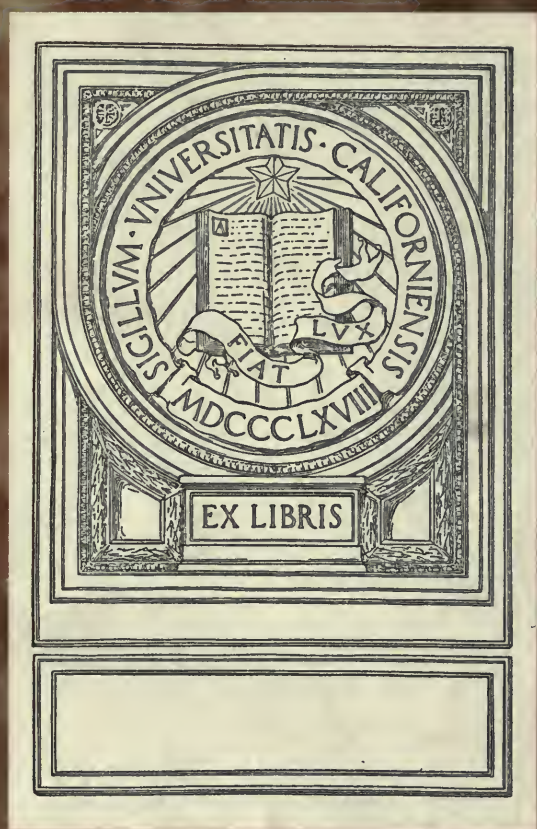
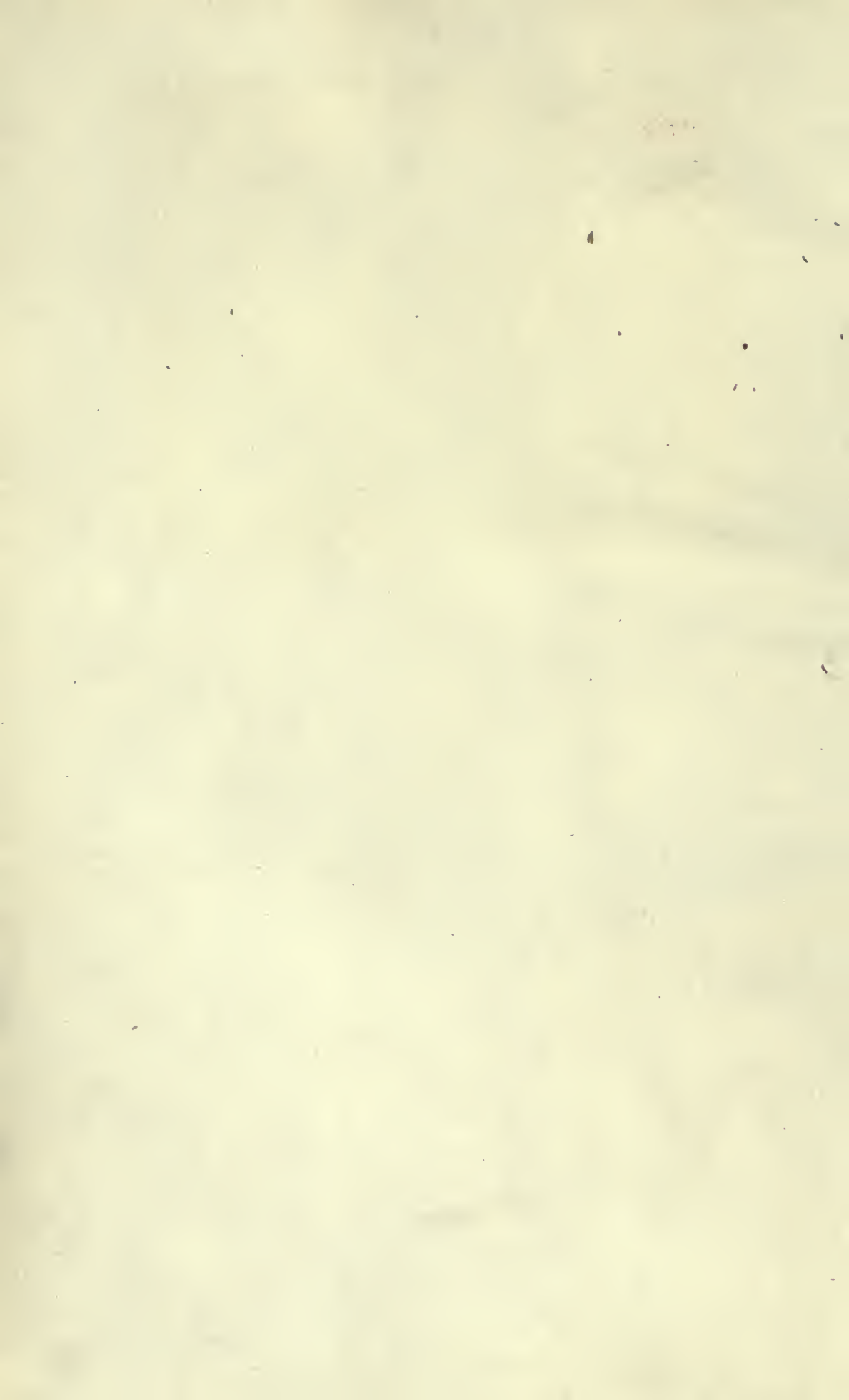


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Presented by  
Edward J. Kelly, Esq.,

April 6<sup>th</sup> 1916.









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HISTORY OF THE  
MANHATTAN CLUB





The History  
of the  
**M**anhattan Club  
of New York **C**



Fiftieth  
Anniversary

HS 212  
NS MB

MANHATTAN CLUB

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THE MANHATTAN CLUB



TO WHOM  
IT MAY CONCERN

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## FOREWORD

*When the Manhattan Club determined to celebrate the semi-centenary of its existence, it was deemed appropriate to the occasion, in the view of the Anniversary Committee, that the history of the Club for the past fifty years should be written.*

*With that end in view, Colonel Henry Watterson, the editor of the "Louisville Courier-Journal," was approached upon the subject by the representatives of the Club. Colonel Watterson had been a member of the Manhattan Club since 1882. He had been the personal intimate and associate of almost all of the founders of the organization. He was more familiar than any other living man with the circumstances and conditions which brought the Club into being; for over a quarter of a century, when in New York City, he had made it his home. He was personally acquainted with all of the distinguished men who, for half a century, had been numbered among its members. His reputation as scholar, editor, wit, and citizen of the world was international; while as a commanding figure in the later history of our coun-*

## THE MANHATTAN CLUB

*try he was well known to the public. The words which had flown for a lifetime from his trenchant and graphic pen always commanded attention, sometimes engendered fear. So that, on the whole, if Colonel Watterson could be induced to write the history of the Manhattan Club, that institution, as well as the readers of the volume, were indeed to be congratulated. Colonel Watterson had for years been besought from many quarters to write his Manhattan Club memoirs, but had persistently declined to do so. When the request of the Club was presented to him, however, he immediately expressed his willingness and pleasure to undertake the work—but upon one condition only, and that was that his effort should be a labor of love and a testimonial of his interest in and appreciation of the Club, of which he has been so long an active member, and which he loves so well.*

*In the following pages Colonel Watterson tells the history of the Manhattan Club for the first fifty years of its existence, and has succeeded in giving us not only an interesting study of its life, traditions, and achievements, but has presented, in his own vigorous and delightful style, some personal reminiscences of a number of the most celebrated men whom our country has produced, and who were members of this organization. We feel confident, therefore, that this history will be interesting and entertaining not only to the members of the Manhattan Club, but also to those outside its circle who may have the leisure and opportunity to peruse its pages.*

## FOREWORD

*These few lines are written as a public expression of the gratitude and affection which its members feel toward their scholarly and distinguished fellow-member, who, in this volume, becomes the historian of the Manhattan Club.*

*Philip J. Britt,  
President of the Manhattan Club.*

*New York,  
November 15, 1915.*



## THE MANHATTAN CLUB

and adventures remain ever a sealed book. Having little, if anything, to conceal, it is nevertheless a secret society. To the world outside, this air of premeditated mystery has elevated the commonplaces of every-day existence into a kind of romance. "What did the general say to the judge?" the query runs; "and what happened then?"

The world will never know. The newspapers will never find out. There is one spot where the reporter may not enter at will. If he seeks "a story," he will have to invent it.

In one of the London clubs a statesman once came to his end under circumstances most tragical. His body was spirited to his lodging. Nor did all the devices of Scotland Yard and the metropolitan press suffice to get at the truth—known to this day scarcely to a half-dozen living men, who may be relied on to make no sign.

The Manhattan Club has not been without its adventures, though none of them so deep and dark as to fear exposure and shun publicity. Like the migrations of the good Vicar of Wakefield and his wife, "they lay chiefly betwixt the blue bed and the brown." There were those of us who used in later life to accuse Uncle Dave Gilbert, the most unoffending and methodical of men, of nursing some awful crime—"some secret mystery the spirit haunting"—but dear old Douglas Taylor would come to the rescue with: "The only explanation Dave Gilbert wants to make is that I was with him, and so were Billy Brown and Charlie Dayton and Ashbel Fitch and—" whereat the company, which had often heard the quiz, evaporated to "the rooms thereunto adjoining."

The Manhattan was from the first a simple homelike club. We played most games for small stakes. A little group actually played draw-poker, forbidden in most clubs, without the usual consequences of fuss or scandal. The standard play now is, and for years has been, dominoes chiefly for drinks, "wasting the midday oil," as was once observed by Sylvester O'Sullivan, in that great voice of his, crossing the

## PRELUDE

living-room into the "library,"—as he called the bar,—“and impoverishing themselves and their families instead of improving their minds, as I am about to improve mine.”

In perusing the pages which follow the reader must content himself with a crude narrative of the Club's visible and official life. It will be found valuable only as a register—interesting solely in a suggestive way. No claims of authorship are, or could be, advanced in its favor. It has not been composed, but compiled and edited, albeit with fidelity and painstaking. It records a half-century of honorable and not undistinguished service. It reminds the present, and will advise the future, of the past. If it undertook to do more, it would exceed the requirement, passing quite beyond the province of such a digest.

The Manhattan Club ranks second to no club in America. To the veteran member who, as a labor of love and duty, has framed these chapters and put these pages together, it doubtless appears, through the magnifying haze of years, greater—certainly dearer—than any. But with the Union Club and the Union League—its contemporaries—and the Century, its senior—it links the life of primitive old New York with that of the wondrous great metropolis; marks impressively the progressive revolutions of modern times; and tells us that, in spite of tide and chance, of time and change, we are Americans, one and all, whether we call ourselves Republicans or Democrats, the party label but a trade-mark stamp, “the man a man for a' that.”

At the request of the committee having the celebration of the semi-centenary of the Club in charge, I have added a concluding chapter of personal reminiscence, whose unintentioned egotism may be forgiven if its subject-matter be found worth while. The period of the Tilden domination in the Empire State, beginning with the election of the Sage of Gramercy Park to the governorship in 1875, and not ending until his death in 1886, marked the rise of the Democratic



## THE MANHATTAN CLUB

Party from the deeps of political adversity to the firm, high ground of its former prestige and influence—a Democrat in the White House at Washington, and in the executive mansion at Albany, all the result of the wise leadership of Samuel Jones Tilden, one of the founders and always a loyal member of the Manhattan Club. It is hoped the space given to this will not appear disproportioned. It forms an important part of the Club's history, and recalls an almost forgotten chapter of national history.

I have taken for an Introductory Chapter a sketch written by Mr. Edward G. Riggs, a member of the Club, and printed in the New York "Sun" some twenty-three years ago, which is so graphic as a contemporary picture and so vivid as a personal reminiscence as fitly to precede the more detailed narration.

I have had from members of the Manhattan both assistance and sympathy in collecting the data needful to an adequate record of the Club's activities; but from Mr. Alexander Konta a direct personal interest and an actual division of labor which have been invaluable. In every way and at each turning his literary training, artistic perception and critical judgment, his constant support and loyal zeal, have made that easy which otherwise would have been hard indeed. This prelude would be neither sufficient nor just without my most grateful acknowledgment to Mr. Konta.

Henry Waterson



We, the undersigned, mutually agree to become Members of the

"MANHATTAN CLUB,"

in conformity to the Constitution heretofore adopted, and to pay to WILSON G. HUNT, Treasurer, or his order, on demand, the sum of Two Hundred Dollars each, for the initiation fee and one year's dues in advance from 1st day of October, 1865.

New York, September 28th, 1865

28<sup>th</sup> Sept 35<sup>th</sup> Sep

NAMES.

RESIDENCES.

J. Van Buren

25 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave

Augustus Schell

22 W. 20<sup>th</sup> St

Manton Marble

117 East 30

Chas McLean

3 W 34<sup>th</sup> St

John McPherson

26 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave

Geo. T. Curtis

24 West 22<sup>nd</sup> St.

W F Allen

258 - 4<sup>th</sup> Ave

S. J. Tilden

15 Gramercy Park

Edmund L. Corbin

6 Madison Square

John T. Brady

124 West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street

Sam Bush

363 - 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Robert F. Smith

124 W. 20<sup>th</sup> St

THE MANHATTAN CLUB

Name	Residence
<u>Richard O'Connell</u>	167 W. 22 <sup>nd</sup> Street
<u>W. Kinn</u>	27 West 35 <sup>th</sup>
<u>Charles J. Howell</u>	112 W. 43 <sup>rd</sup> St.
<u>Henry W. Scherer</u>	No. 139 Second Avenue
<u>John W. Harbour</u>	No. 117 West 22 <sup>nd</sup> St.
<u>Algernon S. Sullivan</u>	168. West 34 <sup>th</sup> St.
<u>Jas. Monahan</u>	102 Amity " "
and wife	308 - 5 <sup>th</sup>
<u>W. B. Spaulding</u>	244 Park 10 <sup>th</sup> St.
Smith Ely Jr.	101 Gold St.
<u>S. P. Ingraham</u>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue.
<u>Douglas Taylor</u>	11 Varick Place.



Name

Residence

John Stuyker

Rome

J. M. Lester

99 E. 34<sup>th</sup> St.

Ernie Dicko

Everett House

J. E. Clunch

Albion Orleans Co.

Nelson Smith

118 East 34<sup>th</sup> St

Henry L. Clinton

21 Park Avenue

Henry L. Stote

166 Allen Street

Geo G. Agnew

284 7<sup>th</sup> Ave

D. V. Freeman

449 West 13<sup>th</sup> St

John L. Thurston

73 East 27<sup>th</sup> St

Wm H. Morrison

422 West 23<sup>rd</sup> St

Wm. S. Symon

Italy

Wm. H. Murray

118 - 5<sup>th</sup> Av -

(over page)

Wm. H. Lawrence

65 7<sup>th</sup> Place

Wm. R. Brady

51 W 33<sup>rd</sup> Street

THE MANHATTAN CLUB

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Residence</i>
<i>C. Godfrey Gardner</i>	<i>145 E. 14<sup>th</sup></i>
<i>William M. Parks</i>	<i>62. Monday ne Third Street</i>
<i>Gro C. Hull</i>	<i>Clinton Ave. Brooklyn</i>
<i>Morris S. Lillie</i>	
<i>Henry Alder</i>	<i>335 West 32<sup>d</sup> St.</i>

ORIGINAL LIST OF MEMBERS,

Presented to the

MANHATTAN CLUB,

by the daughter of its Founder,

DOUGLAS TAYLOR,

1865--1915,





## INTRODUCTORY<sup>1</sup>

### I



THE Manhattan Club, at Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street, is the home of the swallowtail Democracy. To the Democratic Party it is what the Union League Club is to the Republican Party. The members wear fine linen, have many changes of raiment, are partial to patent-leathers and silk-woven goloshes. There are brains and culture in the Club. The Club building is the marble house erected by the late Alexander T. Stewart. It cost \$1,000,000. It is marble throughout. It is just as solidly marble inside as outside. The Club has a twenty-one years' lease on the building—\$35,000 a year for the first five years, \$37,500 a year for the next five years, and \$40,000 a year for the remaining eleven years. The house is still owned by the Stewart estate.

In 1864, when the idea of such a club was first promulgated, the present splendor of the Club would have been a fatuous dream. The Democracy was at its lowest point in the history of the nation. It was not fashionable to be a Democrat. The glory of Lincoln and the Republican Party was shining like a midday sun. A Democrat was nothing

<sup>1</sup> Edward G. Riggs in the New York "Sun," April 23, 1892.

## THE MANHATTAN CLUB

but a copperhead. He was considered little less than a traitor. Innumerable instances are on record where he was shunned as a most unwholesome person. The bitterness was intense. The memories of those days are still fresh in the minds of some of the old members of the Club, including Douglas Taylor, who, more than any other man, must be considered the original founder of the Club; Manton Marble, John T. Agnew, George Ticknor Curtis, Andrew H. Green, Henry Hilton, and Edward Cooper.

It may be said truthfully that but for the Union League Club, the Manhattan Club would perhaps never have been organized. The Union League Club was fairly on its way to prosperity when the Democratic Party nominated McClellan and Pendleton to oppose Lincoln and Johnson. The Union League Club was Republican in every fibre. The applications of Democrats to join it were distastefully received. It is true that in a spasm of generosity it accepted James T. Brady, Charles P. Daly, and William Butler Duncan. Judge Daly, however, quickly retired from the Union League. The atmosphere was not pleasant to him. He and Mr. Brady and Mr. Duncan were as loyal as any three men on earth. The Union Leaguers, though, were shy of such company. The three leading clubs of New York at the time—the Union, the Union League, and the Century—had for presidents pronounced Republicans like William M. Evarts, Hamilton Fish, and William H. Seward. The famous Century Club was opposed even to Gulian C. Verplanck. Radical notions abounded. Sturdy old Democrats resented the harsh sentiments of the Republicans. An abortive attempt to organize a Democratic club similar to the Union League was made in 1864, just prior to the McClellan-Pendleton campaign. General McClellan and his associate on the ticket were greatly interested in the project. Their headquarters were at the New York Hotel. The McClellan Executive Committee occasionally met at Delmonico's, and it was there, in the



## INTRODUCTORY

presence of the candidate, Manton Marble, John T. Hoffman (Recorder at the time), Douglas Taylor, Augustus Schell, George W. McLean, Henry Hilton, and others, that the project received its first inspiration. The overwhelming defeat of McClellan and Pendleton followed, and the idea of a swell Democratic club was shattered for the moment. The Democratic Party was poverty-stricken. Democrats who had voted for McClellan and Pendleton were flouted and malignantly dubbed copperheads.

But there were energetic spirits behind the club movement. The spring of '65 was ushered in, and with it the club project was taken up again. The little band of Democrats had various meetings at the residence of George W. McLean, at the New York Hotel, in the office of Manton Marble, and at the office of Douglas Taylor, then commissioner of jurors. In the latter place, in April, 1865, a meeting was held at which a number of judges and leading Democrats were present, including Mayor Gunther and Recorder Hoffman, and a committee consisting of Chief Justice Charles P. Daly of the Common Pleas, Clerk Nathaniel Jarvis of that court, and Mr. Taylor was delegated to visit Democrats and secure signatures for the proposed club. The initiation fee and dues were fixed at two hundred dollars. This was a staggerer, to begin with. It was a problem as to how many Democrats in New York City would put their hands in their pockets and pay two hundred dollars to join a club, the representative of a party consisting of "copperheads and traitors." Things ran along until the following June, when a meeting of the Club's pioneers was held in Augustus Schell's law office, then at 40 Wall Street. It was there that Mr. Marble suggested that the new Club should be known as the Manhattan Club; and at a subsequent meeting at the same place the following twenty-five Democrats were selected as permanent managers of the organization: Gulian C. Verplanck, Augustus Schell, John A. Dix, William F. Allen, August Belmont,

## THE MANHATTAN CLUB

John Van Buren (son of Martin Van Buren), Horace F. Clark, George W. McLean, S. L. M. Barlow, Charles O'Connor, Samuel J. Tilden, George Ticknor Curtis, Andrew H. Green, William Butler Duncan, Henry Hilton, Anthony L. Robertson, Manton Marble, William C. Prime, James T. Brady, Edwards Pierrepont, Wilson G. Hunt, Edward Cooper, Douglas Taylor, John T. Hoffman, and E. L. Corliss. General Dix, who had sat in Buchanan's cabinet, was nominally a Democrat, but declined to serve as one of the managers. In fact, he switched over to the Union Leaguers.

The first meeting of the Managing Committee was at Delmonico's, Fourteenth Street and Fifth Avenue, on Tuesday evening, July 18, 1865. At this and subsequent meetings in the same month, Mr. Augustus Schell acting as chairman, Mr. Marble was requested to frame a constitution. Judge Hilton and John Van Buren were appointed a committee to secure a permanent home for the Club, and Mr. Taylor and Mr. McLean hustled around to get members. A list of one hundred and twenty Democrats was secured. They were ready to pay the two hundred dollars each.

The next thing was to get a home. The Moffatt mansion in Union Square, at that time next to the Everett House, was rejected. The committee finally purchased the old Parker or Benkard mansion, at Fifth Avenue and Fifteenth Street, for \$110,000. Half of this money was to be raised on bonds. A fund for preliminary expenses was made necessary, and August Belmont subscribed \$10,000; Augustus Schell, \$5000; Judge Hilton, \$5000; S. L. M. Barlow, \$5000; Horace F. Clark, \$5000; William Butler Duncan, \$5000; Samuel J. Tilden, \$5000; and Mr. Marble and others made up the sum to \$55,000. The Democracy was not dead yet. As a matter of fact, none of that \$55,000 was ever required. The membership list rapidly rose to three hundred, and this gave the Club \$60,000 to start with, so the subscriptions were not called in.



## INTRODUCTORY

The first officers of the Club were: John Van Buren, president; Augustus Schell, vice-president; Manton Marble, secretary; and Wilson G. Hunt, treasurer. Mr. Hunt soon retired. Old Dean Richmond was elected a manager in his place, and when he died, shortly afterward, Horatio Seymour accepted the place. The first House Committee comprised Mr. McLean, Mr. Hilton, and Hiram Cranston, proprietor of the New York Hotel. All worked like beavers to fix up the home of the Club. The "house-warming" was on December 16, 1865.

The first president of the Club, John Van Buren, was known as "Prince John." He was the son of Martin Van Buren, the Kinderhook statesman, who was governor of the State in 1828, secretary of state under Jackson in 1829, minister to England in 1831, vice-president under Jackson in 1833, and eighth President of the United States in 1837. John Van Buren was attached to the American Legation in London under his father. The present Queen of England was then Princess Victoria, daughter of Edward, Duke of Kent, fourth son of George III. John Van Buren, at a grand state ball at which the ambassadors of that day were present, had the honor of dancing with Princess Victoria. He opened the quadrille with the future Queen of England, and the American newspapers got to calling him Prince John. The title remained with him until his death on October 13, 1866. His successors as president of the Club, in their order from that day to this, are: Augustus Schell, August Belmont, Aaron J. Vanderpoel, Manton Marble, and Frederic R. Coudert.

## II

The Club has always been a factor in Democratic politics. Its first venture in national affairs, though, was not successful. This was an effort, practically, to capture President Andrew Johnson and make him a full-fledged Democrat. It

## THE MANHATTAN CLUB

was a strategic move, and at one time the managers of the Club thought it would be successful. President Johnson was not pleasing the Republicans, by any means. The Democracy was at such a low ebb that the Manhattan strategists believed that any effort, no matter how difficult, should be attempted to revive the party's fortunes in the nation. The scheme was started when this letter was sent to President Johnson on March 12, 1866:

To the Hon. Andrew Johnson,  
President of the United States.

*Sir*: The undersigned members of the Managing Committee of the Manhattan Club beg leave to apprise you that you were this day elected an honorary member of the Club, and to request your acceptance of the same. They enclose a copy of their Constitution and By-Laws, with a list of members of the Club, which will be found to include a fair representation of the intelligence, enterprise, wealth, and patriotism of our City and State. They have also been requested to say to you, in behalf of the Club, that they desire to procure a full-length portrait of yourself, to be painted by one of our first artists, and that they will be much obliged if you will gratify them by consenting to sit to him. It is the earnest desire of the Club to adorn their walls with the representation of the form and lineaments of a statesman and patriot whose efforts to restore the peace and union of our distracted country and whose just and fearless rebukes of disunionists command their unanimous, cordial, and enthusiastic approbation.

Please address your answer to

John Van Buren,  
President of the Manhattan Club,  
96 Fifth Avenue.



## INTRODUCTORY

W. F. Allen, S. L. M. Barlow, August Belmont, James T. Brady, Hiram Cranston, George Ticknor Curtis, Edward Cooper, Edward L. Corliss, H. F. Clark, W. Butler Duncan, Andrew H. Green, John T. Hoffman, Henry Hilton, Edwards Pierrepont, Manton Marble, George W. McLean, W. C. Prime, Dean Richmond, Augustus Schell, Douglas Taylor, G. C. Verplanck, S. J. Tilden; John Van Buren, President.

In view of the fact that the Constitution of the Club expressly declares that its object is to advance Democratic principles, the foregoing letter was a mighty interesting one to send to a man elected on the ticket with Abraham Lincoln, the first President of the Republican Party. The managers of the Club and those in the scheme eagerly awaited a reply from President Johnson. It came ten days later, and the night the letter reached the Club there was a fine old hubbub over it. The letter said:

Executive Mansion,

Washington, D. C., March 22, 1866.

