HIS LIFE'S HISTORY CLOSED FOREVER.

George Bancroft, America's Distinguished Scholar, Dies at His Home.

WASHINGTON IN GRIEF.

A Famous Epoch in Our National Literature Terminates with His Death.

STATESMAN AND STUDENT.

Early Acquirements at Home and Abroad—Political Activity and Literary Labors.

AN EARNEST CAREER FITLY CROWNED.

HERALD BUREAU,
CORNER FIFTEENTH AND G STREETS, N. W.,
WASHINGTON, Jan. 17, 1891.

The community of Washington was greatly shocked this evening by the news that George Bancroft, the venerable historian, was dead. It had been realized that Mr. Bancroft could hardly survive much longer the increasing infirmities incident to his extremely old age but he had been in cheerful spirits and apparently better health this year since his return to the capital from Newport than for several seasons past, so that his death was sudden and unexpected to all save a few intimate friends who knew of the attack of illness which carried him off.

Death occurred at twenty minutes to four o'clock in the afternoon. The end was quiet and peaceful, and came after a period of unconsciousness lasting about twenty-four hours.

Mr. Bancroft for some years past had been in the habit of spending about five months in Newport and passing the winter and colder season of the year in Washington. Two years ago he had a severe attack of sickness, which kept him in bed for four or five weeks, and as he was then in his eighty-ninth year, grave apprehensions were felt for his life. He recovered, however, though never after that as strong as he had formerly been. He went to Washington from Newport last October, feeling better than for some time past. He was in fine health and spirits, had an excellent appetite and a good faculty for sleep, until last week when he caught a slight cold. He had always lived carefully but generously, and had said repeatedly within the last six weeks that he had never slept better nor had a better appetite.

Notwithstanding his cold he continued to seek outdoor exercise every day until Thursday, when he took to his bed as a matter of precaution. His whole illness was less than three days. He failed rapidly on Friday and became unconscious in the afternoon, in which state he remained until the end. His son, John C. Bancroft, who with his wife kept house for the historian, was with him in his last moments. The attending physician, Dr. Wales, had left the house a short time before, as Mr. Bancroft looked then as if he would live through the night.

It was decided this evening to hold funeral service at eleven o'clock next Tuesday morning in St. John's Episcopal Church, Washington. The interment will take place at Worcester, Mass., where Mr. Bancroft's wife is buried.

Mr. Bancroft was always fond of outdoor exercise, to which in a large measure he attributed his good health and prolonged life, and after he discontinued horseback riding he regularly walked about the city attended by an old servant. He lived in a large, old fashioned double house on H street, in a fashionable neighborhood, and his garden in Washington as at Newport was filled with choice roses, in which flowers he delighted. He regarded his life work as finished two years ago, and of late had done no literary work. During the last decade he had revised his great work, the History of the United States.

A LITERARY EPOCH CLOSED.

The death of Mr. Bancroft closes an epoch in American literature. He was the last survivor of that brilliant group of prose writers—including Irving, Cooper, Prescott and Hawthorne—who made the central portion of the nineteenth century illustrious at home and abroad. He was also a statesman of wide and varied official experience, who held Cabinet office when most of our present Senators were still at school or college. Like the greater part of American authors, he was of New England birth and Puritan ancestry. The advocates of the modern doctrine of heredity might find an additional argument for the lineal transmission of literary qualities in the fact that his father, Rev. Dr. Aaron Bancroft, was the author of a once popular biography of Washington. The elder Bancroft, born at Reading, Mass., November 10, 1755, served as a volunteer at the actions of Lexington and Bunker Hill, graduated at Harvard in 1778, settled in 1786 as pastor of the First Congregational Church at Worcester, Mass., and lived to preach his half century sermon January 1, 1836. He published in 1800 one of the innumerable pupit eulogies occasioned by the death of Washington, issued his "Life of Washington" in 1807 and a volume of controversial sermons in 1822. Dr. Bancroft was a scholar of unusual attainments, a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, an active participant in ecclesiastical councils and conventions and a prominent leader in the great liberal movement in New England Congregationalism which resulted in the establishment of the Unitarian denomination. He died at Worcester August 19, 1839. George Bancroft undoubtedly inherited from his father his scholarly tastes, his appetite for history and for politics, his predisposition for liberal views on all social topics and, above all, his veneration for the great deeds of the founders of our Republic, which the present generation begins to consider excessive.

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE.

Born at Worcester, Mass, October 3, 1800, his earliest associations were clustered around the quiet and scholarly parsonage in which he first saw the light. He was a precocious student, and after the usual common school course, carefully supervised by his father, found himself able to commence a formal preparation for college at the phenomenally early age of ten years. He was sent in 1811 to the celebrated Phillips Academy, at Exeter, N. H., which was presided over for fifty years by Benjamin Abbott, LL. D. (1790-1840), under whose tuition Webster, Sparks and the two Everetts had not long before gained the rudiments of their classical knowledge. We possess a record of the early progress of George Bancroft in a letter written from Exeter, October 10, 1811, by the eminent Dr. Nathan Parker, of Portsmouth, to the father of the future historian. Dr. Parker testified to the anxious parent that George was "entering upon his studies with an ardor and laudable ambition which gave promise of distinction," and that Dr. Abbott said that "he was a very fine lad; that he appeared to have the stamina of a distinguished man; that he took rank among the first scholars of the academy, and that he wished he would send him half a dozen such boys."

In due course of time young Bancroft entered Harvard College (1813), and passed through a four years' course, which did not belie the predictions of his early teacher. While his standing was high in all branches of the college course, his special predilections were for those psychological and ethical studies then known by the old fashioned names of mental and moral philosophy. He was very fond of Greek literature and dwelt with peculiar pleasure upon the metaphysical dialogues of Plato. He was in all probability destined by his parents for the pulpit, but having graduated at the age of seventeen years (1817) it was felt that he had ample time to devote to a wider culture before tying himself down to theological studies.

