

PRIVATE JOHN ALLEN

THE FAMOUS WIT AND STORY TELLER ABOUT TO RETIRE.

Amos Cummings Recalls Speeches in the House Which Gave the Mississippi a Wide Reputation for Quaint Humor—Never Made but One Faux Pas and That Was When He Foolishly Attempted to Entertain His Colleagues with a Song.

Special to the Scranton Tribune.

Washington, Dec. 5.—The great wheel of legislation in its swift revolution, it is apparent that the house means business. It is working under a full head of steam. A score of statesmen are watching the gauge and all are awaiting results. Those who are waiting to their seats are jubilant, while those who have been discharged are by no means disconsolate. They are not on the black list, and await the struggle two years hence with entire confidence. Some there are, however, who have disinterested themselves. The glamour of public life has worn away, and private interests are no longer to be swamped in the service of the nation. Among these is John M. Allen, of Mississippi. With this session he passes from congressional life. Falling three years short of the senatorial time of the leader, he has returned to terra firma with a stout heart and at least an average conscience. Of the ninety-old members who are to disappear, he will be the most missed. No member of the house is more universally known. With a rare fund of humor and an unassuming way of distributing it, he has long been a prime favorite. He enlivened weary discussion, he lightened the burden of work in committee, and he always brought sunshine into the cloakroom.

At the close of this term Private John Allen will have served sixteen years in the house of representatives. He never tells a story admirably, but he leads up to it in the quaint way so characteristic of Mark Twain. He weaves it into the web of his speech so deftly that it becomes a part of the speech itself. It is always peculiarly adapted to the point at issue, and invariably serves as a clincher to an argument consisting of Mark Twain's inconsistency as a Chinese image. It is not only an illustration, but one that vivifies his logic and intensifies the interest of his hearers. Aside from this, Allen's speeches are at times studded with ripe aphorisms and apt sayings, all original and irresistible. His voice and his manner also add to the zest of his words. The voice is musical even in its hoarseness, and the manner seems to be helpless and entirely distinct from the man. When he has anything to say, he usually rises from his seat at the head of the bench on the main aisle and awaits recognition. When accorded, he appears surprised and totally unprepared. He acts as though it had come much sooner than he had any right to expect. He twangs his words and talks as slow, if not slower, than Mark Twain. Occasionally he seems to be at a loss for a word and turns his eyes toward the glass ceiling as though utterly baffled. His listeners have an innate impulse to suggest a word or do something to help him out.

John apparently wallows helplessly in the slough of his orthography. Suddenly, however, he makes a supreme effort, lands on his feet in great shape, and delivers a sentence so excessively droll and grotesque, that the hall rings with laughter and applause. His wit is never on tap, but comes apparently of its own accord and despite his efforts to prevent it. It is unstudied, if not accidental. Hardly is it uttered when John seems to be wrestling with the sentence that is to follow it. By this time the house is in a perfect uproar. Half the members throw themselves back in their chairs in a paroxysm of laughter, while the others clap their feet in ecstasy. In good time, Allen never becomes tiresome. He never made but one faux pas in the house. It was at a night session. He tried to illustrate a story by singing and made a dead failure. He lacks musical talent, and he has the voice of a night heron. Indeed, it is said that he cannot tell the "Star Spangled Banner" from the "Dead March" in Saul. It is a question whether the humor of Allen's speeches does not impair their efficacy. As from their platitudes, the line of argument is unusually strong, and would attract attention anywhere. Sunset Cox learned late in life that his wit was detrimental to his public career, and possibly the Mississippi statesman is learning a similar lesson. Undoubtedly the most effective speech ever made by him was that opposing the claim of Josiah Patterson to the seat held by E. W. Carmack, of Memphis, in the Fifty-fifth congress; yet it contained more stories than was told by him before the session of the Forty-ninth congress. Patterson, to the surprise of every member of the house, was sent back to Memphis, bitterly disappointed. It must be remembered, however, that Carmack himself was a potent factor in relieving this result. His plea was exceptionally brilliant and expressive, replete in investive and sarcasm. It has already virtually placed him in the United States senate.

John Allen first took his seat in the house in December, 1885. The only other representatives of that congress in the

"77"

The use of "77" sends the blood tingling through the veins until it reaches the extremities, when the feet warm up and the cold is broken.

