

HOW BENTON WON LIFE'S BATTLE

By JOSEPH W. FOLK
FORMER GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI
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OUTSIDE of Missouri the home of Thomas H. Benton, United States senator from 1821 to 1851, is known only to the student of history. Webster, Clay and Calhoun are familiar words everywhere, yet Benton served in the United States senate longer than any of these, and was responsible for more sound legislation than all of them together. His name was never prominently connected with the presidency, yet he accomplished more for his country than have the majority of the presidents.

This remarkable man came into the world in 1782, six years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and departed in 1858, three years before the Civil war. Thus his life covered the formative epoch of a government by the people in the making, and ended just before the outbreak that shook the foundations of the republic and bathed the nation in blood. For many years he ignored the mutterings in the political sky and preferred to believe the talk of war between the states over the question of slavery mere idle chatter. When he realized that the sentiment of disunion was real he took an uncompromising stand in favor of the union and refused to alter his position or trim his sails to meet the breezes from Missouri that were blowing the other way. Though entering public life as an advocate of the admission of Missouri into the union unrestricted as to slavery, he left the public service in the evening of life because he would not consent to vote for the extension of slavery into territory that had before been free. He was a firm believer in the doctrine of state rights, which, as he understood it, the right of the states to govern themselves as to all matters except those delegated to the federal government. His theory of the republic was an "indissoluble union of self-governing states"—a federated republic.

His education, that is the school part of it, was limited to the grammar schools and a short time in the University of North Carolina. In a larger sense he continued his studies until the day of his death, and was one of the best informed men of his time. While other statesmen were indulging in the dissipation common to that period among public men, he devoted his spare moments to investigation and study, and his knowledge of the details of public matters was vastly superior to that of any of his contemporaries.

Benton's high moral character was blemished by his pugnacious disposition. In his early days he was involved in many "affairs of honor" as duels were termed then. He had not been in St. Louis long when the most unfortunate event in his career occurred. In the trial of a law suit some trivial dispute arose between him and a young attorney named Charles Lucas, a highly esteemed and most estimable young man. Lucas won the case and Benton challenged him. Lucas declined the challenge at first, but Benton persisted and offered deliberate insults. Lucas then accepted. They fought a first duel and no one being injured a second meeting was insisted upon by both parties. In the second duel Lucas fell, mortally wounded. Before dying he took Benton's hand and forgave him, but Benton never forgave himself, and the shadow of this tragedy went with him through the years to his grave. The code-duello was resorted to in those days often for insignificant things, and every public man of consequence had figured in such an affair either as principal or second. This duel was fought the year after Benton arrived in St. Louis. Four years later the father of the lamented victim of the duelling custom was one of the unsuccessful candidates for senator against Benton.

His Fight With "Old Hickory."
Benton, like Andrew Jackson, was of North Carolina birth, and, like Old Hickory, moved to Tennessee when a youth just entering upon manhood's estate. He became Jackson's friend while they both lived in Nashville and co-operated with Jackson in raising the brigade of militia which became the nucleus of the army that was to annihilate the British at New Orleans and make January 8, 1815, a red-letter day in American annals. It was on Benton's advice that the brigade was formed and offered to the government by Jackson, and for a time he was on Jackson's staff. Their friendly relations were, however, interrupted by a disgraceful brawl. Jesse Benton, a brother of Thomas Benton, had fought a duel and Jackson had seconded the antagonist. An angry dispute arose, Benton espousing his brother's cause. Jackson struck Benton with a horsewhip, and in return was shot in the shoulder by Benton. Jackson carried Benton's bullet in his shoulder until the close of his presidential term, and the wound gave him some physical distress to the end of his days. The feeling between them ran high after this episode, not to subside until the hand of fate

was to bring them together again, one a senator from another state, and the other as a candidate for the presidency of the United States. A year or so after the fight Benton moved to St. Louis, where he opened a law office in connection with a newspaper of which he became editor. He became prominent at once in the discussion of public questions, and took a leading part in securing the admission of Missouri into the union. After a five years' residence in Missouri he was elected by the legislature one of the state's first two United States senators.