WITH GERMAN SCHOLARS.

Germany was then the promised land of liberal culture, and accordingly young Bancroft was sent there to complete his studies. Instead of confining himself to a single university he resided for a considerable time first at Göttingen, where he graduated as doctor of philosophy in 1820, and afterward at Berlin. Among his teachers at Göttingen were Eichhorn and Blumenbach, but the one who made the greatest impression upon his future career was the venerable historian Heeren, whose principal works he subsequently translated. To an extended course of classical history young Bancroft added a competent knowledge of the metaphysical questions then agitating the German mind. He gave great attention to ancient and mediæval art, and did not neglect the treasures of modern German poetry, spending a portion of his time in making poetical translations from Goethe, Schiller and other poets then living. At Berlin he added to his earlier achievements a course of Oriental languages and Biblical interpretations, and enjoyed the personal acquaintance of Schleiermacher, Wilhelm von Humboldt, Savigny, Lappenberg and other eminent scholars and statesmen. He also enjoyed the signal advantage of studying the political institutions of Prussia and other German States in their formative period, when they were just emerging from the wreck of mediævalism, and were taking their modern shape after the quarter century of anarchy consequent upon the wars of the French Revolution, Consulate and Empire. Extended tours through Germany, Switzerland, France, England and Italy familiarized him with a wide circle of human interests. He had already made the acquaintance of Goethe at Jena during a Göttingen vacation. In 1821 he began his wide travels, spent some time at Heidelberg with the historian Schlosser, became acquainted at Paris with Alexander von Humboldt, Cousin and Benjamin Constant. He spent a month in England, journeyed on foot among the Alps and spent the closing eight months of his European experience in Italy, making the acquaintance of Manzoni at Milan and of Bunsen and Niebuhr at Rome. A still more gratifying occurrence was his acquaintance with Byron, who introduced him to the Countess Guiccioli and showed him marked attention.

SOME EARLY WORKS.

Returning to the United States in 1822 he was for a year Greek tutor in Harvard College, and published a thin volume of poems (1823), which have long been out of print. He also at this time gave his countrymen some fruits of his European training by publishing the translations already mentioned in the *North American Review* and by contributing to Walsh's *American Quarterly Review*, then recently established, several notable articles, including papers on Poland and Russia, an essay on the "Doctrine of Temperaments," and another on "Ennui." Meanwhile, with his friend and fellow student at Göttingen, Dr. Joseph Green Cogswell, afterward the first superintendent of the Astor Library, he had mapped out a course of instruction for youth which they proceeded to inaugurate in the celebrated Round Hill school at Northampton, Mass., an institution which was the pioneer in a better system and more extended course of modern classical training in America. As an earnest that he had not quite abandoned his early dedication to the pulpit he obtained a license to preach, and delivered several sermons, which were highly commended; but his educational and historical impulses proved the stronger, and he has never since reminded the world that he was once entitled to the prefix "Reverend." Still, his theological studies bore good fruit, in enabling him to enter with keener sympathy into the portraiture of the spiritual founders of New England, from whose theology he had lapsed, but to whose characters he has left on record an enduring monument. In 1824 he published a translation of his friend Heeren's "Reflections on the Politics of Ancient Greece," and in the intervals of leisure left him from his professional duties he found time to translate and publish two other of Heeren's works—the "History of the States of Antiquity" and the "History of the Political System of Europe and its Colonies." This occupation was avowedly intended as a preliminary exercise to the great work of his life—the writing of a history of the Anglo-American colonies, now the United States of America. For this work he laid a broad and deep foundation before putting pen to paper. His first political appearance was as the town orator at Northampton on the Fourth of July, 1826, the semi-centennial of American Independence, and, by a singular coincidence, the day of the death of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, of whose great achievements he was the destined historian. In this oration Bancroft announced the political principles of which he has been an unwavering adherent—namely, "democracy" in its widest sense, as based upon universal suffrage. Mr. Bancroft thenceforth became prominent in Massachusetts as a politician, and his services were in great request as an orator at conventions and anniversaries.

HISTORIAN OF HIS COUNTRY.

About 1830 he withdrew from the Round Hill Academy to devote himself to his projected history, the first volume of which was written at Northampton and was published in handsome octavo form at Boston in 1834. It met a long felt want and was received with a nearly unanimous chorus of applause on both sides of the ocean. Edward Everett praised it in the *North American Review*, and declared that "the work of Mr. Bancroft is one of the ablest of the class that has for years appeared in the English language; it compares advantageously with the standard British historians; as far as it goes it does such justice to its noble subject as to supersede the necessity of any future work of the same kind, and, if completed as commenced, it will unquestionably forever be regarded both as an American and as an English classic." This was high praise—too high, as some critics of to-day would judge—but it was echoed by many other critics, none of whose verdicts can have given the author more satisfaction than that of his old teacher, Heeren, who declared that "we know few modern historic works in which the author has reached so high an elevation, at once as an historical inquirer and an historical judge," and that "his narrative is everywhere worthy of the subject." Mr. Bancroft was at once installed by common consent in the post of the recognized national historian, and his admitted eminence in this vocation served for nearly half a century to deter competitors from undertaking the same task.

Mr. Bancroft removed in 1835 to Springfield, Mass., where he resided for three years, and completed the second volume of his history (1837). In the former year he drafted an address to the people of Massachusetts at the request of the Young Men's Democratic Convention, and in 1836 delivered at Springfield an address, which was printed and ran through several editions. He took a prominent part in the agitated State politics of those years, and was rewarded by President Van Buren in January, 1838, with the important post of Collector of the Port of Boston. Here he was enabled to do a good service to a brother author and democrat by appointing Nathaniel Hawthorne to a post in the Boston Custom House. The third volume of his work (to 1748) appeared in 1840, completing the period of the colonization of the United States. Its publication afforded occasion to review the three volumes as a whole, and the verdict was, in general, favorable. The *Edinburgh Review*, while recognizing "the real liberality, the general fairness, the labor and conscientious research it evinces," hinted at a democratic animus, and enforced upon the mind of the English reader "the necessity of perusing it with a catholic spirit."