Like Malaria, Grip pervades every alley caused by taking cold, and takes on a Grippy nature, including not only Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis, Catarrh and Stomach, but also Rheumatism, Kidney and Bladder diseases, which are either caused or aggravated by taking Cold.

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CRIP

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF AMERICAN COMMERCE

The following table from the recent annual report of the secretary of the treasury presents in concise form the record of the commerce of the United States for the fiscal year ended June 30, last, with comparisons:

Table with columns for Classes, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, and Increase. Rows include Imports (Merchandise, Dutiable, Exports), Gold, Silver, and other categories.

present house who have escaped the destroying angel of politics are Boutelle, of Maine; Cannon, of Illinois; Catcheside, of Mississippi; Grosvenor, of Ohio; Henderson and Hepburn, of Iowa; Hill and Hopkins, of Illinois; Keckohm, of New York; Lanham, of Texas; McClain, of Arkansas; Muller and Payne, of New York, and Richardson, of Tennessee. Allen was known in the Mississippi delegation as "Private John," and had never been accused of cutting a great swath in the field of politics. He was regarded as a quiet sort of a fellow, with a modest turn of mind, and a keen appreciation of the ridiculous. It was not until May 14, 1886, that Mr. Allen gave them a taste of his quality. On that day an effort was made to give four employees of the former house an extra month's pay as a gratuity. A rattling discussion followed, in which Samuel J. Randall, William M. Springer, William R. Morrison, Frank H. Cock, Joseph P. Cannon, Thomas J. Henderson, Richard P. Poland, and other crack speakers, participated. Suddenly the stranger from Mississippi secured the floor. He looked so awkward and ungainly as he ran his fingers through his hair and opened his mouth to read his prepared remarks that the members stopped listening. Tom Reed, who was lounging in the aisle on the Republican side of the house, stood with mouth open, paying the strictest attention. And it was a speech that was listened to. Those who were no fastidious clap-trap about it. No amusing stories were told. It was the outpouring of a rural heart, horrified at the extravagance of the house. It was logical, argumentative and heated. There was a fine fire in it. It made it extremely palatable to those who heard it. It was in this speech that John made use of the sentence frequently quoted: "If there is any one disposition that has developed among all other people in this world of the American citizen, it is a willingness to serve the government."

When the statement was riveted by the assertion that this willingness to accept government employment at the salary of ten cents per day was universal, unanimous and universal as to have banished all fears that republican institutions would ever fall here for the want of men to hold the offices, even Tom Reed gave vent to a hearty guffaw. He is not a laughing man. He has never been known to laugh at a speaker who has against the proposition to tax oleomargarine 10 per cent. He had had much trouble in securing recognition, and in opening, said: "There is an evident disposition on the part of somebody to suppress my impassioned denunciation of the speaker and the house that it is not my purpose, and I have no desire by my fervid and persuasive eloquence, to over-persuade this house into the adoption of any unconstitutional or hurtful measure. Sir, I would seem to take any such advantage of the weakness of this house." Not for an instant was he diverted by the uncontrolled merriment of his colleagues. He was as earnest and as solemn as a deacon. There was no forwarding of a smile—not even a twinkle in the corner of an eye. He then proclaimed himself a staunch friend of the cow, and made an exceedingly effective argument against the proposition. He found an able ally in old George D. Tillman, of South Carolina, a quaint congressional character, the epitome of honesty and unsurpassed in argumentative warfare. He looked like Horace Greeley, and had all of Mr. Greeley's suggestiveness of diction and impetuosity of feeling. Tillman analyzed the derivation of the word oleomargarine, praised its nutritive qualities, and winged his way into prominence. Allen was somewhat taken back. On recovering himself, however, he took the floor and, in a magnificent style, he said that he could not permit the assertion that oleomargarine is more wholesome food than the best butter produced in any Jersey or Alderney dairy.

"The gentleman insists," he continued, "that this is one of the many instances in which art has triumphed over nature. I grant there are some instances in which art seems to have had decidedly the advantage, as shown by a look in the window of Bell's gallery, where the photographs of congressmen are exhibited; but I deny that this is true of any likeness or imitation of good butter. I know that what is good is often a matter of taste, but taste sometimes depends on how a man is raised. It might be a vital question who would prefer oleomargarine to good butter. People often persuade themselves that what is cheap is wholesome."