Declined Money Profit from Public Service.

Immediately upon his election, with scrupulous regard for his official integrity, Benton called all of his clients to his office and told them that he could no longer serve them, as there might be a conflict between their interest and the public welfare. For some of his clients he had litigation over land grants, and as senator he was in a position, through the enactment of laws, to make them and himself wealthy in the settlement of disputed titles. He refused even to recommend an attorney to them, lest this might embarrass him in his public duty. His idea of public office was that an official had no more right to use his public functions to aid personal friends or to advance his own fortune than he would have to put his hand into the public treasury and take money therefrom to pay a private debt. Through all his official career Benton was true to this ideal and was incorruptible and above reproach from any venal standpoint.

Championed "Missouri Compromise."

Benton's career of constructive statesmanship was the greatest Missouri or the west has produced. He came upon the stage of public activity with the enactment of the Missouri compromise, which was largely his work. He left public life coincident with the repeal of that measure. Under this compromise Missouri was admitted into the Union (though it was some years later before the state was formally recognized) as a slave state, with the provision that no state created out of the Louisiana purchase, north of the southern boundary of Missouri, should be admitted with slavery. It hushed slavery agitation for a decade, and any attack upon it for a time was resisted by south as well as north. Benton was 39 years old when he took his seat and had lived exactly half the years given to him. Monroe was just beginning his second term as president, Calhoun was secretary of war, Henry Clay was speaker of the house of representatives. In the next presidential contest Benton supported Clay against Jackson, but ever after that he was Clay's political enemy and Jackson's warmest and strongest supporter.

Father of Homestead Law.

To Benton more than any other man is due the fact that there is no frontier in the United States today. What was a wilderness west of the Rocky mountains fifty years ago is now settled by happy and prosperous men and women by reason of his effort in securing the enactment of the homestead law. Benton established the policy of selling public land at a maximum of \$1.25 an acre, giving preference to actual settlers and securing to settlers the right of preemption. This made settlement easy and streams of sturdy men and women began at once to move westward.

Benton looked into the future further than any other statesman of his time. In answer to the taunts that the western country, particularly Oregon, would never be anything more than a hunting ground, he prophesied that the time would come when there would be more people west of the Rockies than east. He advocated the construction of a military road to New Mexico, and was so earnest in his support of the idea of a transcontinental railroad that his enemies charged him with being mentally unbalanced on the subject, and even his friends feared he was too enthusiastic. In one of his first speeches he prophesied that the Pacific coast would soon become the door of Asia and advised sending ministers to China and Japan—a proposal at that time considered extremely humorous.

Brought About Specie Payments.

It was through Benton's effort that specie payments were established and that all our money became based on gold and silver. So earnest was he in the demand for a specie basis that he was nicknamed "Old Bullion," of which he became very proud, and in his speeches often referred to himself by that term. He was at first inclined to favor a protective tariff system, but later strongly opposed protection merely for the sake of protection. He stated his position thus: "The fine effects of the tariff upon the prosperity of the west have been celebrated on this floor. With how much reason let facts respond and people judge. I do not think we are indebted to the high tariff for our fertile lands and navigable rivers, and I am certain we are indebted to those blessings for the prosperity we enjoy." While he opposed the protective system he voted

for a protective duty on lead, which was largely produced in Missouri. In this he made the mistake that has been made by so many senators and congressmen of this day, who say they oppose protection, but vote for protection on the products of their own states, thereby placing themselves in the position of not being able to successfully question the justice of the demand of those in other states for a larger share of protection for themselves.

After the election of Andrew Jackson to the chief magistracy Benton became the right arm of that great president. In the attempted nullification of the tariff laws by South Carolina, Benton made effective Jackson's ultimatum to that state demanding submission to the law, by engineering the passage of a compromise tariff bill which stopped everybody from talking of fighting, but satisfied nobody.