John Van Buren, Esq., John T. Hoffman, Esq., *et al.*

*Gentlemen:* I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, informing me of my election as an Honorary Member of the Manhattan Club of New York City, and asking me to allow an artist of your selection to take a full-length portrait of myself for your Club.

In communicating to you my acceptance of these compliments, I desire to thank you sincerely for them and for the friendly expressions of support and encouragement you tender me in the discharge of my public duties. An honest and clear conviction of duty and consciousness of rectitude of purpose, the unwavering support of the American people, and the blessing of an all-wise Providence will, I believe, enable me to meet any emergency. I feel that I have the

## THE MANHATTAN CLUB

first two; and it shall be the object of my every endeavor to deserve the remaining requisite.

I am, gentlemen, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

Andrew Johnson.

The artist was promptly sent on to Washington, and the painting then made of President Johnson still hangs in the Manhattan Club. There was nothing particular in President Johnson's letter to encourage the managers, but it was a starting-point. It was decided to push the game. Up to that time no man had been elected a member who could not conscientiously say that he was a Democrat. In order to carry out the scheme with President Johnson this feature was modified, and Clarence Seward, Thurlow Weed, and a dozen other friends of Johnson were admitted to the Club. Old members, talking of that period in the Club's existence, say they thought then that they had Johnson sure. But in order to fasten him it was decided to get up a great meeting in Union Square to sustain Johnson, and hurrah for his policy of making enemies in his own party. This meeting was held on September 17, 1866, and John A. Dix, who was at that time in the Union League Club, was pushed to the front as chairman. He was nothing but a "stall," it was remarked by a veteran of the Club. The Manhattan Club's crusade into the enemy's camp was known as the "Citizens' movement." This covered the real object of the Democratic schemers. President Johnson came on to New York, and the meeting in Union Square was the largest ever held there. It sustained President Johnson and his policy with the greatest enthusiasm. John T. Hoffman, all the Schells, and every manager of the Manhattan Club believed then that they had captured Johnson. A great banquet was given in his honor at the Club, and the "Citizens," otherwise Democrats, feasted him at Delmonico's. The Republicans,



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though, were fully aware of the Manhattan Club's tactics concerning Johnson, and they, too, went to work. An old manager of the Club (Douglas Taylor), recalling the episode, says:

"We hungry Democrats thought we had Johnson sure. We wined and dined him in great shape. But Johnson was afraid of impeachment, and the Republicans held that axe over his head. His Democracy soon oozed out, and Seward, Weed, and all the Johnson Democrats went back to the Republican Party."

In 1868 the Club took a very active part in the campaign of Seymour and Blair. They offered the Democratic National Committee the use of the club-house, and the invitation was accepted. Seymour and Blair received the Notification Committee there, and made the Club their headquarters. Governor Seymour had a little bedroom at the top of the building, and there he discussed the plans of the campaign with the Executive Committee. His strongest diet and stimulant during the time were stewed oysters and green tea. In the '72 campaign Horace Greeley was breakfasted at the Manhattan. All the leading Democrats visited the Club to greet Mr. Greeley and drink his health. But a decline in the Club's fortunes followed the Greeley campaign. Many Democrats had not reconciled themselves to the candidacy of Mr. Greeley, and the feeling among the members was not happy. The attendance fell off, and financial entanglements appeared above the horizon. The election of Samuel J. Tilden as governor in 1874 reawakened interest; and the fight in 1876, when Mr. Tilden, an original manager of the Club, was a candidate, stirred its enthusiasm. But the Greeley feeling had taken deep root, and in 1877 the Club was reorganized, August Belmont remaining as president. From that time, however, the Club has continued to grow, and it is now booming. It is true that there is a Mugwump element in the Manhattan, bitterly opposed to certain

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Democratic leaders. But in view of the experience in dealing with unknown gods, the officers of the Club are practically compelled to recognize the great Democratic leaders, no matter whether personally objectionable to them or not.

President Cleveland has always had a good many friends in the Club. He is a member. The Club gave him a reception and dinner on his election as governor in 1882. The Club has always royally entertained the Democratic governors and Democratic senators. Many of the members, nevertheless, have prided themselves upon belonging to a Democratic club with swallowtail proclivities and affiliations. They do not hesitate to say that they don't like the "short-hairs." It is a matter of fact that John Kelly, through his friends in the Club, was elected three times, and that he always refused to accept the membership. He never qualified. Richard Croker has not been in the Club more than half a dozen times in his life. He will only go there on the invitation of Mayor Gilroy or some of his old personal friends in the Tammany organization.

### III

The Manhattan Club has always been famous for its kitchen. Uncle Sam Ward became a member on January 22, 1866, and from that day until his death was an habitual frequenter, his home being just around the corner. He did more to make the Club famous in one direction than any dozen men in it. He gathered around him a little coterie of his own. It included John Brougham, Joseph Jefferson, William J. Florence, William Henry Hurlbert, Oakey Hall, Dion Boucicault, "Winter Garden" Stuart, and others. Commodore Vanderbilt played whist in the Club with his friends every night for years.

This article, however, aims not to deal in memories, but rather to speak of the Manhattan as it is to-day. The



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Stewart house has been described a hundred times: the pictures in the main corridor, with its marble pillars and great chandeliers; the superbly frescoed ceiling; the drawing-room, enriched with bric-à-brac, paintings, mirrors, vases, crystal chandeliers, medallions, statuettes, and velvet carpets; the library, the dining-room, the kitchen at the top of the building, the reception- and the billiard-rooms. In the library are the English and American papers, books of fiction and reference, scientific works, biographies, history, the poets, Burke's "Peerage," for the use of the younger members, and Balzac's works, for the delight of those more advanced in life.

The dining-room is on the second floor, on the Fifth Avenue side. It is the room once occupied by President Grant as a bed-chamber when he was the guest of Mr. Stewart. It glows like fairyland at night, when the crystal chandeliers are lighted and the tables are adorned with wax candles, in solid silver candelabra, with tiny red and gold shades. The main stairway, leading from the main corridor to the top of the building, is of marble, and alone cost \$100,000. In the general reception-room there are some very handsome medallions, including those of Alexander Hamilton, Carroll of Carrollton, George Washington, and Benjamin Franklin. Valuable paintings are here, there, and everywhere. It cost the Club quite \$500,000 to fit up the building when it moved from the old house at Fifteenth Street and Fifth Avenue two years ago. But people will want to know something about the members of the Club and the experiences there.

President Coudert is now in Paris. He is one of the counsel appointed by President Harrison to represent the United States before the Behring Sea Commission. Mr. Coudert started life about as poor as anybody possibly could be. He was well educated, though, and made his first money translating the French papers for the "New York Herald." The money he earned there helped him to become a lawyer, and

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he has attained international fame in his profession. Many of Mr. Coudert's friends thought that President Cleveland would make him ambassador at Paris. In Mr. Coudert's absence, Christopher Columbus Baldwin is acting president. He is a Wall Street banker. J. Edward Simmons, the treasurer, is president of the Fourth National Bank. He was a Troy boy, and grew up with Senator Edward Murphy, Jr. The fondness of Mr. Simmons for Mr. Murphy has been very deep from those days, and no man was prouder of Mr. Murphy's elevation to the United States Senate than was he.

Among the life members is John T. Agnew, who is looked upon as the Nestor of the Club. Mr. Agnew is vice-president of the Continental National Bank, and is an authority on banking and financial questions. He is godfather to half the members of the Club; that is, he was their sponsor when they came before the Board of Governors for election. Mr. Agnew is a handsome, gray-haired gentleman who has maintained in life such a strict observance of hygienic rule that at threescore and ten, although he has a twitch of rheumatism, his complexion is that of rosy youth. He is a type of the true American. He looks like an American. He is six feet high, and straight as a mast. He could have been president of the Club. He has had offers of every office the Club had, but has persistently declined. He has more influence than any other member of the Club in certain directions. He is bright as a new dollar, an enthusiastic believer in the future of New York, who thinks the town is only just starting. Usually he sits in an arm-chair in the big morning-room, and on entering the members first make it their business to pay their respects to him. Some of the other life members are ex-Congressman Perry Belmont, son of August Belmont, who did so much for the Club; ex-Mayor Edward Cooper, who came within an ace of being nominated for governor in 1882, when Mr. Cleveland won the prize; ex-Mayor Smith Ely, Manton Marble, Robert B. Roosevelt,



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Douglas Taylor, Nelson J. Waterbury, Jr., and Sidney Webster, nephew of Franklin Pierce and son-in-law of Hamilton Fish.

In looking over the general list of the Club and the happenings there, the remark of old man Weller is recalled. Mr. Weller, on seeing a canary-bird in a cage inside a jail, said: "There 's wheels within wheels." So in the Manhattan there are comprised a variety of clubs and coteries, and almost every other club in the City of New York, if not in the United States, is represented by some little group. For instance, giving credit to antiquity first, there is the Cuttyhunk Club. Who of the old-timers has not heard of the glories of Cuttyhunk and George Barnard and Charlie Osborn, and the "Dreadnought," and old Billy Woodhull, and Sam Post, and Billy Spence, and Phœne Ingraham? Several of the old set have gone to their account, but they helped to make the island of Cuttyhunk a merry resort years before the Americus Club was born; and during those days, and since, the followers of Cuttyhunk have been very numerous in the Manhattan Club. The stories that Joseph J. O'Donohue can tell about bass hauls sound like killy stories when compared with the high-hook records of these Cuttyhunkers. It is true that the menhaden fishers in Buzzard's Bay have pretty well killed the big bass fishing at Cuttyhunk, but this has not caused any diminution in the Cuttyhunk yarns which are heard every afternoon in the Manhattan parlors.

Then there is the set known as the "Larchmont crew." They spread all over the Club. They have two or three members of the Board of Governors, including Assistant District Attorney Harry Macdona, who in the last election was the only young man elected to the Board. It was a personal triumph for Mr. Macdona. The Larchmont element in the Club also owns the office of secretary in the person of David Gilbert. Then there are Chester Munroe, Colley Colt of the "Dauntless," Jordan L. Mott, Jr., Gus Monroe,

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George Cormack, and Matt Clark, and they make up a set that always hangs together.

Then there is also what is known as the "Day Club" or as the "New York Stock Exchange." They have a very powerful little club of their own inside the Manhattan. They have three representatives on the Board of Governors, and while they are not always together in the Club, like the Cuttyhunkers and the Larchmont crew, they appear most unanimously together on nights of election when any one in whom they are interested is a candidate. John Hone may properly be considered the leader of the Day Club.

Next in importance comes the Union Club crowd. They have five members on the Board of Governors, one of them being the newly elected and very popular governor, Daniel Bayne. He defeated Francis K. Pendleton, the son of Senator Pendleton, who ran for Vice-President on the ticket headed by General McClellan when the Club was first thought of. The Union Club crowd in the Club is a sort of political club. They are banded together to push their own interests.

Then, in addition to these coteries there are social lines and lines of affinity cross-cutting the sets and cliques. There is a breakfast set, members who breakfast at the Club up to one o'clock. There is an afternoon set that begins to come in about two and stays till dinner-time. They play billiards, talk, or play chess or dominoes. Then there's the night set. This last is largely composed of the hard-working public officials, including many judges and some city officials, as Mayor Gilroy, Supervisor W. J. K. Kenny, Corporation Counsel Clark, and their friends.

Recurring to the subject of games, there is a rule in the Club which tells the games that may be played there. These are whist, euchre, Boston, all-fours, écarté, bezique, cribbage, piquet, hearts, billiards, chess, checkers, backgammon, and dominoes.



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The champion billiard-player of the Club is James Inglis, and the pool champion, when Joseph J. O'Donohue is not around, is Eddie Bell, though Phœne Ingraham is a pretty fair hand at the game. But there is now coming to the front a gentleman who gives promise of making some of the old-time billiard and pool champions very tired. He finds time occasionally on Saturdays to ease his mind from the cares of the Standard Oil Company and various collateral activities and industries. This is John D. Archbold. It is admitted with great regret by the old-time champions that Mr. Archbold's game is improving to such an extent that it will be necessary to get a special class for him pretty soon. Van Emberg and Bissell believe themselves to be in Archbold's class, but this belief is limited to themselves. The great English billiard champion is said to be Major Ulrich; but as "blackjack" is now replacing the English game in the Club, the Major is falling off for lack of practice. Blackjack is the French game of billiards, with the addition of a black pin, which is a heavy counter in the game. Arthur Ingraham, Harry Macdona, Dave Gilbert, and Colonel Loeser are the blackjack fiends. Manton Marble and Judge Abram R. Lawrence are the two oldest billiard-players in the Club.

The judicial group is very exclusive. They dine together, especially Judge Edward Van Brunt, Judge John Clinton Gray, Judge Miles Beach, Judge Charles Truax, Judge Roger Pryor, Judge Ingraham, Judge Barrett, Judge Gilderleeve, Judge George Andrews, Judge Lawrence, and Judge Bookstaver.

The society end of the Club is represented by William C. Whitney, who is chairman of the Library Committee and one of the governors; August Belmont, Jr., Oliver H. P. Belmont, Carroll Bryce, J. Coleman Drayton, Cornelius Vanderbilt, J. Sergeant Cram, Joe Decker, Reginald Francklyn, George and Frederic Frelinghuysen, sons of President Arthur's Secretary of State; Freddie Gebhard, Elbridge T.

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Gerry, Wendell Goodwin, one-time captain of the Harvard crew; J. N. A. Griswold, Herman Oelrichs, Henry Marquand, George B. McClellan, president of the Board of Aldermen; Gouverneur Morris, Thomas Newbold, J. Hampden Robb, George Lorillard Reynolds, Montgomery Roosevelt, John Rutherford, George Schermerhorn, thirty or forty Smiths, hyphenated and single-breasted; Hamilton McKay Twombly, Lawrence Turnure, William Vandervoort, W. Seward Webb, and Willard P. Ward, one of the greatest clubmen in New York, who belongs to nearly all the "german" clubs, the University, the Calumet, the Knickerbocker, the Metropolitan, and others.

There is one member of the Club without a sketch of whom no article on the Manhattan Club would be complete. He is Uncle Thomas Jefferson Miller. Uncle Tom, sad to relate, in the swell new club-house does n't cut such a figure as in former days. With its big membership of over a thousand active members and the large list of non-resident members, this is quite natural. When the Club was at the old stand at Fifteenth Street and Fifth Avenue, there were about six hundred members, and everybody knew everybody else. It has now grown so large that many members are unacquainted with each other. In old times it was a sort of family affair. Uncle Tom prescribed the menu, and it was considered good form. He had a great display of inventions, among them some that would have plagued the author of the "Physiology of Taste." Uncle Tom has discovered a great many things that Savarin did not live long enough to find out. His cunning has developed a lot of delightful things to eat that Savarin did not know existed; for instance, Milford clams, Lynn Haven Bay oysters, oyster-crabs, diamond-back terrapin, canvasback ducks, and pompano. Uncle Tom does not go into the kitchen now. He used to, and it is said of him that he could make a Hollandaise sauce light enough to rival a feather. The magical things that



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Uncle Tom can make out of every-day cheese, a little heat, and a chafing-dish remain as pleasant memories in otherwise very foggy nights. Uncle Tom is no timid suggester of how things should be done, but a forcible and direct person, who, knowing what he wants, applies himself at once to the situation; and when he is devising a "rabbit" at about half-past twelve o'clock at night, nothing is allowed to occur in that room except the ordinary breathing of the onlookers.

Uncle Tom's distinction would not be justified if his great abilities had been alone displayed in the kitchen or at the chafing-dish. He never reaches his full splendor until things are served, and then woe betide the captain of the watch if his spoon is not set at an exact and peculiar angle, all his own, to his fork and his knife and his various other paraphernalia for enjoying the things he has ordered to eat! It has been said that his salad-dressing is a symposium. When Uncle Tom mixes salad-dressing it is a thing of great delight, a large physical effort, accompanied by a merry noise of spoons and forks, wooden and metal. The equipment of knowledge that is required to arrive at the distinction Uncle Tom has attained may be imagined from the fact that on several occasions during his career of fifteen or more years in the Club he has made violent protestations to the House Committee on the quality of the table salt furnished. Ordinary mortals may complain about the over-ripeness of their oil or of the too keen acidity of their vinegar, but when it gets to salt it requires the fine critical judgment that only Uncle Thomas Jefferson Miller possesses.<sup>1</sup>

## IV

The initiation fee is now \$250, and the dues \$75 a year. Any member may become a life member on payment of \$1000 in addition to the initiation fee of \$250.

<sup>1</sup> His tragic end is told elsewhere in this history.

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Among the well-known members of the Club are: Henry E. Abbey, the musical impresario; Governor Werts, Collin Armstrong, John H. V. Arnold, ex-president of the Board of Aldermen and president of the Democratic Club; Samuel D. Babcock, Congressman Franklin Bartlett, ex-Surveyor Hans S. Beattie, Henry R. Beekman, William K. Vanderbilt, M. C. Bouvier, John M. Bowers, ex-Sheriff Peter Bowe, Martin B. Brown, Colonel John C. Calhoun, grandson of the Great Nullifier; Charles J. Canda, ex-assistant treasurer; Henry W. Cannon, ex-comptroller of the currency, president of the Chase National Bank, and commissioner at the Monetary Conference recently held in Brussels, and a Republican; President Grover Cleveland, Congressman W. Bourke Cockran, Austin Corbin, James J. Coogan, who ran for mayor on the Labor ticket; Macgrane Coxe, ex-assistant district attorney; Chamberlain Thomas C. T. Crain, John D. Crimmins, Thomas E. Crimmins, Richard Croker, James R. Cuming, Augustin Daly, George Lord Day, Charles W. Dayton, Alfred de Cordova, Judge P. Henry Dugro, Harvey Durand, General Ferdinand P. Earle, a great friend of Senator Hill; Timothy C. Eastman, ex-Mayor Franklin Edson, Frank A. Ehret, the brewer; Amos Eno, Charles S. Fairchild, ex-secretary of the treasury; Assemblyman Percival Farquhar, Congressman John R. Fellows, Surrogate Frank T. Fitzgerald, Governor Flower, George F. Foster, Hugh R. Garden, president of the Southern Society; ex-Senator John Fox, Sheriff John J. Gorman, ex-Mayor William R. Grace, ex-Mayor Hugh J. Grant, Theodore Have-meyer, Joseph C. Hendrix, ex-postmaster of Brooklyn and now a congressman; Henry Hentz, ex-president of the Cotton Exchange; Joseph Hoadley, ex-governor of Ohio; Excise Commissioner Leicester Holme, William B. Hornblower, Henry L. Horton, John H. Newman, ex-Senator Eugene S. Ives, Charles A. Jackson, formerly of the County Democracy and now of Tammany; Edward Kearney, John D.



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Kernan, of Utica; John King, president of the Erie; Daniel S. Lamont, secretary of war; Henry Marquand, Police Commissioner James J. Martin, Judge Randolph B. Martine, F. O. Matthiessen, John A. McCall, president of the New York Life Insurance Company; George B. McClellan, son of General McClellan and president of the Board of Aldermen; Delos McCurdy, St. Clair McKelway, editor of the "Brooklyn Eagle"; Cord Meyer, Jr., Gouverneur W. Morris, Jordan L. Mott, Jr., Comptroller Theodore W. Myers, ex-Sheriff James O'Brien, Joseph J. O'Donohue, Herman Oelrichs, Oswald Ottendorfer, J. H. Parker, president of the United States Bank; Oliver H. Payne, brother-in-law of William C. Whitney; Wheeler H. Peckham, Francis K. Pendleton, son of "Gentleman George," who was minister to Germany and candidate for Vice-President on the McClellan ticket; Lloyd Phoenix, Frank Riggs, Jacob Ruppert, William McMurtrie Speer, Edmund C. Stanton, William Steinway, Isidor Straus, Nathan Straus, General Sam Thomas, treasurer of the Republican State Committee; Lawrence Turnure, Hamilton McK. Twombly, son-in-law of William H. Vanderbilt; Jenkins Van Schaick, Police Justice John H. Voorhis, James E. Ward, the steamship man; W. Seward Webb, of the New York Central Railroad; Police Justice Andrew J. White, Orme Wilson, who married Miss Astor, and his father, Richard T. Wilson, the banker; James T. Woodward, president of the Hanover National Bank, and Isidor Wormser, who has just been disciplined by the Stock Exchange for punching a broker.

Among the non-resident members are Thurlow Weed Barnes, grandson of the great Republican "boss" of the State thirty years ago; Wilson S. Bissell, now postmaster-general; George Bleistein, editor of the Buffalo "Courier"; Benjamin T. Cable, of the National Democratic Committee; Patrick Calhoun, son of the Nullifier; Caldwell H. Colt, owner of the "Dauntless"; John R. Drexel, of the famous

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Drexel family of Philadelphia; N. K. Fairbanks, the packer of Chicago; J. B. Haggin, William A. Hammond, once surgeon-general of the army; George Hearst, of California; Benjamin Lefevre, of the National Democratic Committee of 1888; Thomas Lowry, the millionaire railroad manager of Minneapolis; Senator Edward Murphy, Jr., of Troy; Edward J. Phelps, ex-minister to the Court of St. James; Colonel William G. Rice, formerly private secretary to Governor Hill; Bradley B. Smalley, National Democratic committeeman from Vermont; Congressman Tracey, of Albany; John H. Van Antwerp, of Albany; Henry Watterson, father of the star-eyed goddess of reform of the Blue-grass State, and Smith M. Weed, of Plattsburg.

The advantages of the Manhattan Club are many. The best whiskey is sold there at ten cents a glass. It is the best in the market, and even at ten cents a glass there is a profit to the Club. Cigars are sold at ten per cent. over cost. The best whiskey is sold at other places at twenty-five cents a glass, and the profit on cigars in some of the swell hotels and cafés up-town is sometimes nearly thirty per cent. You can get the finest dinner in the land at the Manhattan at prices which are twenty-five per cent. below those charged by Delmonico. More famous drinks have been invented at the Manhattan than at any other place in the country.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> None ever invented was so popular as the "Sam Ward." This was a creation of the famous Uncle Sam Ward, and is made of yellow chartreuse, cracked ice, and lemon-peel. The celebrated Manhattan cocktail was inaugurated at the Club. This consists of equal portions of vermouth and whiskey, with a dash of orange bitters. Some of the later drinks are:

Frappé New Orleans à la Graham, which consists of mint, sugar, and whiskey.

Royal cup, which consists of a pint of champagne, a quart of Bordeaux, plain soda, one pony of brandy, one pony of maraschino, lemon juice, sugar, mint, fruits in season, and a cucumber.

Manhattan cocktail à la Gilbert, consisting of Amerpicon bitters, French vermouth, and whiskey.

The Manhattan cooler à la McGregor, made of lemon juice, sugar, Scotch whiskey, and plain soda.

The Columbus cocktail, composed of orange bitters, acid phosphate, calisaya, whiskey, and a dash of curaçoa.

The Brut cocktail, made of orange bitters, acid phosphate, maraschino, and vermouth.



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Mr. Riggs omits from his lifelike and charming sketch the feeling of hostility which from the first asserted itself against the Stewart mansion. It was variously called the "Marble Mausoleum" and the "Whited Sepulchre." Many long-time members of the Club were conspicuous rather by their absence than their presence. It was, they said, "too fine for comfort." The expense it entailed was out of all proportion to any advantage it could possibly serve, and it was both a personal and financial relief when, through the efforts of Mr. William S. Rodie and Mr. Sylvester J. O'Sullivan, the lease was cancelled and the removal secured to the present commodious and homelike club-house, purchased from the Jerome estate and newly refitted, at the intersection of Twenty-sixth Street with Madison Avenue, overlooking the pleasant shades and greenswards of the far-famed historic Madison Square.

The Riding Club cocktail, consisting of calisaya, lemon juice, and Angostura bitters.

The Racquet cocktail, consisting of gin, vermouth, orange bitters, and crême de cacao.

The Star cocktail, made of applejack, vermouth, yellow chartreuse, and cherry-bounce.

Queen Anne cocktail, made of brandy, vermouth, orange bitters, and maraschino.

The Plimpton cocktail, which consists of Jamaica rum, vermouth, and Angostura bitters.

The Smithtown cocktail, made of orange bitters, lemon juice, whiskey, and vermouth.

Indeed, the Club has drinks for every day in the year, Sundays included; for all seasons, and national, State, and city festivals.



*In Memory*  
OF THE  
LOVED AND HONORED  
MEMBERS  
OF  
THE MANHATTAN CLUB  
WHO HAVE  
GONE BEFORE



**HISTORY OF THE  
MANHATTAN CLUB**





## CHAPTER THE FIRST

A Brief Discussion of the Origin of Clubs, with some detailed Reference to the Growth of "Political Clubs" in this Country—The State of the Democratic Party in the Summer of 1865—The actual Beginning of the Manhattan Club—Patriotic Motives of the Founders.



**B**ETWEEN the public dining-tables of what we call the ancient world and the organized clubs of modern society, many centuries intervene. Coming down from the group clubs of Athens and Sparta through the ages, we traverse a wide but not a variegate territory, passing the *circuli*, or confraternities, where Cicero found such good company and conversation, and of which Plutarch has left us details that prove their laws to have been similar to the club rules of to-day; the old tavern and coffee-house clubs of England; the Jacobin clubs of France and America; and, finally, the far-reaching, all-pervading contemporary clubs, which, according to Austin Leigh's Club Directory of 1910, embrace three thousand English-speaking clubs in all parts of the world, with nineteen hundred and three in non-English-speaking countries.