In illustration of the assertion John ventured to read aloud from the house. Everybody was on the qui vive. It is a chestnut today; it was fresh then. "A colored friend of mine," said Allen, "Dave Creighton, walked into a store in my town, and, after passing the usual compliments with the merchant, asked him, 'How's politics now?' I heard that De Democrats done nominated Mr. John Allen for congress." "Yes," was the reply. "Well," continued Dave, "dey'm sho to get a good man dis year time, an' it won't take no ballotin-stuff to beat him nohow. De colored man'll vote fo' him." Just then Dave, being hungry, noticed some small boxes of axle grease, put up in round boxes like cheese. He says, 'Boss, how do you sell dem little cheeses?' The

For a Cold in the Head Laxative Bromo-Quinine Tablets.

THE OFFICERS ARE SELECTED

FOURTH DAY OF THE TEMPERANCE CONVENTION.

Mrs. Lillian M. N. Stevens, of Maine, is Again Elected President of the W. C. T. U.—The Visitors Received in a Kindly Manner by the President—Resolutions Are Passed Expressing Appreciation for the Sacrifice of Woolley and Metcalf.

Washington, Dec. 7.—This was a very busy and interesting day. In fact, the red-letter day of the convention, by reason of the kindness of the president in granting the Women's Christian Temperance union delegates, visitors and reporters a reception, pronounced by the Washington Star "one of the most formal and interesting in some time."

This plainly evidences the forgiving spirit of our chief executive, when we recall the countless and so-called "endless" prayers that arose some months back, but let us hope they were regretted, since little or nothing hostile to the administration has been uttered thus far by the convention.

The morning session was full of important business. Mrs. Lillian M. N. Stevens, of Maine, was again elected to the presidency, which carries with it a salary of \$1,500. In the nomination only a few dissenting voices were heard for other candidates, when a motion was made that the nomination be made unanimous, and the recording secretary cast the ballot of the convention for Mrs. Stevens.

This was done with much applause, while the audience arose to sing the Doxology, with handkerchiefs waving a joyful salute. Handsome bouquets and floral offerings were showered on Mrs. Stevens from many delegations.

She thanked the convention briefly for the cordial reception in Maine, and said that during the coming year she would labor earnestly and industriously for the principles on which the Women's Christian Temperance union is founded. She then nominated for vice-president Mrs. Anna J. Gordon, of Evanston, Ill., who had formerly filled it, which was also loudly applauded and unanimously. The salary with the position is \$800.

Mrs. Susanna D. Fry, of the same place, was also unanimously selected for corresponding secretary, at a salary of \$1,000, as was also Mrs. Clara C. Hoffman, of Kansas City, Mo., and Mrs. Helen M. Barker, of Evanston, Ill., for recording secretary and treasurer, respectively.

Thus the national work of the society will remain in experienced hands, which will no doubt tend to its progress. All of the officers were remembered with floral tokens, and a new addition to the decorations of the platform noted in a large portrait of Miss William C. Wood and her mission there to raise money for a monument to keep in mind the work of this noble woman.

MEMORIAL SERVICE.—A memorial service was then conducted for those in the work who had died during the year. In number ninety-one, whose names were read solemnly by the secretary, John W. Wood, Anna May, prayed that their work might live after them, and their memory incite others to noble endeavor.

Mrs. Helen C. Beedy, of the Dorothea Dix association, of Maine, spoke of the beautiful beneficence of Miss Dix and her mission there to raise money for a monument to keep in mind the work of this noble woman.

A resolution was passed to congratulate the Prohibition party on its recent increased vote, and expressing appreciation for the sacrifice of John W. Wood and Henry B. Metcalf in standing for a losing, though righteous cause. A message of sympathy was sent Clara Barton, of Red Cross fame, who, though confidently expected Monday night, has been unable to appear at the convention.

The opening of the afternoon session was postponed till 3 o'clock, on account of the reception at the white house, and at 2:30 some 1,600 delegates might be seen marching in file across the street from the Lafayette opera house to the executive mansion.