ACTIVE IN POLITICS.

Having now completed a distinct period of his work, Mr. Bancroft, without neglecting his preparations for the future, thought it right, since he had but one life to live, to devote several years to national politics and to his own political career. There was an intermission of twelve years between the third and fourth volumes of his history. The time was honorably and usefully spent; still his countrymen might be excused for grudging so long an abandonment of his work by the man to whom an exclusive privilege had tacitly been granted in the capacity of national historian.

On the accession of Harrison to the Presidency in March, 1841, Mr. Bancroft naturally had to yield up his post as Collector. The next three years were chiefly devoted to politics, Mr. Bancroft having been in 1844 the leader of a forlorn hope as democratic candidate for the Governorship of Massachusetts. His sacrifices, however, were not in vain, for on the accession of Mr. James K. Polk to the Presidency in March, 1845, he appointed Mr. Bancroft Secretary of the Navy.

His tenure of that office was signalized by the foundation, in 1845, of the Naval Academy at Annapolis and by the despatch to California of a naval force, which subsequently took possession of that region for the United States. During one month in 1846 he was acting Secretary of War, and in that capacity issued to General Taylor the order to advance to the Rio Grande, a step which was the precursor of the Mexican War.

MINISTER TO GREAT BRITAIN.

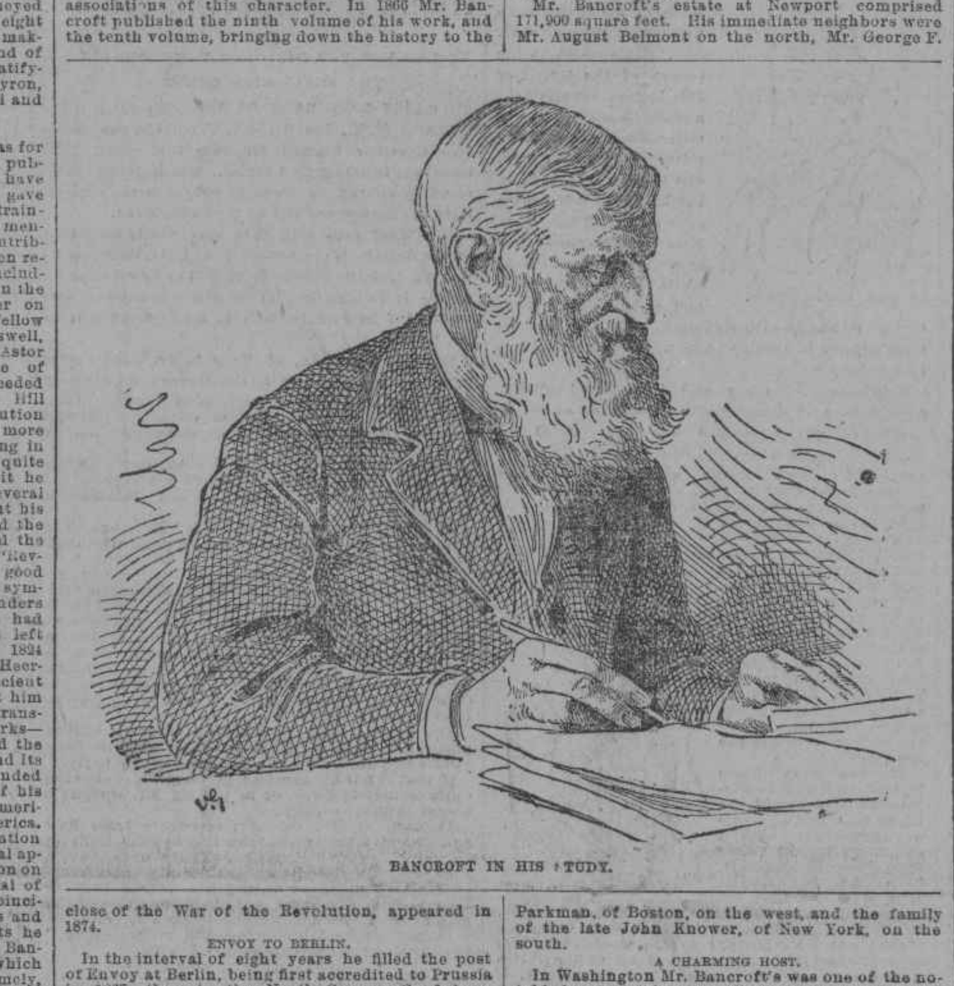
In the latter part of 1846 Mr. Bancroft was transferred to the more congenial post of Minister to Great Britain, and resided at the Court of St. James until the accession of President Taylor in 1849. His chief official activity was displayed in obtaining from the British government some modifications of its navigation laws in favor of American vessels and in vindicating the rights of some Irish-American citizens, who were released from imprisonment at his instance. He had also to deal with questions relating to the northeastern and northwestern boundaries of the United States. The intervals of official leisure were spent in accumulating stores of unpublished data from the British and French record offices, as also in numerous private collections. At Paris he was aided in his researches by the distinguished historians Guizot, Mignet, Lamartine and De Tocqueville. He was elected a corresponding member of the French Institute, of the Royal Academy of History at Berlin and in 1849 the University of Oxford conferred upon him the degree of D. C. L. His relations with eminent English scholars and men of letters were intimate, and he enjoyed the opportunity of revisiting the scenes of his education and early travels on the Continent and of strengthening the deservedly great fame he already enjoyed in England. Returning to America in the summer of 1849, he settled in New York city and acquired a country seat at Newport, R. I., where he had ever since passed a large portion of his time. It is an old, roomy house, facing Bellevue avenue, surrounded by grand old trees and in summer fragrant with the perfume of roses.

