DESERET EVENING NEWS: SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 1902. AMERICAN HUMORISTS OF FOUR GENERATIONS

THATEVER may be said of on for more than eighty years, with American humor, there is no brain and pen working to the very last. doubt as to its distinctive | One of the very few women humorquality. It is racy of the lsts, Frances Miriam Whitcher, was soil, it has held its own for born in 1811, and, though she died at the more than a century, and it is today as age of forty-one, her "Widow Bedott

fresh and as wholesome as the air we Papers" became quite famous. In 1814 breathe. rollicking B, P, Shillaber was born at While there are some who affect to Portsmouth, N. H. He was raised a

believe that genuine American humor printer, became an editor and acquired is in a state of vanishment and that in great fame as Mrs. Partington. He a few years it will become extinct, like died so recently as 1890, yet may be the dodo, there are others-and they said to have belonged to the previous are largely in the majority-who main- generation of humorists.

"I don't blame Prince Alfred," said tain that it was never more promising than at present. At all events there is Mrs. Partington, "for not wishing to an awakened interest in the subject by | take the throne of Greece; he'd slip off reason of the announcement by a prom- as sure as you live." She preferred Inent magazine of a series devoted to "the Venus de Medicine to any other a century of American humor, and it is statute" she knew of. well worth a critical examination.



humor. The ear- in 1887. ly writers were In 1817 was born James T. Flelds, a ton in Philadelphia. The first named Poor Browne died bravely, as he had ous books and rich legacies, but poor things of that lik. given to polems native of Portsmouth, famous publish- died in England in 1867, the second, lived merrily, a jest on his lips almost Newell recently passed beyond. ics; they always er of Boston, a scholarly writer who after inventing several useful machines at the last. It seems a long while since famous American author W. D. How- (Ell Perkins), who now lives in New log wrote with a dearly delighted to tickle the muse's and publishing books in prose and the news came over that he had passed ells, whose many books all betray an York city, author of "Wit, Humor and purpose, and fancy with queer concelts. Close upon verse, now resides at Nantucket, Mass. away, yet, as already stated, his broth- exquisite humor, was born in Ohio, 1837. Pathos," "Thirty Years of Wit" and the fact that he had passed the news came over that he had passed ells, whose many books all betray an York city, author of "Wit, Humor and their success to the fact the fact the fact the had passed ells." that purpose was the heels of Fields trod the quaintest He claims the proud distinction of hav- er humorist, Stockton, dating from the and is still actively at work at the age generally to and most philosophic humorist America ing edited and published Mark Twain's same year, 1834, still survives. Frank of sixty-four. W. L. Alden, whose hupolish off the ever saw, Henry Wheeler Shaw, who first book, "The Jumping Frog." with nestness cognomen of Josh Billings. There was than mention the name of Artemus contributing to the magazines. His hu- paper correspondent. Some of his books for humor can be compared only with mering through other fellow" extinguished his rightful name in the and dispatch. never another such as Josh except it be Ward, a "downeaster," born Browne, mor was not at first suspected, it was are "Adventures of Jimmie Brown," The writers of Artemus Ward. He was forty-five who achieved as great a reputation of so quiet a sort, like certain liqueurs "The Moral Pirates" and "Domestic today follow dif- years old when he gave Josh Billings to abroad as in this country and a greater almost insensibly warming the cockles Explosives. ferent methods, the world and was sixty-seven when though their ob- he died in 1885. There is a "heap" of ject may be humor in Josh Billings' "Sayings," not the because of but despite their phonetic practically same. Philoso- spelling. To prove this look up "Uncie pher Benjamin Esek," in which the hard sense is ap-Franklin, born parent without the aid of imagination. near the begin- In 1818, also, was born F. S. Cozzens, ning of the author of the once famous "Sparroweighteenth cen- grass Fapers" and "A Sojourn Among tury, may be the Bluenoses." The next year the called our first world was blessed with the birth of famous humor- James Russell Lowell, hardly second to ist; at all events Holmes as a humorist, as those ache wrote much, quainted with his "Biglow Papers' had the humor- can testify. In him, as also in Holmes, ous vein well de- humor and pathos were exquisitely veloped and was blended, and it is doubtful if either has consistent to the been greatly surpassed. Both Holmes and Lowell were, first of all, men of letvory last.