Fought United States Bank.

Jackson's greatest battle was against the United States bank, which he declared must either be put out of business or it would run the government. Benton led this fight in the senate. He brought up the question in 1821 by submitting a resolution to the effect that it was not expedient to re-charter the bank. The war against the bank raged fiercely for years. It had many powerful adherents and obtained the support of a number of members of congress, as was shown later by investigation, through what amounted to brazen bribery in the way of favoritism on loans. In the midst of the fight the presidential election of 1822 took place and Jackson was triumphantly re-elected. Shortly after this Jackson made an order withdrawing the public funds from the bank. This precipitated a tremendous public uproar and the senate adopted a resolution censuring Jackson for the act. Benton immediately began a fight to expunge this resolution from the record, and finally, in the last days of the Jackson administration, the motion prevailed amidst great excitement and the resolution of censure was expunged by having a black border drawn around it and across its face the words: "Expunged by order of the senate, January 16, 1837." Jackson deeply appreciated the value of Benton's support and years later, on his deathbed, said to a friend: "Tell Col. Benton I am grateful."

Benton was the supporter of Jackson's successors to the presidency, particularly of Van Buren and Polk, but after Andrew Jackson, the president up to the Civil war wielded little influence compared with those before, and were largely engaged in a game of hide-and-seek on the slavery question.

In 1848 the anti-Bentonites carried a majority of the Missouri legislature,

and a resolution was passed demanding that slavery be permitted to exist in territory north of the Missouri compromise boundary and instructing the senators to vote accordingly. Benton denounced this resolution as treasonable and refused to obey it. He said it did not represent the sentiment of the people of the state and he appealed from the Missouri legislature to the Missouri people. The struggle was bitter and intense. As Benton was up for re-election, it being the close of his fifth term as senator, the effort was to elect the senator for the following term. Neither side obtained a majority of the members and a deadlock resulted to be broken by the anti-Benton Democrats combining with the Whigs and bringing about Benton's defeat.

The old warrior was not dismayed and kept up the fight. In 1852 he was sent to the lower house of congress from St. Louis as a Union Democrat. For thirty years he had been absolute dictator in the politics of Missouri. His word was final, and his wishes law, but the tide had turned, and for the remaining years of his life he steadily against him. Yet at no time in his career does Benton present a more inspiring figure than when, with his back to the wall, crowded on every side by foes, he continued to battle for the principles he believed in. By compromising and by truckling to the public sentiment of his state he could have regained his seat in the senate, but he would have lost the love and admiration due the brave man who prefers defeat with the right to victory with what he considers wrong.

Benton's mannerisms were marked and did not tend to make him popular with the masses. He seemed egotistical to the point of absurdity, yet in him it was merely exaggerated self-respect. To the casual observer stern and pompous, he was gentle and tender-hearted to those who knew him well. His public and private life were above reproach. His high sense of honor as a public servant, his incorruptible integrity, his unwavering adherence to whatever cost to the principles he believed in, his powerful intellect and his aggressive energy combined to make him a fighter eminently qualified to lead and represent the militant people of the West in the first half of the last century.

He was defeated for re-election to the house in 1854, and in 1856 became the candidate of the Union Democrats for governor, and ran third in the race. He was now 74 years old, but as vigorous and robust as ever. Without lamenting his fate or the people's ingratitude, he cheerfully took up the completion of his "Thirty Years' View," giving a mental picture of the important events in the history of our country with which he had been connected. In 1858 he died in Washington, unharmed by the storm of public misunderstanding that had wrecked his political life. He looked into



the future and saw the approval of coming generations whose views would not be obscured by the passions and excitement of the moment. When the news of his death reached Missouri there was an entire change of sentiment and all classes united to do honor to his memory. They then realized that the mightiest man of Missouri was dead, the man who towered above friends and foes. All the state was in mourning and his funeral at St. Louis was attended by more than forty thousand people.

Saved Missouri to Union.