He now settled down in earnest to his long interrupted task. As he approached the period of the American Revolution he allowed his taste for complete development and his desire to utilize the rich diplomatic materials he had gathered in London to get the better of the correct historical perspective he had exhibited in his earlier volumes. Instead of hastening on to the actual epoch of the Revolution he spent five more years in the mere preliminaries of the Revolution, devoting three large volumes to the period of a quarter of a century from 1748 to 1774. The first volume of this series (volume IV. of the whole work) appeared in 1852. It comprised the sixteen years from 1748 to 1763 and bore the special title of "The Overthrow of the British Colonial System." Another volume (1763 to 1766) appeared promptly in 1853, and still another (1766 to 1774), in 1854. In 1858 Mr. Bancroft issued a revised edition of his first two volumes and in the same year gave to the world his first volume devoted to the actual Revolution (1774 to 1775), being volume VII. of the entire work. The eighth volume appeared in 1860.

RESTING FROM LITERARY LABOR.

At this point the author paused again for six years and devoted himself to a considerable degree to national politics during the critical period of our civil war. During his public career he had found time to contribute frequently to the *North American Review*, and an octavo volume of "Literary and Historical Miscellanies," chiefly upon political and philosophical topics, was published in 1855. It contained among other orations memorial addresses upon William Ellery Channing (1842) and Andrew Jackson (1845), and an eloquent discourse pronounced in 1855 on the fiftieth anniversary of the New York Historical Society upon "Necessity, the Reality and the Promise of the Progress of the Human Race." In October of that year he pronounced an address at the inauguration of a monument upon the battlefield of King's Mountain, S. C., delivered in 1859 a eulogy upon the historian Prescott before the New York Historical Society, was the orator at the inauguration of the Perry monument at Cleveland, Ohio, September 10, 1860, and in March, 1866, delivered a carefully prepared eulogy on President Lincoln before the two houses of Congress at Washington.

As a matter of course Mr. Bancroft was a member of the leading historical and scientific societies of America as well as of several European ones. He at one time filled the presidency of the American Geographical Society, and his collected miscellanies embrace a number of occasional discourses before associations of this character. In 1866 Mr. Bancroft published the ninth volume of his work, and the tenth volume, bringing down the history to the close of the War of the Revolution, appeared in 1874.



BANCROFT IN HIS STUDY.

ENVOY TO BERLIN.

In the interval of eight years he filled the post of Envoy at Berlin, being first accredited to Prussia in 1867, then to the North German Confederation in 1868 and lastly to the German Empire in 1871. He thus resided in Germany during the most interesting period of the recent history of that nation, and being in full sympathy with the great internal movement then taking place enjoyed the confidence and intimacy of the German Chancellor and of the most eminent personages of the court as well as of the learned circles at Berlin. It must have been peculiarly gratifying to him to renew his relations at Berlin with surviving friends and associates of his university life in that city half a century before. In 1868 he received from the University of Bonn the honorary degree of doctor of laws, and in September, 1870, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his graduation at Göttingen as doctor of philosophy. On that occasion he received the congratulation of many German societies and faculties as well as of various distinguished persons of other nations. He concluded in 1868 important treaties upon naturalization with Prussia and the various States of South Germany. He devoted much of his time while in Berlin to historical researches and succeeded in obtaining important unpublished documents, principally relating to the employment of Hessian and other German mercenaries in the war of the American Revolution. He was similarly fortunate in London, just before his return to the United States in 1874, in obtaining valuable materials from the descendants of Lord Shelburne and other important actors in the Revolutionary drama. Upon his return to the United States he took up his residence in the national capital, though continuing to spend his summers chiefly at his villa in Newport. He now devoted himself more earnestly than ever to the continuation of his great work, doubtless feeling that the time which he could employ was short at the best, and that to whatever period he might complete his history much of his original project must remain unfinished. In 1876 he published a revised and much condensed edition of his work in six duodecimo volumes, having spent nearly a year in this labor. In 1882 he published volumes 11 and 12, under the title of "History of the Formation of the Constitution of the United States." The last revised edition of the whole work appeared in 1885.

CRITICISMS OF HIS HISTORY.

It would be premature to pronounce Mr. Bancroft's history the classical work upon the subject in question, but it may safely be pronounced indispensable to all students of American affairs for generations to come. It has many conspicuous merits and some notable defects. One of the latter consists in his persistent incredulity as to the discovery of America by the Northmen five centuries before Christopher Columbus. Another is the fact that his work is written too exclusively from the New England or Puritan standpoint; for, although he never held the distinctive theological views of his Puritan ancestors, his genius always labored under a spell of heredity too strong to allow him to give due proportionate weight to the history of other colonies. Last, he displayed a somewhat inadequate knowledge of the French and Spanish sources of the history of the Mississippi Valley, of Florida and of the Pacific States. All these portions of our territory had been added to the United States during Mr. Bancroft's lifetime, and a great portion after he had written the earlier volume of his history. It must be added, however, that in his final revised edition something was done to correct this deficiency. Mr. Bancroft's work did not escape severe criticism from various American students of history, more especially from the descendants of men like Joseph Reed and General Greene, whom he had treated with severity in certain connections. A large number of more or less formal replies were published, and on more than one occasion Mr. Bancroft engaged in a war of pamphlets with the aggrieved critics.

Mr. Bancroft was a member of the Unitarian Church, and was always deeply interested in questions of ethics and moral philosophy. From the formation of the republican party he was an earnest adherent of its principles, without thereby sacrificing his lifelong adherence to democracy as he understood it—a very different thing from the principles of the modern democratic party. He was a strong adherent of individualism, and consequently opposed to all State churches, more especially Roman Catholicism. His dislike of the Jesuits was too obvious to allow of his doing justice to the early Canadian missionaries who had so large a part in the exploration of the great West. It was reserved for another historian, Mr. Parkman, worthily to fill this gap in our national annals.

