can affect a graceful freedom from that quality. He once received a letter addressed, "To the greatest of French poets."

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MOLTKE AT BERLIN. NONE LIFE OF THE GREAT SOLDIER WHO IS SILENT IN SEVEN LANGUAGES.

In a recent publication by Baron A. von Firks, an interesting glimpse is presented of the private and domestic life of the great German strategist, Count von Moltke.

alterations and additions. His handwriting is flowing and very legible, the characters being clear, firm and uniform. At this work he goes on till 9 o'clock, when his official letters are brought in and laid before him.

Between 7 and 8 o'clock he looks at the evening papers, and at 8 p. m., tea is served in the family circle, after which Count Moltke is very fond of joining in a rubber at whist.

SAN MARINO.

THE MOST DELIGHTFUL LITTLE REPUBLIC OUTSIDE OF FAIRY-LAND. John Bigelow in Harper's for February.

The Republic proper stretches over a territory seventeen miles long and about half that width, and has a population, all told, of about 6,000 people, the capital, where we were, having about 900 of them.

This Council, independent of all human control from above or below, elects two executive officers, who are called Captains-Regent; it designates all executive committees, imposes taxes—in fact, conducts the Government.

"But we do not wish to be eaten," was the ungracious reply of the honorable birds of freedom in Congress assembled.

"You dodge the question," was the retort of the imperturbable minister. The government of this so-called republic, therefore, is simply a close corporation, vested with indeterminate power to fill all vacancies occasioned by death or otherwise.

NEW YORK'S ELECTORAL VOTE. THE PROPOSED REPUBLICAN STEAL IN DIRECT CONFLICT WITH THE CONSTITUTION. From the Rochester Union.

My readers are doubtless already impatient to know something of the army, which for 1300 years has defied the manifold elements of disorder that have been fatal to many dynasties and dismembered so many larger and more populous territories in Europe.

The expenses of their government will not seem large to an American. They never exceed 25,000 francs—say \$5,000—army, navy, post-office, education, prisons, police, diplomatic service, representation, all included.

An Inhuman Mother.

LOCKING HER LITTLE BOY UP WITH A CAT TO STARVE TO DEATH. From Special Dispatch to the Post.

New York, Jan. 22.—The details of the shocking brutality of a mother to a four-year-old babe transpired in the Police court to-day. The mother, Mrs. Carrie Emmerson, was drunk, and was arraigned by the police.

The Birth of the New Conspiracy.

From the Wilkes-Barre Leader.

The Republicans of this country are in a desperate strait. They fully recognize the fact. The States they stole to achieve the Presidency three years ago, they cannot steal this year.

Mrs. Emerson took her apartments about four months ago, bringing her little boy, Freddy, about three and a half years old. For the first few days she acted respectably and took care of the child.

NEW YORK'S ELECTORAL VOTE.

THE PROPOSED REPUBLICAN STEAL IN DIRECT CONFLICT WITH THE CONSTITUTION. From the Rochester Union.

As the legislative report has already advised the reader, a Mr. Potter, of Saratoga, has introduced in the assembly a bill to take from the people the right to vote for Presidential electors, which they have enjoyed since every voter now living cast a ballot.

ward by the Grant managers, with a view of securing to the third term aspirant electoral votes from Republican Congressional districts. It is, of course, a confession that the State as a whole is and will be at the Presidential election Democratic in majority.

But if they should carry it out, they may make some mistake that will result in throwing New York's electoral vote out of the court. There are a number of points involved that are less technical and of more strength than those upon which the Republicans are seeking to set up a State government in Maine.

In the first place, the question has been raised whether it is competent for the legislature of a State, after having directed the appointment of electors by vote of the people, and the people have for generations appointed them by vote, to change the manner of appointment—whether, when the legislature gave the directions to the people and lodged in their hands the power to choose, it did not exhaust its authority.

In the second place, one of the late amendments of the Federal Constitution recognizes what the original instrument did not—the right of the people to vote for Presidential electors; and it attaches a penalty to denial or abridgement of that right.

"When," it says, "the right to vote in any election for President and Vice-President of the United States * * * is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age and citizens of the United States, or in any manner abridged, except for participation in rebellion or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State."

The male inhabitants described now certainly have the right to vote for all the thirty-five electors of New York. The Grant scheme proposes to deny that right, to take it away, to abridge it, by allowing them to vote for only the two at-large electors, and by Congressional districts to vote for only a single elector in each.