In what, has ters, and either would have become fabeen called the mous without the expression of the hufirst period of morous quality. The "Biglow Papers' American litera- abound in orthographic peculiarities ture were pub- hard for an American to swallow, but lished Joel Bar- there are many gems of "purest ray selow's "Hasty rene." Pudding,"Trum- Lowell's birth year was also that of

bull's "McFin- W. R. Travers, more of wit than hugali," both heav- moriat, but one who made many laugh. ily humorous, Donald G. Mitchell (Ik Marvel), who and also the was seventy-nine years old last April, first American displayed a quiet humor of the gentle novel by Charles sort in his "Reveries of a Bachelor" Brockden Brown. and other works, always classically el-This period is egant, though of the old school style supposed to end G, H. Derby, later and better known as about 1820, after John Phoenix, was born in 1823 and which came the died 1861, a few years after the appearsecond, more pro- ance of his "Phoenixiana" and "Squiin fiction bob Papers," 1855 and 1859.

and somewhat America's ripe scholar and genial huabundant in hu- morist of the "Easy Chair" sort, George



American literature in its youth had person of John G. Saxe, 1816, who was Charles H. Webb (John Paul). The my life. I saw his mother-in-law. I better known as a writer of dainty folder of the right sort for his Pe-no distinctively humorous phase, admitted to the bar in 1843, owned and first two are known the wide world of her, but it is a good deal. By the way though it dis-plays a vein of active which may have passed for the taking in polish. He died, if not have passed for the taking in polish in New York and Stock with Mr. Docley have? Taking ta Maine, Webb in New York and Stock- girls of Utah mostly marry-Young.

R. Stockton began his life work as a mor has attracted attention in the past, It were superfluous almost to more journalist and his literary career by is how resident in London as a news-

in this country than any other humor- of the heart, but warming them just | The year 1838 gave birth to John Hay, ist of his class. He may perhaps be the same. When, however, the public one time humorist, present day diplo ticketed as the first of his genus to "caught on" to his peculiar style, they matist, author of "Pike County Bal-make humor a profession or to go into became quite hungry for it, and the au-lads," "Little Breeches," etc. Every it with "malice prepense," He began thor of "Rudder Grange," "The Lady lover of fine humor went into mourn-Record.

An erratic genius appeared in the mus Ward), Frank Stockton and He's the most married man I ever saw in i different sort. Thomas Balley Aldrich, and there, like Ward and Twain, found living fatly on the proceeds of numer- laus," "Luck of Roaring Camp" and the few exam-

Lesser lights of 1839 are M. D. Landon | ful dialect writ-The many other humorous books, and Cy the Sulloway, the tall congressman from they had solid New Hampshire, who occasionally de- sense behind lights his hearers with a speech that them and glimsomething similar from his colleague, Champ Clark, his junior by eleven years. One congressman is a Republican, the Peace and War" other is a Democrat, but both men are rich, rare and julcy in their speeches, although as authors they have not yet reached far beyond The Congressional high praise.

waukee.

George Wilbur Peck, born 1840, who

The year 1841 introduced to the world

two such celebrities as C. H. Clark (Max Adeler) and James M. Bailey, the

once famous Danbury News Man,

Each one had his innings, but only

Clark, author of "Out of the Hurly Bur-

ly," "Elbow Room," etc., remains alive.

Year 1842 is responsible for a brace of

worthies, C. F. Adams, author of "Lee-

dle Yawcob Strauss." a native of Mas-

sachusetts, and Charles B. Lewis, oth-

erwise and better known as M. Quad, a

native of Ohio. Both have been suc-

cessful, and, what is far better from

our point of view, both are still alive

Robert Jones Burdette, once known

as the Hawkeye Man, a humorist by

birthright and a preacher by adoption.

lives now in Pasadena, Cal., being at

the present time fifty-seven years old.

