The Watchman and Southron.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24.

IN SIGHT OF THE CRYSTAL SEA.

I sat alone with life's memories,
In sight of the crystal sea,
And I saw the throne of the star-crowned ones,
With never a crown for me;
And then the voice of the Judge said, Come,
Of the Judge on the great white throne;
And I saw the star-crowned take their seats,
But none I could call my own.

I thought me then of my childhood days,
The prayer at my mother's knee;
Of the counsels grave that my father gave—
The wrath I was warned to flee;
I said, Is it then too late, too late,
Shut without must I stand for aye?
And the Judge, will He say, I know you not
Howe'er I may knock and pray?

I thought, I thought of the days of God
I had wasted in folly and sin—
Of the times I had mocked when the Saviour knocked
And I would not let Him in;
I thought, I thought of the vows I had made
When I lay at death's dark door—
Would He spare my life, I'd give up the strife,
And serve Him forever more.

I heard a voice like the voice of God:
Remember, remember, my son!
Remember thy ways in the former days,
The crowns that thou mightst have won!
I thought, I thought, and my thoughts ran on,
Like the tide of a sunless sea—
Am I living or dead? to myself I said,
An end is there ne'er to be?

It seems as though I woke from a dream;
How sweet was the light of day!
Melodious sounded the Sabbath bells
From towers that were far away.
I then became as a little child,
And I wept and wept afresh!
For the Lord had taken my heart of stone,
And given a heart of flesh.

Still oft I sit with life's memories,
And I think of the crystal sea;
And I see the thrones of the star-crowned ones,
And know there's a crown for me.
And when the voice of the Judge says, Come,
Of the Judge on the great white throne,
Know, mid the thrones of the star-crowned ones,
There's one I shall call my own.

A Remarkable Record.

The Youth and Manhood of Col. John L. M. Irby.

Special to the New York World Dec. 15.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Dec. 14.—There is some interesting history woven about John Laurens Manning Irby, the new Senator and successor of Wade Hampton, from South Carolina. When Irby was elected the following scene occurred, as reported by a correspondent of one of the papers in this city. Before the result of the vote for United States Senator was announced a reporter rushed into the Ways and Means Committee room and informed Col. Irby that he was elected. His reply was simple but eloquent:

"Let me wire my ma."

He then sent a telegram to his mother, telling her to meet him at the train, so that he could get the first kiss from her, then one from his wife. One might think from this pathetic, if somewhat ludicrous, exhibition of affection, that Col. Irby is a very gentle man. Such, however, is not the fact. He cannot be said exactly to be a fighting man, but he is what is known as a bulldozer.

On the day after his election an intimate friend of his from boyhood wrote of him as follows, the account giving a partial history of his crimes and showing the former character of the man:

"Of all the strange things that have happened in this wonderful year of political surprises the most remarkable is the rise of Col. John L. M. Irby of Laurens, when we consider the general make-up of the man and his record. But a recent despatch to Atlanta Constitution states that he has the reputation of being a figiter. That is saying a little too much. Col. Irby has as yet done nothing to justify the reputation of fighter.

NOT A FIGHTER.

"He did, on half a dozen occasions, overrun the Town Council of Laurens but he only wanted to fight. He stood on the public square with his gun and defied arrest but that was not fighting.

"Previous to this, too, he was present when Kilgore was killed, but after staying several years where the law could not find him, while a reward was offered by the Governor who succeeded Hampton, he returned and satisfied the jury that he did not do any fighting on that occasion.

After this he disagreed with a poor painter at Laurens and brought up a negro from his plantation, whom he made whip this white man while he stood by with a drawn pistol. Even that was not fighting, as Trial Justice Parrot decided.

"He had a difficulty with a Trial Justice on the street and was thrown on his back by the Trial Justice, but that cannot be properly designated fighting.

Later on, it is true, in company with his brother, the Intendent of the town, the two did approach this Trial Justice unawares and some ugly gashes across the face of the aforesaid Trial Justice were left as reminders, but the evidence was that the brother did this, and certainly the act of a brother ought not, against such a preponderance of evidence, be used to make for this man the reputation of a fighter.

"We have not a doubt but the friends of Gen. Hampton have found many things to urge against Col Irby, but they should stick to the facts. Col. Irby declared publicly in a speech in the writer's presence that not one iota of conservatism could justly be attributed to him. He is known to be overbearing and a bully, but even these do not justify the correspondent in telegraphing the Constitution that Col. Irby's reputation was made as a fighter. The policy of this paper is to give every man his due. We have spoken plainly of matters which are of record. The Leislature may do worse than electing Irby, but to be candid, speaking from a somewhat intimate knowledge of his life for the past ten years, the writer has serious doubts if such a thing be possible. But all of this happened in the '70s. But he has since then reformed and is now a member of the Baptist Church."

