

FANTON AN SECRETARY.

ator at Washington going to war Department will find on the second story range of small rooms, fifty fifteen by twenty feet in dimension, over the entrance of which all find the figures "19," and in addition the words, "West Point Academy." The small office was through the war a point of the grand interest; it was Mr. Stanton's public reception-room. The furniture was of the simplest kind, consisting of one or two lounges, some chairs, and a high office-desk, situated in the rear of the room, and directly opposite its entrance. The room was punctually opened at ten A. M., and was soon filled with an audience of excited people, generally made up of claim agents, contractors, friends or rebel prisoners asking for exchange, "army widows," anxious relatives of wounded and missing soldiers, unimpartial United States Senators and Representatives, who were not allowed interviews at Mr. Stanton's private office.

Mr. Stanton, accompanied by an amanuensis, made his appearance punctually at eleven o'clock. His approach was always heralded by the noise of the rapidly disappearing feet of messengers and idlers, who were by some fascination hanging about the vicinity.

Mr. Stanton passed on to and behind the high desk without recognizing any one, and having poised himself, he cast a glance around the room which, while it sent a cold chill through the very bones of the speculators in the sufferings of the war, gave assurance of succor and redress to the widows and wounded soldiers.

Instantly a tall gentleman, supported by a bundle of papers, fawning and gushing, but with very weak knees and a stereotyped smile, would approach, and, with a vulgar salute of presumed familiarity, would hurriedly utter, "Good-morning, Mr. Secretary; fine morning, sir."

Mr. Stanton would give a nervous twitch as the familiar voice met his ear, and, turning abruptly to the speaker, would growl between his teeth: "Sit down, sir. I'll attend to you by-and-by." And Mr. Senator Mealy-mouth, with his papers about some "job," would disappear.

Next, is presumed importance, a gentleman with a brand-new suit of military clothing, glistening like an ignited pin-wheel with stars and stripes:

"My card, Mr. Secretary—" "Major-General Brassbutts."

Mr. Stanton would turn on the new speaker like a tiger at bay, would examine the caricature of Mars from head to foot, and thunder out:

"Come, sir; what are you doing in Washington? If you are not needed at the front, I'll see about mustering you out." General Brassbutts would gasp for breath, and his capacious boots, less sensitive than the man, would retain self-possession enough to carry the discomfited soldier from the field.

Consternation would now reign supreme in the room: even the widows and wounded soldiers would grow pale. When they beheld such great men as senators and generals in good health so suddenly squelched out, they naturally asked themselves, "What is to become of us?"

By this time Mr. Stanton literally had his audience in hand; no one was now venturesome enough to intrude especially his person or wants upon his notice; so, at his leisure, he would glance around the room, then suddenly stopping to examine attentively a sick or wounded soldier, the poor fellow would attempt to rise from his seat in acknowledgement of the honor, when Mr. Stanton would mildly, musically say, "Keep your seat, my good man." And the iron Secretary would leave his place, walk over to the silent but eloquent applicant for relief, and taking him kindly by the hand, would ask, "What brings you here?"

The story was the same so often told soldiers in one of the Washington hospitals, suffering from a severe wound, cannot identify himself, as his regiment is on the move, and no descriptive list can be obtained. Can consequently get no pay, draw no clothing; wants a furlough, and leave to go home. The hospital regulations keep him with the strictest severity in the narrow white-washed walls, which have now become more offensive than a prison.

Order from Mr. Stanton. Advance of two months' pay, transportation home, and thirty days' furlough. Soldier retires, his face beaming with satisfaction, and realizing keenly for the first time that he has a country worth fighting for, and men in the government who have a paternal care for its defenders.

"What do you desire?" would be Mr. Stanton's next question, addressed to one who was a soldier's widow or a soldier's mother, seeking information of relatives lost in the great national struggle.

"It is impossible, madam, to serve you as we could wish. Take down the name of the soldier asked for, and see what can be done."

At the instant of twelve o'clock the audience ended.—Col. T. B. Thorpe, in Harper's Mag.

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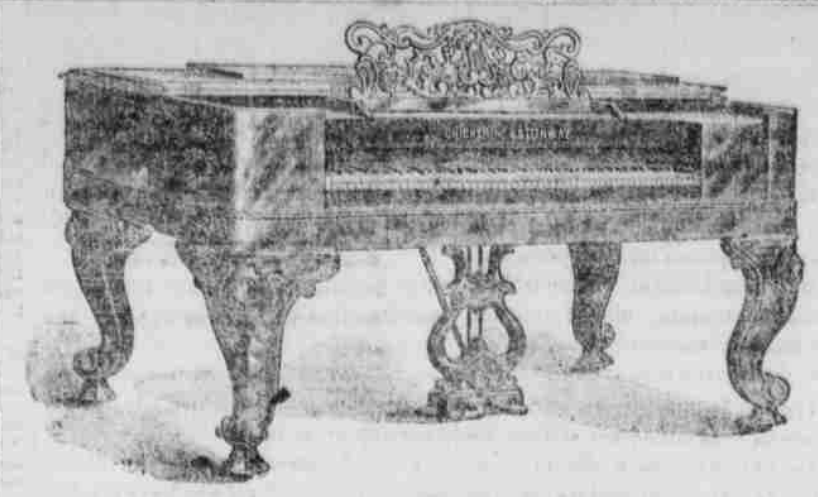
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Table with 2 columns: STATIONS and Times for Southward Trains.

ADDITIONAL SECOND-CLASS TRAINS—SOUTH. No. 10 Titusville 2.10 p. m.; Miller 2.50; Hickory 3.20; Pet Centre 3.35; Columbia 4.15; Tarr Farm 4.25; Rynd Farm 4.35; Rousseville 4.55; Oil City 5.20.

ADDITIONAL SECOND-CLASS TRAINS—NORTH. No. 15 Oil City 6.55 a. m.; Rousseville 7.20; Tarr Farm 7.40; Columbia 7.55; Pet Centre 8.10; Pioneer 8.40; Miller 9.25; Titusville 9.55.

NORTHWARD TRAINS.

Table with 2 columns: STATIONS and Times for Northward Trains.

ADDITIONAL SECOND-CLASS TRAINS—NORTH. No. 7 Titusville 9.00 a. m.; Corry 11.25; No. 11 Oil City 11.30 a. m.; Rousseville 11.45; Rynd Farm 11.55; Tarr Farm 12.05; Columbia 12.10; Pet Centre 12.20; Miller 1.25; Titusville 2.00; Corry 4.42 p. m.

(\*) Trains do not stop. (†) Stop on signal. (‡) Stop for meals. Trains 5, 6, 11 and 22 run daily; all other trains daily except Sundays.

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