

THE EVENING NEWS.

Thursday, November 25, 1899.

BARON LIEBIG—SKETCH OF THE GREAT GERMAN CHEMIST.—Appleton's Journal says:

Justus Von Liebig, the celebrated German chemist, was born at Darmstadt in 1803. In his boyhood he was taught in the gymnasium of his native town, spent ten months in an apothecary shop, entered the University at Bonn at sixteen, graduated in medicine, at Erlangen, at nineteen, and was sent, the same year, by the Grand Duke of Hesse-Darmstadt, to study chemistry at Paris.

At twenty-one he read a paper before the French Institute on the composition of the fulminates (explosive compounds of fulminic acid), which attracted the attention of Humboldt, who struck with the rare penetration of the young chemist, procured him the situation of Assistant Professor of the University of Gießen, where he became Titular Professor at the age of twenty-three.

Professor Liebig now proceeded to establish a well appointed laboratory—the first of the kind in Germany—and organized an efficient school of practical chemistry, which received many students from all parts of Europe, especially from England, and also from this country. This school became famous—a scientific focus, and a center of discovery, while the laboratories of Leipzig and Göttingen were modeled after that at Gießen.

In 1838 Professor Liebig visited England, and at the British Association for the Advancement of Science he read a paper on nitric acid, and made the startling announcement that Wohler had discovered a method of making urea artificially. This fact created remarkable interest, as it was the first successful step in a new direction of research, the synthesis of compounds in the laboratory, which were formerly supposed to be only producible under the influence of the mysterious force of life.

So significant was this tendency, and so deep the impression made by Liebig upon the British Association, that they requested him to draw up two reports upon organic chemistry. His response was made in 1840, in the shape of his first considerable work, entitled, "Chemistry in its Application to Agriculture and Physiology." This work was translated and had a wide circulation in England and this country. It gave a powerful impulse to the study of organic chemistry, and may be said to have almost created the modern science of agricultural chemistry.

In 1842 Liebig presented his second report to the British Association on "Animal Chemistry or chemistry in its Application to Physiology and Pathology." In 1845 the Grand Duke of Hesse conferred upon Liebig the title of Baron. He was offered Professorships at Vienna, in England and at Heidelberg, in place of Gmelin; and, in 1852, accepted the chair of chemistry in the University of Munich, where he has since resided.

Professor Liebig has been a copious writer as well as an indefatigable experimenter, his chief works, in addition to those mentioned, being "Familiar Letters on Chemistry," "The Motion of the Juices in the Animal Body," "The Chemistry of Food," and "Letters on Modern Agriculture."

AN EVENING WITH A REVIVALIST.

A reporter of the Milwaukee Wisconsin recently attended a meeting in that place to hear Elder Knapp, the great revivalist, who discoursed on "The Use God Makes of the Devil and Wicked Men." The church was crowded in every part. The reporter says:

The Elder appears about sixty years of age, in good physical health and vigor. In appearance he is short, thick set, with a large, bulging head, set off with bushy gray hair. In speaking he stands erect and free, gesticulates quite strongly, using the plainest and most familiar language. The tones of his voice seem somewhat dry and cold, as though the ancient fires were burning low. He reasons, if he may be said to reason, mainly from analogy, but is given mostly to general statements and "Thus saith the Word." He uses no far-fetched expressions or superfluous phraseology; now comes a familiar story, now a striking illustration, now a frightful picture, now a thrilling persuasive appeal. His figures sometimes appear harsh and grotesque, yet always good natured and effective. He will pat the devil on his back, and at the same time deal him a stunning blow in front.

In illustration of the usefulness of the devil's agency in this world, he cited "Bennett's New York Herald of thirty years ago." Elder Knapp was then holding a great revival meeting in Brooklyn, New York. The Herald sent over its reporter, who made ridiculous pictures of the meeting and the Elder. The paper circulated everywhere among the abandoned and depraved. Their curiosity was excited thereby, and they flocked into his meetings as they would to have seen a mouse or an alligator. Thousands came, and hundreds were converted through the agency of the Herald's notices. It was the devil's work, and he blessed God for the devil.

In like manner the devil worked through Jeff Davis, Mason and Slidell, urging them on to their madness, till the people of the North were aroused to the abomination and wickedness of slavery, and destroyed it from our country.

The devil is our enemy, but enemies often do us more good than friends. Friends flatter; enemies look out for our defects and weak points, and try to blow us up. This puts us on our guard and teaches us the way to strength and security. "Some sinners," he says, "don't know enough to run away when the devil is after them."

The Elder don't believe in old foggy churches or ministers. It would be impossible, he says, to get up a revival in one of the old fashioned meeting-houses of fifty and a hundred years ago, where the minister was cooped up in a little roosting box, with a sounding board over his head. It would be much more like preaching in a hoghead and talking out of the bung hole.

The Elder, in concluding his discourse, drew vivid pictures of the way and fate of the wicked. He saw them spread over a broad, inclined plane, moving downward and downward, dropping over one by one into the awful gulf, "cursing God at every breath, and gnawing their thumbs from pain, till

the scalding drops of Divine wrath come down and envelope their naked souls." Over all, and above all these horrid visions, he pictures the glorified Jesus stretching forth His arms to save. With these two pictures flaming in their minds, the Elder then descends from his pulpit and urges the impenitent to come forward to the anxious seat.

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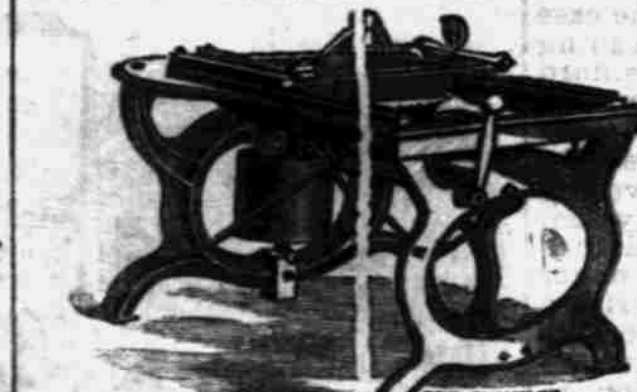
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