THE CHIEF OFFENSE.

It may be surprising that so little is known of the chief offense with which Senator Irby is charged. It must be remembered that the crime occurred in 1878, when news was not gathered as it now is. This was twelve years ago and there was not then any telegraphic State service. In fact there were no published accounts of the crime. This may in a measure be due to the family influence of the Irbys, who are one of the most influential families in the upper part of the State. In fact, so far as is known, the only published account was in the Greenville News. The first account (which, by the way, would be a good indication of the news service of those days), was:

"Information was received here this evening that in an altercation which occurred on the streets of Laurens to-day Wm. Kilgore was shot several times and killed by Alfred McNinch, who at once fled the country. Mr. John Irby was arrested for participation in the affray."

In the Greenville News of Dec. 30. 1878, there occurred the following partial account of the row in which Senator-elect Irby participated and for which he was afterward held on the charge of murder:

"Rumors were afloat in the city last night of a shooting and cutting scrape which occurred at Laurens Court-House the night before last. We could find no one who could give us information as to the origin and particulars of the affair, but of the results there is no conflicting statement. It seems that after the excitement of sales day was over a party of men were at the store of Mr. John Fowler, where an altercation took place between Alfred McNinch and William Kilgore, both of whom are said to have been drinking. Without many words both began shooting at each other. Kilgore was instantly killed, having been shot through the heart. In the progress of the row John Fowler was shot through the arm and Andrew Eichelberger severely cut with a knife. McNinch made his escape immediately after the shooting occurred and has not been captured. We made diligent inquiry, but were not able to learn from what cause the row commenced."

As far as can be learned, the crime for which Irby was tried and acquitted was a mere drunken brawl. All of the participants were friends and it was the result of a quarrel about a horse. The lie was passed, pistols were drawn and a fusilade ensued, resulting in the death of Kilgore and the wounding of others.

FLED THE STATE.

Soon after the homicide Irby left the State, and, as is generally understood, went to Canada. As is stated above, he was outlawed by a proclamation for his arrest being issued. Nothing was done for some time, and the excitement over Kilgore's killing died out in Laurens. McNinch was tried and convicted of murder. After several years absence, so it is said, Irby returned to the State, and was tried and acquitted. His opponents say that his acquittal was due to the packing of the jury by his intimate friends, George Washington Shell, Clerk of the Court of Laurens County and now Congressman-elect from that district, and an Alliance man. The evidence was severe, and it is said that Irby was acquitted on the doctor's testimony, that two different bullets were found near the heart, and only one chamber of Irby's pistol was empty. The question is who fired the fatal shot?

Concerning the trial the following account is found which shows Irby indicted as particeps criminis, in the News of January, 1879. Nothing about the crime was printed in the News and Courier, the leading paper:

TRIAL FOR MURDER.

The present session of the Laurens Court has been of the greatest interest, the most important case being the trial of Alf McNinch, J. L. M. Irby and John Blackwell for the murder of Mr. Kilgore on Dec. 2nd, last. The cases were several, and McNinch was put upon trial on Thursday last, and after a protracted hearing of the able counsel on both sides the jury rendered a verdict of guilty in the first degree. It was a hard-fought battle, the most distinguished lawyers in the State being engaged. Irby was to have been put upon his trial on Saturday morning as princeps criminis to the murder, but it was reported that he did not put in an appearance. Mr. Irby was out on bail of $3,000. Blackwell is in jail and will take his turn in due course of court proceedings. There is considerable feeling and excitement in Laurens concerning the case.

HAD A MAN HORSEWHIPPED.

Irby has been in other imbroglios and encounters. They have been frequent. The most sensational and remarkable story told of his early frivolities is his having a painter horse-whipped. The painter, it is said, dared to insult him, and as a result he went to his home, brought one of his negroes to town and at the point of the pistol made the negro administer a severe chastisement to the offending painter.

On another occasion he and his brother are reported as having severely cut Trial Justice Nixon for having insulted the present Senator-elect. Frequently he has been charged with having terrorized the town near which he lives and dared the police to arrest him. After he was over his sprees the general verdict is that he would go before the town authorities and make a reparation.

He was, it seems, fond of youthful sports and lead a rather reckless life, but it has never been claimed that Irby, when in society or his right self, was other than a gentleman. He comes from the same stock of the old school of South Carolina as does Senator Wade Hampton, whom, with Alliance and Reform or Tillman influence, he defeated. He has now turned over a new leaf, and is in the second volume He has since his serious escapade become a peaceable and quiet man, a loving father and a devoted husband, and by strict attention to business became independent. He is not a rich man but is well off, his means being estimated at about $250,000.

