

"What kind of a man was Sumner socially?"

"He most not charming," was the reply. "He was full of anecdotes and was a brilliant talker. He was warm hearted and sensitive. He was a man of a wide range of thought and of a thorough appreciation of the good, the true and the beautiful."

KATE CHASE IN 1860.

I here spoke to Mrs. Chase of her famous social reign, and asked her if she had a picture of herself which was taken at the time of the war.

"You speak of my social reign," Mrs. Chase replied. "I did not go into society, I venture to say, as much as half as many women in Washington to day. I never cared for society much. My friendships were strong, and I knew all of the great men of my time. My social life was made up of dinners, and with the associations of such men rather than the common round of receptions and calls. As to entertaining I was thrown upon my own resources at a very early age. I was only fourteen when I took charge of my father's household, and I continued at the head of it from that time until his death."

Mrs. Chase then said that she had no photograph or daguerrotype of that time, but that she could give me a steel engraving which was said to be a very good likeness. She thereupon went into the house and returned with this engraving and a photograph of her daughter Ethel. After speaking of Miss Ethel's success on the stage and her delight that she had been able to carve out a place for herself, she showed me the engraving. It was the picture of a beautiful woman in the full dress of about 1860. It lies before me as I write. The hoop skirt is very large but the low cut gown shows a beautiful neck and shoulders and the symmetrical features are full of beauty, much of which still may be seen on the face of Mrs. Chase. As she handed it out to me she said: "That picture has a curious history. It was made when my father was Secretary of the Treasury. Some of my friends wanted to put my picture on one of the bank notes, and they took one of my photographs without my knowledge and sent it to the American Bank Note Company of New York and had this engraving made. As soon as I heard of it I positively forbade them using it in connection with the bank notes. My father's face was on the bills and I did not care to have mine there as well. It seemed to me very bold in that they took the picture and had the engraving made without my knowledge."

SHE TALKS OF HER FATHER.

"Your father's face was printed on the one dollar bills, was it not?"

"Yes, they wanted him to allow it to go on the thousand dollar bonds, but he said he preferred the dollar notes, and said that it was his sole ambition to give the United States such a currency that the dollar of the laboring man and the dollar of the capitalist would be an honest dollar from Maine to Georgia. He succeeded in doing this and his success as Secretary of the Treasury will be one of the wonders of history. When he had borrowed his first \$50,000,000 of the New York banks, the London Times said he would not fare so well across the water. Nevertheless he raised millions in London, and he was bound that there should be money

enough to carry on the war. He succeeded in getting it in all sorts of ways. At one time when the New York bankers refused to give him money on his own terms he threatened to return to Washington and issue notes. He said at this time that the war must go on until the rebellion was put down if we had to put out paper to such an extent that it would take a thousand dollars to buy a breakfast."

SALMON P. CHASE'S DIARY AND PAPERS.

I asked Mrs. Chase as to her father's biography which she was writing. She replied:

"I can't tell how soon it will be done nor in just what way it will be published. My father left a mass of valuable material. He was one of the most methodical men I have ever known and he kept everything. His letters are full of unwritten history and they cover more than a generation of important events and of famous men. He kept full memoranda of everything connected with his work and he understood how to make his secretaries keep things from him. Every night just before he went to bed he jotted down the occurrences of the day and he thus kept a record of the important conferences that he had while in public life. All the Cabinet meetings that he attended while he was Secretary of the Treasury are thus recorded, and his diary gives in a nutshell the history of his time. It will have to be edited carefully as will indeed all of the papers. I had a call not long ago from an old friend of my father's who lives in Ohio and he told me that he had a manuscript autobiography which my father had given him in trust to be published after his death. This he said he would send to me. I don't know just what it is, but I should think it might be of great value."

"In what condition are these papers of Chief Justice Chase?"

"They are carefully stored away," replied Mrs. Chase. The most important of them I keep in a fire proof vault, and a large amount of them have been sent to Boston. There is a man connected with Harvard College, a Professor Hart, who is writing a biography of my father for the Statesmen's Series. This will necessarily be short, and it cannot go into detail like the work that I have in view.

CHIEF JUSTICE CHASE IN HISTORY.

"What do you think of your father's place in history? Does the world of to-day know him as he was?"

"It does not," replied Mrs. Chase. "I believe the time will come when his work will be appreciated. He was one of the noblest and greatest of men and he sacrificed himself to a large extent to his country. He has been called selfish and has been accused of aspiring to the Presidency as a matter of personal ambition and self aggrandizement. There was never a greater mistake. The only desire he had to be President lay in the thought that he could serve his country best in that place. He had a policy and ideas of his own as to the administration of affairs, and had he been nominated he would have been elected. He was as you know a Democrat but he was a Union man, and his policy would have healed the troubles between the North and South. He would have escaped the troubles of reconstruction and the Ku Klux would have been known. I

think I am safe in saying he would have been elected had he been nominated. He stood out as the great civil leader of the country, and his record in this respect was a match for General Grant's military service. His position on as great issues had been progressive. His financial theories had been a success. He was strong in all branches of the Democratic party and among the Republicans as well, and the contest would have been an even one."

THE CONVENTION OF 1868.

"You were in New York at the time the convention nominated Horatio Seymour?"

"Yes I went there and stopped with friends next the Manhattan Club, which was a great Democratic headquarters in those days. I knew that the men who were managing my father's interests were not as well organized as they should be and I wanted to be present to prevent any trouble and to take advantage of any situation that might come up. At first there seemed to be little doubt but that father would be nominated. The night before the convention General Van Buren, Governor Seymour's secretary came in and told me that Mr. Seymour would not be a candidate and that he would only accept a complimentary vote and would then withdraw in favor of Salmon P. Chase. He told me that Governor Seymour would come in shortly himself and tell me that he intended to do this, but he never came. I did not think he would at the time as I feared he would not have the courage to carry out his resolution. He had promised to do something of the kind when he ran for governor, but when the time came he proved too weak to carry out his promise. It was the same in this convention. He was, you know, the presiding officer. When his name was proposed he said nothing and he remained in the race until he secured the nomination."

HOW KATE CHASE REFUSED THE NOMINATION FOR HER FATHER.

"Was your father near being nominated," I asked.

"Yes, at noon that day the situation was such that he would have been nominated had the convention not adjourned. A California delegate had announced his vote for Chase. This was unexpected and it created a sensation. The convention was in an uproar and a stampede to my father's support was imminent. His enemies prevented this by moving a recess for dinner and during this recess the combination was made that nominated Seymour. The chief reason that my father was not nominated was the doubt as to whether he would accept the platform. I am sure he would not have done so. A delegation came to me while the convention was sitting and told me that if I would authorize them to assure the convention that father would accept the platform they would announce this and it would surely secure the nomination. I refused to do this. I told them that I knew the platform was not in accordance with his views and that I did not think he would consent to carry out its policy. He will do, said I, what he understands to be his duty to his country and his party but I do not think his ideas of the right are embodied in that platform. You can telegraph him concerning it. As for me I cannot vouch for it."