On May 11, 1878, Mr. Bancroft visited the Naval Academy at Annapolis for the first time since its establishment and was welcomed with peculiar honor as the founder of that institution.

While a resident of Washington Mr. Bancroft was elected by Congress a regent of the Smithsonian Institution, to fill the seat vacated by the resignation of General Sherman.

HIS DAILY LIFE.

His mode of life at this time was described in the following terms:—Mr. Bancroft retains all his alertness and vigor. He rises at six, lights his fire and works till breakfast at eight; he then resumes his labors until one, when he stops for the day; then takes his ride on horseback and a walk of three or four miles. The evenings he gives up to social enjoyment, and in that direction he is not only strong, but particularly delightful." It should be added that his habits throughout life were of the utmost regularity, that he was simple and abstemious in his tastes, generous in his appreciation of the literary labors of others, and in the assistance which he rendered to younger students of history. Of this fact a striking illustration may be found in the numerous dedications to him of volumes which could not well have been written without his assistance or counsel.

Mr. Bancroft's life was a happy one. He maintained to his latest day a fresh and unflagging interest in all the events of the day, and especially followed with unceasing delight the development and prosperity of his native land. He was an optimist by conviction, and in the darkest moments of our country's great crisis never lost faith in the destinies of America. He had faith in the wisdom of the founders of our Republic, though he criticised unsparingly the follies and weaknesses of more than one of the traditional patriots of the Revolution. He was married to the widow of Alexander Bliss, of Springfield, Mass., once the law partner of Daniel Webster. She died on March 15, 1886. The children of that lady by her former marriage constituted his household, and one of them, Colonel Alexander Bliss, became his Secretary of Legation at Berlin. One of his sisters became the wife of "Honest John Davis," who was repeatedly Governor of Massachusetts, member of Congress and United States Senator. Her son, J. C. Bancroft Davis, was Assistant Secretary of State under President Grant, and succeeded Mr. Bancroft as Minister at Berlin.

In the fall of 1878 Mr. Bancroft was thrown from his carriage at Newport, and so severely injured that his life was for some time in danger. Contrary to general expectation he entirely recovered from the shock of the fall, and not only resumed his cherished literary associations, but to almost the last days of his life was able to take his daily horseback ride, followed usually by a brisk walk of a mile or two.

HIS HOME AT NEWPORT.

Mr. Bancroft was Newport's most distinguished summer resident, and a welcome visitor at all the important social gatherings of the season. He invariably attended the weekly meetings of the Town and County, and was always greeted most cordially by the President, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe. He never failed to celebrate his birthdays at the cottage on the Cliffs, and the event was looked forward to with pleasure by the summer visitors and others. Gifts, letters and telegrams poured in on him from all quarters, and no messenger boy was allowed to go away unrewarded. His cottage was plainly furnished, books being the principal feature in it. In Newport as elsewhere he attended conscientiously to his literary work, and his stenographer met him every morning at nine o'clock. Before beginning work it was his custom to carefully examine his famous roses, of which he had over three hundred varieties. It was his delight to send these flagrant flowers to friends and to present bouquets to strangers who lingered near the cottage admiring the wealth of flowers.

Mr. Bancroft's estate at Newport comprised 171,900 square feet. His immediate neighbors were Mr. August Belmont on the north, Mr. George F. Parkman, of Boston, on the west, and the family of the late John Knower, of New York, on the south.

A CHARMING HOST.

In Washington Mr. Bancroft's was one of the notable houses of the city. All strangers of distinction found their way there, and were sure to meet there at dinner or in the evening the most notable of our own statesmen. Mr. and Mrs. Bancroft, both retaining the liveliest interest in all public questions, were long in Washington the centre of the best, the most distinguished social circle in the national capital. Fond of the society of young people, quick and ready to appreciate merit in others and especially in young men, and interested in all questions which bore upon the improvement of government or of the happiness of his fellow men, Mr. Bancroft maintained his youthful spirits to the last, and was a charming and favorite diner-out, a welcome figure at the festivities of the season in Washington and a specially honored guest at the White House on all great public occasions. The Senate ordered him admission to the floor of the Senate Chamber, a special honor granted to no other private citizen. Senators and representatives often sought his advice in difficult constitutional questions.

In November, 1887, the historian's granddaughter, Miss Susannah Bancroft, was married to Mr. Charles Carroll, of Howard county, Md., and a month later Mr. Bancroft's portrait was unveiled with appropriate exercises at Cornell University.

The last literary work of Mr. Bancroft was a pamphlet on the legal tender decision of the Supreme Court. It was published in January, 1886, and was as bright and vigorous as anything from his earlier pen. It was entitled "A Plea for the Constitution, Wounded in the House of its Guardians."

THE DOBSONS' BURNED MILLS.

LOSS ABOUT ONE MILLION AND A HALF, WITH ONE MILLION INSURANCE.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 17, 1891.—The site of the three burned carpet mills of John and James Dobson presents a scene of desolation to-day. Of the large four story picker house, in which the fire originated, nothing remains but the walls. The roof crashed in on the machinery and all is now a shapeless mass. The main six story building, or the carpet mills, is a total wreck, as is also the extensive store house. There were in all eleven buildings. All were close together, but all except the three destroyed escaped serious injury. The main structure destroyed was the largest of the group. It was 600 feet long by 250 feet wide, was built of stone and six stories in height. Nearly three thousand five hundred employés will be thrown out of employment. The loss will be about $1,500,000. The insurance will reach about $1,000,000, and is distributed among nearly all companies doing business in Philadelphia.

During the fire Thomas Dorsey, who was moving out goods, fell from a second story window and was cut about the head.

