



Unique Career of a Great American Lawyer



The Man Who Is to Defend Harry Thaw a Remarkable Example of Speedy Mental Development.

THE peculiar type of American citizen who has his beginning in a log cabin and by a progressive series of upward and onward efforts arrives at the stage of notable achievement is less prolific in examples than formerly, but they are by no means wanting. One of the most interesting modern instances is furnished by the career of Martin W. Littleton.

It began in the eastern part of Tennessee precisely thirty-six years ago—Mr. Littleton was born Jan. 12, 1872—and has already attained a stage of development which entitles this wholly self-constructed product of American opportunity to be ranked among the foremost lawyers in the land.

Besides, political honors of no uncertain magnitude have come to him all unthought. At the age of thirty-two he was made chairman of the New York state Democratic committee and about the same time was elected president of the borough of Brooklyn. At the Democratic national convention in 1904 Mr. Littleton was selected to make the speech nominating Alton B. Parker for the presidency. Several months afterward he was introduced to President Roosevelt somewhat after this fashion: "Mr. President, permit me to make you acquainted with the gentleman to whom you are responsible for your election."

"How was that?" demanded Mr. Roosevelt, scanning the stranger with evident interest. "How do you make that out? I guess a little explanation is in order, isn't it?"

"He nominated Parker,"

New York Via Texas.

It is a far cry from the Great Smoky mountain region of Tennessee to New York city, and it is still farther when the transition is made via Texas. That was the route followed by Martin W. Littleton, who was taken to the Lone Star State while very young by his parents, who settled down in the shiftless fashion of mountain folk on a rented farm at Weatherford, Parker coun-

ty. But the spell of the Great Smoky mountains was too potent to be broken, and after a few years of half-hearted struggle against the hardships of a condition so unlike their former existence the elder Littleton made his way back to the "land of the blue mist hanging over."

Martin W., then a lad of fifteen, did not make the return pilgrimage. His announcement of his determination to remain in Texas did not surprise his family, and little attempt was made to dissuade him. For a long time it had been an accepted tradition in the Littleton family that Martin was not like the others; that he was like no other Littleton who had ever lived. He had none of the fatigable willingness to accept things as they happened without protest or inquiry. His curiosity was a marvel to the others, and his determination to get to the bottom of things filled his father with a wonder akin to reverence. He recognized in him a spirit of masterful energy which he had no inclination to control.

It was not that the boy's attitude was unfilial. His conscience is perfectly satisfied as to that. He was always cheerfully obedient and performed his part in the family struggle for existence with exemplary diligence. He made no secret, however, of his ultimate intention to emancipate himself from the circumscribed conditions in which he was placed. "If I go back with you to Tennessee," he said to his father, "I shall never amount to anything."

"Do you think you'll ever amount to a great deal here?" asked the old man, who had reason to mistrust the country he was about to leave forever. "I don't expect to stay here forever," his son declared firmly. "I'm going away after awhile—maybe to New York."

A Rezy Checked Track Walker.

A few months after this the following conversation was held between a good looking and animated young track walker on a little Texas railroad and the burly foreman of a section gang: "You seem to be a mighty neat looking young fellow. I reckon some day you are looking forward to being the conductor of a freight train, ain't you?"

"No, sir," replied the track walker decidedly. "I never expect to fill that position."

"You don't? You ought to get something as good as that. What is it you expect to be?"

"I am going to be a big lawyer in New York city."

To the foreman this confident assertion seemed so much of a joke that he laughed long and boisterously. "You're pretty far away from it now, my laddie," he gasped finally. "Not so far as from rail splitter to president," returned Martin stoutly without a sign of irritation.



MARTIN W. LITTLETON, EMINENT LAWYER AND POLITICIAN.

"That's right," admitted the foreman approvingly. "Queer things do happen."

A few years later, when the whole country was discussing his able speech at the St. Louis national convention, in which he nominated Judge Parker for

the presidency, Mr. Littleton visited his old Texas home and while there met the very foreman with whom he had discussed his future.

"Well, Martin, things have changed some since I was your boss, haven't they?" the old man began.

"I'm older," Mr. Littleton admitted modestly.

"And you're a big New York lawyer, too, ain't you?"

"Well, I don't know about the 'big,' but I'm a New York lawyer all right," Mr. Littleton agreed.

It was a brave stand for a young boy to make—voluntarily to separate himself from his family and throw himself into the arms of the fortune which he was prepared to woo so devotedly. The first problem to be met was the struggle for mere existence, always a cruel necessity for the very young. He did not shrink from the ordeal which he had precipitated for himself, but went to work manfully to pave his way. It led through a thousand slippery places, but he never came to shipwreck.