"Man," Addison tells us, "is a social animal," naïvely adding that when two or three of these "animals" find them-



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selves in agreement, they form a club. He further proceeds to say that since the points upon which most men agree are food and drink, the founders of the clubs, so organized, look carefully to choice viands and rare wines. Dr. Johnson declares the club to be "an assembly of good fellows meeting under certain conditions." Both were right.

The most careful study of club life goes to demonstrate that the club dinner, whether evolved from the Attic feasts sung by Arcestratus, or the cooking-schools of epicurean Rome and onward down to that of the Manhattan Club, described by Mr. Julius J. Lyons (whose ice-cream, he declared, was so superior to the ice-cream of Delmonico's, then just over the way from the club-house,—to be told by Judge Henry Wilder Allen that the Manhattan had bought that very ice-cream from that very Delmonico's), the ingredients and the chefs, have been the best the time and the town had to offer.

The "certain conditions" of Dr. Johnson have varied, however, under different demands and expediencies, and it is due to their broadening and amplification that such numbers of clubs, representing every avenue of modern development along lines of politics, letters, art, business, recreation and social life, are now in existence.

The earliest of all the clubs, the groups of Athens, had for their "certain conditions" only Addison's requirement of food and drink, their incentive the desire of some fifteen or twenty congenial spirits to enjoy one another's society about a common dining-table. Admission to each table was by ballot, one black ball defeating. Elected, the newcomer was required to observe the established rules on pain of expulsion.

The pioneer clubman of note seems to have been Themistocles, his successor being Cimon, son of Mithridates, who took the next step in club progress by organizing certain of these casual groups of co-operative diners into a select and



*J. P. Morgan*

## THE MARIQUETAN CLUB

after an agreement, then to a club. His father proceeds to tell that about that same year which must have agreed are food and drink, the business of the club, as organized, took exactly its course under the past years. The following document the club to be the assembly of good business meeting under various conditions. Both were 1876.

The most common story of club life goes to demonstrate that the club dinner, whether evolved from the first stage given by Americans, or the cooking-schools of American Europe and somewhat later to that of the Manhattan Club, described by Mr. Julius J. Lyons (which ice-cream he declared, was an addition to the business of Delmonico's, then just over the way from the club-house,—to be told by Judge Henry Wilson Allen that the Manhattan had bought that very ice-cream from Delmonico's), the ingredients and the club, have been the same for decades; the town had to suffer.

The "certain conditions" of Dr. Johnson have varied, however, under different demands and requirements, and it is for as these traditions and requirements that the members of clubs representing every stage of society, from the aristocratic along lines of politics, letters, and the arts, to the social and social life, are now in evidence.

The history of all the clubs, the groups of friends had for their "certain conditions" only Addison's requirement of food and drink, they insisted the house of some of them or twenty congenial spirits to enjoy the same in conversation, a dinner, and a table. Addison, or any other, was not to be had, one black ball declining. Although the new-comer was required to observe the established rules on pain of expulsion.

The greater number of clubs seems to have been Democratic, the success being Cline, son of Mirhades, who made the best way in club progress by organizing certain of these small groups of co-operative diners into a club and





Woodrow Wilson

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club members' enjoyment through any loosening of his purse strings.

One hundred and fifty years after Hoccleve, Sir Walter Raleigh immortalized the "Mermaid Tavern" of London, when, with Francis Bacon and Ben Jonson, he founded there his club of that name.

The club thenceforward began to demonstrate its power and its usefulness, its history revealing that within its confines and from its discussions have originated some of the most important enterprises in history. At the "Mermaid" many books now classic were discussed in their making. There it was that Raleigh gave impulse to "Americana" by suggesting to Hakluyt the idea of editing Peter Martyr's "Discovery of the New World," in which he himself was so interested. Imperial free trade was also first threshed out by Raleigh at the "Mermaid," he supplying data for the discussion from observations in Holland and Venice. Raleigh was thus the earliest of British empire-builders, setting in motion ideas which have lost little, if any, of their vitality.

In 1619 Ben Jonson led the survivors of the Mermaid Club to the more fashionable tavern of one Wadlowe, between the Inner Temple and Fleet Street and the Strand, known as the "Sign of the Devil." Down to this time the club had met at some convenient tavern, or public dining-table. Ben Jonson, in founding his new "Club of the Apollo," made one of the most important innovations in club history. He hired a permanent room for its meetings, arranging its furniture according to the taste of the club, and not that of the tapster. The club thus acquired its own dwelling, and the casual departed from its history: an incalculable benefit, since it thus gave its members a species of home, offering not only physical comforts at small cost because of co-operation, but social and intellectual possibilities, the charm of possession begetting in its members a proprietary interest in their own organization.

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To the Apollo Club is due the inauguration of club dinners or "house nights," as well as that of "ladies' night," when members of the opposite sex were invited for social and musical entertainment. So fashionable did this club of "rare Ben Jonson" become that it has been described as a "monument, a reflection and an epitome of the virtues, vices, the social foibles and tendencies which mark its time," a description almost identical in suggestion with one given by Mr. A. J. Dufour of the Manhattan.

The Manhattan Club has had within its fold men prominent in every calling of life: lawyers, physicians, statesmen, politicians, jurists, etc. It also numbers in the ranks of its children many who, by their mode of living, their personal charm, and their innate knowledge of the good things of this life and the method of properly assimilating them, have made for themselves reputations which will go down in the annals of the Club as worthy of a greater decoration than the famous "Cordon Bleu," causing much rejoicing among the "bon-vivants," and establishing the precedence of matter over mind. From any point of view, there must be in a club a certain set of unbound, unleashed spirits acting in a sense as a foil to the maturer minds of the more experienced and conservative. To maintain the balance of a club, of a social and political compound, this would seem indispensable. As it were, it gives a certain "prestige." A glance at the Club's roster, especially within the last twenty-five years, will demonstrate beyond the shadow of a doubt that it claims among its members some of the jolliest "viveurs" and most delightful epicureans that any city can boast: men of wide-travelling experience, visitors to many lands, absorbers of their customs and manners, who, receivers of their best and broadest thoughts, brought back with them to the "Old Manhattan" the most fruitful results of their knowledge. Their names are legion, and a great many of them are still enjoying the pleasures and comforts of this world. They



## THE MANHATTAN CLUB

are well known, and the Manhattan will never forget its debt to them.

But before proceeding with the Manhattan, let us complete the narrative of some of its more famous English progenitors.

At the Apollo politics again entered into club life, one hundred and fifty Whig loyalists in 1690 mustering at its quarters in support of William III before the Irish expedition and the battle of the Boyne.

Of the Commonwealth period, the Rota, with its fluent but imprudent talkers, stands out pre-eminent. Coffee was its drink, Irish politics its conversation, and of its famous members Lord William Russell and Algernon Sidney lost their heads for complicity in the Rye House Plot. The founder of the Rota was Sir James Harrington. The club met at the "Turk's Head," a tavern of New Palace Yard, and was exclusively political, dying eleven weeks before Charles II landed at Dover.

Of the many clubs of the Restoration period, the "Club of the Kings," the "Shaftesbury" and the "Civil" are most typical. The latter, founded in 1669, marks the next significant departure in the scope of club life.

The Civil Club, we learn, became a socio-commercial power, precursor, we may conclude, of the business club of to-day. It boasted also its own chaplain, and its chef first introduced into the club menu roast game and poultry, his bills of fare being those of the earliest club dinners of the present type. In this résumé we must not forget the "proprietary" clubs. Such was "White's," founded by an Italian named Bianco, and run after his death by his widow, Elizabeth, assisted by a Schweitzer named John James Heidegger, who made himself the fashion as the "Swiss Count." To him is claimed to be due the rise of opera in England, since with Mrs. White he established a bureau where tickets for the theatres, operas and masked balls, so frowned upon by the

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clergy, could be obtained. "White's" has been adjudged the precursor and model of all modern clubs, for it gave rise to a famous series of organizations, of which the "Kit-Kat," the "Rag," "Watier's," "Brooks's," "Crockford's," and "Almack's" are famous examples.

"To 'White's,' " says T. H. S. Escott, in his "Club Making and Club Members," "the club system of to-day owes the giving of admission to a club as not only a conventional honor but a social credential of definite significance and practical value."

This was accomplished first by the forbidding of the use of tobacco in any form but snuff, the method of whose taking was refined at "White's" to an art, at a time when smoking was permitted everywhere else; by a severe—and somewhat unjust, perhaps—discipline of the ballot; by an air of fashionable exclusiveness never relaxed; by the cultivation of prejudice against radical changes; and by the practice of allotting private rooms to favored *habitués*.

At "White's" also could be found not only the London papers, but foreign ones as well; while games of cards, then still more or less of a novelty, were permitted, Horace Walpole confiding how he sometimes sat up there all night playing faro.

After "White's" club life became modern, amplifying and developing the possibilities of those "certain conditions" until there were jockey clubs in Paris as in London, and army and navy, the writers, the artists, the professions generally, business, leisure, fashion, sport, religion, the rich, the poor, the politician, the actor, all had clubs of their own. Woman began to organize her clubs likewise. Golf has called into existence thousands all over the world. So popular, indeed, were the luncheon clubs of the Great Metropolis that in 1896 there were twenty-eight thousand club men and women in New York City alone.

Recurring to America, the two earliest clubs, "The Fish



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House Club" of Philadelphia and the "Hoboken Turtle Club" of New York, founded respectively in 1717 and 1797, were established upon the Addisonian basis of good fare and pleasant company.

There were, however, soon after these were started, those early organizations known as "Sons of Liberty" and "Sons of St. Tammany," whose province was political, their aim being to arouse anti-British feeling and to disseminate knowledge concerning the principles of true political liberty. One William Mooney, an upholsterer of 23 Nassau Street, New York, an ardent patriot, conceived and carried out the idea of organizing these "Sons of Liberty" and "Sons of St. Tammany," the latter called after an Indian chief in derision of England's St. George, into a society whose object was to be the spreading throughout the States of institutions and men bent on the preservation of a just balance of power, an object declared to be both republican and patriotic. This club chose for its name "The Society of St. Tammany," or the "Columbian Order," and it quickly arranged magnificent parades in which its members, bearing high-sounding Indian titles, were dressed as native American chiefs and tricked out in all their war paint and feathers.

Opposed as this club was to every trend of aristocracy, it counted as its natural enemy the newly organized "Society of the Cincinnati," whose members, including Washington, were officers that had survived the Revolution. The chief feature of this club, condemned by Thomas Jefferson as leading Democracy towards Aristocracy both in theory and practice, was its exclusiveness. It even planned to have its membership and insignia pass down by primogeniture inheritance.

Aaron Burr became the idol of Tammany, Alexander Hamilton of the Cincinnati, the former actually striving to bring Burr into favor again after his fall.

More troublesome to the government were the Jacobin





Samuel J. Taylor

## THE MANHATTAN CLUB

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Opposed as this club was to every form of aristocracy, it counted as its natural enemy the "well-regulated Society of the Cincinnati," whose members, including Washington, were officers that had survived the Revolution. The chief feature of this club, condemned by Thomas Jefferson as pushing Democracy towards Anarchy, was its exclusiveness. It even planned to have its membership and insignia pass down by primogeniture inheritance.

After Burr became the idol of Tammany, Alexander Hamilton of the Cincinnati, the former solemnly writing to Irving that he was Irving again after his fall.

These troublesome to the government were the Jacobins



J. J. Tilden





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clubs, thorn in the flesh of Washington's administration, and directly opposed to his policy of non-interference in European politics. Their avowed object was the creating of sympathy with Republican France, then in the early stages of her Revolution, and they spread with alarming rapidity. While Tammany only succeeded in starting affiliated clubs at Philadelphia, Lexington (Kentucky), Brooklyn and Providence, Jacobin clubs sprang to life everywhere,—one, the "Society of Charleston, S. C.," on its own application, being accepted by the Jacobin Club of Paris as a branch. A record of their queer propaganda, their processions and parades, their toasts of "Long live France and Robespierre!" and all their paraphernalia of Liberty, has been described for posterity by a writer calling himself "Peter Porcupine."

Though they came to an end as Jacobin clubs, public sympathy dying away as France proceeded to her excesses, one, "The Democratic Society" of Philadelphia, at that time the seat of government, modelled upon the Jacobin Club of Paris, lives on in American politics as the Democratic Party, which, having Thomas Jefferson for its father, continues to promulgate and jealously to guard his doctrines.

In 1805 the "Society of St. Tammany" divided itself into two sections, the new division, under the guise of being organized to aid widows and orphans and others in need, taking the name of Tammany Hall. It became quickly a political rallying-ground, its early idol, Aaron Burr, being succeeded in the course of years by many leaders. Originally its aims were the spreading of Democracy by speeches, pamphlets and all social means in its power, its methods being evolved in the "Long Room" at Nassau and Spruce Streets, where the members gathered to "smoke and swap stories." Among its real services to the country were the securing of manhood suffrage and the abolition of laws imprisoning debtors.

The first club of New York founded on the lines of the

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London social clubs was the "Union," organized in 1836, and followed, after ten years, by the "Century."

The year 1860 found Tammany Hall pro-Slavery, with its political rival, Mozart Hall, out and out for the Union. The Northern Democrats, however, stood, in the final issue, by the Federal Government, and in 1864 nominated McClellan for the Presidency, against Lincoln.

With the re-election of Lincoln, the Democratic Party expected to endure the oblivion of defeat, when, by the assassination of Lincoln, Andrew Johnson came to the Presidential chair, and its hopes revived, since Johnson, though a Southerner who had remained loyal when his State of Tennessee had seceded, was fundamentally imbued with Jeffersonian principles.

The whole country, in 1865, was in a state of confusion. The main issue, however, was the policy to be adopted towards the conquered South. The Democratic Party sought the restoration, not the subjugation, of the South. There were many questions relating to "the States lately in rebellion," the status of the negro, the reduction of the army and navy, the Freedman's Bureau, and other political instrumentalities designed more or less to fix Republican supremacy. The dominant majority, radicalized by the assassination of Lincoln, stood for "Reconstruction" at whatever cost. Such was the situation in 1865. Democracy, seeing its opportunity, began plans of revitalization. The Republicans had founded a club, the Union League, which by social, intellectual, and political prestige was to advance that party's interests. It had rendered invaluable service in the campaign of 1864, when General George B. McClellan was defeated by Abraham Lincoln.

Tammany Hall, at the time, was practically the only Democratic club in New York. Its scope was not identical with that which, in the opinion of Mr. Douglas Taylor, was plainly required for the work to be done. Mr. Taylor, ac-



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cordingly, at a meeting of the "McClellan Executive Committee," of which he was secretary, held at Delmonico's in the winter of 1864-5, proposed the formation of a more authoritative Democratic body. His idea was received with enthusiasm, and during the early weeks of the following spring certain gentlemen of Democratic principles met at Mr. Taylor's office, at the office of Mr. Augustus Schell, at the home of Mr. Manton Marble, and at Delmonico's to form plans for the founding of a Democratic club whose object was to be "the advancing of Democratic principles, the promotion of social intercourse among its members, and the providing them with the conveniences of a club-house." The summer vacations interfering, nothing was finally done until the fall, when the "Manhattan Club" was chosen for its name and certain gentlemen referred to in the records as "representative Democrats who might fitly be associated together as to its nucleus and managing committee," were appointed.

This committee, holding meetings with Mr. Augustus Schell in the chair, instructed Mr. G. W. McLean and Mr. Douglas Taylor "to prepare lists of the names of Democrats who might properly be invited to become members of the Club." At the same meeting Mr. Manton Marble was instructed to draw up a constitution, which was amended and accepted.

The organization thus arranged was effected September 25, 1865, at up-town Delmonico's, then at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Fourteenth Street. The officers elected were:

President: John Van Buren.  
Vice-President: Augustus Schell.  
Treasurer: Wilson G. Hunt.  
Secretary: Manton Marble.

Later along, November 17, Mr. Hiram Cranston was added to the House Committee, and General John A. Dix

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having declined membership, Dean Richmond of Buffalo was elected to his place on the Managing Committee. Such was the official beginning of the Manhattan Club. Behind this lies the story of how Mr. Taylor, active in the Young Men's Democratic Union Club of 1857, with its "Grand Presidential Ball" in honor of the election of Buchanan and Breckenridge, and its annual balls at the City Assembly Rooms, and treasurer of the Young Democracy of New York of 1858, believing, after the war, that a Democratic club, other than Tammany Hall, the sole survivor, was necessary, went about its accomplishment.

"The Manhattan Club really had its start in 1864," he stated in the New York "Sun" of October 23, 1910, "when George B. McClellan was running for President. He was in the 'World' office nearly every day, and I used to talk to him. He went at first to see Manton Marble, and took as little interest in the campaign as anybody you ever saw. One day I said, 'General, let's get up a club,' and he said he thought I could launch a club without any trouble,—a club for gentlemen,—and the more and more we talked about it the better it seemed.

"We had the first meeting in my office, in Chambers Street—I was Commissioner of Jurors then. Then we went in search of a place, and Marble had two or three meetings at his office. At the first meeting of all Charles P. Daly came. The Club was practically organized in April, 1865.

"John Kelly never would join this Club. We got in John Van Buren, James T. Brady, Henry Hilton, and John R. Brady, and the better class of judges—Judges Bosworth, Sanford E. Church, Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals, William F. Allen, D. P. Ingraham, Monell, William E. Curtis, Daly, Comstock, Charles F. MacLean, O'Gorman, Rapallo, Abraham R. Lawrence, Samuel Jones, and so forth. We also had Horatio Seymour, Samuel J. Tilden, Commodore Vanderbilt, Dean Richmond, Samuel L. M. Barlow,

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John McKeon, General John A. Dix, George Law, Thomas F. Bayard, John T. Hoffman, Samuel S. Cox, Charles O'Connor, William Butler Duncan, Gulian C. Verplanck, August Belmont, Augustus Schell, Sidney Webster, George H. Pendleton, William C. Prime, Francis Kernan, and Commodore Garrison. There were giants in those days.

"In 1866 we elected Andrew Johnson. We expected that if he would come to a Democratic meeting we would make a Democrat of him. I think he was about four-fifths one at that time. Only two black balls were necessary out of twenty-five to reject, because, as Manton Marble used to say, it was necessary to keep it a high-toned club, and he exerted his great influence to have only gentlemen admitted."

Fortunately, Mr. Taylor, whose death occurred three years ago, preserved a copy of the original notice sent out to possible members. It reads:

New York, April 18, 1865.

*Dear Sir:—*

You are earnestly  
requested to meet a few  
friends at the office  
of the Commissioner of  
Jurors (No. 3 Chambers St.)  
on Thursday afternoon  
the 20th next at 4 o'clock  
to confer in reference  
to our proposed  
Democratic City  
Club.

Yours respectfully

Douglas Taylor.  
Joel Wolfe.  
George W. McLean.  
Edward L. Corliss.  
M. B. Spaulding.



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Besides the committee, Democrats who responded were Messrs. W. D. French, C. P. Daly, Daniel E. Delavan, Mayor C. Godfrey Gunther, John T. Hoffman, George W. McLean, Edward L. Corliss, Joseph W. Corliss, James T. Brady, Nathaniel Jarvis, Udolpho Wolfe, M. B. Spaulding.

Among Mr. Douglas Taylor's papers, kindly placed at the disposition of the compiler of this history by his daughter, Miss Clara Taylor, of New York, are the signatures of all the original members. In addition to these facts given by Mr. Taylor himself, Mr. Henry M. Steven, in an article on the Club in the "House and Country" magazine of some fifteen or more years ago, has added the information that following Mr. Taylor's proposal to found a Democratic club, events were delayed by Democratic defeats, but that when Mr. Gulian C. Verplanck, one of the founders of the Century Club, was defeated for its presidency merely because of his Democracy, active steps were at once taken, with the Manhattan Club as the result.





Grandmother

Grandmother

## THE MARRIOTT CLUB

Among the associates, the names who responded were Messrs. W. B. French, C. A. ... .. E. DeLaven, Mayor C. ... .. Gerber, John T. ... .. George W. ... .. Adams, L. ... .. James W. ... .. James T. Brady, ... .. U. ... .. M. S. ... ..

Among Mr. Douglas Taylor's papers, kindly placed at the disposal of the compiler of this history by his daughter, Miss Clara Taylor, of New York, are several signatures of some original members. In addition to some facts given by the Taylor family, Mr. Henry W. ... .. in an article in the Club in the "House and Century" magazine of some fifteen or twenty years ago, has added the information that following Mr. Taylor's proposal to found a Democratic club, events were delayed by Democratic defeats, but that when Mr. ... .. Ver ... .. one of the founders of the Century Club, was defeated for the ... .. because of his Democratic ... .. with the ... .. Club at the ... ..

Grover Cleveland





*Anna Cleveland*





## CHAPTER THE SECOND

The First Club-house—Early Presidents of the Club—  
“Prince John” Van Buren



THE three leading clubs in New York City, when the Manhattan Club began to be considered and discussed, were the “Union,” then on Bond Street, dating back to 1836; the “Century,” then on Broome Street, founded in 1846, “for the cultivation of letters as well as social life, and to entertain and introduce strangers”; and the “Union League,” organized in 1863 by New York Republicans, with its club-house on Madison Square.

The Manhattan aimed from its inception to take rank with these, and for forty years the four continued to be the most important organizations in the club life of New York.

It was on October 12, 1865, that the first businesslike steps were taken towards securing a suitable club-house, Mr. George T. Curtis, Judge Henry Hilton, and Mr. William F. Allen on that date being appointed a committee “to inquire and report in what mode this Club can be organized as a voluntary association until it can be organized as a corporation, and to present a plan for that purpose.”

Ten days later, this committee, through Mr. Curtis, re-



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ported that, in its opinion, the new Club could not conveniently be organized under the law of the last legislature for incorporating similar institutions, as the law then stood, and it therefore recommended that, in addition to the organization already provided for by the Constitution, three trustees should be chosen to hold the titles of all real or personal property which might be acquired by the Club, these trustees, described as joint tenants, to give a declaration of trust to the Governing Committee that they held the property in trust for the use and occupation of the members of the Manhattan Club, or of those who might become members, in pursuance of its Constitution and By-Laws.

This Declaration of Trust was to be recorded in the minutes of the Governing Committee, the original copy to be held by the Secretary. Should a trustee resign or die, his remaining colleagues were to appoint his successor, a new conveyance to the Board of Trustees, as it then stood, being made by the surveyors and a new Declaration of Trust being given. All club property of a personal nature, except provisions and food stores, was to be held in this manner likewise, the trustees to convey all property thus held to any corporation into which the Club later might be organized.

This report being satisfactory, Judge Hilton was commissioned to conclude the purchase of the Benkard house, upon the southeast corner of Fifth Avenue and Fifteenth Street, at a price not exceeding \$110,000, Mr. Curtis at the same time being empowered to draw up a Declaration of Trust along the lines of the report of his committee.

Judge Hilton, John Van Buren, and William Butler Duncan were named as the three trustees, and Augustus Schell, treasurer *pro tem.*, was instructed to send out notice to such Democrats as had accepted membership, announcing the taking of a club-house and requesting their checks for \$200 to cover the initiation fee of \$150 and the annual dues of \$50.

The first member to subscribe towards the purchase of

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this club-house was Mr. August Belmont, who offered the sum of \$10,000. Almost \$55,000 was at once pledged as a consequence of Mr. Belmont's confidence in the future of the Club.

At the same time, the House Committee was named and asked to prepare a set of By-Laws for the use of the Club, which, presented and amended, on January 5 were, with the House Rules and Regulations, adopted.

The Rules of Order, adopted on December 11, were presented by Mr. Manton Marble, acting as secretary *pro tem*. Later, Mr. Marble, remembered as the one-time owner and editor of the New York "World," who made his home for many years at the old University Club, became president of the Manhattan Club, succeeding Judge Aaron J. Vanderpoel and serving from 1886 to 1888. Previous to that he acted as first secretary of the Club (1865-1876). Unfortunately, he was never what was termed "a regular" at the Club, but appeared only when some special occasion required. In the old days at "No. 96," as the new club-house came to be called, Mr. Marble, with William Henry Hurlbert, also of the "World," William C. Prime, Ben Wood, and James Brooks, represented the Press.

It was a current joke that the political trio, August Belmont, S. L. M. Barlow, and Samuel J. Tilden, with Manton Marble, edited the "World."

At the meeting of October 12 an appropriation had been made for the purchase of furnishings and other necessities, and so well did Judge Hilton and the House Committee do their work that, on November 7, the Managing Committee was able to hold its meeting in the dining-room of the new club-house. There were present Messrs. John Van Buren, William Butler Duncan, Augustus Schell, Manton Marble, Edward L. Corliss, Andrew H. Green, John T. Hoffman, George W. McLean, William F. Allen, Douglas Taylor, S. L. M. Barlow, with Mr. Hiram Cranston by invitation.



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The Benkard house, from 1865 to 1890 the home of the Manhattan Club, is remembered by old New-Yorkers as a very handsome building with a fifty-foot frontage on Fifth Avenue and a large garden to the rear on Fifteenth Street. When arranged for club use, the first floor boasted a fine, spacious reading-room with windows commanding both the avenue and the street, a smaller apartment serving as a reception-room. In later years an innovation was made by enlarging the balcony to the rear on this floor, and summer visitors to New York in the late eighties can well remember Club members enjoying refreshments at the twenty or more tables of this delightful open-air dining-room.

Mr. Julius J. Lyons, in recalling the early years of the Club, tells us that there was then more sociability among the members than there is to-day; and if this be true, as it must be admitted to be, it implies that the early members were mainly personal friends, and that New York was very much smaller then than now.

The officers, once the Manhattan had its home, were authorized to procure a special act of incorporation for the Club, or such an amendment of the general act as would permit the same to be done. This, however, was not brought about until February, 1877.