It was the fight Benton made that enabled others, when the war came, to keep Missouri in the Union. If Missouri had seceded there probably would have been a different story to tell than that which came from Appomattox.

So Benton won life's battle by simple honesty, by perseverance, by living ideals and remaining true to them in sunshine and in shadow. His influence will be felt for good as long as this republic lasts, and the failure to secure political preferment at the end of his life by giving up the fight accentuates the grandeur of his character. He lost for the moment, but in losing he gained for all time. For him there was victory in defeat. The lesson of his life is—it is not essential always to win, but it is essential to keep the faith.

The Mystery of a Duel.

Having fought his duel and saved his honor by firing a shot in the air, the editor of a French provincial newspaper went back to his desk and the incident had quite left his mind when he felt something strange in his thigh. He looked and found that he was bleeding profusely.

A doctor was called, who discovered that a bullet was embedded in the editor's thigh some two inches deep and required extraction. "Why was this not taken notice of on the spot where the duel took place?" he asked. The editor was as much in the dark as the doctor. At the moment of the duel he had fired into the air and his adversary also took a distracted sort of aim. There had evidently been no intention of doing the slightest harm on either side. The editor felt nothing as he left the field and had shaken hands with his antagonist as a sign of reconciliation. How a bullet came to be lodged in his thigh was simply one of the mysteries of dueling.

Another Boom for the Crops.

"Not many delegates appeared at the Esperantist congress that met in Kansas."
"No. Most of them stopped off and hired out as harvest hands."

Strategy.

Bessie—But didn't you say if George tried to kiss you, why, you wouldn't stand for it?
Peggy—I didn't. I—I sat down in a hammock.

A True Story.

A little girl whose mother was in the habit of singing to her when she went to bed was astonished one night to hear her ask her to sing, "Jesus save the pie for me." It was some time before the mother could understand that it was the hymn, "Jesus safely pilot me."

The World's Cynical Side.

The philosopher who asserted that truth was stranger than fiction evidently never dabbled with the six best

The KITCHEN CABINET

YOU have no right to be blunt and call a spade a spade, if your spade digs up the happiness in the hearts of those who hear.
—S. E. Eastman.
We cannot at the same time be both loving and thoughtless.
—Jenkin Lloyd Jones.

Chafing Dish Dishes.
As the bracing and cool days of autumn come upon us, the chafing dish which has been having its vacation time, is welcomed with a real delight. There are so many appetizing dishes which are only prepared and served in perfection on the chafing dish.

One of the most charming things about a chafing dish is the seeing a dish made before the eyes. For a beginner it is best to start with something simple, like fried bacon or liver and onion and put in the bacon. When crisp, lay in thin slices of liver which have been rolled in flour. Serve each piece of liver with a slice of bacon.

Curried Salmon.—Chop one small onion and brown in the blazer in a tablespoonful of olive oil, mix together a tablespoonful of flour and a teaspoonful of curry powder, add to the onion, stir and cook until bubbling, then add three-fourths of a cup of hot water, a teaspoonful of salt, the juice of half a lemon and the salmon.

Sardines on toast are another simple and tasty dish. Heat the sardines and put on pieces of toast cut the size and shape of a lady finger. Serve with chopped onion put on lettuce leaves arranged around a platter.

A Savory Rechauffe.—Stir together a tablespoonful of jelly, apple, currant or grape and two tablespoonfuls of butter in the blazer until melted. Lay in slices of rare roast beef or cold mutton or lamb; season with salt and pepper, turn often and serve.

Creamed Lobster.—Chop the flesh of a medium-sized lobster. Beat the yolks of two eggs and mix with two tablespoonfuls of cream. Season with salt, onion juice, pepper and nutmeg. Melt two tablespoonfuls of butter in the chafing dish. When hot add the lobster meat; when hot add the seasonings. Serve on buttered toast.