Mr. James Dobson said this afternoon:—"We will begin at once to clean up and will rebuild as soon as possible. Our loss is very heavy, to be sure, but I do not care so much for that as for the fact that so many of our employés will be thrown out of employment. We will, however, open our plush mills on Monday morning and will probably open the tapestry department a little later, which will give about two thousand persons employment. There will still be about two thousand out of work, but we will need a number of hands to help clean up, and we will look after the heads of families first and will do our part to see that no person suffers. Directly and indirectly there are thirty thousand persons depending upon us for support."

CREMATED IN HIS BED.

A BRAVE WOMAN SAVES HER INFIRM HUSBAND BY THROWING HIM OUT OF A WINDOW.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

MACON, Ga., Jan. 17, 1891.—An old and helpless Confederate soldier named John Woodson was burned to death at Covington this morning. He occupied an upper room in John Davis' house, which was totally destroyed by fire before help could reach the old veteran, and he was literally cremated in his bed.

Mrs. Davis rushed into the flaming building and, catching her infirm husband in her arms, threw him out of the window, saving his life, and then she barely escaped with her own.

ONE KILLED, ONE HURT AT A FIRE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

MAHANOY CITY, Pa., Jan. 17, 1891.—Fire last evening destroyed a large three story building occupied by the Western Union Telegraph Company and damaged a co-operative building adjoining, occupied by the Young Men's Republican Club. Loss, $15,000; partially insured.

During the fire John Huth fell upon the Mansion House porch and died almost instantly.

Thomas Loard, a member of the hook and ladder company, fell from one of the burning buildings, sustaining serious injuries.

AN ALL NIGHT FIGHT OVER THE FORCE BILL.

Wearied Senators Consume the Early Hours in Making Quorums Which Immediately Disappear.

SOME AMENDMENTS ADOPTED.

Finally the Senate Adjourns Until Monday Morning Without Much Progress Being Made.

A TEST OF ENDURANCE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

HERALD BUREAU,
CORNER FIFTEENTH AND G STREETS, N. W.,
WASHINGTON, Jan. 17, 1891.

The Senate at six P. M. laid aside the Election bill informally and adjourned until Monday morning at eleven o'clock.

The continuous session lasted thirty hours—a session unprecedented in length for many years. An effort is being made to have a caucus on Monday night to determine the further order of procedure.

The Senate finds itself not much further advanced to final action upon the Election bill than when it entered upon its consideration at the beginning of the second session of the Fifty-first Congress, now rapidly drawing to a close. The stubborn fact still confronts the friends of the bill that they must secure a republican quorum before any progress can be made, for although the minority has not yet resorted to the extreme practice of refraining entirely from voting, it is generally understood that they will do so in case of necessity, although with some reluctance. So Sergeant-at-Arms Valentine has been stimulated in his effort to secure the attendance of the absentees.

At present there are forty-four republican Senators in Washington, or one less than a quorum, supposing that the republicans who are numbered with them attend and vote. Whether they vote for or against the bill and its supporting propositions is not the important question. Their votes, one way or the other, are desired in order to make the quorum in case it is decided to call up the closure resolution. The republican absentees are seven in number. They are Messrs. Blair, Chandler, Farwell, Moody, Pierce, Pettigrew and Squire. The Senatorial contests in which the three first named Senators were interested have been practically settled by caucus action, so they may be expected in Washington in a short time to make the necessary quorum.

Between five and half-past five A. M. several reports in writing were presented by the Sergeant-at-Arms detailing the success or failure of visits to the residences of Senators. One of those reports stated that Senators Berry and Butler had been seen in the cloak room and that the former had stated that he would come when he got ready and the latter had refused to obey the summons. An informal colloquy made it appear that there was no power given to the Sergeant-at-Arms to enforce obedience, and Mr. Dolph remarked that if the Senate had given an order which it had no power to enforce the sooner the Senate got out of that ridiculous dilemma the better.

The appearance of Mr. George at a quarter to six completed the quorum on the roll call, and Mr. Faulkner made another start on his speech against the bill, although there were not twenty Senators within hearing of his voice.

At half-past seven, when there were five democrats on the floor and only one republican (Mr. Casey), Mr. Daniel rose and, with a wave of his hand and a word to "the Senators on the other side," moved an adjournment. The move did not succeed, however, for Mr. Casey rushed for, and obtained, allies from the cloak room, and Mr. Platt, who was in the chair, declared the motion lost.

After that there was another dead lull until half-past nine, when, a quorum having appeared, Mr. Faulkner proceeded with his remarks.

A DREARY SCENE.

The cold, bleak, drizzly morning which greeted the Senate after its weary night session was not conducive to eloquence, and Mr. Faulkner, who had boldly and patiently held his post since eleven o'clock rested himself somewhat by liberal quotations from the law books. The lowering skies shut out the light of the sun and the hall was still necessarily illumined by its gas and electric lights.

The chamber was in a state of great disorder. The floor was littered with scraps of paper, old bills and rejected amendments. The Senators sat in their chairs in attitudes of weariness, or retired to the cloak rooms to take a little needed rest upon the lounges. The clerks performed their duties in a mechanical manner and the stenographers pushed their pens over paper in a correct but perfunctory manner. But, notwithstanding his long vigil, Mr. Faulkner was in good voice, and when not quoting from his books spoke with earnestness. He paid his especial attention to the features of the bill which, he claimed, conferred upon the canvassing board power to carry on their operations aliunde the returns. He concluded at half-past ten, having held the floor for almost twelve hours.

Mr. Daniel, following, said that the idea that the purpose of this bill and honest elections were identical was confined to those who maintained a superior position for themselves. It was not true that the democratic party had ever been the advocate, the maintainer or the patron of dishonest elections. His great objection to the measure was that with its passage passed away from the country the strongest and most enduring guarantees of honest elections that it was possible for mankind to frame.

There could not exist a better guarantee of honest elections than that under which the country had existed for a century, and under which, up to the present time, there had never arisen bloodshed between the sections out of any election; nor had any election been so tainted with dishonor, fraud or force that it had not been within the power of the people, with the machinery they now possessed, to settle the question amicably and without disturbing the great Republic in its onward strides.