Up to the age of sixteen Littleton had never seen the interior of a schoolhouse. He had picked up—hardly knows how—a knowledge of reading and even of writing, and after he determined to become a lawyer he devoured everything on the subject he could obtain. Realizing that a surer foundation was necessary, he went to a neighboring town and for a period of eight months worked for his board on a farm and went to school. In that short educational effort—it was all the school day experience Littleton ever had—he learned all that the average boy usually acquires in as many years. According to the testimony of one who knew him at that time: "He could work any problem in the arithmetic and explain the processes involved. He could parse any word in any sentence that could be given him. He could write as rapidly and as legibly as any boy in school and could spell better than his master. He could recite more acceptably than any actor who had ever strayed so far into Texas as Weatherford, and he knew the history of the United States by heart."

Hangs Out His Shingle.

Thus equipped, he entered the office of the district attorney as a clerk and student. His progress was so rapid that he was admitted to the bar at the age of nineteen. From that moment his course encountered nothing but plain sailing. All the rough edges had been made smooth, and thereafter he was to reap the reward of his sturdy perseverance. He soon began to win most of his cases in the local courts. The invariable suavity of his manner was one of his chief assets, and the same quick wit which is so characteristic of his present method of serving the criminal law was reputed to be masterly, and his method of dealing with a jury was acknowledged to be little short of marvelous. All the time he never for an instant ceased to fondle his ambition to make his jump across the continent. Since going to Texas he had never been over the state line.

Regarded as the Leading Criminal Lawyer of the Time, He Is Only Thirty-six Years of Age.

but he had dreamed of it sleeping and waking, and it was his fixed resolve to make the great change as soon as he could accumulate the means to pay his way.

At last, in 1896, the Littletons—he had married a woman who sympathized with him in his ambition to conquer for himself a new kingdom in the country of which he knew so little—made the leap. This conquering hero was then but twenty-four, but he had all the enthusiastic initiative of youth, and his faith in himself was unshaken. It was a little slow at first in New York. That was to be expected, and it did not rob him of an atom of his equanimity. Soon he became attorney for a new traction company, and at once his star began to rise. He began to attract attention in the trial courts, and in a few months he had gained a firm foothold in the criminal courts.

Three years after his arrival he was made an assistant district attorney, and while serving in that capacity he was chief prosecutor in so many notable cases that he became well known to the millions of newspaper readers in the city of Greater New York and its populous vicinages. And all the time he was also gaining a reputation as an orator. This factor was enlarged greatly by a speech which he made in Brooklyn during the campaign of 1900. Although he was set down on the programme among the tail enders, several party orators of national reputation preceding him, Littleton made the oratorical hit of the occasion. It created a great sensation and led to his choice as the man best fitted by his forensic ability to present the name of Alton B. Parker to the convention at St. Louis.

This is the man who has been selected from among the host of legal heavyweights available in this country to defend Harry Thaw in his coming struggle for his life. Younger by many years than any other lawyer of recent years who has been put in full charge of a case so celebrated and in many respects so important, the further development of Martin W. Littleton will add very materially to what is likely to be the most interesting criminal trial of this generation.

GEORGE H. PICARD.

WELL WORN BUNCH OF LOVE LETTERS

Written by Col. Thomas Snell, Eccentric Millionaire, to Mabel Snell McNamara.

INVOLVED ESTATE'S DISPOSAL

Amatory Epistles Relate a Bizarre Love Story—Son Says Father Was a Monomaniac.

Chicago, Jan. 9.—A dispatch to the Tribune from Clinton, Ill., says:

A worn bunch of love-letters from Col. Thomas Snell, the eccentric millionaire who died here several months ago, to his grandniece, Mabel Snell McNamara, are to decide the ultimate disposition of the \$2,000,000 Snell estate.

All the letters now are in the hands of Judge K. G. Cochrane, and will be read today when the taking of evidence in the famous will case is begun.

The letters are said to contain the details of a bizarre love story—the love of a wealthy man who long had passed his allotted three-score years and ten for his niece, who then was but 24 years old.

That his affection was reciprocated is proved by the tenor of the replies of the latter, now Mrs. McNamara.

The evidence to be offered is said to include a long list of checks and sums of money which Col. Snell gave to his niece from time to time. The cash, it will be declared in court, amounted approximately to \$50,000, while real estate valued at \$25,000 was transferred to her.

The question which the jury will be called upon to decide is whether these acts are an indication of affection of the old man for his niece, or whether they prove that Mrs. McNamara "exercised an evil, wrongful, and immoral influence over him."

Atty. Edward J. Sweeney, senior counsel for Richard Snell, the only living son of the dead millionaire, and who is endeavoring to break the will, expects to prove that such undue influence was exerted. He also expects to prove that the old man was a monomaniac, due chiefly to the hypnotic influence of the young woman.