Curried Eggs.—Take six hard-boiled eggs, slice crosswise into four thick slices. Brown a small onion in a tablespoonful of butter, add a tablespoonful of flour, a teaspoonful of curry powder, half a teaspoonful of salt and a cupful of stock; cook until smooth, then add two tablespoonfuls of cream and the sliced eggs.

RECIPE for Home Comfort.
Take of thought of self one part, two parts of thought for family; equal parts of common sense and broad intelligence, a large medium of the sense of the fitness of things; a heaping measure of living above what your neighbors think of you; twice the quantity of keeping within your income; a sprinkling of what tends to refinement and esthetic beauty stirred thick with Christian principles of the true hand and set to use.
—Anna C. Powers.

Dusting.
Dust, like the poor, is always with us, and the process of dusting consumes a large part of the time of the house wife. Many thrifty workers carry a small dust cloth in the pocket, then when going upstairs dust the treads and banisters; on coming down dust the railing.

Now that we are beginning to realize that dust contains living germs, many of them disease germs, which are only waiting for favorable conditions to develop, we should use more care in the removal of dust. Brushing with a feather duster only stirs up the dust, to be taken into the lungs through the air we breathe.

An amusing story is told by Max O'Reil: When visiting in this country, his hostess and he came into a room where a maid was wielding a duster with more vigor than judgment, and replied, when asked what she was doing: "Why, I'm dusting." Her mistress requested her to "please undust."

Much using of the broom is often unnecessary, to pick up loose threads and brush up footmarks takes less time than ordinary sweeping, which leaves the dusting still to be done. Dusting is an art. For plain surfaces a soft, absorbent cloth, slightly damp is the best, using a brush and pointed stick to reach corners and cracks.

The cloth should be shaken and well washed after using. The manufactured dust cloth which contains an oil and holds the dust is quite a popular one at present.

"Possibly we shall some day again build our houses or dwelling places so simple and elemental in character that they will fit into the nooks of the hills or along the banks of streams or by the edges of the woods without disturbing the harmony of the landscape or the songs of the birds."—Edward Carpenter.

The sensible furniture of today is without grooves and carving is easily dusted. The less upholstered furniture the better and more sanitary is our home. Chairs may be as comfortable of rattan or wood with movable cushions and the hominess for which we strive is not lost, for a cushion will add a spot of color and make a restful seat at the same time.

Nellie Maxwell.

HER PHYSICIAN APPROVES

Taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound



Sabbatus, Maine.—"You told me to take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and Liver Pills before child-birth, and we are all surprised to see how much good it did. My physician said 'Without doubt it was the Compound that helped you.' I thank you for your kindness in advising me and give you full permission to use my name in your testimonials."—Mrs. H. W. MITCHELL, Box 3, Sabbatus, Me.

Another Woman Helped.
Graniteville, Vt.—"I was passing through the Change of Life and suffered from nervousness and other annoying symptoms. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound restored my health and strength, and proved worth mountains of gold to me. For the sake of other suffering women I am willing you should publish my letter."—Mrs. CHARLES BARCLAY, R.F.D., Graniteville, Vt.

Women who are passing through this critical period or who are suffering from any of those distressing ills peculiar to their sex should not lose sight of the fact that for thirty years Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, which is made from roots and herbs, has been the standard remedy for female ills. In almost every community you will find women who have been restored to health by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

W. L. DOUGLAS SHOES

HAND-SEWED SHOES
MEN'S \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00, \$3.50, \$4.00, \$5.00
WOMEN'S \$2.50, \$3.00, \$3.50, \$4.00
BOYS' \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00
THE STANDARD FOR 30 YEARS
They are absolutely the most popular and best shoes for the price in America. They are the leaders everywhere because they hold their shape, fit better, look better and wear longer than other makes. They are positively the most economical shoes for you to buy. W. L. Douglas name and the retail price are stamped on the bottom—value guaranteed.
TAKE NO SUBSTITUTES! If your dealer cannot supply you write for Mail Order Catalogue.
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WANTED

Bright young man for your county, splendid opening for right party. All or part of time. Nice work. Big pay. Give references.
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Thompson's Eye Water

If afflicted with weak eyes, use Thompson's Eye Water. But the pure food laws do not make any provision for love that is adulterated with filthy lucre.