For an hour they surged in and out, while the Marine band played, and soldiers stood on guard. The President and Mrs. McKinley stood in a blue room, assisted by several cabinet ladies. The president stood by the chair of Mrs. McKinley, who looked so fragile, pale and small, but very dainty, in silver gray satin and point lace.

THANKS TO THE TRIBUNE.—Your correspondent took occasion to remark in the instant she stood facing the president: "I bring the greetings and best wishes of the Scranton Tribune for your second administration." His smile deepened in cordiality as he replied, "I thank you and The Tribune."

The decorations were left in the state dining room just as they were for the great dinner to be given to the commissioners from the Paris exposition. They were of pink begonias and Farlapense ferns.

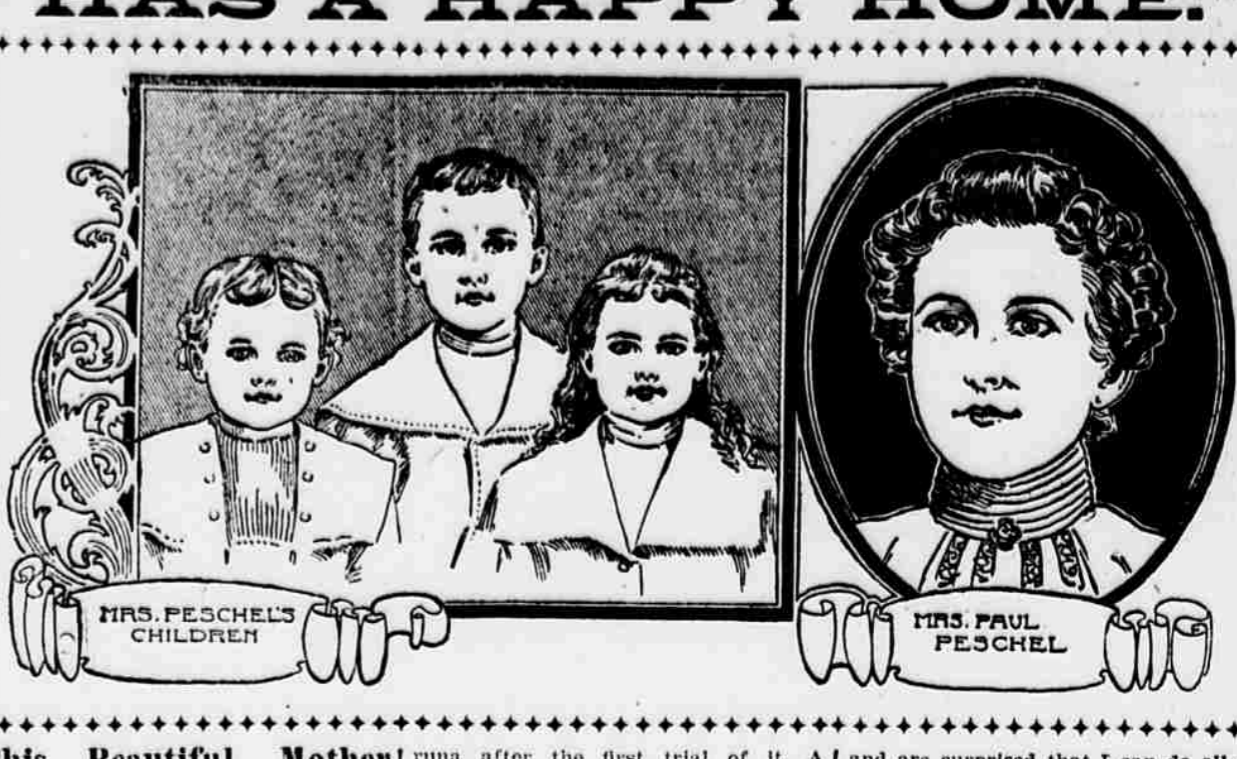
As Mrs. Stevens, the National Women's Christian Temperance union president, passed Mrs. McKinley she raised her hand and presented her with a large bouquet of La France roses, which she had been previously holding.

LABOR DISCUSSION.—The afternoon meeting was taken up largely with discussion of the labor resolution, which had been suspended for consideration, reading in part, "We reaffirm our sympathy with organized labor in its just demands for a living wage, an eight-hour day, the prohibition of child-labor, and in all wise efforts for justice and freedom."

