

IN CALIFORNIA.

Old Days Recalled by an Old Man—Start of the "Overland Monthly"—Editorial Council at the Dinner Table—A Story Bret Harte Didn't Write—Reporter Who Set a Speaker Right.

There was a period of time in California, after the fever of gold hunting had somewhat subsided and before the transcontinental railway had destroyed state isolation, when we were comfortable and quiet in the enjoyment of life in the cities and towns of the Pacific coast. The hurry and the bustle of the earlier days were over, and the influx of tourists and curious visitors had not broken in upon the regular life of those of us who were just beginning to realize something of the leisure which comes after a race—the repose which follows a strenuous struggle.

It was during this interregnum, if I may use that phrase, that the Overland Monthly was launched and the literature of California began to take shape. Life in San Francisco then, as I now remember it with a certain sentimental regret, was very pleasant. Luxuries of life were no longer out of the reach of men of slender purses; everybody knew everybody else, and there was a community of interest which disappeared after the railroad came into the state from the east.

In one of the early numbers of the Overland Monthly Henry George, then in the budding time of his genius, had an article entitled "What the Railroad

Will Bring Us," he did not reckon on the destruction of the homogeneity of California society which actually followed the introduction of eastern men and manners when the railroad was finished and we had daily traffic from the other side of the American continent.

In those days Bret Harte and I were accustomed to dine together very frequently, discussing the fortunes and the possibilities of the new magazine in which we had embarked so many hopes and fears. For Harte, who was ever distrustful of his own powers, had refused to take charge of the Overland, unless he were allowed an assistant counsel; and my duties in that humble post were confined to just such talks as those which we had over the dinner table at Louis Dingnon's.

That historic restaurant was on Commercial street, and had been first made famous by Martini, an expert chef, who came to New York and wasted his California fortune on a more gorgeous establishment on Union square. Dingnon, who succeeded him, was an ideal landlord—rubricund, genial, easy-going and watchful of all that went on in his house. His only daughter, Helen, the pride of his life, was gifted with a fine soprano voice and won renown in the

title role of La Grande Duchesse in later years.

The public room of Martini's, as the restaurant continued to be called, was the resort of some of the best people of San Francisco, who liked quiet elegance and perfect cookery rather than show and glitter. One of the habitual frequenters of the place was the resident agent of Wells, Fargo & Co., and we noticed that he often brought to dinner with him, when the cares of the day were over, some client or patron of that great corporation, which then monopolized the express and money-carrying business of the Pacific states.

His guest, one evening, was a rough-looking man whose garb and deportment were in strong contrast with his hosts. And we noticed that as our friends of the agent came in and took seats at the table the stranger was introduced to them as Mr. So-and-so "of Reno." This was repeated so frequently that we began to invent an imaginary environment and career for "the gentleman from Reno," as we called him. Rene being then the picturesque and somewhat disorderly terminus of the transcontinental railway. After much light talk of this sort between ourselves, Harte said:

"There you are, Brooks, with a story ready to your expert hand. There's your title, 'The Gentleman From Reno.' What could be more explicit to readers who know anything about Reno, or gentlemen? We have started story enough for you to go ahead with and weave in the rest, as you know so well how to weave. I surrender to you all my right, title and interest in the tale, provided you give it to me to print."

The story, so oddly conceived, was actually written and published in August. In those days all contributions to the Overland were printed without the names of the authors being attached; and when the copy of the magazine containing my modest tale reached the east, Samuel Bowles of the

Springfield Republican, who was ever on the lookout for Bret Harte's stories, pounced upon "The Gentleman From Reno" and tacking Harte's name to it, printed it in his paper. It was the highest compliment ever paid to me as a story writer.

One evening at dinner in Dingnon's Harte and I amused ourselves with making rhymes to some of the geographical names of California, an eastern writer having said that this was well-nigh impossible. Our rhymes were of the nonsensical variety, and I regret that I can recall only one of Harte's. The second syllable of Milpitas is pronounced as if spelled pee; Harte's contribution ran thus:

There was a young girl of Milpitas,
Who had an attack of bronchitis,
And she said I shall cough
My infernal head off
If I don't get out of Milpitas.