The people of South Carolina have been charitable towards Senator-elect Irby, for his conduct while a young man, was never used against him in his campaign against Senator Hampton

It was at the time when Speaker Reed was in his glory that Col. Irby first came into prominence as a politician. Before that time he was practically unheard of, except in a local way. He had never, before the Farmers' March Convention, been known from one end of South Carolina to the other. His remarkable work and rulings at that Convention soon gave him a conspicuous and important role in the political drama then being enacted in South Carolina. It is conceded by all that he had more to do with securing for Gov. Tillman the nomination at the March Convention than any other man in the State.

He has had a truly meteoric political career. In 1876 he was first elected to the State Legislature and now holds practically the highest office in the gift of this people. During the recent political campaign Col. Irby took the foremost part in the reform movement. His great political sagacity readily suggested him as a leader and he was not only made Chairman of the Reform Executive Committee, but as soon as the Democratic Convention endorsed the principle of the reform element of the party Irby was made Chairman of the State Democratic Executive Committee which elected Gov. Tillman and the ticket.

The great political acumen shown by him during this campaign stamped him as a leader of the first order, and thereafter his political star began to rapidly rise, and when the Legislature met Col. Irby almost with one accord was elected Speaker, and his friends and political foes alike bear testimony to the fact that no Speaker before him has ever conducted the business of the House with more fairness and more expedition. It was only after his election as Speaker that he became prominent by being mentioned in connection with the United States Senatorship against Hampton.

Being a young, energetic and working member of the Reform movement, Col. Irby's candidacy met with enthusiastic approval on the part of the Legislature. Other gentlemen representing the same ideas as advocated by Col. Irby divided the vote with him on several ballots, but there had hardly been a doubt from the beginning of the contest that Col. Irby would be the next United States Senator, as the vote of the two Houses finally decided.

A RUSE.

The division of the anti-Hampton vote is considered by many as having been merely a ruse to present to the State the idea that there was a heated contest in which Hampton had been worsted. Hampton never had over forty-two votes for Senator and the rest were legitimately given by the Reform or Alliance movement and Irby was undoubtedly the most eligible and popular man in that division for the position. Senator Irby was born in Laurens County, South Carolina, Sept 10, 1854, consequently he is one of the youngest Senators in that august body.

His grandfather was Capt. William Irby, who served in the Revolutionary war. Three of his grand-uncles were murdered by the Tories at Hayes Station. Irby's mother was Miss Henrietta Earle—a name which has been distinguished in South Carolina for generations.

Senator Irby will have a career which will be watched with great interest. The admirers of the defeated war hero will critically watch the young and meteoric Senator.

As the World has stated, Hampton still has hosts of friends in the State, but the new Senator is a bright and active worker, as his success in the last campaign has shown, and gives every promise of a creditable and valuable career in the United States Senate.

COL. HASKELL TALKS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 14.—Senator Wade Hampton's friends are talking very bitterly of Col. Irby, who has been elected to succeed him in the United States Senate. A local paper to-day prints another remarkable interview with Col. John C. Haskell, who is in town. Col. Haskell is the son-in-law of Senator Wade Hampton and the brother of Col. A. C. Haskell, who ran as an independent Democratic candidate for Governor of South Carolina against Tillman. He is an able lawyer and has been a member of the South Carolina Legislature continuously thirteen years. He is quoted as saying:

"Donaldson, the Alliance candidate for the United States Senate, would, I think, have done the State more credit than Irby. The latter never distinguished himself at the bar and as a public speaker is mediocre. I think it was in 1878 that he was involved in a homicide, on account of which he fled the State for three or four years, Irby had a falling out with a man named Kilgore and the latter struck him a blow in the face, which was not resented. About a week later a reconcilation took place and Irby invited his former foe to go out and take a drink. A man named McNinch appeared on the scene and he and Kilgore became involved in a fight, and McNinch drew his pistol and fired a bullet into Kilgore, who grapple with him and threw him to the ground. Another shot was fired, which killed Kilgore almost instantly. McNinch was tried and sentenced to be hanged. He swore that somebody from behind fired the shot that ended Kilgore's life. Other witnesses swore it was Irby who did the firing. The latter ran off and the Governor issued a proclamation authorizing his arrest After the lapse of some years Irby returned to the State and stood his trial, resulting in an acquittal. McNinch got a new trial and a sentence of fifteen years in the penitentiary.

"Senator Hampton," continued Col Haskell. "made no effort to secure his re-election nor would he allow any of his friends to work in his behalf. There is a great desire on the part of many Carolinians that he should run for Governor in 1892, but I am not advised of his feelings in regard to that. I am satisfied, however, that sooner or later the element that has beaten him will come to grief. Think of their outrageous conduct in turning out of the Legislature seven men who were fairly elected, as the State canvassers had declared, although the evicted members were told they could retain their seats if they would vote for Irby. It is only a question of time when retribution will overtake them."