It is a little strange that this should come under the night before given to the commissioners from the Paris exposition. They were for more than two hours nothing else was heard, some speaking against labor unions as tyrannical organizations, others saying that women should be more organized, and the more leagues together. In every line the better the amendments were made, with a running fire of short speeches, good, bad and indifferent, but all criticisms being finally defeated, a second return to the original resolutions resulted in their adoption as a whole as printed yesterday.

The evening session was denominated as superintendents' night, giving these state officers a chance to speak and demonstrate not only their own methods of progress, but the principles and methods underlying all Women's Christian Temperance union work. It was brilliant and enthusiastic, as all the evening sessions have been.

PLUCKY MRS. PESCHEL PROTECTS HER ENTIRE FAMILY WITH PERUNA HAS A HAPPY HOME.



This Beautiful Mother Says: "I Cannot Help But Praise Peruna." "I Am Never Without It." "As Soon as I Find the Children Have the Least Cold, I Give Them Peruna." "A Few Doses Helps Them."

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Sooner or later it is the inevitable fate of every one to catch cold. Care in avoiding exposure and the use of proper clothing will protect from the frequency and perhaps the severity of colds, but with the greatest of precautions they will come. This is a settled fact of human experience.

Especially is this true during the stormy and unsettled weather of early winter. Everybody must expect to be caught somewhere or somehow.

Perhaps it will be wet feet, or cold draught, or damp clothes, or maybe too close confinement in hot rooms and then going out into the cold carelessly, or it may be one of a thousand other little mishaps, but no one is shrewd enough to always avoid the inevitable catching cold.

Sometimes colds come like an epidemic: everybody seems to have one at once. They never stop, but use poison to the head, throat and lungs.

There is no fact of medical science better known than that Peruna cures naturally wherever located. Thousands of families in all parts of the United States are protected each winter by Peruna. Once in the family, Peruna always stays. No home can spare Peruna.

Peruna Added 40 Pounds. Mrs. Maria Goertz, Cleo, Oklahoma, writes: "My husband, children and myself have used your medicines, and we always keep them in the house in case of necessity. I was restored to health by J.B.'s medicine, and Dr. Hartman's invaluable advice and books. Please acquaint about me from different places."

Mrs. E. L. CHOMER. Mrs. E. L. Chomer, 5249 Emerald avenue, Chicago, Ill., writes: "I really don't know how to explain to you the benefit your Peruna has done our boy. We have used three bottles so far and will soon get another. I must tell you all the good it has done us." "Our boy is three years old and was taken ill. He was going into a sort of decline. He had a cough that sounded like an old man, lost his appetite, was restless in his sleep."

"We called in our family doctor and he prescribed for him, but he remained just the same. I suggested that we give him Peruna, (we had it in the house, but had never given him any before.) From the first day we gave him Peruna he began improving." "That was a month ago. He can go out now, it is no danger of his taking cold, for we give him a few doses of Peruna before he goes out, and he comes in. It is the first time in two years that he has been without a cough. He has had chronic bronchitis for two years but he is better of that too."

"I can, have and will recommend Peruna to my best ability. I remain a firm believer in Peruna." MRS. E. L. CHOMER. Dr. Hartman's latest book on catarrh will be sent free upon request to any address. This book contains nine-five pages of interesting reading matter and will be found invaluable to mothers in aiding them to guard against and cure the many little catarrhal ailments of children that come with the severe weather of winter.

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My book "How to be Beautiful" will be mailed free to all who will write for it." MADAME A. RUPPERT, 6 East 14th Street, New York City. Time, Ruppert's Gray Hair Restorative actually restores gray hair to its natural color. Can be used on any shade of hair, and makes the hair grow thicker and keeps the scalp cool, healthy and free from dandruff. Perfectly harmless and always gives satisfaction.

Time, Ruppert's Eyebrow Lotion for softening, thickening and coloring the eyebrows. Ruppert's Hair Tonic positively removes dandruff, all scalp diseases, stops falling hair, and in many cases restores hair. Ruppert's Almond Oil Complexion Soap, made of pure almond oil and wax. Delightful for the complexion and warranted not to chap the most delicate skin. All of the above toilet preparations are in elegant boxes and can be had from our local agents.

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