One of the reporters on the staff of the Alta California newspaper of which I was then the managing editor, was a ponderous, good-natured son of New York who bore the honored name of one of the oldest families of that state. One of his unfortunate habits was an addiction to the flowing bowl, and the higher the bowl flowed for him the more elegant and patron-like were his manners. On the occasion of opening the steamship line between San Francisco and Chinese ports a great banquet was given by the chamber of commerce. Among the after-dinner speakers was Gen. H. V. Hallack, then commanding the military division of the Pacific. Our descendant of the patrons was provided with a proofsheet of the general's speech (already in type in our office) to watch if the speaker made any material deviation from his prepared oration. In the midst of one of the general's best sentences our elegant reporter interrupted with:

"Beg pardon, general, 'emolument'

was the word you used in your manuscript."

Imagine the consternation and the fun! But these subsided until a few minutes later, when the stern censor again broke in with, "Beg pardon, general, it's a better word, but you wrote height, not altitude."

Hallack was a man of few words, but on this occasion he spoke several. Turning to me, he said: "Will you take measures to silence that ass?" It is hardly necessary to add that our too-willing commentator went out unsteadily to finish his potatoes in an anteroom.

Hallack was succeeded in command by Gen. George H. Thomas, a man whose dislike of politics and politicians was so intense as to be almost comic. One day, while I was chatting with the general in his office the card of Mr. Ben Holladay was brought in. The general laughed and said: "Now I will ask Holladay to tell you about his stock in a senatorial election."

It chanced that an election for United States senator was then pending in the legislature and Holladay said that he had been called on by an agent of one of the candidates to subscribe to the election fund of his patron. Holladay, according to his own story, said to the agent:

"Well, I have taken stock in a great many kinds of property—railroads, steamship lines, cattle, wagon roads, trading posts, stages, flatboats and all sorts of legislatures, but I never took any stock in a United States senator. Just for the novelty of the thing, I will now. How much is it a share?"

The tale deepened Thomas' distrust of all politicians, but he regarded Holladay with some suspicion because he would never tell the name of the candidate in whom he "took stock."

While I was editor of the Alta California, Justice Stephen J. Field of the United States Supreme court came into possession of a written lease of a well-

known billiard room in San Francisco, the lessor being Captain Ulysses S. Grant and another army officer. It appeared that the two officers, on the lookout for an opportunity to increase their slender incomes, were offered the lease with permission to sublet, if they chose; and their agreement with the lessee was the document in Judge Field's hands. I had it copied and printed in the columns of the Alta California as an interesting historical record.

A certain auctioneer in San Francisco, with a French name, a Maine parentage, and pro-southern affiliations, took umbrage at this, and coming into the publication office one morning when the junior proprietor was stooping over the counter and marking out the "ads" from that day's paper, General C., as we will call him, denounced Grant as a butcher who had desecrated the southern homes and had carried out a presidential policy of Democratic proscription since he had been in office.

"Nevertheless," he concluded, "he is president of the United States, and as his high office; and to connect him a lesser I call a most undignified proceeding."

The orator paused for want of breath and the newspaper proprietor, lifting his broad and rubicund visage from his work, only said: "General C., you know too damned much!" and resumed his pen.

Bret Harte, who knew all the parties to this little interlude, was mightily tickled by the story I have told here. Not long after that our paper printed an account of the building of a large and elegant residence at Belmont, near San Francisco, for William C. Ralston, the money king of the Pacific coast. That day, while I was in the bank on business, Ralston saw me from the throne on which he sat behind a plate glass screen, overlooking the entire es-

tablishment, and he beckoned me to come in. Knowing him pretty well as I did, I was not surprised when he began to scold about the account of his great house building, printed in that morning's paper. Concluding, he said:

"Now, I ask as a personal favor, not as a matter of right, that you order your people never to print my name in your paper, under any circumstances whatever, unless it comes in an advertisement from the bank, or in a written communication from me."

Of course, I promised. When I had dodged among the teams on Montgomery street, at the risk of my life, on my way back to my office, I met on the edge of the sidewalk Bret Harte, who wore a broad smile on his face.