Joel Chandler Harris, racy Uncle Re-

mus, owns up to fifty-three years, half

of them spent in editorial work. He

lives in Atlanta and is devoting all his

time to the production of more stories

In 1850 Edgar (otherwise known as

Bill) Nye was born in Shirley, Me., Ar-

temus Ward's native state. Like him,

of the Uncle Remus sort.

and doing remunerative work.

has been mayor of Milwaukee and gov- dian doing jour-

ernor of Wisconsin, is well known as a nalistle work in

journalist, but better known as the au- the United

thor of the "Peck's Ead Boy" stories States, brought

reputation for this humorist. He lives in New York, where he found the material for his Bowery characters. Tudor Jenks, born 1857 and now on the editorial staff of St. Nicholag, possesses an exquisite humor and is a writer of neatly turned phrases and quaint concelts. He is author of "Imaginotions, or Truthless Tales," and other books. His coad. jutor, Albert Bigelow Paine, born 1861. has attracted attention by his point of view, nearly always humorous, in his "Gobolinks," "The Arkansaw Bear" and "The Bread Line."

Although better known as a reader, Marshall P. Wilder, born 1859, lays claim to being a humorous author account of his "People I've Smiled With," the number being legion.

A writer of humorous fables has aris. en of late in the person of George Ade. born in Kentland, Ind., 1866, a Chicago journalist and author of "Fables in Slang," "More Fables," etc. The same year gave birth to Frank Gelett Eur. gess, writer and illustrator, who has made hits with his "Purple Cow." "Nonsense Almanac" and other books, A year younger than both these last (bechune thim, as he might say) is Pe. ter Finley Dunne, journalist and author of Chicago, whose rise to fame

in

the chinks. His

"Mr. Dooley In

and "Mr. Doo-

ley's Philosophy'

have received

G. V. Hobart,

a young Cana-

rival to Mr. Doo-

ley in his Herr

Dinkelspiel,

dialect is up-

roariously fun-

of the younger

humorists is Paul

Laurence Dun-

Ohio, 1872, and

the only one of

African descent

who has achiev.

ed wide distinc-

tion. He is au-

thor of several

"Lyrics of Lowly

Life" and "Folks

From Dixie,"

which have re-

W. D. Howells.

or present may

Some names fa-

bar,

born in

recent

FRAME Frocke J.G.JAXE and plays. His present address is Mil- out a formidable whose German ny. Last to be mentioned as one 18 JAPEL R books, such as BUNDETTE ceived praise from such an eminent critic as mous in the past Se. 1-4 SMILLBAER



mor. To this pe- W. Curtis, born 1824, made a "hit" in od belong J. K. his "Potiphar Papers," published years Paulding, born ago, Like many another humorist, 1779, and Wash- however, he rather looked askance at ington Irving, "fun" in his latter years. He died in born 1783, whose 1892; but a humorist of the rollicking "Knickerbock sort, Charles Godfrey Leland, who was er's History of born the same year as Curtis, is not New York" was perhaps the first book only living, but has just revised his fa-

smack to it, was born in Georgia in

year as Halpine, 1829, nearly reached

The decade opening with 1830 yields a

quired worldwide fame, first on the list

alleged humorist who during wartime

had quite a vogue, but who at his

In 1833 was born David Ross Locke

who gave to the world the unctuous Petroleum V, Nasby of "Confedrit X

Roads" fame. He "swung round the

cirkle" with President Johnson, of

knowledge.

the century.

of the kind written in America with hu- mous "Hans Breitman" ballads, which morous intent. It "took" anyway, and first appeared more than thirty years our fathers-and mothers, too, for that ago. Bill Arp (Charles Henry Smith), matter-enjoyed many a laugh at its whose humor has the genuine southern quips and oddities.

Then there was Seba Smith, author 1826, where he still lives in Cartersville, of witty, though vulgar, "Major Jack Major C. G. Halpine, better known as Downing," a "trainband captain, eke, Private Miles O'Reilly, was one of the was he," and he had a most wondrous few American humorists of foreign Another contemporary was birth, having come from Ireland in vogue. Judge T. C. Hallburton, who, a Nova 1847. He died in 1868 at the early age of Scotian by birth, gave New England a thirty-nine, but another humorist, dose of her own medicine in his satiric- Charles Dudley Warner, born the same al "Sayings and Doings of Sam Slick," The "Bluenose Humorist" was hard- thecentury'send. Halpine wasa wartime ly appreciated in the United States, es- writer, but Warner's humor is for all pecially in the eastern portion, and time, having in it the essence of perenwent to England, where he died in 1865, niat youth. His delightful "Summer In ed away.