The Manhattan, which had been organized in support of the new Chief Magistrate of the Nation, on March 12, 1866, elected Andrew Johnson an honorary member, and appointed a committee, consisting of Messrs. John Van Buren, August Belmont, and Augustus Schell, to engage an artist to paint the President's portrait, it being the "earnest desire of the Club to adorn their walls with the representation of the form and lineaments of a statesman and patriot whose efforts to restore the peace and union of our distracted country and whose just and fearless rebukes of disunionists command and secure their unanimous, cordial, and enthusiastic approbation."



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The President replied in the following:

Executive Mansion,  
Washington, D. C.,  
March 22, 1866.

*Gentlemen:*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, informing me of my election as an Honorary Member of the Manhattan Club of New York City, and asking me to allow an artist of your selection to take a full-length portrait of myself for your Club.

In communicating to you my acceptance of these compliments, I desire to thank you sincerely for them and for the friendly expressions of support and encouragement you tender me in the discharge of my public duties. An honest and clear conviction of duty, and consciousness of rectitude of purpose, the unwavering support of the American people and the blessing of an all-wise Providence, will, I believe, enable me to meet any emergency. I feel that I have the first two; and it shall be the object of my every endeavor to deserve the remaining requisites.

I am, gentlemen, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,  
Andrew Johnson.

Jno. Van Buren, Esq., }  
Jno. T. Hoffman, Esq., } *Managing Committee,*  
*et al.,* } *Manhattan Club.*

In May the Club voted \$25,000 for the improvement of its club-house, and at the same meeting decided that no reporters were to be admitted to private dinners in any of its dining-rooms.

Before the Club was a year old it suffered the loss of its first president, John Van Buren, whose death occurred at sea, on the steamer "Scotia," on his return trip from a short tour in Europe.

## THE MANHATTAN CLUB

Samuel J. Tilden, whose name first appears in Club annals as one of the Managing Committee at its meeting of December 5, 1865, August Belmont, and Manton Marble composed a committee which drew up resolutions on the death of Mr. Van Buren, Mr. William Butler Duncan being commissioned to order a kit-kat portrait of the late Club president to be done by the artist Lazarus for the Club walls. The clubhouse was draped, for the first time, in crape until after the funeral of its president, the entire Club attending his funeral at Grace Church in a body.

A lawyer by profession, eminent both as advocate and counsellor, John Van Buren was a born clubman. He was idolized by the Democrats who founded the Manhattan. Known as "Prince John," he charmed by his kindly and cordial temper, his gracious manners and his social ways, not less than by his scintillant intellect, his wide experience and his unfailing humor. He was a popular orator of the first order, unrivalled in drawing vast audiences and holding them by the logic of his argument and the magnetism of his personality.

Born of statesmanship environment, from his earliest years the affairs of government interested him above all things else, his elevation of character keeping him aloof from self-interest in his political activities. He held it unprofessional to accept employment in any way connected with party influence or relation. What he gave of his time and talents to politics was a free-will offering. It was matter of comment that John Van Buren might have made a fortune many times over, had his abilities been turned to his own account, rather than to the service of his country. Living, as he did, during the most trying years of American history, he never lost belief in the people, never despaired of the Republic, and, while ready to preserve the Union by conciliation, was resolved to maintain it by force, if need be, through all the trying period of the war holding fast to his





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Samuel J. Tilden, whose usual seat appears in Club records as one of the Managing Committee at its meeting of December 5, 1874, August Belmont, and Marston Marble composed a committee which drew up resolutions on the death of Mr. Van Buren, Mr. William Lloyd, besides being commissioned to cause a life-size portrait of the late Club president to be sent by the artist Laszlo to the Club walls. The clubhouse was draped, for the first time, in honor of the funeral of its president, the same being held on Monday last funeral at Grace Church in a body.

A lawyer by profession, eminent both as a statesman and counsellor, John Van Buren was a born champion. He was idolized by the Democrats who headed the Revolution. Known as "Prince John," he charmed by his kindly and cordial temper, his gracious manners and his social ways, not less than by his skill in the law, his sagacity and his speaking power. He was a pioneer statesman of the first order, unwearied in denouncing the monarchism and holding this by rebuffs of his opponents and the resignation of his personality.

Born of governmental involvement, from his earliest years the affairs of government occupied his share all things else, his character of character keeping him aloof from all interests in his political activities. He held it unprofessional to accept appointments in any way connected with party influence or interests. What he gave of his time and talents to politics was a free-will offering. It was a matter of comment that John Van Buren might have made a fortune many times over, had his abilities been turned to his own account rather than to the service of the country. Living, as he did, during the most trying years of American history, he never lost belief in the people, never despaired of the Republic, and, while ready to preserve the Union as well as the Republic, was resolved to maintain it by force if need be through all the trying period of the war.

ALBERTUS

Portrait of Albertus, 1850



Portrait of Albertus, 1850. The man is wearing a dark suit and a bow tie. The portrait is framed by a decorative border.





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belief in the greatness and glory of a constitutional government as conceived and founded by the fathers.

"Prince John" had for bosom friend the brilliant and profound James T. Brady, dubbed "King James." The two were voted the "Damon and Pythias" of the Manhattan, "Prince John" being also known as the "Wamba" of Democratic politics.

He was "a splendid fellow in every way," Mr. Douglas Taylor stated in the interview he gave the New York "Sun" on the occasion of his eightieth birthday. "He died suddenly on his way home from England. I remember his giving me a little *carte de visite* of himself standing up; the portrait taken from it is in the Manhattan Club. He lived in Fourth Avenue part of the time, somewhere near Twentieth Street. He had a daughter living in England, but few knew anything of his more private and domestic life."

On November 2, 1866, Mr. Augustus Schell, the Club's vice-president, was elected to fill Mr. Van Buren's place, Mr. Anthony L. Robertson succeeding Mr. Schell, Mr. Sidney Webster taking Mr. Van Buren's place among the managers, other officers remaining the same. As Mr. Dean Richmond had also been removed by death from the Managing Committee, Horatio Seymour was appointed in his place.

Like John Van Buren, Dean Richmond was a pride of the Democracy, which had made him an active governor of its Club. He was a leader, known alike "for his clear and massive intellect and for his sound and noble heart." In the social intercourse of the Club, the members counted him a just, kindly, and genial comrade. He was a man of great grasp of public affairs, of insight, generosity, and resolute will, a loss in every way to the Club, which recognized him not only as one of its founders, but as a wise and needful guide to its steps in this first year of its life.



### CHAPTER THE THIRD

“No. 96”—Customs and Laws—Douglas Taylor—The Famous Trio  
—“Cadaverous Ben”—Well-known Members—The Bateman-Cranston Incident.



It was not long before “No. 96” wore the look of the well-established club-house. The attendants, forty in number, with the exception of the superintendent, appeared in a livery consisting of a blue dress-suit with gilded buttons. The Club quickly acquired a good library, the nucleus of which seems to have been a large donation of books for which the Hon. Nelson Taylor was thanked, February 2, 1866. It also kept its reading-room well supplied with current literature, and quickly hung its walls with portraits of prominent members and the fine engravings then so much the expression of American art.

By 1873, the membership reached six hundred, the annual dues amounting to \$30,000.

The rules from the beginning were very strict. Lights were not permitted in the card-room after 2.30 a.m. Members could not be admitted between 2 a.m. and 7 a.m., and the steward was not required to fill orders after 1 a.m. Whist, according to Baldwin, with a \$5 stake, was the only game



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permitted. Smoking in the restaurant was forbidden, and no members could sleep on lounges or sofas except on the third floor. Members who broke china or damaged furniture had to settle for it before leaving the house. Drink could not be served in the reception-room.

The Club, too, was strict about guests, members being permitted to introduce persons, not members, residing within thirty miles of the City Hall, only to the dining-room. Members were forbidden to fee servants, nor could they order private dinners of more than four covers.

The restaurant of the "No. 96" days was the most celebrated in New York, and the saying went that because of its fame, outrivalling even Delmonico's, no other club-house in New York City was so closely frequented by its members. Its system of payment, however, while very agreeable, led, as we shall discover later, to embarrassing consequences.

No accounts were kept, every member being expected to settle his accounts before he left. As we are told, this rule was not always enforced. There was another which ordered every member in arrears for a week to be bulletined. If posted thirty days, he would become liable to expulsion.

The regular meeting of the Club, also an annual reunion, took place on the first Thursday in October. The Board of Managers, on the other hand, met every month. In these comfortable surroundings the Club grew and flourished, and before long counted on its roster the leading Democrats of New York City. One always seen at "No. 96" was Douglas Taylor, its founder. No man in his day was more widely known or better liked than the Commissioner of Jurors. Son of an Episcopal clergyman, Mr. Taylor turned his back upon Columbia, gave up his opening with Lawrence the banker, and, like Benjamin Franklin, took to type and ink. Like him, also, he married his first employer's daughter at the early age of nineteen. Printing was a passion with him, and his establishment became justly renowned. He



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was owner of the New York "Sentinel," and one of the most popular men of his day. It was Douglas Taylor who, after the fall of Tweed, when there were no more bouquets nor huzzaing crowds for the once courted boss, with his wife sought him out as he sat deserted in his sleeper, and spoke to him, quite as of old. It was he who received the newspaper reporters at the Club, and who had a kind word for everybody. He had been a sachem of Tammany Hall in its antebellum days, also its secretary, and for many years was Commissioner of Jurors. He was instrumental in bringing S. S. Cox to New York and electing him to Congress just after the war. Mr. Taylor lived to the age of eighty-two, dying only two years before the semi-centenary of the Club.

In these days Cornelius Vanderbilt, called the "Commodore," was an every-day *habitué* of the Club, an inveterate whist-player, and a man of most striking appearance.

The Law, at "No. 96," was then represented by Judges Ingraham, Hilton, Barnard, Russell, Clerke, Daly, Curtis, Comstock, Garvin the "learned and eloquent," O'Gorman "the brilliant and impulsive," and "keen and thoughtful" John E. Burrill; the actors, by Lester Wallack, Joseph Jefferson, and Dion Boucicault.

General Slocum represented the military; August Belmont, very English in appearance, wearing London tweeds, English whiskers, one button of his coat fastened over his shirt front, S. L. M. Barlow, and Samuel J. Tilden were a notable trio; and James T. Brady—"King James"—brilliant, yet profound and learned, was noted in the courts for his famous pleas, and at the Manhattan for his inimitable jokes.

Another notable member of the "No. 96" days was Oswald Ottendorfer, the German editor; still another was Benjamin Wood, familiarly known as "Cadaverous Ben," from his pallid, almost ghastly coloring and lean figure. Imperturbable in manner, his curiously alert face, combined with its pallor, made him, once seen, always remembered.

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In the course of time a few Tammany men became members, Peter B. Sweeny (called by his enemies "the spider of Tammany politics"), A. Oakey Hall, and John T. Hoffman representing the organization. Oakey Hall was noted for a certain elegance of dress as well as for literary attainments.

A celebrated member was George Ticknor Curtis, the biographer of Webster. Quite clerical in appearance, austere and dark, he was yet thought to resemble August Belmont. He was highly cultivated and ready as a speaker. Horatio Seymour, Andrew H. Green (remarked for his Lord Brougham nose), John T. Agnew, General McClellan, "Uncle Sam" Ward, and "Winter Garden" Stuart were other early members. At the club-house, also, were to be seen General Hancock, Hon. George H. Pendleton, Gulian C. Verplanck, ex-President Franklin Pierce, and ex-President James Buchanan. The only member reputed a Republican was Thurlow Weed.

"No. 96," gossip said, saw many of the leading events of that day concocted in its club-rooms. It was declared that Seymour and Blair were nominated there in conclave, and that there Vanderbilt and Belmont talked of more than whist. It was from the Manhattan that the "Commodore" despatched the message to the judge who had sent for him, that he could not come because "he was too far behind the game."

It was at "No. 96" likewise that the sensational Bateman-Cranston incident occurred. H. L. Bateman, the father of the famous actress, Kate Bateman, and both her manager and that of Parepa Rosa, disregarding club rules, introduced a friend. Hiram Cranston, proprietor of the New York Hotel, at that time on the House Committee, forbade an attendant serving Mr. Bateman and his guest, with the result that the manager made a personal attack on him, and then offered his resignation. The governors of the Club, however, refused to accept it, and expelled him.





## CHAPTER THE FOURTH

The Old Benkard House—Recollections of Mr. Lyons—"Uncle Dave"  
Gilbert and General Martin T. McMahon—Wilder Allen, the  
Practical Joker.



It was in 1869 that Mr. Julius J. Lyons joined the Manhattan Club. One of the first things he was told was that he should have joined a few months earlier, for then he would have had the pleasure of enjoying the nightly sessions of a very entertaining group of prominent men of the day,—Frank Work, Horace F. Clark, Richard Schell, Ben Wood, Hiram Cranston, William Turnbull,—who, on winter evenings, were in the habit of gathering about the blazing logs in the great open fireplace of the front parlor of the Benkard house, old Commodore Vanderbilt himself leading the conversation.

As it was, Mr. Lyons found in the Club much lively company and many striking characters, men of the sixties, among them Judge Henry Wilder Allen, then secretary of the Club and a great practical joker, Mr. Lyons being his victim on the occasion of the comparison between the Club's and Delmonico's ice-cream.

Another early member was Simon Sterne, political econ-







## CHAPTER THE FOURTH

The Old Bankard House—Recollections of Mr. Lyons—"Uncle Tom" Ollbert and General Martin T. McMillan—Wilder Allen, the Personal Joker.

### *Augustus Schell*

It was in the year 1864 that Mr. Lyons joined the Bankard Club. The Bankard House was at that time a very fashionable place, and it was there that he met many of the leading characters of the day. Among these were Judge Henry Wilder Allen, then secretary of the Club and a great practical joker, Mr. Lyons being his chosen victim on the occasion of the competition between the Club's hot buttered toast and its cream.

Another very member was General Martin T. McMillan, a great practical joker, Mr. Lyons being his chosen victim on the occasion of the competition between the Club's hot buttered toast and its cream.

W. G. B. [Illegible]

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omist and able lawyer. Mr. Sterne, also, was fond of his joke. One day Mr. Lyons, whose tastes ran towards the intellectual and whose Club haunt was the library, was stopped by Mr. Sterne with:

"Well, Lyons, you come down town very late. I saw you, yesterday, going into your office after twelve."

"Yes," answered Mr. Lyons, "I was coming from my French lesson."

"But to-day," retorted Mr. Sterne, "you are also very late for a business man!"

"Yes," agreed Lyons, "but I am coming from my German lesson."

Sterne gave him a withering glance.

"Look here," he said, "does it take three languages, Lyons, to show what a —— fool you are?"

That Mr. Lyons had his own retort ready when he needed it is shown by the answer he gave "Sunset" Cox on the occasion of his presentation to Mr. Lyons in the large room of the old Benkard house.

Cox, then in the public eye as member of Congress, and prominent in national politics, to be facetious, rallied Mr. Lyons upon the lack of resemblance between the ferocious animal suggested by his name and his peaceful personality.

Quick as a flash, Mr. Lyons, suiting action to his word, retorted:

"Let others hail the rising 'Sun,'  
I bow to him whose race is run."

And the laugh turned on "Sunset."

In those early days most visitors to the old Benkard house were subjected to an ordeal in passing the desk of a certain Mr. Quinn, long in the employ of the Club, and, for many years before his death, on its pension list.

Mr. Quinn believed firmly in the verdict of his day that membership in the Manhattan Club was a badge of aris-

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ocracy. To maintain its standard of exclusiveness, he assumed a belligerent air to all intruders, and for a visitor to pass his desk was an open credential of that visitor's importance. So well did he guard its sacred precincts that on January 10, 1889, when a small fire broke out in one of the rooms, he, with outraged dignity, opposed the entrance of the firemen, and suffered in consequence some very rough handling. It was his pride that, while the Club was Democratic in politics, it was aristocratic in its clientèle, and especially so in its table and wine-cellar. It was to his great satisfaction, too, that the chefs of the Manhattan were of equal standing with the Delmonico chefs across the Avenue.

A memorable personality of the Manhattan Club was General Martin T. McMahan.

General McMahan had a gallant war record, having from San Francisco, where he was then living, started for the front on the outbreak of hostilities. He gained his soldierly fame, however, in the armies of the East. He was a member of the Manhattan almost from its birth, joining in June, 1866, a little over six months after its organization.

Sixteen years later the General formed a close and lasting friendship with a new member, perhaps the most striking personality ever on the Manhattan Club's roster. This was David B. Gilbert, familiarly known as "Uncle Dave," and aptly named its "Watch-dog." For twenty years "Uncle Dave" made the Manhattan Club his home, and for seventeen of these he acted as secretary of the Club and served on its Board of Managers. It would be difficult to parallel the intense love and devotion—almost religious in its fervor, says Mr. Lyons—which he displayed, every moment of his life, towards the advancement of the best interests of the Club.

Before he retired from business, selling out his seat on the New York Stock Exchange after amassing a competency, he was always to be found in the afternoon at the Club, a fact



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which drew thither a number of men who came solely for his company, he being very popular and one of those who attract and keep about them their own little circle of intimates. After he retired he seldom left the club-house, and, to see that proper order was maintained in all directions about it, he had himself made a deputy sheriff and proudly wore his badge of office. From that moment he became the terror of every organ-grinder and fruit-cart vender who ventured into the neighborhood.

By blowing his whistle, which he relentlessly did, those gentry would disperse to the four winds as quickly as leaves before a wind-storm. If one took his chance and returned, but at a safe distance, there was "Uncle Dave" on the watch for him.

"Uncle Dave" and General McMahan became inseparable, and only the death of the latter broke their manly and notable friendship. They always dined together, and were never apart, eating their meals in the dining-room of the suite occupied by Mr. Gilbert, and spending the rest of the evenings refighting the war and re-electing all the ante-bellum Presidents.

The two had a common peculiarity: neither ever went into the Club dining-room. After the General's death, "Uncle Dave," being very lonesome, would wander in, grow uneasy and wander out. For a time in their friendship the two had a common friend in General Alfred L. Tyler, who shared their society. General Tyler, a man of strong characteristics and indomitable will, was the founder of Anniston, Alabama, which town, by his influence, wealth, and enterprise, as well as innate perseverance and ability, he carried through to success in the face of incalculable hardships and obstacles.

Still another early member, elected February 5, 1869, as vice-president of the Club, was Samuel L. M. Barlow, recalled for the members of to-day by Mr. Solomon Hanford. Here is Mr. Hanford's "memorandum":

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“He was for many years a prominent figure among the early members of the Club, besides being in the foremost rank in the legal profession in a career which commenced in 1847, when he reached his majority, down to 1889, when he died at the age of sixty-three. He was a ‘bon-viveur’ in the best sense of the term; belonged to and was a conspicuous member of a coterie composed, among other prominent men, of August Belmont, William R. Travers, Manton Marble, William Butler Duncan, Abram S. Hewitt, and Edward Cooper, and was always high in the councils of the Democratic Party. From an early age he took an active interest in public affairs and carried on an extended correspondence with men in public life, notably with Daniel Webster, James Buchanan, and other men nationally prominent. He had barely reached his majority before he was appointed by Webster special envoy of the United States to Mexico. As executor of the will of Charles P. Chouteau of St. Louis he owned Dred Scott at the time of the famous decision of the United States Supreme Court on the subject of slavery. While James Buchanan was minister to England, Mr. Barlow, who was one of his closest friends, interested himself in Mr. Buchanan’s candidacy for the Presidency, and actively promoted his election. At the outbreak of the Civil War he was on terms of close friendship with Judah P. Benjamin and most of the other leading men of the Southern Confederacy, and this friendship was maintained to the end. He actively and efficiently exerted himself in connection with the release of the Confederate commissioners, Mason and Slidell, and in the case of the ‘Savannah’ privateer gave his counsel and assistance in defense of the prisoners. He took a prominent part in the nomination and election of Samuel J. Tilden.

“Mr. Barlow was a remarkable man in many ways. Joined to a sterling character, his personality was such as to attract every one with whom he came in contact, and he was open-handed in the relief of every deserving case which came



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under his notice. He had an intuitive knowledge of law and unerring judgment, and he possessed the marvellous faculty of straightening out legal complications in which others had failed, and of drawing complicated legal instruments, writing them out in his own hand in such form as to enable his first draft to be immediately executed without requiring an important correction, a faculty which was declared by many of his contemporaries to be possessed by probably no other lawyer at this Bar. For over twenty years before his death Mr. Barlow resided on the corner of Madison Avenue and Twenty-third Street, the house which he owned, and where he entertained royally many of the most prominent men in the country, occupying part of the site now occupied by the Metropolitan Life Building. His son, Peter Townsend Barlow, is serving his second term as one of the magistrates of the City of New York, his appointment to a second term by Mayor Gaynor being one of the last acts of that official."

Another early member, one destined to play a prominent part on the stage of Democracy, was Samuel J. Tilden. In the first year of the Club, Mr. Tilden was one of the Managing Committee, his colleagues being:

Wm. F. Allen	John T. Hoffman
S. L. M. Barlow	Manton Marble
August Belmont	Charles O'Connor
James T. Brady	Edwards Pierrepont
Horace F. Clark	Wm. C. Prime
Edward Cooper	Dean Richmond
Hiram Cranston	Anthony L. Robertson
Geo. Ticknor Curtis	Augustus Schell
Wm. Butler Duncan	Douglas Taylor
Andrew H. Green	John Van Buren
Henry Hilton	Gulian C. Verplanck

Still another well-known member of the Club, in its first



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year, was Judge Henry Hilton, who, with George W. McLean and Hiram Cranston, formed the first House Committee, whose duty, according to the first Constitution, was to make all necessary purchases for the Club, fix the prices of articles sold in the Club, and, in general, transact its current business and regulate its internal economy. A prominent out-of-town member of this period was Smith M. Weed, of Plattsburg. He long stood at the head of up-State Democratic politics, narrowly missing the United States senatorship on three occasions, and always exercising commanding influence. He is still hale and hearty at the ripe old age of eighty-three.

Such was the atmosphere of the Manhattan Club in its old Benkard house days, and such the stalwart and striking figures of early post-bellum Democracy. What these men did for the Club we shall hear in the coming chapters.





## CHAPTER THE FIFTH

1865-1877

The Old Club—Public Dinners and Receptions—Out-of-town Members provided for—Mortality among the Club Officials—The Club denounces the Use of Troops in Louisiana.



THE official history of the Manhattan Club divides itself naturally into two sections, the first section covering the period of the Club's life between the years 1865 and 1877, before it became a corporation; the second section embracing the years from 1877 to 1915, the semi-centennial year of the Club's existence; both of these sections were filled with striking personalities and events.

By the Act of Incorporation, sworn to before B. J. Douras, N.P., on February 15, 1877, and signed by John Bigelow, Secretary of State, at Albany, February 20, 1877, the Manhattan Club, as it existed, and the incorporated Manhattan Club, became separate bodies, distinguished in all records thereafter as the "Old Club" and the "New Club."

During the whole of its life the "Old Club" made its home in the Benkard house.

The early months of the Old Club's life following those

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already recorded were without incident other than the loss sustained by the death of ex-Governor Washington Hunt, one of its most valued members, in 1867.

Governor Hunt is described in the Club annals as "a Christian gentleman." He was a man whose distinguished and successful career in State and National legislatures and as Governor of New York had established the character of ability, stability, and shining integrity. His death at that trying period of American history came as a national as well as a State and Club loss, for as a statesman no less than a clubman he had hosts of friends, won and held by his genial temper and unaffected ways.

The matters which now began to engage the attention and interest of the Old Club were, first, its hope of becoming an efficient aid to the Democratic Party; second, its desire to see itself incorporated; third, its troubled financial affairs; and fourth, the growing restlessness of its younger members as to its removal to an up-town club-house.

The first of these aims led to the appointment, March 1, 1868, by the President, of a committee of three, with himself as chairman, having power to extend the hospitalities of the Club to the National Democratic Committee, members of the National Democratic Convention, about to assemble, and to other distinguished Democrats who might be present in New York City on the 4th of July of that year.

On November 23, 1870, this work was continued by a formal request made to Mr. George Ticknor Curtis that he mature and submit a plan he had suggested for increasing the political efficiency of the Club. This plan, which embraced, among other functions, public dinners and receptions to leading Democrats, began to bear fruit. On the 7th of November, 1873, we find the Club holding a general meeting to arrange for an entertainment, to be given a week later, in honor of Governor Kemper of Virginia and of Governor Allen and Senator Thurman of Ohio; and on May 7, 1874,





*W. H. ...*

## THE MOUNTAIN CLUB

Already recorded were without incident other than the loss sustained by the death of ex-Governor Washington Hunt, one of its most valued members, in 1867.

Governor Hunt is described in the Club annals as "a Christian gentleman." He was a man whose distinguished and successful career in State and National legislatures and as Governor of New York had established the character of ability, stability, and sterling integrity. His career at this trying period of American history came to a national climax at a State and Club loss, for as a politician no less than a clubman he had borne his burden and met it with his quiet temper and unaffected ways.

The matters which now began to engage the attention and interest of the Old Club were: first, its hope of becoming an efficient aid to the Democratic Party; second, its desire to see itself incorporated; third, its troubled financial affairs; and fourth, the growing restlessness of its younger members who had returned to the so-called job-lot.

The first of these matters was the subject of a meeting, March 4, 1870, at the residence of the Honorable William H. Hunt, then President of the Club, and attended by the Honorable William H. Hunt, then President of the Club, and to other distinguished Democrats. The meeting was held in New York City on the 4th of May 1870.

