

SALMON P. CHASE.

Romantic Incidents in the Life of the Chief Justice.

His Struggles in Early Life and Love for a Beautiful Southerner.

Eugene L. Didier, at one time private secretary to Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase, recites in the New York Mail and Express some interesting instances in the career of this noted man. Mr. Didier says:

"I had a hard enough struggle in my early life," said Chief Justice Chase to me, one afternoon; as we were walking from the Capitol together. "When I first came to Washington to push my fortune, I asked an uncle who was a Senator, to obtain for me a clerkship in one of the departments. He told me he would rather give me a dollar to buy a spade with which to work my way in the world. I thought my uncle was unkind, but I have long since known he acted wisely in not getting me an office, and I attribute all my good fortune in life to that refusal. Had I secured a clerkship at that time, I should probably have remained a clerk all my life, and, instead of now being the Chief Justice of the United States, be the chief clerk of a department."

Salmon P. Chase worthily won all the high honor that he gained. For years after removing to Washington he went through the daily drudgery of teaching a boys' school, studying law during his spare hours under William Wirt, the father of one of his pupils. It was at Mr. Wirt's house that he met the beautiful Miss Cabell, and then began the only romance in his life. He was thrown into her society every day, and each day added to his interest in the lovely Southern girl. Love inspired him to write verses which, however, were intended to express the passionate sentiments of a lover. The proud Virginian beauty accepted Mr. Chase as an escort to parties, receptions and the theater, and she found him a very agreeable companion in the parlor, for he was clever and intelligent, but she would not think of marrying a poor young school-teacher with his own fortune to make and apparently with little prospect of making it at that time.

Miss Cabell made the same mistake in declining Mr. Chase's addresses as the lady did who refused to marry Louis Napoleon when he was living an obscure exile in England after his escape from the prison of Ham, and thereby "refused a crown," as the future Emperor said to her. Perhaps Mr. Chase's unfortunate love affair was the cause of his leaving Washington and removing to Cincinnati, which he did soon after passing the bar. He got so bravely over his passion, however, for Miss Cabell, that he lived to marry and bury three wives, before he was forty. The aroma of that early love still lingered many years afterward. Once, when the Chief Justice was visiting Richmond with his daughter, a niece of his first love—another Miss Cabell, equally celebrated as a belle and beauty—called upon Miss Chase, her father recalled with tender feeling the circumstances of his youthful love and the result.

When he spoke of his first sweetheart there was a pathos in the voice of the calm and dignified Chief Justice, which was as rare as it was interesting. When I became the private secretary of Chief Justice Chase, he was in his sixty-second year, and to all appearance in the full vigor of his magnificent manhood—he was six feet high and weighed two hundred pounds and was as straight as a Tuscarora Indian. He had a very commanding appearance, and as he walked along the marble corridors of the Capitol his presence was felt. He was naturally a very austere man and seldom unbowed, even at home. He had little or no appreciation of humor, and rarely indulged in a joke. He was just as abstemious in his words as in all other things. He talked little, drank little, and never used tobacco in any shape or form, and did not like it to be used in his presence. His life was regular and his tastes simple, rising at 6 in the summer and 7 in the winter. In good weather he took a short walk before breakfast, returning in time to join his family at morning prayer.

The breakfast hour was 8 o'clock, after which he joined his secretary in the library, where he spent an hour reading over his letters, dictating answers to them, or preparing his opinions.

At 10 he left his house to go to the Capitol, always walking when the weather was fair, and riding in the cars in bad weather. From 11 to 3 he presided over the Supreme Court of the United States, after its adjournment walking back to his house. Arriving home, he took a lunch of crackers and tea, and then went vigorously to work on his opinions, remaining so engaged until dinner, which was always served precisely at 6 o'clock. His table was elegant, but not epicurean, and consisted always of three courses and a dessert. The Chief Justice always dressed in black when in Washington, and I was very much astonished to see him appear in light pantaloons, sack coat and top hat on the morning that we were on the Southern Circuit, in May, 1852. Miss Chase told me she was afraid that he would become so attached to the South that he would want to

wear it after his return to Washington, which she seemed to think would be lowering the dignity of the Chief Justice.