"What's the matter, Brooks?" he asked. "You look as if you thought the whole world knew too damned much."

I got even with my friend Ralston. Not long after this episode an earthquake and tidal wave desolated a portion of the west coast of South America, destroying much property and impoverishing the people. San Francisco, true to its instincts, promptly raised a generous fund for the relief of the distressed South Americans and sent a shipload of supplies. The chief editor of our paper, mindful of instructions, brought me a list of subscribers to the relief fund and pointed to the name of William C. Ralston, which he had all the rest. I marked out the name and inserted the word "Cash." The town next day wondered why Ralston's name did not appear; and who was the modest man who refused his name and credited \$1,000 to "Cash." Of course, I took early opportunity to see Ralston in the most accidental way. He politely referred to the subscription, and added, "Bu I like it! I like it!"

All the same, I never thought he did like it overmuch.—Nash Brooks in New York Sun.

A NEW SEASON AND ITS RESPONSIBILITIES.

New Goods and the large Floor space that is now being added, give us much to get in readiness for you. We are desirous of offering the public a larger and better store in every way than we've had in the past. Only a week or so now and the new departments will be ready for business. THEY WILL BE MODELS OF BEAUTY AND COMPLETENESS.

The Latest News of the New Fall Merchandise!

From Custom House to Counters—from factory to store—the world's Choicest Novelties in Fall and Winter Merchandise are being hurried here, selected with a keen knowledge of this store's needs, and of its patrons' preference, and so numerous are the special advantageous offerings this week, that you'll not err in making a start upon the season's buying. **NEW GOODS ARE ON THE COUNTERS, SPICK AND SPAN, AND WONDERFULLY HANDSOME.** Never have the color tones been more handsome. Artist and artisan have combined their work in the happiest manner. Some of the results of our unlimited money expenditure await your criticism and approval. IF THEY PLEASE YOU WE HAVE OUR REWARD. DON'T DELAY SELECTIONS.

Newest Autumn Silks.

Thoughts of the wisest and most expert silk designers are fully represented in our superb stock of Newest Silks. The following numbers will be found especially interesting this week, as they will be sold at prices usually asked by wholesalers.

BROCADED SATIN DUCHESS, evening shades in beautiful Floral and Scroll designs—an excellent all-silk quality. Value \$1.50 and \$2.00. Special at per yard..... **\$1.10**

NEW BLACK NOVELTY WEAVE SILKS. An exceptional buy of sample pieces. About 750 yards of the latest in Black Damasses. Value up to \$2.00 per yard. Your choice at **\$1.25**

THE NEW SILK PLAIDS. High class novelties in Scotch and Tartan effects just opened, exquisite Color combinations. On sale this week per yard..... **75c, 98c, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75.**

Newest Dress Goods.

They suggest the possibility of stunning Gowns, just a word or so as to some of the fabrics that fashion has at heart, for the New Season, they will be opened up for you tomorrow in all their fulness of rich, elegant weaves and exclusive designs.

Paris fashions have decreed, Zibelines and Camels Hair, the proper fabric for fashionable wear, we have them in all colors, Soldier's Blue, Kaiser Greens, Blacks and Whites, Tans and Browns and all the leading colors, for Monday we are offering a 38-inch Camel's Hair strictly all wool only, yard..... **65c.**

Nothing nicer, more fashionable, better wear than Tweeds, we offer a West of England Tweed, 36 in. wide, strictly all wool, all the newest effects, patterns and colorings, including the new blacks and whites unsurpassed for wear and style. Monday and all the week, \$1.25 worth yard..... **\$1.75**

EXCLUSIVE NOVELTY PATTERNS, no two alike, the makes of the famous mills of the world, those warm toned Scotch effects in Tweeds, Homespuns, Zibelines, Camels Hair, no lady can afford to miss this chance, while the assortment is intact. Remember these patterns are exclusive and only to be found at Auerbach's. Prices ranging from..... **\$15.00 TO \$25.00.**

Superb Values

IN RICH AUTUMN

Novelty Velvets.