A MOTION TO RECOMMIT.

Mr. Daniel yielded to Mr. Stewart, who gave notice of a motion to recommit the bill, with instructions to the Committee on Privileges and Elections to so amend it as to provide for the election of members of Congress on days when no other election is held in the several States, and to provide for separate and independent registration of such electors as are qualified to vote for members of Congress.

Mr. Daniel, continuing, traced out a circle, beginning with the appointment of the Circuit Court Judge by the President and ending with his own re-election—a circle which would probably be drawn under the provisions of this bill. The vulgar name for this circle was "ring," and this ring, which came here under the suggestion of a desire for honest elections, bore upon its metallic curve the trade mark of its maker, "John I. Davenport, fecit." If this bill becomes law there might be political revolution; third parties might spring up, but power to the government could never be acquired unless the ring consented thereto.

Mr. Daniel closed his speech at half-past one, having occupied three hours.

Mr. Vest then took the floor and demanded a yea and nay vote on Mr. Faulkner's amendment, which eliminates from the bill such features as confer judicial functions upon the canvassing boards. This was laid aside temporarily.

Mr. Vest next offered an amendment providing that the Circuit Court shall appoint two chief supervisors of elections for each judicial district in the circuit—not of the same political party—in place of the one provided for in the bill as reported. This was rejected by a vote of—yeas, 32; nays, 25. Messrs. Teller, Wolcott, Washburn and Stanford voted with their republican colleagues, leaving the democratic vote a strict party one.

On motion of Mr. Faulkner an amendment was adopted, striking out the clause giving the Chief Supervisor of Elections power to transfer any supervisor from service in one part of a Congressional district to another part of the same district.

Mr. Vest offered an amendment to strike out the clause permitting persons "claiming to be citizens of the United States" to sign applications for supervision of elections.

He thought that the Chief Supervisor should satisfy himself that the persons signing the application were citizens. Suppose some political hustler desired this law applied? The first thing he did was to go to the most disreputable haunts, pick up people who had no interest in the community and who had never been naturalized, and the whole machinery began to work. The abuse was not only possible, but probable. Could there be conceived a greater outrage on the community?

Mr. Hoar defended the language of the bill.

Mr. Wolcott objected that there was no penalty affixed to the false claiming of a man that he was a citizen. He moved to amend the bill by providing that any person falsely claiming to be a citizen of the United States or to be a resident or qualified voter in any application shall be punished by confinement of not more than two years or by a fine of not more than $1,000, or both fine and imprisonment. This amendment was agreed to.

Mr. Hoar moved to table Mr. Vest's amendment. Agreed to—yeas 33, nays 25—as follows:—

YEAS—Messrs. Aldrich, Allen, Allison, Cameron, Carey, Casey, Cullom, Davis, Dixon, Edmunds, Evarts, Frye, Hale, Hawley, Higgins, Hoar, McConnell, McMillan, Manderson, Merrill, Platt, Power, Quay, Sanders, Sawyer, Sherman, Shoup, Spooner, Stockbridge, Teller, Warren, Wilson (Iowa) and Wolcott—33.

NAYS—Messrs. Barbour, Bate, Berry, Blackburn, Butler, Cockrell, Coke, Faulkner, Gibson, Gorman, Gray, Hampton, Harris, Kenna, McPherson, Morgan, Pasco, Pugh, Ransom, Reagan, Turpie, Vance, Voorhees, Walthall and Wilson (Maryland)—25.

The following pairs were announced:—Messrs. Pettigrew and Call, Pierce and Carlisle, Dawes and Colquitt, Paddock and Eustis, Blair and George, Hiscock and Jones (Arkansas), Squire and Daniel and Plum and Vest.

Mr. Reagan offered an amendment to come in at the end of section 2, a provision that the Chief Supervisor shall keep the petitions and the lists of names appended to them open for inspection and examination by citizens at all reasonable hours.

Mr. Hoar moved that the resolution be laid on the table, saying that in many parts of the country such a thing might not be safe.

Mr. Voorhees—Is it the intention of the bill to keep secret and hidden away those responsible for putting this machinery in operation?

A TIE VOTE.

Mr. Hoar—The matter must be in the control of the court.

The vote was taken and the result being a tie—yeas 30, nays 30—the Vice President voted aye and Mr. Reagan's resolution was laid on the table. The following is the vote:—

YEAS—Messrs. Aldrich, Allen, Allison, Cameron, Carey, Casey, Cullom, Davis, Dixon, Edmunds, Frye, Hale, Hawley, Higgins, Hiscock, Hoar, McConnell, Milliken, Manderson, Mitchell, Merrill, Platt, Power, Sanders, Sawyer, Sherman, Shoup, Stockbridge, Warren and Wilson (Iowa)—30.

NAYS—Messrs. Barbour, Bate, Berry, Blackburn, Butler, Carlisle, Cockrell, Coke, Faulkner, Gorman, Gray, Hampton, Harris, Jones (Arkansas), Kenna, McPherson, Morgan, Pasco, Pugh, Quay, Ramsay, Reagan, Stewart, Teller, Turpie, Vance, Voorhees, Walthall, Wilson (Maryland) and Wolcott—30.

The following were paired:—Messrs. Chandler and Blodgett, Pettigrew and Call, Dolph and Colquitt, Blair and George, Pierce and Gibson, Plumb and Vest.

Mr. Vance moved to add to section 2 the words, "and shall be sworn to the same."

Mr. Gorman made an appeal to Mr. Hoar to treat the minority fairly and to give opportunity for a discussion of important amendments instead of moving to lay them on the table, thus cutting off debate.

Mr. Aldrich gave notice that on Tuesday next he would ask the Senate to proceed to the consideration of the resolution to change the rules of the Senate.

"Suppose the Elections bill shall have the right of way then," queried Mr. Morgan, "do you propose to displace it?"