CHGO. GREAT WESTERN.

Petition for Receiver Filed in U. S. Court, Omaha No Action.

Omaha, Jan. 9.—Petitions for a receiver for the property of the Chicago Great Western railroad property in Nebraska were filed in the United States court in Omaha this morning but no action has been taken by the court.

NO STRIKE OF GOLDFIELD CARPENTERS' UNION.

Goldfield, Nev., Jan. 9.—There will be no strike of the carpenters in the Goldfield district for the present, at least. The union has approximately 300 men on its roll at this time. A largely attended meeting was held at Carpenters' Hall last night to discuss the situation as it presents itself to organized labor in the camp. A new committee was named to confer with the operators regarding a wage schedule in case the employers would consent to a conference, which seems unlikely, in view of the tamplown given the com-

mittee from the building trades' council.

Four carpenters employed by the Consolidated Mines company were taken away from work today as they were found to be drawing less than the union scale of \$7 a day. The carpenters' organization, which is a branch of the American Federation of Labor, will insist upon its members getting \$7 a day, and will take from work any members receiving less money. But so far as a strike of this craft is concerned, there was little talk of it.

N. Y. CLEARING HOUSE.

Meeting to be Called to Decide on Admission of Trust Companies.

New York, Jan. 9.—The clearing house committee decided today to call a meeting of the entire association next Monday to determine whether to admit trust companies to membership in the association of banks now composing the clearing house.

The matter has been under discussion by the committee since last November. A definite plan will probably be submitted at Monday's meeting. The more conservative bank presidents favor the maintenance of a 25 per cent reserve by such trust companies as may be admitted to the association while others advocate an "associate membership" with a 15 per cent reserve.

APPELLATE COURT RELEASES EX-MAYOR EUGENE SCHMITZ

San Francisco, Jan. 9.—The appellate court of California today gave a decision which released ex-Mayor Eugene E. Schmitz from custody and declares the indictment on the charge of extortion void.

HEAD NEARLY SEVERED.

New York, Jan. 9.—With the head nearly severed from the trunk by three slashes of a razor, the corpse of a well dressed Italian was found today at One Hundred and Ninety-sixth street and Briggs avenue, the Bronx. No clues to the murderer or the identity of the victim have been discovered.

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HALE INTRODUCES NAVAL MEASURE

Is Expected to Increase Very Materially the Efficiency of the Navy.

PROVIDES FOR BETTER PAY.

Bureaus to be Continued, Reporting Directly to Secretary—Line and Staff Dealt With.

Washington, Jan. 9.—A bill, whose passage, it is expected will work many important changes in the personnel of the navy and greatly increase its efficiency was introduced by Senator Hale, chairman of the senate committee on naval affairs. It proposes a settlement of the vexatious question as to whether the members of the staff corps shall have rank with the line officers, puts an end to the creation of bureaus by the secretary of the navy and gives a substantial raise in pay to every commissioned officer and enlisted man of the navy and the marine corps.

There is an important section relating to the appointment of midshipmen to the line and staff corps, and also a provision calling for the retirement of officers of certain age.

THE BUREAUS.

The first section of the bill deals with the bureau question by granting authority to bureaus now existing to continue to transact the business assigned them and requiring that all reports and recommendations shall be made directly to the secretary of the navy. There is then added the provision that "no permanent board of any kind shall be hereafter appointed by the navy department, or continued in operation unless expressly provided for by law, but from time to time, the secretary of the navy may convene boards for temporary service connected with the pending business of the department."

RANK ASSIGNMENTS.

That part of the bill which relates to the assignment of line rank to officers of the various divisions of the staff corps contends that they shall in no instance assume command of any vessel. It is as follows:

"The officers in the various staff corps of the navy shall have no actual rank and title as now established for the corps staff of the army. Such officers of the staff corps of the navy shall at all times have the title and designation of 'officer of the staff,' and shall be forthwith issued to them; provided that this provision shall in no case carry with it command over any vessel of the navy to which such graduates are eligible for appointment under existing law and that the number of said appointments which shall be made to the various corps of the naval service in any one year shall not exceed 75, provided, that the foregoing provision limiting the increase in any fiscal year shall not apply to midshipmen who

may have entered the naval academy prior to Jan. 1, 1904, and have completed their four years' course at the academy."

That the order of merit of graduates of the naval academy upon final graduation and the eligibility to appointments in the navy shall be determined as now provided by existing law and regulation and the assignment of graduates to the various corps shall be made by the secretary of the navy.

DISCHARGE PROVISIONS.