These goods are all the rage. We have them in plaids black and white, and colored stripes and small figure effects, very nobby and chic for fall waists and dresses, suit and hat trimmings. Regular width, per yard..... **85c.**

VELVETS. In the new Persians, small black and white and colored figures and stripes just the thing for swell fall and winter waists, also very pretty for dress suit and hat trimmings, 22 inches wide, a yard..... **98c.**

New Autumn Flannels

FOR VARIOUS USES.

There is a very large quantity and variety. But the demand this season is also very large. It is well to choose early.

100 pieces new Outing Flannels—27 inches wide, new patterns, the largest assortment ever shown in this city, fancy stripes, checks, plaids and plain colors. On sale this week per yard..... **8 1/2c.**

150 styles Imitation French Flannels. Double fold, 34 inches wide, in a beautiful line of new patterns suitable for Kimonos, dressing gowns, etc., in fancy stripes, figures, dots and Persian effects. On sale this week per yard..... **16 3/4c.**

Full yard wide Scotch Flannels, in pretty checks and stripes, Waist and Shirt designs, non shrinkable—Value 40c. On sale this week per yard..... **25c.**

Just opened the second shipment of French Waistings ready for your choosing Monday.

ESTABLISHED 1864.

F. Auerbach & Bro.

ONE PRICE TO ALL.

NEVER UNDERSOLD.

Our Millinery Opening!

Autumn 1902. Monday and Tuesday, September 22nd and 23rd. All Made Welcome. SPECIAL EXHIBITION.



An Artistic Treat that will delight all lovers of the New and Beautiful French Pattern Hats and Latest Millinery Novelties. Modish Hats to Suit the Most Fastidious—also to suit a Modest Pocket Book.

Our Cloak Department

Laying the Foundation Stone in OUR CLOAK DEPARTMENT, Just beginning the Fall Crusade. Almost Hourly Express Deliveries. We are forced to put on display as many of the new Beauties as fast as they arrive.

OUR NEW CLOAK ANNEX will not be ready for about two weeks. In the meantime we invite your inspection of the latest and most complete line of TAFETTA SILK, PEAU, DE SOIE SILK, and BROAD-CLOTH. DRESS SKIRTS, PRICES—

\$8.75 to \$30.00.

CHOICE VELVET, SILK AND KERSY MONTE CARLO COATS, PRICES—

\$15.00 to \$65.00.

An exquisite line of Tailor-made suits are making their appearance from every express train.

New Autumn Dress Trimmings.

All the newest creations of the season are here in profusion from the world's best makers of Europe and America, handsome appliques in spangled, jetted and mainly the beautiful embroidered effects in galloons, medallions bands edgings and insertions, blacks and the newest color combinations are here in greatest variety from the narrow edges to the rich and handsome, all overs. We invite your inspections.

APPRECIATION.

Best Expresses the mutual feeling between ourselves and customers.

Our Shoe Department

is not only gaining new customers every day, but holding their old ones as well. OUR STYLES AND PRICES ARE APPRECIATED.

Child's good looking, good wearing shoes, sizes 5 to 8, \$1.00 value..... **85 cts**

Child's shoes as above, sizes 8 1/2 to 11, \$1.25 value..... **98 cts**

Misses' shoes, as above, sizes 11 1/2 to 2, \$1.50 value..... **\$1.15**

YOU WILL SURELY APPRECIATE THESE BARGAINS

NEW AUTUMN

Comforts and Blankets

Take a look at our line of comforts and Blankets for this fall. You'll find Coverings to suit every taste—in more color combinations than you ever thought of before—in more new and unique patterns than we could possibly catalogue here—were we to try.

The following Sample Comforts and Blankets on sale this week at Special Prices!

Sample Sheet Blankets—11-4 size, in white, gray or Baurette Effects, value \$1.50, on sale at..... **\$1.10**

Sample Comforters—knotted and quilted—Silkline covered and cretonne covered, value \$2.00 and \$2.25, on sale at, each..... **\$1.45**

Extra fine sample Comforters, full size sateen or silkline covered, quilted or knotted, good value, at \$3.00, on sale at, each..... **\$2.15**

California white Sample Blankets, 11-4 size, usually sold at \$12.50, on sale this week, per pair..... **\$8.30**