

CARPENTER'S LETTER.

HELENA, MONT., April 19, 1893.—I write this letter on the golden roof of the American continent. The clear blue sky of heaven fits close down over me, and on every side stand the snow-capped Rockies, the sentinels of God, watching over this wicked Montana capital. As yet the ruin of Sodom has not been let loose and the legislators and the gamblers go on their evil way rejoicing. The stories of the recent senatorial fight still fill the air, and no one pretends to say that money by the tens of thousands of dollars was not spent in the contest. As to just how this money was given out is not known, but I am told that thirty-seven \$1,000 notes were presented at a single Helena bank for exchange on the day following the adjournment of the Montana legislature, and another story is that 200 \$1,000 notes were sent from Helena to the east shortly after the 4th of March. A single legislator is said to have received as high as \$15,000 for his vote, and it is stated that one of the candidates, after spending what would be a fortune in any other city of the United States, lost it all by refusing to give something like \$10,000 because he thought he could buy the man for \$7,500. The story of this senatorial contest may come out in a future investigation before the United States Senate. The writing of it from its origin to its conclusion would fill a book, and I can only give it in a few lines. It had its origin in a feud between two of the richest men in the United States. These were Marcus Daly, the rich copper miner, and W. A. Clark, the noted Millionaire of Butte City. Both Clark and Daly came to this country comparatively poor, and both have made enormous fortunes. Clark was born in Pennsylvania about fifty-four years ago, and he drove a yoke of cattle across the plains to Colorado when he was just twenty-three years old. He worked in the mines near Denver for wages, then drifted north to Butte City and began to invest in all sorts of things in Montana. He peddled goods to the miners, going about with a wagon from camp to camp, and after he had saved a little money founded a store, which paid him well. He got hold of several undeveloped mines, and before working them went back east to Columbia College and studied mineralogy and chemistry. With his increased knowledge he came back to Montana and began to make money hand over fist. He saw that there was millions in copper, as well as in gold and silver, and he shipped the first copper from Montana to the seaboard. From a single mine he took out over thirty million pounds of copper in two years and he now owns silver mines, copper mines, bank stock and other property said to be worth at least a dozen millions of dollars. He has a private bank in Butte City, the deposits of which run into several million dollars, and when one of the corporations with which he was connected was temporarily embarrassed and was about to be thrown into the hands of a receiver he gave a single check for \$250,000 and thus tided it over.

THE FEUD OF CLARK AND DALY.

No one knows how much Marcus Daly is worth. He owns, I am told, a fourth interest in the big Anaconda copper mine, which produces millions

every year, and he has electric railroads, banks, silver mines and gold galore. I have met him during my stay in Montana and I will speak of him further in another letter. To come to the senatorial contest. It was a number of years ago that Clark and Daly owned silver mines which were close to one another, and I am told that the trouble between them came from a dispute as to whether Clark had the right to a certain part of the property. Daly thought that Clark had injured him in his case, and he has never forgiven him. He is a democrat, as is also Mr. Clark. I think Clark's claim adjoined Daly's and that he followed the lead into the ground of the latter. This brought on a law suit between the two, and the lawyers are playing battledore and shuttlecock, with that suit yet. It has been appealed and still undecided. The trouble starting in this way was fanned by injudicious friends until the campaign of 1888, when Clark wanted to go to Congress. He had made millions and he wanted a social position for his family. He got the democratic nomination, which was supposed to be equivalent to an election, and the republican nomination went begging. Mr. Thomas Carter, the head of the national republican committee during the late presidential campaign, was offered it and refused to run. He was finally persuaded to take it. Daly threw his strength to the Republicans and the result was that Carter was elected by more than 4,000 majority. It was, I think, the first time a Republican had been elected for fifteen years, and only the second time in the history of the state. In 1890 another election occurred and Carter ran for a second term, but Clark was not in this contest and W. W. Dixon, Marcus Daly's friend, was elected. Then came the admission of the territory, with two sets of senators and with Clark as one of the democratic nominees. The seats were given to the Republicans, however, and thus Sanders and Power became United States Senators. In 1892 Clark still wanted to go to the Senate, and he decided to put everything into the contest and make it go. As the story goes here, he pulled wires in every legislative district, and when the election was over he thought he had a sure thing. Daly had apparently made no fight against him, and he expected to sail in like a bird. When the legislature was polled, however, it was found that there were twenty-seven Democrats, three Populists and twenty-five Republicans. The Democrats had a caucus and in this caucus Clark received sixteen votes, Hauser, another millionaire, eleven, and Congressman Dixon nine. Clark had a majority of the caucus and by right he should have been the caucus nominee. Had he been so in reality he would have surely been elected, but here comes in Daly's fine work. The men who voted for Dixon were his men, and they withdrew from the caucus and refused to be bound by the result. To make a long story short, eight of these men held out during one of the longest senatorial contests on record, and they finally compelled an adjournment without a senator being elected. The result was that the governor, a Republican, appointed Lee Mantle, the candidate who had received the republican votes during the latter part of the contest, and Clark is going about with fire in his eye and his hatchet at his belt, longing for the time when he can get a chance at Daly. As to just who spent the money

and as to how much of it was spent must be left to the senatorial investigation.

HOW SENATORS ARE MADE IN MONTANA.

All sorts of rumors and stories concerning it are floating about through the pure ozone of Montana. One is that a certain candidate had rooms in the Helena Hotel which were occupied by his friends and that the tables in these rooms were filled with \$1,000 notes, \$500 notes, \$100 greenbacks and \$20 gold pieces. A supposedly corruptible legislator was led by the cappers into this room and was talked with somewhat as follows:

"Now, senator, we know that this contest is a disgraceful one. You feel that our man ought to be elected. You can see that that is the logic of the situation. Now we want to make it easy for you. We're going out of the room and if in thinking about this matter you can see your way clear to throw us your support you are at liberty to take just as much from those tables as you think your services are worth."

This for a poor man was a great temptation and if the story is true it probably led many men to change their minds.

HOW DALY WOULD PURIFY SENATORIAL ELECTIONS.

The worst feature about this whole election is, it seems to me, the unblushing way in which the matter is talked over here in Montana. I have yet to meet the first man who questions the fact that money was used, and the politicians seem to take it as a matter of course. The Rev. J. Wesley Hill, the Sam Jones of the Rockies, openly charged the fact from his pulpit here. The better classes of the state consider it a disgrace, of course, but there are more laughs over it than frowns, and Marcus Daly is reported to have said the other day that his part in the election had been that of a patriot. Said he:

"I propose to make it possible for a poor man to be elected to the United States Senate from Montana by making it so expensive that the rich man can't afford to run."

Daly's employes must number in the neighborhood of 5,000. He is very popular with them and he is one of the bosses of Montana.

Mr. Lee Mantle, the republican who was appointed by the governor, is one of the brightest young men of the state and he would be the youngest man in the Senate. He is only thirty-eight and he is worth a small fortune. He was a candidate for the United States Senate in the first state legislature and he has been one of the leading republicans for the last twelve years. He was born in England and moved from there to Utah. At the age of twenty-four he was driving an ox team, and two years later he had learned telegraphy and had become one of the telegraph operators of the Rocky mountains. It was this, I think, that brought him to Montana. He now owns one of the best papers in the state, the Butte City *Inter-Mountain*, and he is interested in nearly all the leading enterprises of Montana. He is a man of ability, can make a good speech, is fond of fast horses and is not averse to a good game of poker. The stakes played for here are large and, according to one of Mantle's friends, he was at last accounts about \$30,000 ahead of the game.