One of our first nineteenth century in 1872. He traveled much, wrote much humorists was G. D. Prentice, born in and died in the fullness of years and Connecticut, 1802, who acquired his colebrity as the "leading humorist of the country" while a resident of Kentucky, "baker's dozen" of humorists who acand died in Louisville, 1870.

Five years later in New Hampshire being J. Proctor Knott, author of the was born Joseph Neal Greenleaf, au- amazing "Duluth Speech" in congress. thor of those "Charcoal Sketches" ap- He was born in Kentucky, 1830, and propriated without credit by Charles still lives in Danville. In 1832 appeared Dickens for his "Pickwick Papers." one who wrote voluminously in after Two years after him followed Oliver life as Q. K. Philander Doesticks, P. B., Wendell Holmes, Cambridge, Mass., born Thompson, yclept Mortimer, an 1809, who became a skilled anatomist, physician, poet, prose author, inimitable humorist, "Autocrat of the Breakfast Table," etc. What boy of the last generation had not recited his "Wonderful One Hoss Shay" before he left the public school?

Have you heard of the wonderful one hoss shay That was built in such a logical way

It ran a hundred years to a day, a And then of a sudden it-ah, but stay, I'll tell you what happened without de-

Scaring the parson into fits, Frightening people out of their wits. Have you ever heard of that, I say?

Ah, indeed, have we never? And the er a very busy life. thousand and one other things that The year 1834 was made notable in were created by that vivid imagination of the "little doctor." His life flowed births of Charles Farrar Browne (Arte-Brigham Young is dreadfully married. In 1836 were born two humorists of a

life as a printer's devil on the Skowhe- or the Tiger" and forty other books, is | ing when Hay abandoned his muse for only six years after gentle Irving pass- a Garden" appeared in 1871, and his gan (Me.) Clarion and won a reputa- now a very wealthy man. His address the sterner mistress diplomacy. And tion by his Artemus Ward papers in is Charlestown, W. Va. he is the Hay who once wrote: equally attractive "Backlog Studies"

the Cleveland Plain Dealer. There Posterity will probably award the must have been real wit in those pa- paim to the group of humorists compers, for they overran the country like prising Artemus Ward, Josh Billings, a prairie fire and then leaped across Stockton and Mark Twain. Each has a the Atlantic, where they made the au- different humor, but each is superb. thor a reputation in London and paved When Artemus was in California, he the way for his lectures there, which and Mark Twain came into conjunction were immensely popular. While it is --in fact, they not only met, but they doubtful if Artemus Ward's work wrote pretty much the same sort of would, on the whole, pass muster at stuff, only Mark did not attempt to this time, still there is somewhat in it make his writing popular by bad spell. savoring of wit, if not of wisdom. Like ing. It was about that time Ward Josh Billings, he played the fool in or- wrote: "The Pacific raliway is now der to attract popular attention. Like completed from Sacramento to Folsom, the great trio of humorists, Twain, Bil- Cal., which leaves 2,221 miles to go by lings and Stockton, he was very coach. This breaks the monotony. It death left little that will long outlast "thrifty," at his death leaving quite a came near breaking my back."

property for the founding of an asylum for superannuated printers and printers' orphans.

As to his humor let a few "specimen bricks" attest:

She played the accordion divinely. Ac-cordionly I praised her. whom, by the way, he once remarked that "It would have been \$10 in Andy Johnson's pocket if he'd never been born," and published "Ekkoes From Kentucky," "Nasby In Exile," as well as a tender poem called "Hannah Jane." Locke (Nasby) died in 1888 aft-

Tam not a success. I am saddest when I fall by the wayside, and everybody sing. So also are those who hear me. hopes that this peerless humorist will

BRET MARTE.

There are three species of creatures wh

when They seem coming are going, When they seem going they come-Diplomats, women and crabs! In 1839 Albany, N. Y., gave us Bret

COMPARISON OF ANCIENT AND MODERN DINNERS.

dishes that we in these days would consider almost criminal in waste," says a well known society woman, "the meal we now call dinner was then most corthat the wine consumed and the amusements indulged in at the suppers of the Roman emperors would be a little out of place even in the most Bohe-

mian restaurants-say, for instance, such as are to be found at Monte Carlo, wholesome or less injurious nature than much of what is produced today.