On November 23, 1870, this work was commenced by a formal request made to Mr. George T. Fisher, then Secretary of the Club, and submit a plan he had suggested for increasing the political efficiency of the Club. This plan, which embraced, among other functions, public dinners and receptions to leading Democrats, began to bear fruit. On the 7th of November, 1871, we find the Club holding a general meeting arranged for an entertainment, to be given a week later, in honor of Governor Kemper of Virginia and of Governor Allen and Senator Thurman of Ohio; and on May 7, 1872,



August Belmont





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Democrats from all over the country were invited to a grand reunion.

This reunion, we learn from the newspapers of those days, was the most famous yet given by the Manhattan Club. In one account we read how, though "eminently Democratic" as the Club was, the throng on that notable evening was by no means democratic in appearance, if that meant "the great unwashed," but was composed of "gentlemen in full evening costume, including the *par excellence* swallowtail coat, white choker, and light kid gloves."

The imposing rooms were, it is recorded, most splendidly decorated, the national colors festooning the columns of the reception-rooms, draping the walls and outlining the doors, gorgeous candelabra flashing down their lustre from every ceiling.

One reporter waxed critical concerning the curtains, which, he informs us, were of gauze spangled in every hue,—a trifle theatrical, he thought, and "in the 'Black Crook' style," then the vogue. While he was not fond of so much red in the club-house furnishings, he reluctantly admitted that it had a most brilliant effect.

Leading Democrats from all over the Union are described as strolling up the winding stairway, arm in arm, in those same swallowtails, chokers, and light kids, pausing to inspect the portraits of John Van Buren and Chancellor Roberts,—evidently hung upon the wall of the stairway,—making their way by the band playing democratic airs in the upper hall to the adjacent parlor, where, at nine, began the speeches.

Mr. Augustus Schell, then President of the Club, took his place as master of ceremonies on a carpeted dais at the end of the room, near a table decorated with one of the huge, stiff bouquets of that period, to welcome the visitors. Reading the report of his speech to-day, it is easy to supply the date of the fulfilment of his prophecy that events were moving

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rapidly and logically towards the rise of Democracy again to power.

Speeches through which sound the echoes of the guns of the Civil War, replete with political references which fall dead to-day, then followed,—Amasa J. Parker, Senator Bayard, Judge John McHenry, Mr. Fitch of Nevada, Mr. Smith of Vermont, the orators,—and two hundred letters, full of the rising leaven of Democracy, were read from leading Democrats of every State, unable for various reasons to be present. References to affairs in Louisiana made the roof of “No. 96” echo with Democratic cheering.

After the supper—pronounced “very fine”—certain gentlemen, catching sight of S. S. (“Sunset”) Cox, fell upon him with cries of “Speech! Speech!” but to no avail.

Chief in that throng of Democrats of '74 moved Samuel J. Tilden, the man in whom many New York Democrats saw the coming triumph of Democracy. Near by was the delightful John Hunter, and not far away the equally charming William C. Wickham; while mingling in the throng were General Elijah Ward, Congressman Robert B. Roosevelt, ex-Senator Ben Stark, Smith M. Weed, General Duryea, Judge J. J. Freedman, Judge Kilbreth, and John T. Hoffman.

Some eight days later, probably as an outcome of the reunion, a committee was appointed to draft a circular to be sent to prominent Democrats throughout the United States, inviting them to become out-of-town members of the Manhattan Club.

The next considerable political reception was given, December 29, 1874, to Tilden and Wickham, at that time the hope of the Democratic Party, and respectively Governor and Mayor-elect of New York. The affair was much talked of, and on the night in question gas-jets blazed out the monograms of the guests to the public.

Mr. Augustus Schell having resigned as president, it was Mr. August Belmont who presided over this reception, pro-



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nounced by the morning papers of that day the greatest gathering of Democrats ever brought together.

This time we hear less about the decorations,—one reporter, a Republican, grumbling because the speeches were delivered up-stairs, where he suffered from lack of both room and air, and not down-stairs, the great applause attending the entrance of Mr. Tilden on the arm of Mr. Augustus Schell “quite deafening him.”

The “dinner,” as he calls it, however, not only excited his enthusiasm but that of his fellow-reporters, who tell us that it was “sumptuous,” “very fine,” and “under the superintendence of one Félix Déliée.” Douglas Taylor preserved the menu, which carried more than a dozen courses!

The speeches were full of raillery, Mr. Belmont assuring Messrs. Tilden and Wickham that the secret of their success lay entirely in their being members of the Manhattan Club, and telling the gathered throng that, as president of that Club, he resented its being dubbed the “silk-stocking end of the party.”

Mr. Tilden, Mr. Wickham, Judge Bedell of New Jersey, Governor Ingersoll of Connecticut, Hon. Charles Faulkner of Virginia, Hon. Randall Gibson of Louisiana, ex-Governor John T. Hoffman, Governor Parker of New Jersey, Hon. John K. Tarbox of Massachusetts, all made speeches, while letters were read from George Ticknor Curtis, Horatio Seymour, Clarkson M. Potter, Edward Atkinson, Hon. W. P. Banks, Reverdy Johnson, Hon. Fernando Wood, Governor William Allen, and Thomas A. Hendricks.

In the assembly were Judge Sutherland, Hon. Abram S. Hewitt, Chief Justice Charles P. Daly, Judge Abbott, Congressman Roosevelt, Hon. Philip Cook of Georgia, and G. M. Dallas of Texas.

It seemed the fate of the Club, in those early years, to lose many officers by death. In July, 1868, occurred that of Judge Anthony Lisenard Robertson, its vice-president. Mr.

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George Ticknor Curtis, in moving a resolution of regret at the loss of this "upright magistrate, useful citizen, erudite scholar, and genial friend," pronounced the following oration:

*Mr. President:* I desire to put on record here a few words concerning the dear friend whom we have lost. In the proceedings of the Bar which will doubtless follow this bereavement, there will be many to speak of him who have known him longer than I have. It has happened to me, sir, a little out of the ordinary experience, in consequence of a change of residence occurring after the middle period of life, to have passed from one circle of friends of marked peculiarities to another of not less decided but quite different characteristics. He who transfers himself from one community to another differing so essentially as this city does from that in which I formerly lived, finds his life and almost his consciousness divided into distinct portions, to one of which belongs vividly the old, and to the other the new. Yet it would be impossible for me to tell, although it is not more than six years ago, where I first met the late Chief Justice Robertson, or to whom I owe the honor of an introduction to him. It seems to me as if I had known him all my life, and as if I were as much entitled to speak of him as those who were born and reared with him in the same society. He was a man of such strong elements of character, he so quickly commanded your sympathies and won your respect, that you lost the recollection of the time when your knowledge of him began. Then, too, it must be remembered that Judge Robertson thought of the republic as we did, and ever since there has been such a thing as free political action, in ancient or in modern society, to think alike concerning the republic has been one of the strongest bonds that can exist among men. Mr. President, Judge Robertson has solved some problems which I had been taught all my life to regard as incapable of satisfactory solution. In the first place, he has shown that it



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is possible for an elective judicial system to produce and to *keep* an upright, independent, and fearless judge, seen and known of all men to be upright, independent, and fearless. I believe it to be true of this good man that no one has ever stood before *him* with a feeling of fear in his heart that, let the merits of his case be what they might, there was an influence, unseen and intangible, which had already decided or was to decide it, in spite of all that argument and reason and truth could do. No advocate has been sent before *him*, selected because of a supposed personal influence. No combination of political, social, or pecuniary interests has ever had the power to approach him. Although living in the freest intercourse with a wide circle of friends, many of whom were concerned in the litigations before him, he never conversed upon the causes upon which he was to act. Perhaps this may be no great praise. Perhaps there may be a state of society in which it would be the highest praise. In the next place, Judge Robertson has shown that it is possible for a judge to be every inch a judge, and at the same time to maintain an active connection with a great political party. It is certain that in his judicial capacity he commanded the confidence of all parties, and yet he was an earnest and decided man in his political opinions, and loyal in every way to the party with which he was connected. He has gone from us very suddenly. How long his memory will be kept green in the general minds we cannot know; but there are those to whom it will remain while anything remains to them of what they have known and loved in this transitory world. As they part from him, in the firm but tender parting that his manly heart would have chosen, one can imagine that they say to him:

“We have been long together,  
Through pleasant and through cloudy weather;  
'T is hard to part when friends are dear;  
Perhaps 't will cost a sigh, a tear;



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Then steal away, give little warning.  
Choose thine own time;  
Say not good night, but in some brighter clime  
Bid us good morning.' ”

On February 5, 1869, Mr. Samuel L. M. Barlow was elected to fill Judge Robertson's place.

After serving seven years as president of the Club and five as vice-president, the Hon. Augustus Schell, October 8, 1874, declining re-election for reasons which the Club accepted as final, a vote of thanks to him was passed in gratitude for "all the efforts he had made to further the welfare of the Manhattan Club," the members feeling that they could not permit him to retire without the "cordial expression of their respect and regard."

The Hon. Augustus Schell, its second president, was a member of the Manhattan Club for twenty years from its inception to his death in 1884. He was a man of singular tenacity in his attachments, conspicuous alike for the liberality of his disposition, the independence of his character, and the obduracy of his convictions.

His portrait, presented April 14, 1887, by his son Edward Schell, and that of Judge Robertson, paid for from funds raised by subscription, became Club property and were hung on its walls. Judge Aaron Vanderpoel, at the time of the presentation of the portrait of Mr. Schell, proposed to write a sketch of the former President's life for the Club; but, his own death occurring a few months later, this unfortunately was never completed. On November 15, 1872, the House Committee was instructed to connect the club-house with the American District Telegraph Company. It was not, however, until November 4, 1878, that election returns over private wire were arranged. Since then "Election Nights" have been great affairs.

On February 4, 1875, Mr. Augustus W. Clason made the

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gift of the fine portrait of General Jackson which is one of the most valued possessions of the Club.

The year 1876 drew from the Manhattan Club a vigorous protest against President Grant's use of troops in the South. The resolution, appointing Messrs. Sidney Webster, Manton Marble, Manuel B. Hart, and August Belmont a committee "to prepare and publish appropriate resolutions denouncing the recent use in New Orleans by the President of the United States of the army of the United States to influence the organization and control the deliberations of the elected Legislature of the State of Louisiana, without due application therefor by the Executive or the Legislature of such State, there being neither foreign invasion nor domestic insurrection therein," brings the purely political acts of the Old Club to their close.





## CHAPTER THE SIXTH

The New Club—Its Articles of Incorporation—Arrangements for the Renewal of the Leasehold—The Formal Acts of Transfer



FROM its foundation the matter of its incorporation engaged the Club's energies and occupied its discussions.

On July 3, 1868, a committee consisting of Judge Robertson and Mr. Andrew H. Green was appointed "to consider the propriety of obtaining an act of incorporation for this Club, and to prepare and report a bill therefor," and also to report what measures were to be taken to preserve "the title of the Club to the property."

As a result of this committee's report, October 2, Judge Hilton and Mr. William Butler Duncan were requested to convey the title of the property to Mr. Augustus Schell and Judge Robertson, respectively president and vice-president of the Club.

While the matter seems to have been always more or less under discussion, definite steps towards actual incorporation were only taken, December 20, 1876, following a resolution of February 4, 1875, to incorporate the Club.

On the former date a committee of fifteen was appointed, as a result of the financial condition of the Club, to devise







### CHAPTER VIII

The New Club—Its Articles of Incorporation—Responsibility for the Renewal of the Lensehold—The Formal Act in Transit



**Aaron J. Vanderpoel** matter of its incorporation engaged the Club's energies and occupied its attention.

On July 2, 1876, a committee consisting of Judge Robertson and Mr. Andrew J. Gray was appointed to consider the propriety of obtaining a deed of incorporation for this Club, and to prepare and report a bill thereon. They also to report what measures were to be taken to purchase "the title of the Club to the property."

As a result of this committee's report, October 2, Judge Hilton and Mr. William Nathaniel Thomas were requested to convey the title of the property to Mr. Augustine Schell and Judge Robertson, respectively president and vice-president of the Club.

While the matter seems to have been always more or less under discussion, definite steps towards actual incorporation were early taken, December 20, 1876, following a resolution of February 4, 1875, to incorporate the Club.

The two years thereafter a committee of fifteen was appointed, as a result of the financial condition of the Club, to devise

WILLIAM A. SPENCER



Portrait of William A. Spencer, President of the City and County of San Francisco, 1891-1895. He was born in New York City, 1825, and died in San Francisco, 1900.





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means to relieve it in that direction and to formulate a plan for incorporation.

On December 26 this committee, in its report, proposed that since, in the judgment of the committee, it was expedient that the Club be incorporated, it be affiliated under the general act entitled "An Act for the Incorporation of Societies or Clubs for Certain Lawful Purposes," passed May 12, 1875, and the amendatory act, passed March 14, 1876.

It further reported and proposed that a committee of three be appointed "to enquire and report to the association into the propriety and expediency of the reorganization of the Club under an act of incorporation, and to ascertain on what terms and conditions the reorganization of the Club can be effected under the act incorporating the 'Hermitage National Association.'" Steps already had been taken, July 1, 1876, towards the purchase of this Hermitage Charter from Mr. Smith Ely, who, with Messrs. Agnew and Ashley, was appointed on the committee of three recommended. On December 28 Mr. Agnew reported that the Hermitage Charter could be purchased for five hundred dollars.

On January 16, in connection with a report of the committee of fifteen, Mr. Cooper, seconded by Mr. Wilson, proposed the renewal of the lease of the four lots occupied by the clubhouse at a ground rent of four thousand dollars per year, under the general act already referred to, passed May 12, 1875, and the act amendatory thereof, passed March 14, 1876. Mr. Cooper further proposed that all the members of the Club as it stood should become members of the New Club without being elected or paying an initiation fee, at any time before the first of the following May, provided such member be free from debt to the Old Club. Should he have failed to pay the assessment, imposed on the Club by the Managing Committee, on or before the first of the coming April, he should have ceased to be a member of the New Club, being required to sign a stipulation to that effect.

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On January 29, 1877, following Mr. Cooper's resolution touching the new organization, Mr. Coudert proposed the appointment of a committee of five to report the names of twelve persons to be inserted in the Certificate of Incorporation as managers of the New Club for the first year. This committee, as appointed, was composed of Messrs. F. R. Coudert, William E. Curtis, E. L. Gaul, Simon Sterne, and H. L. Clinton. For the twelve managers these chose August Belmont, Augustus Schell, Edward Cooper, A. J. Vanderpoel, W. E. Rider, Sidney Webster, Oswald Ottendorfer, Clarkson N. Potter, Peter B. Olney, William C. Whitney, Edward Patterson, and Smith Ely, all of whose names appear in the Certificate of Incorporation as the Board of Managers of the New Club for the first year.

The incorporators of the New Club were J. Augustus Page, George H. Purser, Edward Schell, August Belmont, Charles D. Burrill, Everett P. Wheeler, Richard Lathers, Mortimer Porter, Wilson G. Hunt, Augustus Schell, F. H. Bangs, B. Casserly, Edward Cooper, Aaron J. Vanderpoel, Edward Patterson, John R. Brady, Peter B. Olney, William E. Rider, Cyrus Yale, John T. Agnew, Thomas R. Fisher, Henry Wilder Allen, and Benjamin Hart.

The Certificate of Incorporation being sworn to on February 15, 1877, and signed by Secretary of State Bigelow on February 20, Messrs. Vanderpoel, Schell, and Cooper were instructed to prepare the new Constitution and By-Laws.

On March 14, 1877, these were read and adopted, conditionally to adoption by the Corporation, which on March 19 approved and ratified them. Accordingly, on March 20, the rules of the Old Club were adopted as the rules of the New Club where there was no conflict between the two constitutions, and notices were ordered to be sent out to old members offering membership.

According to the new Constitution, the object of the Manhattan Club was "to advance Democratic principles, to pro-



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mote social intercourse among its members, and to provide them with the conveniences of a club-house."

The officers elected for the New Club were August Belmont, president; A. J. Vanderpoel, vice-president; Peter B. Olney, treasurer; William E. Rider, secretary; and for the House Committee, Augustus Schell, A. J. Vanderpoel, and William E. Rider.

In regard to the members of the Old Club it was finally arranged that, if not in arrears to the Club, they could become members of the New Club by enrolling before June 1. They were then to be exempt from entrance fee and the annual half-yearly dues to March 1, 1877.

After June 1 the entrance fee could be remitted by the Board of Managers for those enrolling before September 1, and half of it for any who had resigned from the Old Club between January 1, 1875, and March 1, 1877, and wished to re-enter the New Club.





## CHAPTER THE SEVENTH

Club Ups and Downs—Its Long and Arduous Financial Struggle—  
Grievous Loss by Robbery—Final Adjustment of its Money Affairs



HE financial affairs of the Club from the first had given concern to the more careful members of the various committees having them in charge. The treasurer's report at the end of the fourth year of the Club's existence, proving how conscientious they were, was as follows:

### *Receipts*

From October 1, 1865, to October 1, 1866....	\$146,282.94
“ “ 1, 1866, “ “ 1, 1867....	91,288.73
“ “ 1, 1867, “ “ 1, 1868....	102,284.62
“ “ 1, 1868, “ “ 1, 1869....	<u>93,505.73</u>
	\$433,362.02

### *Payments*

From October 1, 1865, to October 1, 1866....	\$122,435.64
“ “ 1, 1866, “ “ 1, 1867....	104,236.59
“ “ 1, 1867, “ “ 1, 1868....	103,623.36
“ “ 1, 1868, “ “ 1, 1869....	<u>90,404.96</u>
	420,700.55
Cash balance, October 1, 1869.....	\$12,661.47

Affairs, unfortunately, did not continue on this happy



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basis, and from 1869 to the date of the reorganization a constant financial struggle seems to have been the rule.

As early as December, 1869, we find the treasurer being instructed to prepare a plan for payment of the \$50,000 purchase money, then due upon the club-house. Four days later it was voted that a mortgage of \$50,000 be executed to secure payment of bonds to be issued to that amount. At the same time the resolution of October 8, 1868, which conveyed the title of the property to Mr. Schell and the late Judge Robertson, as president and vice-president of the Club, was rescinded. The committee which had been appointed, June 9, made its report, and was instructed to obtain subscriptions to the amount of the mortgage and to issue fifty seven per cent. interest bearing bonds therefor.

On March 6, 1873, a special committee, consisting of Messrs. Webster, Marble, Tilden, Cranston, and Miller, with President Schell as chairman, was appointed to look into the financial affairs of the Club and report, which it did on March 21, 1873.

The committee, it seems, found the Club's affairs in the greatest disorder. One Jones, the steward, when confronted, confessed that, with the connivance and co-operation of certain other Club employees, he had systematically plundered tills, larders, and wine-cellar to the extent of \$20,000.

The House Committee at once resigned, and on May 2, 1873, the members were assessed fifty dollars each to pay such Club indebtedness as was not covered by the mortgage, the treasurer being instructed to send out a report of the Club's financial state and its numerical strength to its members.

On June 6 the motion to assess the members was rescinded, and it was resolved that Judge Henry Hilton and Mr. William Butler Duncan, the assignees of the lease of the property on Fifth Avenue and Fifteenth Street, then occu-



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pied by the Club, be requested to execute a mortgage for \$77,000 to the Union Trust Company of New York as trustee, payable twenty years after date, to secure one hundred and ten bonds of \$700 each, dated October 1, 1872, with interest thereon at the rate of seven per cent. per annum, payable annually.

The proceeds of \$50,000 of the bonds secured by the mortgage were to be set apart and applied to the payment of the mortgage for \$50,000, then outstanding on the property. The remaining \$27,000 was to be applied, under the direction of the treasurer, to paying the indebtedness of the Club.

The initiation fees of all members to be elected in future were to form a sinking fund for the redemption of these bonds, and, the mortgage executed and recorded, Judge Hilton and Mr. Duncan were to execute a Declaration of Trust to be revised by Messrs. Roosevelt, Williamson, and Hackett, who were also to examine the lease under which the Club then held the property and to report to the Managing Committee what action was necessary to protect its interests. The completion of this business was placed in the hands of Mr. Duncan.

On December 11 a general meeting of the Club was held to discuss financial matters, with the result that further efforts were made to liquidate the debt by sale of bonds through Belmont & Co., with the result that on April 2, 1874, the Club indebtedness was reported at \$21,000.

On July 4, the Managing Committee, by lot, classified themselves to cease as members on certain dates as follows:

August Belmont, John T. Agnew, Horatio Seymour, George Garr, and Henry Wilder Allen to cease to be members of the Managing Committee, October, 1874.

S. L. M. Barlow, Manton Marble, Sidney Webster, Thomas R. Fisher, and William Butler Duncan to cease to be members of the Managing Committee, October, 1875.

Augustus Schell, Charles O'Connor, William H. Hurlbert,

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Cyrus Yale, and Bernard Casserly to cease to be members of the Managing Committee, October, 1876.

John R. Brady, E. B. Hart, John C. Maximos, William C. Wickham, and Robert B. Roosevelt to cease to be members of the Managing Committee, October, 1877.

Smith Ely, Douglas Taylor, Samuel J. Tilden, J. L. Macaulay, and W. E. Rider to cease to be members of the Managing Committee, October, 1878.

The mortgage does not appear to have put the Club on its feet financially, since on January 6, 1876, the dues were raised to seventy-five dollars. On December 17, 1875, Messrs. Hilton and Duncan were requested to assign the lease, held by them since 1873, to President August Belmont, John T. Agnew, and Sidney Webster.

On March 2, 1876, Messrs. John T. Agnew and A. W. Clason, a committee appointed to look into the accounts, reported that prior to February 1, 1874, they had been kept very loosely; and on April 1 it was deemed advisable to foreclose the mortgage. On December 20, at the members' meeting, it was, as before stated, voted wise to appoint a committee of fifteen to devise means of relieving the Club of foreclosure and indebtedness and to make plans for its incorporation.

Mr. Purser, in connection with this committee, reported that, besides unpaid dues for the past years, the sum of \$8025 was owed by one hundred and seventeen members for the annual dues payable from October 1, 1876, and about \$3300 to the restaurant for supplies actually furnished. To meet Club obligations it was necessary that the claims be settled at once, and he accordingly requested the management to notify all in arrears that if the dues were not paid on or before February 10, the names of such members should be dropped from the roll and legal proceedings begun. This was put to a vote and approved by the Club.

This committee, or rather a sub-section of it appointed



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later, did not make its final report along the line of the Club finances until 1880, after the Old Club had ceased to exist. It then reported that, having failed to collect enough from the delinquent members' dues to pay these Old Club debts, it had solicited voluntary subscriptions. Five thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars had been raised by gifts from Augustus Schell, Oswald Ottendorfer, Samuel J. Tilden, Aaron J. Vanderpoel, Edward Cooper, August Belmont, Sidney Webster, John T. Agnew, Cyrus Yale, Smith Ely, Jr., John G. Davis, William C. Whitney, William E. Curtis, Abram S. Hewitt, George H. Purser, Thomas Holland, Elijah Ward, Robert B. Roosevelt, and John McKeon. Three thousand one hundred and seventy-five dollars had been subscribed by the firms of Park & Tilford, Cazade, Crooks & Raymond, Purdy & Nicholas, Jantzen Brothers, Skidmore & Sons, Acker, Merrall & Condit, A. & E. Robbins, and Drohn & Co. Vouchers were also given by the firms of Park & Tilford, Acker, Merrall & Condit, Cazade, Crooks & Raymond, A. & E. Robbins, Jantzen Brothers, Drohn & Co., Purdy & Nicholas, and Skidmore & Sons.

These two amounts, with the balance in the bank of \$2.98, brought the sum to \$8927.98, and with it all debts were settled, with the exception of the taxes for 1876. These, on the discovery that they had not been paid, were, with their interest, paid on March 16, 1883, the amount being \$4155.

This report was presented by Messrs. Schell and Yale, who, it will be recalled, were appointed on March 7, 1877, with power to collect the Club debts, and who reported that they had collected only enough to reduce these debts to \$17,000, and that the New Club, being in a conditional state, could not pay them.

In the meantime, to return to the year 1877, the committee of fifteen made its preliminary report at the January meeting, when it asked that a committee of three be appointed to look into the matter of Club liabilities and assets.





## THE BLANCKETMAN CLUB

later, did not make its final report along the line of the Club's action until 1880, after the Old Club had ceased to exist. It then reported that, having failed to collect enough from the delinquent members' dues to pay these Old Club debts, it had solicited voluntary contributions. Five thousand dollars had been and fifty dollars had been raised by gifts from Augustus Schiff, Oswald Grossinger, Samuel J. Fisher, James J. Vanderpool, Edward Couser, August Williams, Wesley Waiter, John T. Agnew, Cyrus Van Sant, Dr. F. John G. Davis, William C. Whitney, William E. Carson, Abram S. Hewitt, George H. Bunker, Thomas Holland, Thomas Ward, Robert B. Roosevelt, and John McKoon. These thousand one hundred and seventy-five dollars had been subscribed by the firms of Park & Tilford, Canade, Crooks & Raymond, Purdy & Nicholas, James Brothers, Skidmore & Sons, Adams, Merrill & Co., J. C. Robinson, and Drohn & Co. Voluntary contributions were also given by the firms of Park & Tilford, Agnew, Merrill & Co., Crooks & Raymond, A. S. E. Hudson, James Watson, Brown & Co., Purdy & Nicholas, and Skidmore & Sons.