IRBY AT COLLEGE.

VIRGINIA MIDLAND JUNCTION, Dec 14.—John L Manning Irby, the Senator-elect from South Carolina, entered the University of Virginia as a student in the Academical Department for the session 1871-1872 He was then only seventeen years old and registered from Laurens Court House, S. C. After a year's study in the classics he turned his footsteps towards the North and the next year entered Princeton to complete his collegiate education. The fame of the law department of the University of Virginia could scarcely have escaped him in his search for a place to pursue his professional studies, but he did not return to drink of Blackstone at this fountain of legal knowledge. His generation has passed away and with it his fame at the University. The records alone bear his name and brief history.

IRBY AS A DUELLIST

CUMBERLAND, Md., Dec. 14.—The News of this city prints editorially the following remarkable story about United States Senator-elect Irby, of South Carolina:

"John Laurens Manning Irby was a student at Princeton College in the Winter of 1870-71. A dispute arose between him and a fellow-student over a trifling matter, and after being convinced that the strain upon his honor demanded satisfaction, and that nothing but blood would efface the wrong, he sent a challenge to the fellow-student. To the utter astonishment, horror and dismay of Irby the challenge was promptly accepted, and pistols were selected as the instruments of death and panacea for honor. His young Southern blood was not nearly so hot nor did the insult loom up in its former colossal proportions as the letter of acceptance was read and considered

"Irby, in his challenge, had named his second, who, by the way, does not reside more than a hundred miles from Comberland, and he straightway took himself to the second for advice and consolation. During the conversation he intimated that duelling was wrong; it was an evil that had grown up in the South under peculiar circumstances and surroundings, and was not adapted to the New Jersey climate, and hinted at possible means of escape from the dilemma. But the second would hearken to none of it. Flight would be worse than death. Fight there must be, if the second had to take part himself, and if he did Irby would be his subject. After no little argument the man, who so shortly before had been writhing and torturing under an honor blackened and disgraced by an insult from a Northerner, consented to appear upon the field of honor, provided the bullets would be extracted from the cartridges before loading the weapons. Even then danger might perchance come from the powder, but the fiery young Southerner would incur that risk for his own honor and the reputation of his section for chivalry. The opponent was not let into the secret.

In the belief that the weapons were were to be loaded, and that the contest would be bona fide, he cherished the lingering hope that at the critical moment a lucky accident, he knew not what, would happen, but if not, he would sacrifice himself on the altar of his country, a martyr to Southern arrogance. Early in the morning, near break of day, according to the class historian, the party repaired to Potter's Woods, south of the college grounds, and placing the combatants back to back, the seconds instructed them to walk forward ten paces: at the command 'one' to wheel, 'two' raise the pistols, and 'three' to fire. Though short of stature, they both managed in ten paces to put enough ground between them to effectually remove from the mind of the Senator in embryo all misgivings of dangerous consequences from the powder.

"The word was given. 'One'—they wheeled—'two'—up came the pistols—'three'—a report—only one, that of the opponent. Irby walked towards him, pistol pointed, but he stood like adamant. Irby deliberately fired. It is needless to say no one was injured.

"If the courage, conduct and tactics of Senator Irby in obtaining the election to that high position were in any particular in keeping with those of the Student Irby, then South Carolina has lost much by the defeat of the venerable soldier and gained nothing in the elevation of the youthful politician."

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Nov. 12.

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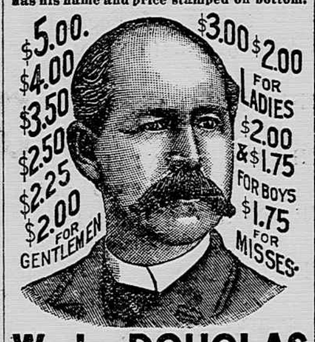

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have been most favorably received since introduced and the recent improvements make them superior to any shoes sold at these prices.

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I see! I see! 'tis this I need
To cleanse my blood, this S. S. S.
This SWIFT'S SPECIFIC, I confess
The faux pas made was rather huge,
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Treatise on Blood and Skin Diseases mailed free.

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SUMTER, S. C., Nov. 19, '90.

Mr. Editor:

Please allow me this opportunity to say that on Saturday, Nov. 22nd, I received another car load—all Horses—and all good work stock. During the season I propose to keep fully supplied with both *Horses and Mules*, so as to fully meet the demand of my customers. Ask them to look out for new notices from time to time of *Fresh Arrivals*.

Respectfully,

Nov. 26. HORACE HARBY.

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