The bill makes a provision for honorable discharge and one year's sea pay for those who do not receive such appointments. Midshipmen may, upon application, be honorably discharged at the end of the four years' course at the naval academy, with a proper certificate of graduation.

July 1 of each year will be regarded as the beginning of the year for reckoning vacancies for the purposes of this act.

The bill provides that when an officer has been 30 years in the service he may, upon his application, be placed upon the retired list. Also that when an officer has served 10 consecutive years as a commissioned officer, he shall, if he makes application therefor to the president, be retired from active service and placed upon the retired list.

The bill requires that any naval officer now or hereafter serving as a chief of a bureau of the navy department, must submit upon retirement his rank, pay, and allowance of such bureau chief.

SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

The new selenium photometer of a German firm of instrument makers is claimed to indicate the candle-power of lamps with ten times the sensitiveness of any light-measuring device hitherto used, while it is free from the defects of other apparatus, and avoids the errors due to personal differences of estimate and the difficulty of rating the brightness of different colors.

A new French process, milk powder is produced by the liquid under high pressure through a tube only 1-32 inch in diameter into a closed chamber heated to 157 degrees F. by means of warm air. The milk expands to vapor the air current carries off the water, and the solids fall in powder.

That malaria, as well as political decadence of Greece and Rome is indicated by a new work by W. H. B. Jones, M. D., London, England, and supported by Major Ross and Dr. G. C. Elliott. In the fourth century, B. C. a great change in the moral and character of the Greeks was coincident with a change of the country from a healthy to a malarious one. Physical vigor and intellectual power were gradually becoming a thing of the past. The influence of health upon the political condition of the Egyptians and other early races.

A "dead nebula" is one of the most singular of strange objects noted in the sky. It appears in a recent photograph by Prof. E. E. Barnard, and is a long, straggling mass in the constellation Taurus, evidently hiding stars behind it. The numerous stars around it suggest that the fading out is shown, but it appears that the nebula must be a large one, and that most of it is dead or non-luminous, being in some places darker than starless parts of the sky.

Apokontin, the dust-preventing compound described by Consul Norton at Chemnitz, and used to some extent on the macadamized streets of Leipzig, is a mixture of heavy residual oils from the refining of coal-tar, with high-boiling hydrocarbons. After heating in iron kettles, it is sprayed with a special sprayer under high pressure, and the result is a compact black coating over the roadway.

A redistribution of the chemical elements—especially of the metals—has been going on through the agency of man for some thousands of years, and H. M. Atkinson, a British chemist, points out that the total effect must be considerable.

Horse flesh has been prized as food in China for six centuries, but in Europe was first eaten 100 years ago, by the Danes. At Lige, Belgium, 2,000 horses were slaughtered in 1905, and the rapidly increasing demand promises to open new markets for American horses. Only young animals are sent to the slaughter houses.

Living pictures have been utilized for various demonstrations in medicine, one of the latest being made by biograph illustrations of different galls, while another has recorded complete details of various surgical procedures, and a third has reproduced the convulsions of epileptics. The latest feat is that of Dr. Kohler, of Wiesbaden, who has shown in X-ray photographs the movements of both normal and diseased lungs. The pictures are produced by a new French physiotherapeutic effect, by means of which 20 seconds, several X-ray impressions being combined, and about 60 pictures were produced for each respiration, each of 20 or 22 phases of inspiration and expiration being projected two or three times in the regular process. Several details brought out have never before been observed.

Gold formerly held a leading place among medicines, but even the most valued chloride of gold cure for alcoholism seems to be now regarded as without therapeutic effect by most medical men. Dr. A. Maudet, however, records that salts of gold are still used in the regular practice of a few French physicians. Chronic rheumatism is treated by Prof. Grasset with chloride of gold and sodium, which in dilute solution is injected by Dr. Bue into tuberculous tumors; for epilepsy Prof. Lemoine gives bromide of gold; the remedy of Prof. Bouley for cancer and a hypodermic injection of chloride of gold solution is Dr. Calmette's cure for yaws.

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able. The gold and other metals concentrated in small spots near the surface of the older rocks are being rapidly mined and put to use, the fine particles from their wear being carried down streams and eventually diffused through the deposits at the mouths of the rivers. Tin oxide, for example, is mined at a few places, spread out pretty uniformly over the earth, and in the refuse of towns the waste tin is oxidized, carried away by water, and on the sea-bottom the fine

particles are so scattered as to be beyond future recovery by any process known. The effect may be made to some extent by the concentration of metals in solution and other causes. As the common receptacle of all waste, the sea must be slowly changing its composition from industrial processes—notably from soluble chlorides and other factory waste and from the salts of potash and lime that are taken from mines and used on the soil by farmers.

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