*Frederic R. Coudert*

These five thousand and fifty dollars were used to pay off the Old Club's debts to Skidmore & Sons and to the other creditors, and the receipt in the name of the Club, dated on the Secretary that they had not been paid, were sent with their interest, paid on March 21, 1881, the amount being \$2,500.

This report was reviewed by Messrs Schiff and Yale, who, it will be recalled, were appointed on March 7, 1877, with power to collect the Club debts, and who reported that they had collected only enough to reduce these debts to \$50,000, and that the New Club, being in a conditional state, could not pay these.

In the meantime, as regards the year 1877, the committee at issue made its preliminary report at the January meeting, when it asked that a committee of three be appointed to look into the matter of Club liabilities and assets.







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Accordingly, Messrs. Rider, Holland, and Porter were named for that committee, Messrs. Vanderpoel, Webster, and Davis forming a second committee to ascertain and report the terms and conditions upon which the debts owed by the Club could be adjusted and settled.

On March 7, 1877, a committee consisting of Messrs. Yale, Fisher, and Taylor was appointed to meet a committee of the New Club and arrange for a sale of the furniture, fixtures, and stock of the Old Club, with power to conclude the sale and deliver the furniture.

This committee made a contract with the committee of the New Club, by which it agreed to sell all furniture and fixtures for such sum of money as might be required to pay off the deficiency of debts (not including mortgage bonds) over the assets of the former organization, the sum not to exceed \$8000, payment to be made when the financial condition of the New Club should justify it.

The supplies of the Old Club were also to be sold at cost price to the New Club, from surplus funds from Club sales at the end of each month, until the whole amount was paid, the manager of the New Club to be responsible in no way personally for any debt incurred in the sale of furniture or supplies. With Mr. Rider added, the committee was authorized to collect all debts. This authority was transferred, however, to Messrs. Schell and Yale, with the result already stated.

On March 17, 1877, the New Club ratified its Constitution, and the further financial transactions of the Club belong to its history.



## CHAPTER THE EIGHTH

Early Years of the New Club—Many Constitutional Changes and a Few Receptions—The Election of Grover Cleveland to the Presidency—Deaths of Vice-President Hendricks, General Hancock, and Governor Seymour.



THE New Club continued its life in the Ben-  
kard house until 1890. Its existence during  
those years seems to have been troubled  
constantly by the entanglement of its  
finances. In trend it became more and more  
Democratic, and its membership steadily  
increased. The Club, as we know, ratified  
its constitution on March 19, 1877. About this time the Club  
seal, bearing the legend, "Manhattan Club, 1877," was  
adopted.

In response to a circular setting forth the principles of  
the Club, which was sent out on the second of April to resi-  
dent and non-resident members, one hundred and sixty-  
three members of the Old Club identified themselves with  
the New.

According to Article II, Section 5, of the new Constitu-  
tion, any member might become a life member upon pay-  
ment of \$700 and surrender of a mortgage bond of the Club  
for \$500, or on the transfer to the New Club of one of the



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thirty-one bonds of the Old Club, each for \$700, life members to be exempt forever from dues.

The first to become life members by surrendering Club bonds of \$700 were Douglas Taylor, Thomas R. Fisher, and Manton Marble. Of the one hundred and ten bonds of the Old Club, seventy were found cancelled. No. 2, purchased at the Duncan sale for \$35, was presented to the Club by Mr. McFarland, and on May 2, 1878, the Club received the following letter through Mr. Olney:

New York, April 29, 1878.

*My dear Sir:*

As I prefer to remain on the same basis as to annual dues as other members who do not commute, will you please present to the Club, Bond No. 16, being the only one of those I took which now remains in my hands.

Wishing every success to the Club,

I remain,

Respectfully,

S. J. Tilden.

As an expression of the Club's appreciation of Mr. Tilden's liberality, Mr. Schell moved that his letter be entered upon the minutes and that "the thanks of the Board be returned him for his generous gift."

On June 14, 1877, the House Committee was instructed to send out a circular letter setting forth the fact that Club members were not to be held responsible for Club debts, and emphasizing the great benefit the Manhattan Club might be to the Democratic Party if it could be put upon a firm financial foundation. That this circular letter does not seem to have been productive of any great increase of membership would seem to be indicated by the fact that on January 5, 1878, a committee was appointed to devise ways and means of increasing the Club membership. At the meeting of this committee on January 12, Mr. August Belmont, president of

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the New Club, suggested that the Club should be made more distinctly Democratic in its tone, its receptions to reflect the same.

On March 21, 1878, the Club amended its Constitution to permit ordinary members to become non-resident members by a vote of the managers, if they were non-resident constitutionally and not in debt to the Club; also to regulate the date for the eventual surrender of bonds, or fraction thereof, in lieu of dues, and to permit the admission, if before June 1, of not less than forty members of the Young Men's Democratic Club on such terms as to fees as the managers might deem expedient.

On May 2, 1878, forty-five members of the Young Men's Democratic Club took advantage of this and joined the Manhattan. The New Club at this time suffered a great loss in the resignation of Mr. August Belmont as president. The third of its presidents and one of the oldest of its members, he was also one of the leading citizens of New York City and State. A faithful Democrat, he rendered many and valuable services to his party. We find the Club records dwelling upon the fact that though he was "earnest in the expression of his views and eloquent in their advocacy," he never "went beyond the limits of good sense, good breeding, and entire fairness in the effort to make his political views prevail." His services to his country when consulted upon financial matters, we are further told, were invaluable and "of material assistance in overcoming doctrines the triumph of which would have proved disastrous to the best interests of the nation."

Moreover, he was a broad-minded citizen, a generous patron of art, a lover of New York, and a friend to all he deemed for its best interests,—in short, "a man entitled to the respect and gratitude of the Manhattan Club," a fact the Club emphasized on the occasion of his death on November 25, 1890.



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Two years and a half later, on June 22, 1893, Mr. Belmont's three sons, Perry, August, and Oliver H. P. Belmont, presented to the Club the fine portrait of their father which forms one of its most valued possessions. The Club ordered that the preamble and resolutions drawn up by the Board of Managers in accepting the gift, "as a memorial of one of its Presidents and most distinguished founders," should be engrossed and sent to the givers as an expression in permanent form of its appreciation of the sentiment that dictated the gift of a valuable work of art which "recalls in a singularly lifelike manner one who was long a leader in the party which it is the design of the Manhattan Club to support and encourage." In the resolution which follows the Club declared its own faithfulness to those principles of popular government of which Mr. Belmont was one of the most earnest, consistent, and conspicuous advocates, and it deemed it eminently appropriate, therefore, that his memory should be kept alive in the Club by the memento upon its walls. It ordered that the preamble and resolutions be spread in full upon the records of the Board of Managers, as an "enduring evidence of the generosity of the givers of the fine portrait, as a testimonial of the spirit in which it is accepted, and as a mark of the affectionate regard in which Mr. Belmont was held in the Club."

Judge Aaron J. Vanderpoel was elected in Mr. Belmont's place, and held office until February 11, 1886, when he resigned, Mr. Manton Marble being elected his successor. The Club, in accepting Judge Vanderpoel's resignation, placed on record a resolution declaring that his presidency had been of the greatest value, and that during his term of office many strides were made from adversity to prosperity, he having come into office at a critical moment in the history of "the most important non-factional Democratic organization in the country," and at his retirement leaving the Club in the first rank as the outcome of his courage and ability. Judge



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Vanderpoel lived only a short time after his retirement, his death occurring on October 13, 1887.

On the seventh of May of the following year a group of Club members presented a portrait of Judge Vanderpoel to the Club, as a memorial, they said, of their friend who had rendered such valuable services as president, and also in remembrance of his high attainments as a member of the legal profession, in which he was one of the most prominent figures.

During the presidencies of Mr. Belmont and Judge Vanderpoel the Club had been energetic in its work for Democracy. On January 25, 1878, it invited Professor Sumner, of Yale, and the Hon. David A. Wells to address its members upon "The Silver Question."

On January 2, 1878, the Club honored General Winfield Scott Hancock with a dinner, an outcome of the latter being the presentation of a bust of General Hancock, with pedestal, to the Club by Mr. John T. Agnew. On May 23, 1878, it entertained with a reception in honor of Governor Robinson.

On December 8, 1878, a reception was given for Hon. John McKeon, and on the fourteenth of the following January another for the Governor and ex-Governor, and in February yet another for the judges of the Supreme Court. In 1885 a reception was given in honor of Grover Cleveland, whose election to the Presidency the Club celebrated, expressing its joy at the return of its party to power after twenty-five years. During the preceding campaign it had extended its privileges to the members of the National and State Committees. On November 12, 1885, it gave a reception for Governor Hill.

Another event of this period was the sudden death of Mr. Cadwallader Evans, one of the Club managers and its secretary. He was still a young man whose career in business had been most promising. His interest in the Club was



## THE MANUFACTURERS CLUB

Vanderpoel lived only a short time after his retirement, his death occurring on October 12, 1885.

On the evening of May 21, the following year a group of Club members presented a portrait of Judge Vanderpoel to the Club, as a memorial. This was one of their first efforts had rendered such valuable services as provided, and also in commemoration of his high attainments as a member of the legal profession, in which he was one of the most prominent figures.

During the presidency of Mr. Bennett and Judge Vanderpoel the Club had been engaged in its work for Liberty. On January 23, 1878 it invited Professor Garrison, of Yale, and the Hon. David A. Wells to address its members upon "The Silver Question."

On January 27, 1878, the Club honored General Whitwell Scott Mansuet with a dinner, an outcome of the latter being the distinguished guest of General Hancock, with whom he had served in the army. In the evening of the same date the Club honored General Mansuet with a dinner.

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Another event of this period was the sudden death of Mr. Daniel Evans, one of the Club managers and its secretary. He was still a young man whose career in business had been most promising. His interest in the Club was







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never-failing, and his faithful performance of his official duty made him an invaluable member. His loss was mourned sincerely, the Club expressing its satisfaction at the energy and ability shown in his life, and its gratitude for the zeal, intelligence, and industry displayed by him as its officer.

On March 20, 1879, the Club amended its Constitution to excuse from payment of dues any member who might be absent from the United States for a year or more. The year 1881 witnessed the assassination of President Garfield. On the occasion of his death, on September 23, the Club passed the following resolution of sympathy, prepared by Messrs. Hewitt and Coudert:

*“Resolved, That the Governors of the Manhattan Club share in the universal sorrow which pervades the country at the untimely death of President Garfield, and they tender to his bereaved family the expression of their profound sympathy for the irreparable loss which they have sustained.”*

Upon the death of Vice-President Hendricks, January 14, 1886, the Club unanimously passed the following resolution of regret at the loss of its party's first Vice-President since the War:

*“Be it therefore resolved, That the Manhattan Club, through its managers, desires to record and make public its respect for the deceased Vice-President, to express its gratitude for his honorable service to the nation, and its recognition of the firmness with which he has sought to preserve intact the inheritance which we have received from the founders of our political existence. That the nation has lost in him not only a citizen conspicuous for abilities long and usefully exercised, but a servant whose integrity was never questioned, whose patriotism was above reproach, and whose private life was a living example to the younger generation. He has proved that success in political life does not depend*



## THE MANHATTAN CLUB

upon artful efforts to win public confidence by unworthy methods, but rather that the surest way to win the confidence of the American people is to deserve it."

In January of the following year Mr. John T. Agnew presented a portrait of Vice-President Hendricks to the Club.

Other deaths of leading Democrats during this period were those of General Hancock, February 11, 1886, and Horatio Seymour, February 13, 1886.





## CHAPTER THE NINTH

Last Years in the Benkard House—Removal to the Stewart House, called the "Whited Sepulchre"—Memorials of Mr. Cleveland—Death of Mr. Tilden.



UNDER date of June 3, 1869, we find the first mention in Club annals of a desire for the purchase of a site for a club-house. Messrs. Marble, Green, Munson, and Schell were appointed a committee to consider the matter and hunt for an available location, but nothing definite seems to have been done, perhaps because of the increasing entanglement of the Club's finances.

By January 19, 1883, these must have considerably mended, since it is then that we find the Club accepting plans for extending the Benkard house by the enlargement of the balcony into a summer dining-room, about which we heard from Mr. Lyons in a previous chapter.

Five years later, December 8, 1887, a request was signed by thirty of the Club members calling for a special meeting to consider the acquiring of a club-house farther up-town. This meeting took place on January 19, 1888, and resulted in the formation of a committee of five whose duty it was to look into the financial condition of the Club, and report if its

## THE MANHATTAN CLUB

funds justified such a removal at a certain increase in expenses, the Club having decided that, if practicable, such a removal was desired.

On the sixteenth of the following April the treasurer was instructed to offer \$800,000 for the Stewart mansion on Fifth Avenue and Thirty-fourth Street, a proceeding suspended in September because the Stewart heirs refused the \$800,000, but resumed later (February 13, 1890) on the basis of a lease of the property. Owing to the many interests involved and to the litigation pending, it was feared that the choice of the Stewart mansion for the new club-house must be abandoned. At last, however, affairs were arranged, and in February the terms were agreed upon, reduced to writing, and agreements of lease exchanged, the Club to take the property for a series of short terms aggregating twenty-one years. For the first five years it was to pay \$35,000, for the second \$37,500, during the next \$40,000, and for the final six years the same. In addition, the Club was to pay taxes, possible assessments, and other charges on the property.

Affairs being thus settled, Messrs. J. Sergeant Cram and L. Holme were, on February 20, 1890, appointed a committee to arrange for the sale of the Benkard house for \$75,000; and on March 1, 1890, a Committee on Improvement took possession of the Stewart house, the Board of Managers of the new club-house reporting, March 20, 1890, the details of the lease. The rent being payable by them quarterly in advance from March 1, the landlords had received \$8750 in discharge of obligations to June. In addition, \$2100 had been paid for the furniture of the Stewart mansion.

By further terms of the lease, security was to be given by five persons for the payment of the rent and the discharge of the obligations incurred by virtue of the lease during the first of the terms of five years, a condition agreed to, several members of the Board, with the addition of Mr. George G. Haven, becoming guarantors.



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That these members might be free of any personal obligation in the matter, the Club agreed to deposit, at any time during the five years, \$100,000 in satisfactory securities, and procure a cancellation of the investment of guarantee; the Board of Managers proposing an issue of Club bonds to that amount, the proceeds of these bonds to be safely invested in a manner satisfactory to the owners of the Stewart mansion. In the event of its being decided advisable to increase the sum to \$150,000, the extra \$50,000 was to be devoted to paying for such alterations and improvements as the new situation of the Club might demand. At the expiration of five years the \$100,000 thus invested would again become the property of the Club, and might be devoted to the discharge of bonds to that extent. To justify such expenditure, the committee reported that there had been so large an increase in membership that the duty of discrimination was becoming more and more imperative.

On April 10, 1890, the plans of the architect, Bruce Price, for the improvement of the Stewart property were approved, and so well did committee and architect do their work that the third, tenth, and seventeenth of December saw the new club-house opened for the inspection of the families and friends of the members, and the Club's life in the Benkard house brought to its end. During the final years in its first home, the Manhattan Club had, April 12, 1888, extended its courtesies to the New York Club while its club-house was in the hands of the builders, and on September 7 of that year had given a reception in honor of Allen G. Thurman.

In 1889 came up the matter of Grover Cleveland and life membership. The Club, March 21, 1889, had amended its Constitution to permit the making, by the unanimous vote of the managers, of any President or ex-President of the United States a life member without payment. The first so to be honored under the new amendment was ex-President Cleveland, April 11, 1889.

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In response, Mr. Cleveland wrote Mr. Frederic R. Coudert, at that time President of the Manhattan Club, the following letter:

F. R. Coudert, Esq.

April 13, 1889.

*My dear Sir:* I have just received your letter enclosing a note from the Secretary of the Manhattan Club informing me of my election to a life membership in that organization, in accordance with an amendment of its Constitution.

The kindly feeling manifested by this action is especially gratifying; and yet I am determined to ask of those who have been so kind to give further proof of their consideration, by permitting me to become an every-day, paying, ordinary member of the Club. In other words, I should be glad to surrender my ex-President life membership for the ordinary contributing membership.

I understand, of course, that I must run the chance of an election; but if the opportunity is afforded me, my intentions, fully formed when I took up my residence here, will be carried out. Can you help me in this matter?

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) Grover Cleveland.

In 1889 an appropriation of \$1000 was made for the Club library, a Library Committee consisting of Judge E. Patterson and Messrs. Roger Foster and W. W. Baldwin being appointed.

Before the removal to the new club-house, the limit of membership was set, March 20, at twelve hundred and fifty; Thomas F. Ryan, a few days later (March 31), joining the Club.

During this period the Club lost a number of its leading members by death, one being John T. Hoffman, in the years termed "post-bellum" one of the foremost figures in New York City and State politics. Tammany Hall ran him in 1865 for mayor. His impeccable record won him the race.



1891

© 1891



## THE MANHATTAN CLUB.

In response, Mr. Cleveland wrote Mr. Frederic R. Condit, at that time President of the Manhattan Club, the following letter:

F. R. Condit, Esq.

April 12, 1889.

My dear Sir: I have just received your letter, enclosing a note from the Secretary of the Manhattan Club inviting me of my consent to a life membership in that organization, in accordance with an amendment of its Constitution.

The kindly feeling manifested by this action is especially gratifying; and yet I am determined to opt of those who have been so kind to give further proof of their consideration, by permitting me to become an ordinary, paying, ordinary member of the Club. In other words, I should be glad to surrender my ex-President life membership for the ordinary membership membership.

I understand of course *John Hone* has the chance of an election; but if the opportunity should be an exception, fully formed, what I can do—*John Hone*—and the result out. Can you help me in this matter?

Yours very sincerely,

FRANCIS PICKENS

In 1889 an appropriation of \$100,000 was made for the Club through a *Liberator's* subscription, the Mayor, Judge M. W. Thompson and Messrs. Charles Francis and M. W. Sullivan being sponsors.

Before the removal to the new club-house, the limit of membership was set, March 30, at twelve hundred and fifty; Thomas P. Ryan, a few days later (March 31), joining the Club.

During this period the Club lost a number of its leading members by death, one being John T. Hoffman, in the years termed "post-bellum" one of the foremost figures in New York City and State politics. *Thomas Hall* ran him in 1854 for mayor. His impeccable record was like the rest.



George W. ... ..  
... ..  
... ..





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Among the several opposing candidates was that famous religious enthusiast, John Hecker, run by Mozart Hall. It was Mayor Hoffman who, on the occasion of his laying the corner-stone for the new Tammany Hall on Fourteenth Street, made the memorable prophecy that, for the coming half-century at least, it would remain headquarters for the Democracy of New York. Besides being mayor of the City of New York, John T. Hoffman was twice governor of the State, "in every station," according to Mr. Manton Marble, "justifying the hope of his friends and the confidence of his party, and contributing, in the early years of our heavy war taxation, wise and instructive counsels to the legislature of the State, which have been to our advantage whenever followed, and neglected to our loss." It was, to cite again Manton Marble, "the justice, purity, and firmness of his character, as proved by future political events, which made him as worthy to have preceded Tilden and Manning as to have followed Flagg and Seymour in the line of the statesmen of New York."

A distinct loss to the Club's roster was William Dorsheimer, a Republican brought into Democratic ranks by his disapproval of his party's Reconstruction policy. Soldier, United States district attorney, first in the Northern, then in the Southern District of New York, and member of Congress, he brought his activities to a close by entering the field of journalism. In all vocations he showed himself professionally most efficient. He was likewise one of the most attractive of men. Twice lieutenant-governor of the Empire State, he will live in her history as the author of the remodelled architecture at Albany, as well as of the international reservation of the Park and the Falls of Niagara.

Another death at this time was that of the Republican statesman Roscoe Conkling, which occurred in 1888, some seven years after his retirement from public life, in which he had served four times as representative to Congress, three

## THE MANHATTAN CLUB

times as United States senator, "a career," says Mr. Manton Marble, "which left unclouded his title to Club fellowship and Club pride." Mr. Marble tells us that he "waived the highest diplomatic functions, declined the first judicial office, resigned the highest senatorial trust, marks of a character unique in force and style, one of stainless honor through an era of corruption, of unquailing hardihood in a day of desertions and disaster, sincere, manly, constant, incapable of disloyalty to a party or a friend." "These," says Mr. Marble, "are distinctions beyond the power of antagonists to withhold or of partisans to confer." The last years of his life Mr. Conkling was out of tune with his party, which will account for his membership in the Manhattan Club.

The death of Samuel J. Tilden occurred in 1886, and on August 10 the Club expressed its sense of the loss of one of its most honored members by appointing a committee of thirty to attend his funeral in a body, and by ordering a preamble and resolution on his death to be entered in full upon the minutes of the Club, a copy to be sent to his family. This preamble and resolution express in feeling words the tribute of Democracy "to him who, by the general consent of his fellow-citizens, was entitled to be regarded as one of the ablest statesmen New York State has ever produced, one fully imbued with the belief that the success of the policy of the Democratic Party and the perpetuation of its principles were best adapted to the present and future needs of his nation, and that by the promotion of its success a purified public service might be obtained, while, at the same time, its influence would serve as security against the corrupting effects of centralized power."

He easily acquired and never lost his hold upon the mass and body of the people, the most malignant attacks of his personal and political foes failing to dislodge him from their confidence and regard. "As a champion of public morality, as a firm believer in popular institutions, as a laborious ser-



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vant of never-questioned integrity, he earned," continues the resolution, "what he deserved—the respect of his people while living, a place with the best of departed leaders when dead. As a wise member of the State legislature, as a governor of the Empire State, as President-elect of the United States, he reaped the richest fruits of a statesman's ambitions."

The Club, in recalling the then recent deaths of Seymour, Hancock, McClellan, Hendricks, and Tilden, congratulated itself and the Democratic Party upon the realization that the whole nation mourned their leaders,—“leaders of Democracy, but also the people's well-loved and trusted servants, one of whom, by his wise forbearance under circumstances of singular injustice, proving his love of country by patient endurance of personal wrong, demonstrating that the serenity of his judgment could not be disturbed by personal ambition, emotion, or interest.”







## CHAPTER THE TENTH

The Stewart House—Money Troubles—Truax, O’Sullivan, and Rodie—“Uncle Tom” Miller—His Tragic End—Factions of 1896—Colonel “Bill” Brown—His famous Cleveland-Hill Dinner—His Resignation in a “Huff”—The Reception to Dewey—The Admiral’s good Memory.



THE era of the Stewart house found the Club again in financial difficulties. These were at times more burdensome and apparently less extricable than those from which it had recently emerged. Truth to say, the Stewart house was never very popular with a large section—especially the older section—of the Club. It was much too splendid for comfort. Some in derision called it the “Marble Mausoleum,” and others the “Whited Sepulchre.”

Comyns, the head waiter, already quoted, tells us in his interview with Mr. Lyons on the subject of the Club, justly and truly, that “in every survey of the many-sided characters entering into the history of the Manhattan Club, care should be taken not to forget to pay tribute to the men whose well-trained minds, business abilities, and personal attention lifted it out of terrible financial entanglements and replaced it on a sound, safe basis.” During the last

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years of its occupancy of the Thirty-fourth Street house it certainly encountered many discouragements; it lost a number of its members, reducing its resources, and reached a point which required a thorough overhauling and radical reshaping of its domestic conditions.

It was necessary that the greatest executive ability should be called in. Amid such a concourse it was not impossible to find such men, though naturally of diversified characteristics. In the end a solution was reached so fair in its proposals and so practical in its conclusions that it met with general and hearty approbation. The final success of the scheme justified its authors. These were Sylvester J. O'Sullivan and William S. Rodie. Mr. O'Sullivan became treasurer, and Mr. Rodie was made chairman of the House Committee, a position which he held for many succeeding years. Both gentlemen were noted for their splendid business abilities, strong organizing talents, and intense devotion. They replaced the Club on a firm financial footing, giving it a prosperity and independence which it happily still enjoys.

In 1889 Mr. Frederic R. Coudert was elected president of the Club, with Mr. C. C. Baldwin for vice-president, Mr. J. Edward Simmons (succeeded by Mr. O'Sullivan), treasurer, and Mr. David B. Gilbert, whom we have met in the Benkard house chapters, secretary.

On the House Committee of this period were Messrs. J. Sergeant Cram, Charles H. Truax, and Cyrus Yale.

Of all these old members, who, according to Comyns, "deserve to be remembered with conspicuous affection," none more richly merits the honor than Judge Charles H. Truax. Of a most unassuming, chivalrous character, he was possessed of an amiable temperament that endeared him to all who knew him. The story was current that on the occasion when his fellow-members honored him with a banquet, in his speech dwelling on the friendly footing the company felt for



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each other he said: "Every one of you boys here, except one, calls me 'Charlie,' and that one is my son."

Judge Truax was a notable traveller. He had been twice around the world. He was likewise a voracious reader with a good memory. He became a dominant figure in local politics, for which he had a natural bent, and, being a man of admirable tact, was often called upon to settle personal troubles and solve factional problems. He died a Supreme Court justice of New York, having sat upon the bench for over twenty-five years.

He owned the most noted private wine-cellar in New York, and was everywhere recognized as an exquisite *gourmet*. On the occasion of his death the Club resolution described him "as the most useful, best beloved, and valuable of the members of the Club and the Board." The resolution continued: "Whether as a member, director, or president of the Club, he endeared himself to all by his splendid personal qualities and the charm of his companionship, his warm heart and generous nature—qualities which made him a distinctive feature in the life of the Club, and which left it in his debt for his loyal and unselfish devotion to its interests."