"The Senate has my notice," was the response; "I suppose that the Elections bill will have passed by that time." (A laugh of incredulity on the democratic side.)

"Then, of course," Mr. Morgan remarked, with a sneer, "the change of rules is not to apply to the Elections bill, but to apportionment bills and other such matters."

Other amendments offered by Mr. Hoar were agreed to without opposition, including one increasing from three to four the number of supervisors of election in a district.

The Senate then, on motion of Mr. Hoar, at six o'clock adjourned until Monday at eleven A. M.

THE SILVER POOL COMMITTEE QUESTIONS A NEWSPAPER MAN BUT DOESN'T LEARN MUCH.

The House Silver Pool Investigation Committee began its inquiry this morning. Mr. W. B. Stevens, the principal Washington correspondent of the St. Louis *Globe-Democrat*, which paper first printed the charge of a Congressional silver pool, was called to the stand as the first witness. The article in the *Globe-Democrat* was shown to Mr. Stevens. He identified it as having been prepared by himself from statements made to him by others. Witness had an interview with J. A. Owenby, in which the statements given were made. Could not locate Owenby exactly, but he was managing the Silver Reef Mine in Utah, and could, witness thought, be reached without difficulty.

Representative Rowell—Have you any personal knowledge of any Senator or any member of the House of Representatives being engaged in a silver pool at the time or the pendency of the Silver bill, or subsequently thereto, of your own personal knowledge?

Mr. Stevens—I don't think I have. Perhaps, if you will tell me exactly what you mean by personal knowledge, I can say.

"Have you ever heard any member say anything with regard to his own connection with silver that would be proper evidence?"

"I don't think I have heard any member say anything of his personal connection with silver speculation. No, I have not been present at any negotiations in which Senators or Representatives were engaged."

In response to further questions Mr. Stevens said the Owenby interview was not submitted to Owenby after being written. Owenby mentioned some names which witness left out in writing. His personal knowledge as to the conduct of Senators and Representatives went only to the extent of the interview.

"Have you any knowledge of other than members of Congress being engaged in a silver pool pending legislation?"

"They would be statements made by others to me. When you say silver pool to me do you mean silver legislation? I have some little knowledge of that kind. I had a conversation with Colonel Joseph K. Rickey, of Fulton, Mo. Mr. Rickey said he had bought some silver while this silver legislation was pending and had made some money, but not nearly so much as had been reported. Rickey said he let go too soon. Rickey said he had only 75,000 ounces that he bought at 1.04 or 1.05 and let go at 1.10."

Witness could not say whether or not Rickey stated he bought silver in connection with others or as a private speculation.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

Mrs. Charlotte Smith, President of the Woman's National Industrial League, has requested that the World's Fair be kept open on Sundays, and that the admission be half price.

House bill 8,299 for the reclassification of clerks of the railway mail service is arranged to come up for consideration in the House of Representatives on Monday. There has been very earnest effort throughout the whole country in the railway mail service for the passage of this bill as a just and reasonable measure absolutely needed to keep up the efficiency of the service. There has been a general promise on the part of members of Congress to favor the bill. The various committees have given the encouragement that no opposition will be made, and the action about it is taken in entire accord with the Post Office Department officials.

THE CHILEAN REVOLT.

DESPATCHES DOUBTLESS SUBJECT TO A RIGID GOVERNMENT CENSORSHIP.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17, 1891.—The State Department has received very little information in regard to the reported revolution in Chile, and even that appears to have been much belated. The last telegram received from United States Minister Eagan bore date prior to the latest reported outbreak, involving the blockade of Iquiqui by Chilean men-of-war manned by insurgents, and was to the effect that the disturbance seemed to be merely local.

The meagre character of official information regarding the newest phases of the situation is now explained, however, by intelligence received by the Secretary of State in a roundabout way, that the telegraph lines in Chile are completely under control of the dominant party and that all despatches are subjected to rigid censorship. The department is not officially advised of the blockade of Iquiqui.

REPORTS NOT CREDITED.

At the office of Consul General De Castro, of the Argentine Republic, yesterday the reports that there was serious trouble in Buenos Ayres or any other part of the Republic were discredited. Everything that had occurred, it was said, had been grossly exaggerated for commercial reason. There might have been some dissatisfaction shown or even a riot, but nothing more.

Business cable despatches were received from Chile by Flint & Co. and W. R. Grace & Co. yesterday, but no news regarding the revolution.

STANLEY BUSY AND WEARY.

ONLY LECTURES OUT OF SYMPATHY FOR HIS MANAGER AND LONGS FOR REST.

BOSTON, Jan. 17, 1891.—The Boston Evangelical Alliance wrote a letter to Mr. Stanley appreciative of his work in the "Dark Continent" and inviting him to give an address before them on "Christianity in Africa." This request was indorsed by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions and the Baptist Missionary Union. To this Mr. Stanley replied:—

B. F. HAMILTON, Esq., President:—

DEAR SIR—Nothing would please me more than to be able to address the Boston Evangelical Alliance on the subject of "Christianity in Africa," but the utter fatigue and prostration of strength caused by this excessive lecturing tour renders it perfectly impossible for me to undertake to do more than in a moment of sympathy for my manager I consented to do. My days are occupied by visitors, my evenings are devoted six times a week to lectures, my nights to travel from one city to another. My correspondence is utterly neglected, except for the most pressing business, and I have not a single leisure hour before me. This rush of work will, I am told, continue until the middle of April, and then I must go elsewhere to meet other engagements, and I long for the time when I can attend to my own private affairs and such objects as I sympathize with. When that may be I do not know, but I shall dearly appreciate it when it does arrive. I wish your mission work in Africa unqualified success, but I greatly regret to say that I see no way by which I could help you at present, though, believe me, I would gladly do so were it in my power. Yours faithfully, HENRY M. STANLEY.

The above was an autograph letter.