Consequently, the basis of the State's representation in Congress must be reduced in the proportion described. But as the right would be denied or abridged to all the male inhabitants described, of course the proportion would be such as to wipe out the entire Congressional representation.

And as the right of the State to thirty-three of its thirty-five Presidential electors rests upon its basis of representation, of course the loss of the latter would carry the loss of the former, and New York would have only the two electors who stand for its two Senators. The Republicans who are in earnest in the Grant scheme have no comprehension of the muddle in which they are trying to involve themselves.

Partisan Interpretation of Law.

A Hartford Times reporter in looking over the vote cast for Representative in Farmington, Connecticut, in the spring of 1862, found it officially recorded as follows:

Table listing names and party affiliations: Henry L. Rood, Republican.....331; Allen G. Brady, Democrat.....325; A. G. Brady, Democrat..... 6; A. Brady, Democrat..... 1.

Although the votes against Rood, defeated by one majority, the Republican moderator, according to law, just as similar cases were decided in Maine by Governor Garcelon and Council, declared that Rood was elected. Democrats submitted without a word.

Table listing names and party affiliations: Charles F. Church, Democrat.....232; Gideon H. Welch, Republican.....229; G. H. Welch, Republican..... 3; G. Welch, Republican..... 1.

We would naturally look for a decision electing the Democratic candidate. The law had not changed; but the moderator reversed the law and declared that the Republican candidate was elected.

The mere introduction of this bill is confessing that the Republicans despair of carrying New York on the popular vote, and the claim in the face of that confession that voting by districts they would secure 23 out of the 35 electors, shows how unfairly the State is districted in the interest of their party.

CALEB CUSHING'S remarkable words, uttered in 1861, are now being recalled in many journals. He said: "I would give a great deal to know the name of the subaltern in the Northern army to-day who will eventually rise to the command of the armies of the Union and become President of the United States when the war is ended, and maintain himself in that office just as long as he pleases to hold it."

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of the most audacious character, and to a certain extent callous to them. We are yet unwilling to believe, however, that in this latest endeavor, the Republicans are not daring too much—are not imposing too much upon the endurance of a too patient people.

The Way to Win.

From the Baltimore Gazette.

During the present year the American people will again be called upon to select a President whose term of office, if his life be spared, will extend for four years from the 4th of March, 1881. In a few months the two great political parties of the country will put their candidates in the field, and then the struggle for supremacy will begin.

Which will be successful will depend entirely upon the candidates nominated, for, strange as it may seem, the old maxim, "principles, not men," seems to have been reversed in modern politics. An improper or unpopular candidate cannot be elected by either party on the soundest platform.

Though fairly representing his party, he must be sound himself, thoroughly trusted by the rank and file as well as the leaders, and enjoy to the fullest extent the confidence of the masses, not only because he is a standard-bearer, but, for the better reason, that he is altogether fitted to be one. Just now there seems to be an unhappy conflict of opinion in the Democratic ranks as to who should be their leader. We are afraid that the conflict is based more upon the desire to promote individual interests than to secure party success.

Candidates are named as available merely because they represent factions and not because they are supposed to be acceptable to the whole united Democracy. This preference is founded quite as much upon the hope of prospective plunder as upon the real merit of the candidate. We are aware that it is a difficult if not an impossible thing to find a man acceptable to every one.

George D. Prentice once said, with great force: "It is in vain to hope to please all alike. Let a man stand with his face in what direction he will, he must necessarily turn his back on one-half of the world." As with men so with parties, and hence it is a fact, which must be looked squarely in the face, that whoever is nominated will be made the candidate in opposition to a large number in the Democratic ranks.

In this view of the case the National Democracy should earnestly strive to find the very best man for the crisis, without reference to sentiment, or prejudice, or individual interests, or the promptings of factions. Such a man may not be easy to find, but he is worth diligently looking for. Without him the party will go into an utterly hopeless contest, with no chance of success, and the same political organization that has ruled the Nation since 1860 will again reap the fruits of victory.

The Democracy can elect a President this coming Fall if wise and prudent counsels prevail, but they need not hope to do so unless they show that they are worthy of public confidence by nominating a candidate whom the people respect and can trust after the election as well as before the battle is fought.

The enforcement of the law worked to their interests in the former case, while ignoring its provisions accomplished the same purpose in the latter. No wonder Democrats at times criticize the ambassadors of Christ, and writers in the religious press.