FOR HEADACHE—HICKS' CAPUDINE
Whether from Colds, Heat, Stomach or Nervous Troubles, Capudine will relieve you. It's liquid-pleasant to take—acts immediately. Try it. 10c., 25c., and 50c. cents at drug stores.

A Kansas woman wants a divorce because her husband throws bricks at her. No man has a right to throw anything at his wife but bouquets and hot air.

She Has Changed Her Opinion.

"I hear your maiden aunt is visiting you."
"Yes. Came yesterday."
"How long does she expect to stay?"
"Oh, I don't know—probably for some time."
"I feel sorry for your wife. I believe I heard her say not long ago that she despised the old lady."
"She used to, but she has changed her opinion—in fact, has great respect for her now. Aunt Henry brought three trunks, two of them filled with things she smuggled in from Europe."

Mrs. Briggs' Speech.

If brevity is the soul of wit, one of the wittiest speeches on record was made by a woman. Mrs. Briggs lived in the northern part of Indiana, long distance from any village. Hearing that the Rev. Mr. Goodwin was to preach in a township some twenty miles distant, she resolved to be present, and as no other way offered, she walked the twenty miles.

The pastor heard of this, and was so pleased that at the close of the sermon he mentioned the fact to the congregation, and called upon Mrs. Briggs to tell them how she came.

Rising slowly, she looked over the audience with great solemnity, and said: "I hoofed it."
Then she sat down again.—Youth's Companion.

Post Toasties

A bowl of these crisp fluffy bits served with cream or milk is something not soon forgotten.

What's the use of cooking breakfast or lunch when Post Toasties, ready to serve direct from the package, are so delicious?

"The Memory Lingers"

POSTUM CEREAL CO., LTD.,
Battle Creek, Mich.

BRIGHT SCENES IN FINLAND

Pleasant Change for Traveler After the Dreary Cities of European Russia.

This pleasant picture of Viborg, Finland, is from a recent book by Harry de Windt: "There are few countries so absolutely dissimilar (save climatically) as Russia proper and Finland. Everything is different, commencing with the currency, for rubles and kopeks have now disappeared to give

place to pennies and marks, the latter being equal to a French franc. The contrast is especially noticeable as regards towns and their inhabitants. Thus there are few cities in European Russia which do not appear dreary and depressing to a stranger. Moscow and Odessa are exceptions, for the first named is undoubtedly picturesque, while the gardens, boulevards and well-paved thoroughfares of the other present a striking contrast, to say, Kharkoff, with its general impression of gloom, and even squalor.

Viborg is barely eighty miles from Petersburg and yet I awaken today in another world in a cozy hotel bedroom. Its windows overlook a scene more suggestive of sunny Spain or Italy than the frozen north.

"The picturesque town nestling against a background of pine forest and blue waters of the harbor sparkling under a cloudless sky, the wooded islets with their pretty villas, the ruined castle of Viborg, with its crumbling thirteenth-century battlements, and last but not least the general air

of life and animation are indeed pleasant to contemplate after the drab, dreary streets of the Russian capital. Viborg is, perhaps, the least imposing of all Finnish towns, for many of its dwellings are built of wood, which, however, is generally stained a dark red color, cleaner and more cheerful looking than rough, weather-bleached logs.

"Pleasant also is it to saunter through the picturesque old streets, to ransack the silver shops and come suddenly upon a market place lying in

the shadow of quaint old gabled houses, where the rosy-cheeked peasants, carts and cobbles and canvas booths packed with fruit and vegetables recall some old-world town in far away Brittany. Everything has a cleanly, bright appearance, and the fresh, pine-scented sea breeze is grateful indeed after muggy, inodorous Petersburg."

Now that the comet has not killed anybody, let us turn our attention to July 4.

July 4.

July 4.