Gotham's Wealthy Homes.

"Probably in no city in the world," said an ex-officer of the Army and Navy Club a few days since, "does a pedestrian catch a glimpse of so many magnificent interiors as in New York. Naval men you know are great walkers when they reach port. It is an exercise that is beneficial in a thousand ways, and in the course of my trips about the world I have become familiar with the appearance of the streets of all the coast and many of the interior towns of importance. It is rather peculiar that the older the city the less the surface display and the more beautiful the seclusion screened interiors. For instance in Rome the houses which are most elaborately decorated within have such somber and unattractive exteriors that they might almost be called repellent. In Chicago on the other hand when a merchant prince or a millionaire pork packer builds a house he has it near the sidewalk and when the gas is lighted at night he is apt to raise the shades and pull the curtains back so that passers by may look in and see in what a costly manner he lives. New York has not this shoddy idea, but where the houses are so close to the sidewalk and the house maids are careless there is very often a chance to catch sight of interiors that force a man of any sort of cultivation or taste to stop and admire. Last night I went to dinner in Fifty-seventh street, west, and as I had plenty of time, I left the navy yard about five o'clock, crossed the bridge, walked up Broadway and moved thence up Madison avenue and along Fifty-seventh street to my destination. Everywhere along the route above Madison square I caught sight of magnificently paneled walls, plush and laced curtains that cost fortunes, warm bronzes, richly framed pictures and the like set off by subdued colored lights. On all sides were views of sumptuously furnished apartments sometimes in the basement and sometimes on the second and third floors of the houses, but never ostentatiously shown. I don't know whether people are generally aware of it or not, but there is more to be seen in a stroll about New York streets than in any other city in the world. And when the windows are not too securely screened flying glimpses of magnificently furnished homes may be had which must plunge a beggar into the very depths of despondency."

—Brooklyn Eagle.

Some Historic Dogs.

At a time when dogs, especially metropolitan dogs, are somewhat under a cloud, says a writer in *All the Year Round*, it may be well to recall some of the claims of our old friend to respect and esteem. Every one remembers the dog of Ulysses, who died in greeting his master, just returned from his long wanderings, and the story shows the consideration in which the dog was held in the heroic ages of Greece. The old Persians, too, held the dog in high esteem; to the Magians he was a sacred animal, the representative and friend of Ormuzd the Beneficent, and the great satraps were distinguished by their trains of hunting dogs, as was the King himself, and Xerxes set out for the conquest of Greece surrounded by a great body-guard of faithful dogs. Those most highly prized by the Persians came from India, so-called probably from the Bactrian regions, where the dog is still held in high repute. Captain Woods tells us that the old-fashioned Uzbek would think it no insult to be asked to sell his wife, but would resent an offer for his dog as an unpardonable affront, while among the border tribes of Turkestan the epithet of the dog-seller is one of the profoundest contempt. Indeed, the birthplace of nations is probably the original home of the dog, and when our Aryan ancestors began to migrate westward from their ancient seats with their flocks and herds they brought with them, no doubt, their fierce and faithful dogs, who have left their descendants of to-day, the English mastiff, the Pyrenean sheep dog, the Albanian wolf-hound. Ancient laws, too, record the estimation in which the dog was held: "A herd dog that goes for the sheep in the morning and follows them home at night is worth the best ox," say the ancient laws of Wales.

The best herd dogs of the present day, perhaps, are the Breton sheep dogs—rough, shaggy, uncouth—with an aspect as if they had a little of the blood of bruin in their veins, but highly valued by their possessors, who are not to be tempted into parting with them by any thing under the price of the best ox; and the Breton dog is one of the most sagacious of his kind, watching and tending his flock with an almost incredible zeal and devotion.

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G.—Ay, ay, what do you do?
B.—I pay him. —Boston Courier.

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