As president of the Manhattan he served from 1899 to 1908. Coming into the presidency at a time when its affairs had reached a low ebb, with Messrs. O'Sullivan and Rodie he succeeded in turning the tide effectually and permanently. The Club is the happy possessor of a portrait of Judge "Charlie," presented to it on February 19, 1902. On his voluntary and insistent retirement from the presidency in 1908, a special vote of thanks was tendered to him for his invaluable services.

It is related of those old Stewart house days that, at three every afternoon, there gathered a famous group of cronies, men prominent in many diverse walks of life, who won the nickname of the "Rocking-chair Fleet." They held their sessions in the smoking-room, disbanding punctually as the



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each member could: "Every one of you boys here, except one, calls me Charlie," and that one is my son."

Julius Frank was a notable traveler. He had been twice around the world. He was likewise a voracious reader with a good memory. He became a prominent figure in local politics, for which he had a natural bent, and, being a man of admirable tact, was often called upon to settle personal quarrels and solve facious problems. He died a Supreme Court justice of New York, having sat upon the bench for over twenty-five years.

He owned the most noted private wine cellar in New York, and was everywhere recognized as an expert gastronomist. On the occasion of his death the Club resolution described him "as the most useful, best beloved, and valuable of the members of *Morgan J. O'Brien* board." The resolution continued: "Whether as a member, director, or president of the Club, he earned himself well by his splendid personal qualities and the display of his extraordinary gifts. His warm heart and generous spirit—qualities which made him a distinctive feature in the life of the Club and which led it to his debt for his loyal and excellent devotion to its business."

As president of the Manhattan he served from 1903 to 1905. Coming into the presidency at a time when the Club had reached a low ebb, with Henry O'Sullivan and himself he succeeded in turning the club effectively and permanently. The Club in the heavy presence of a protest of Judge "Charlie," protested to it on February 15, 1905. On his voluntary and insistent retirement from the presidency in 1906, a special vote of thanks was rendered to him for his invaluable services.

It is related of these old Stewart house days that, at three every afternoon, there gathered a famous group of cronies, men prominent in many diverse walks of life, who met the afternoon at the "Rocking-chair Floor." They held their sessions in the smoking-room, discussing questions as the







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clock struck six. The foremost of these were D. P. Ingraham, Arthur Ingraham, Gus Monroe, Fonny Fisher, E. C. Chase, Will Murray, and John Woodhall. Their conversation, tradition says, ranged through all the possibilities of science, politics, society, topics of the day, astronomy, and gastronomy. An outcome of the latter was the famous salad-dressing of D. P. Ingraham, which was voted a "classic."

A striking figure of those old days was Colonel William L. (familiarily known as "Billy") Brown, one of the owners and editors of the New York "Daily News," a close friend and business colleague of the Hon. Ben Wood.

It was in 1892, just before Cleveland's second election to the Presidency, that Colonel Brown gave a dinner at the Club in aid of the effort the friends of Cleveland and Hill were making to bring the two together. There had been an estrangement arising out of factional differences and personal misunderstanding, and the mutual friends of both, in the interest of party harmony, were striving to close the breach and unify the common interest.

Famous in the annals of the Club is Colonel Brown's dinner. It was one of the most magnificent repasts ever given at the Club. Everything was new,—napery, silver, glassware, tables, chairs actually made to order for the occasion. The menus, each of which cost a fortune, were engraved in elaborate design by the most noted artist of the time. Covers were laid for thirty-two guests, who indulged in much enthusiasm and considerable hand-shaking.

Colonel Brown, who in the campaign of 1896 stood by Bryan and party regularity, resigned from the Club, in company with a number of like-minded members, as a result of the demonstration over McKinley's election to the Presidency. Naturally, the Manhattan was a "Gold Bug." In the joy over the defeat of Bryan and Free Silver, New York went wild. Party lines were for the time forgotten. A majority of the members of the Club, rejoicing over what they re-

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garded as an escape from financial ruin, demonstrated their independence by receiving the news of McKinley's election with noisy satisfaction. Opposing interests, antagonistic political factions and parties, diverse business of all sorts, met on common ground. Amid these felicitations occurred the incident which caused Colonel Brown to leave the Club. On the night of the election, the Union League of New York City, the leading Republican Club of the country, headed by a military band, marched down Fifth Avenue from Thirty-ninth to Thirty-fourth Street, and took possession of the Manhattan club-house amid a frenzy of rejoicing. On its return to its own club-house, the Union League was escorted by a large and hilarious majority of the members of the Manhattan Club. This proceeding being most offensive to Colonel Brown and many others, a number of resignations, his among the rest, quickly followed.

Another clubman destined to live in memory was Captain Thomas Miller, affectionately called "dear old Uncle Tom," one of the most picturesque of the diversified and peculiar types for which the Manhattan Club has been noted and who make its history so interesting. During fifteen years "Uncle Tom" daily arrived at the Club promptly at five o'clock in the afternoon, and never left before 2 a.m., the closing hour. It was remarked of him that he drank nothing but tea before nine o'clock; from then onward, until he quitted the Club, drinking everything except tea. He was famous as a *raconteur*. He had been on intimate terms with most of the prominent and influential members of the Democratic Party of his time, and his knowledge of striking incidents, both political and social, was wide and universal. He had an effusive and altogether striking personality. His reminiscences were the joy of his associates. He was also famous for his clam and oyster stews, the recipes for which were handed over to Joe of the shell-fish counter, thenceforth bearing the brand of the Manhattan Club. "Dear old



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Uncle Tom" suggested the menu for many an important Club dinner.

During twenty-five years he lived by himself in a hall bedroom not far from the club-house. One night, when the snow was falling heavily, he incautiously ventured forth. He should not have gone alone. He had grown, indeed, very old and feeble. It was two o'clock a.m., his usual hour. The storm was at its height. It proved too much for him. The next morning he was found lying unconscious in Madison Square, barely alive. Borne to his little hall room, "Uncle Tom" soon ceased to breathe.

The "star boarder" of the Manhattan for twenty years, Mr. Rodie's colleague in the resuscitation of the Club's finances, was Sylvester J. O'Sullivan. Though often a member of the House Committee, he was better known as treasurer. He possessed a most interesting and lovable personality. He was six and a half feet in height, and of perfect symmetry. Very exact, minute, and methodical, never a day was he absent from his place at the dinner-table—always the same table in the same spot in the dining-room, with practically the same chums around it. Even on occasions when banquets were held, this table at the one locality was reserved for O'Sullivan—known as the "Widow"—and his friends. It was called the "Boarding-house." About it gathered men, but few of whom are still living, of widely different callings, held together by the sturdy character, cordial ways, and all-around attractiveness of Sylvester J. O'Sullivan. The very identity of the "Boarding-house" and its table has been lost since the death of this able, useful, and generous man.

Mr. O'Sullivan could never be tempted to make a speech. If called upon, he invariably recited:

"There was an old hen that had a wooden leg;  
'Twas the best old hen that ever laid an egg.  
She laid more eggs than any chicken on the farm—  
Another little drink won't do us any harm."

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It was in those days that Judge Beach and Judge Allen, eminent members of both Bench and Bar, were conspicuous *habitués* of the Manhattan. Judge Miles Beach was a distinguished New York lawyer before he went on the Bench. On a certain occasion he and Judge Allen appeared with a guest of naval appearance, who turned out to be Admiral Dewey. Years later, in 1899,—for that was away back in the early eighties,—the hero of Manila was given a wondrous ovation in New York, following upon his recent victories. The Club gave him a notable reception. On this occasion the club-house was decorated with United States flags made into a variety of designs. There was much martial music and lusty cheering by three hundred members. Judge Truax presided, and Mr. Douglas Taylor, seconded by Mr. Jefferson M. Levy, proposed resolutions to the “brave and generous officers and gallant men,” among whom was one Manhattan member—Flag-Lieutenant Bromley. The oration of the evening was delivered by James B. Eustis, recently ambassador to France.

Dewey was a man who never forgot a person or thing once seen. On the edge of the crowd of that evening, so dense that the staircase leading to the dining-room—it was in the present club-house—had to be roped, the famous guest espied a certain figure. After gazing at the figure for a moment or two, he beckoned to him and extended his hand.

“I have been watching you for some time,” he said pleasantly; “and I want to tell you that I have not forgotten how well you served me at the old Manhattan club-house on Thirty-fourth Street, when I went there with Judge Beach and Judge Allen.”

It was Alfred Comyns, at that time head waiter of the Club for over fifteen years, now for thirty years, but for whose good memory the Club might have lost the tradition of many celebrated persons and doughty Democrats.





## CHAPTER THE ELEVENTH

Club Proceedings in the Stewart House—A Round of Receptions to Gorman, Van Wyck, and Cleveland and Stevenson—Death of the distinguished Frederic R. Coudert.



**T** was in December, 1890, that the Stewart house was pronounced ready for Club occupancy, and on the third, tenth, and seventeenth days of that month the famous mansion, at that time one of the wonders of New York, was thrown open for the inspection of the families and friends of the members. The Stewart house, erstwhile home of the merchant prince, A. T. Stewart, was, as one may learn from the newspapers of that day, considered not only the handsomest residence in the great metropolis, but the stateliest on the continent. Standing in its marble splendor, with its noble pillars and fine entranceways, at a conspicuous corner of Fifth Avenue, it long remained one of the sights of the town.

The Manhattan Club, in taking possession, made no alterations in its exterior, and permitted only such changes within as were needful to convert a private dwelling into a clubhouse. The decorations were left untouched, and much of the furniture was purchased by the Club. The Gold, the Blue, and the White Room, all leading into each other; the



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Lace Room, in buff and blue; the capacious picture-gallery, the imposing entrance hall and stairway, won lively admiration from all those fortunate enough to be admitted, and it was the general verdict that the Manhattan Club had indeed a club-house in keeping with its position as the leading Democratic Club of America.

The A. T. Stewart house, in the estimation of the architects of that day, was one of the noblest buildings in all the land. It was in Italian Renaissance style, weakened, however, by a French mansard roof, added by Mr. Stewart when he needed an upper story. The entrance steps were the talk of New York, each one quite thirty feet wide, the first platform being, it was claimed, the largest block of marble ever quarried here. A fine feature was the terrace on the Thirty-fourth Street side. The building of this palace consumed seven years. The marble railing around the house cost \$50,000; the rotunda, \$100,000. The entrance hall, giving an effect of imposing vastness, was twenty-five feet in height, six pillars, each carved, even to its overhanging capital, of one piece of Florentine marble, supporting elaborately ornamented beams. The white marble stairway, winding along the wall to a rotunda, was considered a marvel of architectural skill.

The House Committee chose the great room with three windows—two overlooking Fifth Avenue and one Thirty-fourth Street—for the Club parlor. Its carpet, made to order, and woven, at the bidding of Mr. Stewart, in one piece, repeated the frescoing of the ceiling for a pattern,—as, in fact, did all the carpets in the large rooms of the mansion. The furnishing of this room consisted of rosewood furniture inlaid with gilt, plush-covered cabinets, mirrors and chandeliers. All the floors, including that of the basement, were of Italian marble. The dining-room extended across the whole Fifth Avenue front of the third story, in size forty by twenty feet. It was indeed the apartment designed by Mr.



## THE MANHATTAN CLUB

Last March, at half and three, the reception picture-gallery, the breakfast-room, hall and entrance, was lively admiration from all those fortunate enough to be admitted, and it was the general verdict that the Manhattan Club had indeed a clubhouse in keeping with its position as the leading Democratic Club of America.

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some years. *Alton B. Parker* around the house cost \$1,000,000. The entrance hall, giving to the left, of course, a magnificent view of the city in height, and to the right, a view of the river, was a masterpiece of architecture. It was a masterpiece of architecture, and a masterpiece of architecture. The entrance hall, giving to the left, of course, a magnificent view of the city in height, and to the right, a view of the river, was a masterpiece of architecture. It was a masterpiece of architecture, and a masterpiece of architecture.

The House Committee chose the great room with three windows—two overlooking Fifth Avenue and one Thirty-fourth Street—for the Club parlor. Its carpet, made to order, and woven at the factory of Mr. Stewart, in one piece, repeated the dressing of the ceiling for a pattern,—as, in fact, did all the carpets in the large rooms of the mansion. The furnishing of this room consisted of rosewood furniture adorned with gilt, plush-covered chaises, mirrors and chandeliers. All the floors, including that of the basement, were of Italian marble. The dining-room extended across the whole Fifth Avenue front of the third story, in size forty by twenty feet. It was indeed the apartment designed by Mr.







## FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Stewart for the use of General Grant at his pleasure. A coolness, however, springing up between the two, it was never so used. To avoid the odors of cooking, the kitchen was on the top floor. There also were bedchambers for Club members. The reception-room was upholstered in leather and lighted by large, high windows framed in white marble, as were those of the other rooms. As arranged by the Club, there were private dining-rooms, a number of card-rooms, a billiard-table occupying the former picture-gallery, and a café in the basement. The staff of employees numbered one hundred and twelve persons, Mr. P. McGregor Cummings being superintendent. The chef at this time was Domenico Gianini.

Once settled in its splendid new home, the Club began giving receptions, the first planned being that offered Senator Gorman for his efforts to defeat the so-called "Force Bill," against the passage of which the Club had passed resolutions on December 27 of the preceding year. Senator Gorman, however, declined the honor of being thus individualized in the matter, on the ground that it was not he alone who deserved it. New features, also, were ladies' receptions and loan exhibitions of works of art.

The Saratoga Platform of the Empire State Democrats, adopted September 30, 1891, called for the passage of energetic resolutions by the Club, which, in pledging its support, declared that since the Manhattan had been founded for the advancement of Democratic principles, it believed it to be expedient to assert, whenever occasion offered or required, its sympathy with, and approval of, all measures calculated to promote the success of the Democratic Party.

It therefore endorsed the Saratoga Platform, at the same time condemning the waste of public money by the Republican Party, its attempts by means of sectional legislation to revive old animosities, its defiance of the people's will and of its own interest in matters of revenue reform. Roswell



## THE MANHATTAN CLUB

P. Flower was endorsed as Democratic candidate for the governorship of New York; Fassett, the Republican candidate, condemned. Flower was elected, and the following year (1892), Democratic victory having crowned the Presidential campaign, the Club at once arranged for a reception in honor of the President and Vice-President elect, Grover Cleveland and Adlai E. Stevenson, to take place on November 10, 1892.

It was at this time that the Lotos Club, founded in 1870 for the promotion of art and letters, found itself temporarily without a home. With characteristic hospitality, the Manhattan Club on May 1 extended club courtesies to its members, as it had previously (April 13) extended them to the Alpha Delta Phi.

The grave political issue of the tariff question, brought about by the McKinley Act of 1890, unsatisfactory even to those who had passed it, excited in 1894 strong factional and national feeling, which on May 24 found expression in the Manhattan Club in a resolution framed by Mr. Walter Stanton. It voiced the Club's disapproval of the tariff blunders, which, it held, were responsible for the sufferings of the memorable winter of 1893-94.

The Club took that occasion also to pledge itself anew to the principle of a tariff for revenue only. It urged the passage of a revenue reform bill, declared that every hour of delay was a crime against the people, and condemned the proposed passage of an income tax as unnecessary, unjust, undemocratic, and in violation of the Constitution of the United States.

The Club decreed that a copy of these resolutions be sent every Democratic member of Congress.

In the following October, again at the motion of Mr. Stanton, a campaign committee of fifty was appointed by the president, among its members being Walter Stanton, William C. Whitney, Thomas F. Ryan, Perry Belmont, John T.

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Agnew, Theodore W. Myers, H. R. Ickelheimer, Joseph J. O'Donohue, John D. Crimmins, Henry C. Miner, C. F. Dieterich, Randolph Guggenheimer, Robert Maclay Bull, John C. Calhoun, J. D. Archbold, William Butler Duncan, Elijah P. Smith, Commodore Elbridge T. Gerry, Charles J. Canda, Charles A. DuVivier, George Alexander Brown, Daniel K. Bayne, Joseph C. Hendrix, Amos F. Eno, Jacob Ruppert, Jr., John R. Bennett, Louis V. Bell, George C. Clausen, Calvin S. Brice, John C. Graham, and Lloyd S. Bryce.

In keeping with these movements was the reception, proposed by the Club, October 4, to be given in honor of the Empire State nominees.

A ladies' reception, of which no memorial seems to have lingered in Club records, was given, April 11, 1895; and again we find the Club, on May 24, 1895, extending its hospitalities to Democratic editors and their wives, and, on November 14, to the commissioned officers of the United States men-of-war in New York Harbor for a fortnight.

A vote of thanks was extended, April 9, 1896, to Thomas B. Clarke for services in connection with the loan exhibition of pictures arranged by the Club.

The Club, consistent in its principles, believed the cause of the business stagnation of 1896 to be the agitation in favor of the free coinage of silver. Accordingly, on May 28, 1896, it passed resolutions endorsing "one single monetary standard of value to be used in the purchase of merchandise and payment of debts, as the imperative demand of all interested in secure and prosperous domestic and international commerce." The Club thereafter denounced all agitation in favor of the enactment of laws for the unlimited coinage of silver at any ratio, or the adoption in any form of a double standard of value in money, and proclaimed its adherence to the gold-dollar standard of money value as the only safe basis for all our foreign and domestic transactions.



## THE MANHATTAN CLUB

It held that the coming Democratic Convention, to be held that year, should endorse the administration of President Cleveland and declare a gold basis for sound money to be the one prominent issue at the coming election.

On May 10, 1898, a meeting was called in celebration of Dewey's victory in Manila Bay. That same year (October 3) a reception was given to Augustus Van Wyck, Democratic candidate for governor of New York.

Again, February 9, 1899, Grover Cleveland was requested to accept life membership without payment.

In the death of Mr. Coudert, which took place at Washington, December 20, 1903, the Club lost one of its most valued members. In the resolutions drawn up as expressive of Club sympathy and appreciation, we read of his having been an active and conspicuous member of the Club, an honored and influential friend of the organization, taking always a profound interest in its welfare, and rendering faithful and efficient service in its behalf.

Mr. Coudert joined the Club on December 3, 1874, and continued to be an active and conspicuous member up to the time of his death, serving as president from 1889 until 1899, when he voluntarily resigned, having previously done duty on the Board of Managers in 1880, and as vice-president for nine years, from 1880 to 1889. As president he displayed the greatest zeal and ability, evoking the lasting gratitude of his fellow-members. With Chauncey M. Depew, Mr. Coudert shared great popularity with business men. He earned his own way through Columbia College, then at Park and Church Streets, doing newspaper work. He was a good *raconteur*, full of wit and humor, possessing a clear, musical voice, all of which gave him great acceptance as an after-dinner speaker. He was the recipient of decorations from both France and Italy, the former bestowing the insignia of the Legion of Honor upon him. A famous Manhattan private dinner was the one given by him to the Board of Managers



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on the eve of his sailing to act as counsel in the Behring Sea difficulty. Mr. Coudert thus was president almost the entire time of the sojourn of the Club in the Stewart house, Judge Truax only succeeding him in 1899, the date of its removal to its present quarters, an account of which, and the events leading thereto, we shall hear in the coming chapter.

But first reference must be made to two members of note, prominent in the Club in the Stewart era. One was that enthusiastic Democrat, Christopher C. Baldwin, vice-president of the Club and former president of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, who rallied the Democracy after Hancock's defeat and issued the call to the famous Cooper Union meeting that led to the election of Cleveland; the other, J. Edward Simmons, president of the Fourth National Bank, an office to which he was elected when he owned no stock, knew no director, and had never been in the bank.





## CHAPTER THE TWELFTH

The Stewart House a "White Elephant"—Removal to Cheaper Quarters Imperative—Hunting for a New Club-house—The Final Choice—A Happy Solution.



THE Club, as we have seen, moved into the Stewart house in 1890. At the time there was a committee, consisting of Messrs. J. Sergeant Cram and L. Holme, appointed (February 20, 1890) to consider the sale of the Benkard house for \$75,000. On June 9, 1892, an appropriation of \$15,000 was made from the reserve fund of the Club to discharge its indebtedness.

From that date onward financial affairs seem to have become troublesome. The expenses of keeping up such an establishment proved to be enormous, since on January 11, 1894, we find the Club disturbed over its electric-light bill. In spite of all efforts to reduce the expense, the bills had doubled and redoubled until the one under discussion reached the sum of \$9500. As no compromise could be arrived at, the Club decided to use gas exclusively, and to make inquiries about the practicability of procuring for the Club an electric plant of its own.

In February of that year an amendment to increase the







## CHAPTER TWO TWELFTH

The Stewart House a "White Elephant" - Removal to Original Quarters Imperative - Hunting for a New Club-home - The Final Choice - A Happy Solution

*Victor J. Dowling*



THE Club, as we have seen, moved into the Stewart House in 1891. At the time there was no permanent residence of Class I. However, the Club had a reserve fund of \$1000.00, and in 1894, an appropriation of \$500.00 was made from the reserve fund of the Club to maintain the building.

From that date onward financial affairs seem to have become troublesome. The expense of keeping up such an establishment proved to be enormous, and in January 21, 1894, we find the Club disturbed over its excessive bills. In spite of all efforts to reduce the expenses, the bills had doubled and redoubled until the one under discussion reached the sum of \$9500. As no compromise could be effected, the Club decided to use gas exclusively, and to make provision about the practicability of procuring for the Club a separate plant of its own.

In February of that year an amendment to increase the







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dues fifty dollars semi-annually was carried, and on December 5, 1895, a committee was appointed to prepare a plan to discharge the indebtedness of the Club; another, of five members, at the same time, being asked to inquire into the Club's rights and privileges regarding the lease of the Stewart house, and to look about for a more suitable residence.

The Club, December 10, adopted a motion to extend an invitation of membership to the members of the Democratic Club, without payment of an initiation fee, provided one hundred joined in a body.

In January, 1899, the question of the Stewart house lease was taken up in earnest, the Board of Managers holding a meeting on the twelfth, with the result that a committee of three, including the President, with power to increase its number if expedient, was appointed to confer with the owners of the Stewart house and endeavor to obtain a surrender of the lease, and also to look about for another clubhouse.

The managers reported that the experience of the two previous years had shown the revenues of the Club to be inadequate to its expenses, and that they had, in consequence, devised a plan for obtaining voluntary subscriptions to bonds for the purpose of liquidating the Club's indebtedness; and, to this end, a committee had been appointed to dispose of the lease of the Stewart house and secure new quarters—members, according to Article II, Section 14, to be assessed fifty dollars to pay the Club's indebtedness.

The Board of Managers, composed of Mr. Coudert, Mr. Gilbert, and Judge Truax, announced, February 6, 1899, that they had successfully negotiated with the owners of the Stewart house, who agreed to cancel the lease after the following May. Upon mature reflection and careful consideration, it had been decided to take the premises of the University Club, on the corner of Madison Avenue and

## THE MANHATTAN CLUB

Twenty-sixth Street, from that date, at a rental of \$24,000 per annum, free from taxes. In the opinion of the Board, it was plain that the enormous expenses incident to the Stewart house could not be maintained—a fact by this time universally conceded by the Club.

The premises of the University Club were considered a great improvement as to location, convenience, and comfort. The expenses would be moderate enough to permit of a reduction in the annual dues from \$100 to \$75.

“Resignations have thus far been few,” the committee reported, “while the payment of assessments has been, in promptness and cordiality, beyond our expectations. But no effort in the way of judicious economy or improvement in actual or prospective conditions can maintain the high standard of the Manhattan Club without the continued and generous co-operation of our members. If they believe that the Manhattan Club has been in the past a useful instrumentality for the promotion of sound Democratic principles, they may, with scarcely an effort, place its success in the future beyond any question. The future is in their hands. The Club has survived political defeat, financial depression, and party dissensions; it has always been firm and zealous in the maintenance of Democratic principles, and its influence has been felt wherever these principles were imperilled. It now needs only the same loyal support that it has heretofore received to assure it a useful and brilliant career.”

So satisfactory appears to have been the response to this, that a statement was issued, January 16, 1899, showing that the finances of the Club had weathered all storms and showed a strong balance.

In the latter part of May, 1899, the Club left the Stewart house, and for something over a month was the recipient of courtesies from other New York City clubs. July 15 of that year it took possession of its present quarters.

There is still in existence a record of the first bar-check



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issued. It bore the signature of Judge C. H. Truax, called for twenty cents, and was marked "A-1080, July 15, 1899." The first wine-check was made out, July 14, 1899, the day before taking possession, on an order from the Moving Committee, composed of Augustine Monroe, Theodore Rich, and Thomas R. Fisher. It was marked "D-1," and called for one quart No. 240 (old rye), \$1.75, and two quarts No. 427 (Poland water), \$0.40, making a total of \$2.15, and was signed "A. Monroe."

The officers at the time of the removal were Judge Truax, president; John Hone, vice-president; Sylvester J. O'Sullivan, treasurer; David B. Gilbert, secretary. On the House Committee were William S. Rodie, John Hunter, Jr., and Pierre F. MacDonald, all of whom continued in office until 1906.

The finances of the Club from the day of its removal adjusted themselves satisfactorily, and continued along the line of prosperity; for on March 19, 1903, we read of the treasurer triumphantly announcing that the Club had not a dollar of indebtedness, but rather \$46,000 surplus, as a result of living in a club-house suitable to its revenues. "We have money in our boots," said Sylvester J. O'Sullivan. From then onward until the present day we hear no more of financial entanglements.

On January 13, 1910, Judge Victor J. Dowling, president, stated that it was the Club's wish to secure a site on which to erect a suitable building for its permanent home. Mention of plans for this purchase of Club property was made January 12, 1911, and eventually the present site of the Club was purchased for \$500,000.