"As to the digestibility of the recherner-viz, six courses.

have escaped the he had only a common school educaken tion, drifted into journalism and then into fame. Nye is almost the only humorist who looked the character, having had a physiognomy provocative of merriment and a jolly disposition. He died young, unfortunately-that is, 'young for him," as he might himself have said-having departed this life in 1896. But, though physically absent, he will be long remembered as the author

of "Bill Nye and the Boomerang," "The Forty Liars," "Baled Hay" and other interesting works. Another journalistic humorist, also born in 1850, was Eugene Field, whose untimely death in 1895 has been, like Nye's, universally lamented. Few other writers, except R. L. Stevenson, have received such posthumous praise as

Field, and his books, such as his "Little Book of Western Verse" and "With Trumpet and Drum," have had wide circulation.

James Whitcomb Riley, surviving lecture partner of Nye, humorous dialect poet, author of "The Old Swimmin" Hole," etc., was born in 1853. His address is Indianapolis. In the year 1896 a promising light was extinguished when H. C. Bunner died at the age of fortyone. The year of his birth, 1855, was also that of Edward W. Townsend, author of "Chimmle Fadden," "Major Max," "Days Like These," etc., books Harte, who went to California in 1856 that have had large sales and won a

> the dinner course, such as an ice course during dinner or a raw fruit or even larger number of telephone subscribers hors d'œuvre course before the soup, I for its population than any other city think they are absolutely wrong in every way. The dinner should begin with a little good soup, and there is no doubt

system and thereby stimulating the nervous energy it tends to the furtherance of the digestion of the after luxury. "Waiter, bring me a tele-dishes. "bring me a tele-phone," is the only order necessary to

"Of course in the matter of liquids taken at meals the customs of those days were very different from present day customs. In those days little liquid was taken during the dinner meal, mostly strong sherry and even port with the cheese, but unfortunately, perhaps, a great deal too much after. I or luncheon is being served. The servcannot remember the cases of the ice is very simple. guests being under the table after the dinner, but I can remember a good many who were none the better for the

quantity of port they drank. "I must say that I think the best time for dinner is half past 7, and as two hours would be consumed at din-ner, dessert and wine after, the diges-

Paris, New York, etc .- although there tion would not commence until about before the diner goes to bed. Of course when we stay up late, as in the case of ers. A German journalist found them ual cares for may be taken. That will who had formerly been in intimate corbe four or five hours after dinner and respondence with the composer of "Parquite so long this winter as they were plied the reason for its application to



reputation as the home of humor. It is a pleasure to note that of the more than fifty American humorists here given fully half the number are living and most of them working today, Another encouraging fact is that the supply of humorous writing seems to keep pace with the demand both in quantity and quality. The prophecy once uttered that the fount of American humor was about to run dry seems in no danger of immediate fulfillment.

FREDERICK A. OBER.

WINDY CITY'S TELEPHONE BOOM.

The demand for telephones in Chicago is beyond the resources of the telephone company, and it has withdrawa Its canvassers. This increase is the result of the company's campaign of education in connection with the experimental installation of party lines in residences and small stores. Of the 10,-000 new subscribers secured during the past six months 9,000 are persons who had never before used the telephone. It is hoped to increase the present number of instruments in the city (40,000) to 100,000 in two years, giving the city a

in the world. President John L Sabin of the Chicago Telephone company has made a popular hit by installing movable phones in fashionable restaurants. You do not have to leave the table to enjoy this have a fully equipped long distance phone at your elbow. By simply ordering a telephone a guest may be placed

in communication with New York or Denver or any other city served by the Chicago Telephone company without moving from the table at which dinner

What is termed a "telephone spring jack" is adjusted to the wall near the table, and when the telephone is ordered the waiter brings the instrument, inserting a plug in the "spring jack," perfecting direct connection with the main telephone exchange.

SUCH IS FAME.

Autograph letters of Wagner have been discovered in use as jam pot covhim with much pride their cupboards some writing on the covers which he this domestic use.

Wales. This change is in response to

the Welsh request that the principality

figure in the royal standard or in the

arms of the heir apparent.

BETWEEN THE POLES.

ADAMS

000,000 of gold. The Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul

management has adopted a rule to use If a man meets his wife in the street, Indian names only for sleeping and he ignores her presence and passes her parlor cars. One of the new Pullman as if she were a stranger. sleepers just delivered to the St. Paul Measurements of salmon leaps may road has been named Nepahwin (sleep). now be included in high jump records. Swiss papers record a decline in the a quantity of chalk in the grates. Once weighs seventeen tons. a sister sleeping car has been named Standards were erected below water-

India produces annually about \$10,- | Ewayea (Iullaby), and a third care is named Omena (flight of a pigeon). records. A curious custom prevails in Korea.

A CONTRACTOR

falls by Norwegian fishery commission- it to the lack of variety in the carv- from combustion and gives out great ers. The fish are credited with a maxi- ings, the few subjects being monoto- heat. mum leap of twenty feet in the official nously repeated.

George

France has a soldler to every 59 inhabitants, Germany one to every 89, Italy one to every 126, Russia one to Here is a simple ery 100.

ALC: NO

gium eleven extensive mills where cornmeal is ground. One mill at Alost has a capacty of 17,000,000 pounds per year.

The cotton crop of the United States The Croton dam, which holds New now almost equals in value its wheat York city's chief water supply, is 300 crop. feet high, with a base of 216 feet.

The gold mines of Mysore, India, are A London newspaper announces that worked by American electrical devices, the principality of Wales will be rep.ethe power being from the meiting IIIm There are now in operation in Bel- sented in the arms of the Prince of alayan snow.

"In olden times, when the sybarite tastes of the Roman emperors were that by being rapidly absorbed into the only satisfied with dishes of such elaborateness of taste that it was necessary Twain was born the year after Ward to construct them of only parts of the and Stockton, or in 1835, and everybody rarest birds, animals and fishes, and of dishes. knows his life by heart, so it is useless

to repeat it here. It is a matter of gratulation that the author of "The Jumping Frog." "Innocents Abroad," "Roughing It," etc., is still with us, a cordionly I praised her. They have queer hotels in Oregon. I re-member one where they gave me a bag of oats for a pillow. I had nightmare, of course. In the morning the landlord said, "How do you feel, old hoss, hay?" I told him I felt my oats. I the music. I can't sing. As a singist true to the stering cit-we now call dinner was then most cor-rectly designated supper, and certainly until quite recent times was taken at a much to Twain, who has seen so many fall by the wayside, and everybody we now call dinner was then most cor-rectly designated supper, and certainly until quite recent times was taken at a much to Twain, who has seen so many fall by the wayside, and everybody fall by the wayside, and everybody

MELVILLE LANDON

Coal is worked so easily in China that from three years' service because of It is said that all the mills are crowded in Shansi it sells at less than 12 cents a ugliness. It was held that his appear- at present. ance would make his comrades laugh

is reason to believe that the wines gen- half past 9, and the stomach would erally drunk were of a purer and more then be fairly empty, as it should be, The art of adulteration had not been theaters, balls, etc., a sandwich with at the house of two maiden ladies, sis-

a good plain dinner. Personally, I am mistake all round and certainly are not recognized as that of Wagner. The su-

always satisfied with what I consider conducive to length of life. I may con- perior thickness of the paper, which alshould be called a good and proper din- clude by saying that dinners are not most resembled parchment, had sup-"With regard to recent innovation in 'last, an advantage all round."

A French conscript has been excused

Here is a simple method of making a and thus interfere with discipline, every 134 and Great Britain one to ev- half ton of coal last as long as three- The largest wrought iron pillar is at quarters of a ton. The plan is to place Delhi, India. It is sixty feet high and

carried to the perfection that obtains any particular liquid that the individ- ters of a musician long since deceased che cookery they is no doubt that a without harm, but the 'gorge and guz- sifal." The ladies were exhibiting to dinner of many courses is more digesti- zie' of the present day at the fashionble and more assimilable and more fat- able restaurants after returning from full of jam when the journalist saw tening than what would be known as the theater or other late function are a