## CHAPTER THE THIRTEENTH

Final Proceedings—The New Century—Purchase of a Permanent Home—Celebration of the Club's Semi-Centenary under Happy Auspices.



THE Club in 1900 celebrated its Thirty-fifth Anniversary by a banquet, and gave its famous dinner, January 10 of that year, to Judge Truax, in recognition of his services toward the restoration of its prestige and prosperity.

Mr. W. S. Rodie, December 12, 1901, proposed a reunion of non-resident members scattered throughout thirty-eight States. The purpose he had in mind, he said, was an attempt to revive the interest of the people in the fundamental doctrines underlying our Democratic form of government. He held that, since the Manhattan Club had been founded, at a critical period of the nation's history, for the advancement of these Democratic principles, it was an appropriate time, by such a reunion, to counteract the effects of the policies of the Republican Party, then so subversive of those same principles and doctrines.

The Club agreeing, Washington's Birthday of 1902 was chosen for the reunion, Messrs. W. S. Rodie, John Hone, John G. Carlisle, and Perry Belmont being named a commit-

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tee to arrange for the guests, and the secretary, treasurer, and House Committee being authorized to solicit subscriptions to defray the expenses. The reunion was a great success.

"Of all the many attractive and pleasant banquets given at the Manhattan Club," says Mr. Dufour, in his interesting narrative, "one of the most notable and historical was that given by Mr. John B. McDonald to his engineers on the completion of the Subway. It was remarkable in every way. Mr. McDonald, it will be remembered, was the famous builder of the Subway. The table was profusely decorated with all the necessary adjuncts of an earth-digger's trade. It represented a diminutive Subway. The menus were works of art, showing the best skill of the engraver. Each menu contained pictures of the most difficult obstacles that the engineer encounters. On the front cover was a photograph of Mr. McDonald, and the name, in gold, of the engineer in charge of that section. Mr. McDonald, by his amiability, gentleness, and thorough good nature, had won for himself the affection of his brother-members of the Club. Men of all professions and callings were at this dinner, and vied with one another in paying tribute to the man whose genius created the means of relief which New York had been so long crying for."

Other affairs of these later years have been the subscription dinner to the justices of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, May 9, 1908; a reception to John A. Dix, October 4, 1910; a dinner to Governor Dix, March 23, 1911; and a dinner to Senator O'Gorman, April 22, 1911.

On September 14, 1901, President McKinley died from the effects of a wound received at the hand of an assassin at the Buffalo Exposition, September 6. The Manhattan Club at once passed resolutions, drawn up by Charles W. Dayton, expressive of its horror at the unprovoked tragedy, and of appreciation of Mr. McKinley's services to his country, of



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his unblemished character, of his personal and official life, "so typical," said Mr. Dayton, "of Lincoln's immortal aphorism, 'With malice toward none, with charity for all.'"

The Club further expressed its deep sympathy for Mrs. McKinley, and an attested copy of the resolutions was ordered to be sent her, the club-house to be draped in black for thirty days.

In 1904 Democratic hopes revived in the nomination of Parker and Davis. The Club at once appointed a committee of one hundred to aid in campaign work, and a reception, proposed September 29, was arranged in honor of Judge Parker for October 5, 1904.

In 1908 Judge Parker became vice-president of the Club, Morgan J. O'Brien then being president; and in 1910 Judge Parker succeeded him, Charles W. Dayton becoming vice-president. During Judge Parker's term as vice-president the Club passed resolutions regarding the Democratic League, and he, seconded by Mr. McDonald, proposed that the League be invited to hold future meetings at the Manhattan Club, a copy of the resolution to be sent Hon. Thomas M. Osborne at Albany.

Judge Parker, seconded by Mr. O'Sullivan, further proposed that the Club, as an expression of its sympathy with the purposes of the Democratic League organized at Saratoga on September 9 and 10, arrange for a subscription dinner to its executive committee, a committee of five to be appointed by the President to attend to the details. At the same meeting Mr. O'Sullivan, seconded by Judge Parker, proposed that the hospitalities of the Club be extended by formal invitation to the officers representing foreign navies and that of the United States, and to all foreign visitors to the Hudson-Fulton celebration.

It was Judge Victor J. Dowling, president of the Club from 1911 to 1914, when the present president, Mr. Philip J. Britt, was elected, who stated at a regular meeting, January





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The Club tendered sympathy to Mrs. McKinley, and an annual party of the occasion was ordered to be sent her, the club-house to be draped in black for thirty days.

In 1904 Democratic hopes centered in the nomination of Parker and Davis. The Club at once organized a committee of one hundred to aid in canvassing work, and a reception proposed September 29, was arranged in honor of Judge Parker for October 5, 1904.

In 1908 Judge Parker became vice-president of the Club, Morgan J. O'Brien then being president; and in 1910 Judge Parker succeeded him, Charles W. Dayton becoming vice-president. During Judge Parker's term as vice-president the Club joined with the Democratic League, and in accordance with the suggestion proposed that the League be entertained at social meetings at the Manhattan Club, a group of representatives of the League, Thomas M. Conroy, its leader,

Judge Parker, attended by Mr. O'Sullivan, proposed that the Club, as an expression of sympathy for the purpose of the Democratic League, organize a dinner together September 2 and 23, arrange for a subscription, and enter to its executive committee a committee of five to be appointed by the President as stated in the journal. At the same meeting Mr. O'Sullivan, consulted by Judge Parker, proposed that the hospitality of the Club be extended by formal invitation to the officers representing foreign countries and that of the United States, and to all foreign visitors to the Madison-Fulton celebration.

It was Judge Victor J. Dowling, president of the Club from 1912 to 1914, when the present president, Mr. Philip J. Britt, was elected, who stated at a regular meeting, January







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13, 1910, that it was the Club's desire to purchase a site on which to build a club-house "suitable to the perpetuation of the best traditions of the Democratic Party"—a desire the more justified since it had been stated on January 16, 1899, that the Club had weathered its financial perils, and on May 19, 1903, the treasurer had declared the Club free of all indebtedness, with a \$46,000 surplus. Eventually it was decided to buy the site of the present club-house, to-day beautified anew for the Club's semi-centennial.

We thus have seen the Manhattan Club, in the fifty years of its existence, progress through stress and storm, in spite of misfortune and discouragement, towards a permanent home, the principles of Democracy and their preservation its incentive to continuous existence. To-day its records show that 5473 Democrats have, in these fifty years, been carried on its roster. Of these, 914 have passed beyond discussions of Democracy or enjoyment of "those certain conditions" which have bound together the members of their Club; 906 have dropped out, and 2404 resigned. To-day the actual membership is 1249.

An interesting coincidence in the history of the Club is the fact that it began its existence with a Democratic President after Republican supremacy; and to-day, its Fiftieth Anniversary, Democracy again occupies the "Seats of the Mighty" in the National Government.





## CHAPTER THE FOURTEENTH

The Club Library—Mr. James Dunne, Librarian of the Manhattan Club, recalls Literary History—Gifts—Purchases—Rare Volumes



THE history of the Manhattan Club would indeed be incomplete without mention of its library. The number of volumes may not be as large as in some other libraries, but the editions are very choice. Mr. James Dunne has prepared the following account of the library's growth, a reading of which will lead to a wider appreciation of its worth.

The Committee on Library believes that a brief reference to the Club library, and the books that fill its shelves, may bring to the members a realization of the intellectual treat that is afforded them in their moments of leisure. Unlike the old English clubs,—of which John Aubrey, writing in 1689, said, "We now use the word Clubbe for a sodality in a tavern,"—the modern club, organized for the promotion of good-fellowship, as well as for social and literary intercourse among its members, has come to regard its library as one of its indispensable accessories.

Founded in 1865, the Manhattan Club numbered among its organizers many of the leading authors, statesmen, pub-



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licists, journalists, artists, and literary men of that period; and through their culture, their literary tastes, and their broad-mindedness in the discussion of public questions, the Club gradually became a social and literary centre that drew to its membership the leaders in the public and intellectual thought of the day. As a consequence the Club library was started, and thereafter, as well by frequent purchases as by voluntary donations on the part of the members, there were brought together a goodly number of the books that hold the highest place among works of classical and standard literature. Many of the books so purchased and donated will be found on the library shelves to-day. After the Club's removal from the Stewart mansion to Twenty-sixth Street, the library was greatly neglected: the books, in respect of binding, were allowed to become unsightly; and, in respect of authorship and subject-matter, were indiscriminately scattered upon the library shelves. In the fall of 1902, however, the Board of Governors appointed a new Library Committee of seven members, and instructed them not only to examine into the condition of the library and its needs, but to submit a report on these subjects, coupled with such recommendation respecting the library's future as to the committee might seem expedient. So empowered, the new committee immediately entered upon their work, and in due course submitted their report and recommendations to the governors, who, in November, 1902, approved of them, and generously appropriated for the uses of the committee the sum of five hundred dollars, "to be expended, in their discretion," in connection with the improvement of the library. Possessed of this appropriation, the committee at once addressed themselves to the work of bringing order out of chaos, and to that end weeded out quite a number of the books that were deemed worthless for library purposes, and, selecting some three hundred books that were deemed worthy of rebinding, had them rebound in buckram. On

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their return they were rearranged under cognate heads and replaced on the library shelves. Thus brightened up and greatly improved, the library became a matter of interest to the members, who, responding to the committee's zeal in continuing the work of improvement, made many promises—some of which were kept—to donate standard works of literature and fill the open spaces that the shelves disclosed.

In 1904, what with purchases and donations, the books had so increased in number that the committee found itself unable to arrange them in the book-cases then at their disposal. These book-cases, beautifully carved and of great value, had been brought from the Stewart mansion, but for the practical uses of a club library they were wholly inadequate. Recognizing this fact, the Committee on Library made a further report to the governors, urging the sale of the cases and the installation in their stead of the Globe-Wernicke Company system of "units," as being the most serviceable for the purposes of a club library. Yielding to the committee's recommendations, the governors authorized the sale of the Stewart cases, and to the proceeds derived from such sale generously added an appropriation large enough to warrant the laying of a hardwood floor and the installation of the beautiful book-cases that now adorn the library of the Club.

With the new floor duly completed, the new cases duly installed, and the putting of the room in complete order, the committee at once proceeded to replace the books upon the shelves according to the following arrangement: Case A: Poetry and Drama. Case B: General Literature. Case C: Essays, Speeches, etc. Case D: Fiction and Romance. Case E: History, Memoirs, Biographies, etc. Case F: Bound Volumes of Magazines. Case G: Encyclopedias, Books of Reference, etc. This arrangement was determined upon in order to bring together in the same cases books bearing upon cognate topics, and thus enable members to locate easily the particular book or books of which they might be in search.



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Having determined upon this arrangement, the committee proceeded to weed out such books as, in the judgment of its members, seemed useless and out of date, and thus to make room for recent editions of books that were deemed vital in literature, science, and art. Among the books so weeded out and put aside were city directories, reports of the comptroller, reports on water supply, reports of chief engineers, college and university catalogues, and others, all of which, though seldom used, were very bulky and occupied a large amount of shelf space, which, the committee thought, could be used for the housing of such books as would appeal more strongly to the members of the Club.

With the displacing of these bulky books, the committee found itself confronted with the problem of empty shelves, the unfilled spaces of which were sufficient to accommodate some five hundred volumes. To meet this emergency the committee appealed to the generosity of the members. The appeal was not in vain, as many of the members responded promptly with generous contributions of money and of books. Prominent among the members responding to the committee's call by way of cash contributions and donations of books were Sylvester J. O'Sullivan (since deceased), Frederick B. Tilghman, John Lynn, Thomas F. Gilroy, Jr., J. C. McCoy, Lee Kohns, Hon. Francis M. Scott, Edwin H. Denby, James Dunne, David B. Gilbert (since deceased), and Joseph M. Byrne. Due to their generous giving, few unfilled spaces will be found in the library shelves to-day.

Assembled as they have been for the Club members, the books in the library deserve a passing notice. While, as already shown by the arrangement of the books in respect of subject-matter, no branch of classical or general literature has been neglected, the committee desires to have it known that in respect of anthologies, encyclopedias, and works of general reference the Club is peculiarly fortunate in its collection.



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Among the Anthologies will be found: "The World's Best Classics," fifty volumes; "An English Garner," twelve volumes; "The World's Best Literature," thirty-two volumes; "The Universal Anthology," thirty-two volumes; "The Bibliophile Library," thirty volumes; and "American Literature," twelve volumes. Into the pages of these anthologies men of business with but few moments' leisure may casually dip, find, and, finding, commit to memory not only the wise and witty apothegms of all the ages, but

"quoted odes, and jewels five-words-long,  
That on the stretch'd forefinger of all Time  
Sparkle forever";

and, so finding and treasuring, return to their daily avocations, wiser and better men.

In Encyclopedias the Club possesses The Encyclopædia Britannica; The International Encyclopedia, The Catholic Encyclopedia, The Jewish Encyclopedia, The English Encyclopedia, and others. To these treasure-houses of universal knowledge the student, the scholar, and the man of business may repair, and in condensed form, on any given subject, obtain the required information that has been gathered for him by acknowledged masters in their respective fields of thought.

The browsing student can spend his leisure hours in the perusal of "Notes and Queries," one hundred and fifty volumes; "Punch," one hundred and fifty volumes; or "Pepys's Diary," twenty volumes; or he can reread the fascinating stories of Burton's "Arabian Nights," sixteen volumes, or other works of like interest.

If Poetry interests him, he can commune with "The British Poets," one hundred and fifty volumes; if "Byronic power and gloom" impress him, he can read his favorite poet in two editions of eighteen and fifteen volumes respectively; or he can turn to Goldsmith in twelve volumes; to Browning,



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Among the Annals we find included: "The World's Best Classics," ten volumes; "An English Library," twelve volumes; "The World's Best Authors," thirteen volumes; "The Universal Anthology," thirty-two volumes; "The Blacksmith's Library," thirty volumes; and "American Literature," twelve volumes. Then the pages of these distinguished men of business write but few volumes; letters may be mailed by mail, and, finding, comes to country not only the most and every appliances of all the night, but

"Spurred on by the world's best authors,  
That in the grand old language of all Time  
Speaks to us."

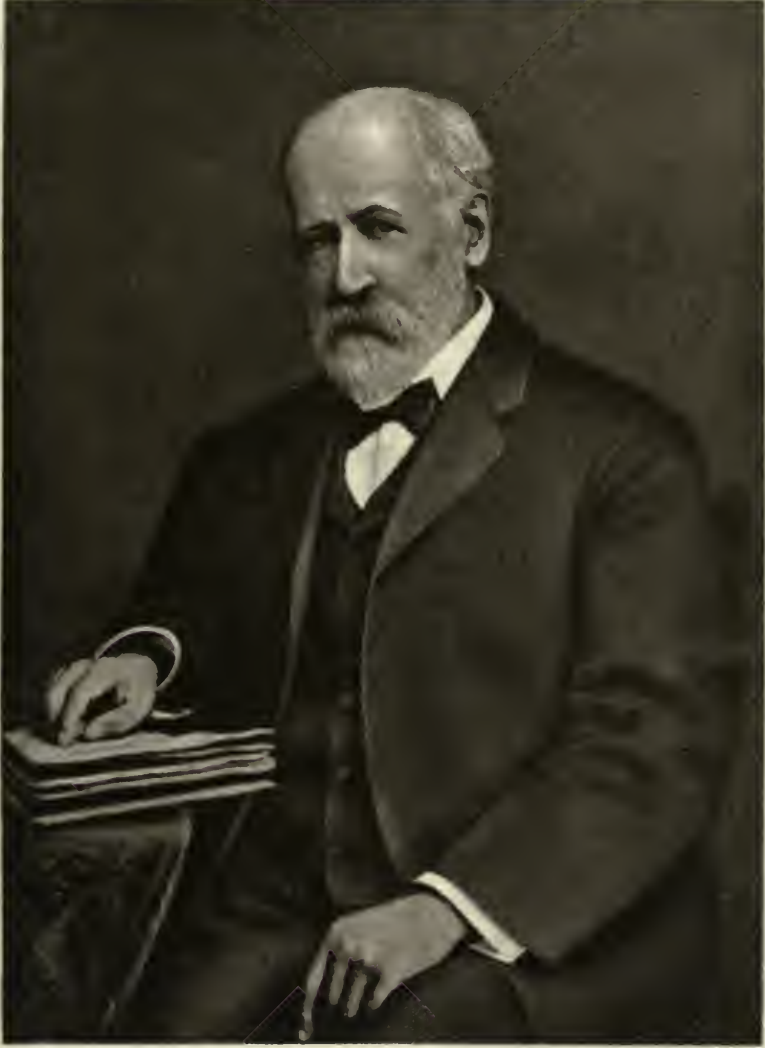
and, on finding and traveling, returns to their daily avocations, wiser and better men.

In Encyclopedias *Smith M. Weed* are The Encyclopedia Britannica; The International Encyclopedia; The Catholic Encyclopedia; The Jewish Encyclopedia; The English Encyclopedia; and others. The "Encyclopedia" is a complete set, including the articles on science, art, and all other branches they report, and is considered the most complete and reliable source of the reported information that has been gathered for him by subscription, usually in two suggestive fields of thought.

The following series, including the "Encyclopedia" are published in "Times and Quizzes," one hundred and fifty volumes; "Punch," one hundred and fifty volumes; or "Penny Diary," twenty volumes; or he can read the fascinating stories of Burton's "Arabian Nights," sixteen volumes, or other works of like interest.

If Poetry interests him, he can commence with "The Great Poets," one hundred and fifty volumes; if "Byronic poems and glosses" impress him, he can read his favorite poet in the volumes of eighteen and fifteen volumes respectively; or he can read to Goldsmith in twelve volumes; to Browning







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ten volumes; to Poe, eight volumes; to Longfellow, twelve volumes; or to Bryant, Holmes, Whittier, and Emerson in twenty volumes.

If the Drama calls him, he will find Shakespeare in several different editions, and "Marlowe of the mighty line" he will find in the worthy company of Ben Jonson, Massinger and Ford, Beaumont and Fletcher, as also the somewhat reprehensible Wycherley.

History, Memoirs, and Biography are adequately represented; among Essays and Speeches will be found Burke, Carlyle, and Macaulay; while in Fiction and Romance, Scott, Fielding, Smollett, Balzac, Dumas, Richardson, Thackeray, Dickens, Cooper, Meredith, Stevenson, Kipling, and others make a splendid showing in their chosen fields.

In browsing among the books, the bibliophile here and there will run across a bibliographical rarity, such as "The Turkish Spy in Paris," 1637-1682, in seven volumes; "The Attic Nights" of Aulus Gellius, three volumes; and a reprint in facsimile (1593 edition) of "Venus and Adonis," "The Rape of Lucrece," "The Passionate Pilgrim," "A Lover's Complaint," "Pericles," and the Sonnets.

As a room the library is delightful. Fronting upon Madison Square Park, three of its large windows open on a balcony where the book-lover may betake himself and, in undisturbed quietude, hold converse with all that is great and good in books that were written not for a day, but for all time.

Taken as a whole, the library is worthy of the Manhattan Club, and the Club is justly proud of its possession.





## CHAPTER THE FIFTEENTH

The Contemporary Manhattan Club—Meeting of Old and New—Present Governors of the Club and their Records—The President and Ex-Presidents—Prominent Members—Some Groups within the Club—Thirty-year and Older Members of the Club—Notable Employees.



**A**N organization is as old as its oldest member and as young as its youngest. But the two meet on the common ground of the present tense. The one reflects the other. The new keeps fresh the memory of the old, carries on the ideals of the old, builds upon them, extends their scope, revises them; and in the new the old lives, the pioneers of the earlier day find, not their graves, but their immortality.

The problem of attacking the "Who's Whos" of the present Manhattan Club is of so grave a nature, freighted as it is with pitfalls and other dangers free from childlike attributes, that one is moved to summon to his aid the tender mercies of an anecdote dealing with Mr. George Moore, the most famous of contemporary Irish novelists. Upon the completion and announcement of his latest trio of books, the now notorious "Hail and Farewell," dealing mainly with events and people in and about Dublin, such is the reverence in

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which these good folk hold their great Irishman, so often has his naïvely truthful pen slashed this and that gentleman or gentlewoman in the past, that curiosity, dread, anxiety, and every other fearsome emotion quickly set fire to the Irish capital, and a saying, since made current, followed in its wake: "Half the people in Dublin were afraid they were in the book; the other half, that they had been left out." In compiling this history I am moved toward giving the *bon mot* a reverse twist: "I am doubtless paying attention to only half the contemporary lights of the Manhattan Club at the same time that I am unwittingly overlooking the other half—so I am equally in dread of both." However, I shall face the music with a brave heart, conscious of impartiality.

It is most creditable that so many and such diversified natures pursue their various paths so peacefully under the same roof, seldom, if ever, coming into collision. It proves that discipline, although unseen, has its firm grip on one and all, and that the amenities and courtesies of life hold a large share in maintaining pleasant and sociable intercourse among so many individuals. However, it is amusing to watch the usual variations from the general key. Some are jolly under any and all conditions; others, morose in spite of alluring surroundings; some are diffident and seem scarcely able to ask for what they want; others cry out their wants in stentorian tones; some are studious and frequent the library daily; others—and their name is legion—virtually never, or rarely, come within its portals; some are methodical and seldom fail to write out a check in their check-book when money is wanted; others take up a blank check from the office counter, draw it out or have it drawn out, and then trust to luck or memory to enter it in their own account-book. The world is thus made more varied by each individual who comes and goes. On a smaller scale, but in more concentrated form, the general rule applies to the Manhattan Club.



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The governors of the Club are: Harry S. Black, Philip J. Britt, Lewis J. Conlan, Charles W. Dayton, Victor J. Dowling, Ashbel P. Fitch, Phoenix Ingraham, Frederic Kernochan, John Lynn, William F. McCombs, James A. O'Gorman, Herbert C. Smyth, Albert Tilt, H. K. S. Williams, William Schramm, and Herbert D. Lounsbury.

John Lynn has been a life member since 1892. He is especially noted for a fine munificence, it being claimed by some that he is the most generous human alive. William F. McCombs, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, needs no trumpeter to herald him. He managed the campaign which resulted in the election of President Wilson, and in 1913 was tendered the ambassadorship to France, an honor he declined. Judge Lewis J. Conlan is the first to come and the last to leave the club-house. He has consequently been charged with being the ex-officio caretaker. The Judge has been a member for twenty years.

Phoenix Ingraham deserves very high credit for his exemplary work as chairman of the House Committee. A more efficient body of men in like capacity does not exist anywhere. Mr. Ingraham is a life member. Reference to Mr. Ingraham's father, Judge George L. Ingraham, is imperative. Judge Ingraham has been a member of the Club since 1883, and head of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court since 1896.

Louis Bertschmann, who died recently, was an invaluable asset to the Club. He, more than any one man, was responsible for the greatest influx of new members.

Senator James A. O'Gorman, member since 1900, ex-justice of the Supreme Court, and senator from New York since 1911, is one of the Club's most vital figures. Governmental duties never prevent him from giving the Manhattan the best service at his disposal.

President Philip J. Britt, elected to his present office in April, 1914, is, needless to say, worthy of the honor con-



## FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

ferred upon him. Much of the success of the recent anniversary dinner is due to him, and, in general, the spirit of progressiveness which permeates the activities of the Club. Among the ex-presidents there are three living: Morgan J. O'Brien, Alton B. Parker, and Victor J. Dowling.

Judge O'Brien, a member since 1887, and president from 1908 to 1910, wholly merits the popularity he enjoys. He is one of the most genial of mortals, and at the same time a gentleman who, in spite of a certain reserve, commands the respect and service of individuals in every walk of life. He has always been tireless in his activities and self-imposed duties in behalf of the Club, and stands foremost among the influential and beneficent factors in Manhattan evolution. Eminent as a jurist, he is everybody's friend.

Alton B. Parker, member since 1894 and president from 1910 to 1911, has been judge at various times of the Supreme Court and the Appellate Division and chief justice of the Court of Appeals, from which post he resigned to accept the Democratic nomination for the Presidency in 1904. He has contributed no little toward making the Manhattan Club what it is to-day.

Victor J. Dowling, deservedly one of the most popular of Manhattanites, president of the Club from 1911 to 1914, was instrumental in the purchase of the present building on Twenty-sixth Street. He is at the present time President of the Modern Historic Records Association.

Distinguished credit is due the Manhattan Club for the signal honor of having on its roster three such exceptional diplomats, patriots, and clubmen as James W. Gerard, ambassador to Germany, who has so tactfully handled the delicate questions that have been brought up periodically between Washington and the Wilhelmstrasse; Frederic C. Penfield, ambassador to Austria-Hungary; and Francis Burton Harrison, governor-general of the Philippines.

More than a word of praise should be laid to the account

## THE MANHATTAN CLUB

of the body of men who did such yeoman service toward making the anniversary banquet and celebration the phenomenal success and famous event time has recorded it. The motive power which lay at the heart of their endeavors and which made those endeavors reach such envied success was unselfishness and a courageous willingness to serve. I refer to the gentlemen who composed the Anniversary Committee. Their names follow: Morgan J. O'Brien, chairman; Victor J. Dowling, George F. Harriman, William R. Hearst, George L. Ingraham, Alexander Konta, Martin W. Littleton, Manton Marble, William F. McCombs, James A. O'Gorman, Alton B. Parker, William F. Sheehan, John B. Stanchfield, and Thomas F. Vietor.

Patrick Francis Murphy, generally considered the best after-dinner speaker in this country, was one of the men who delivered addresses at the recent banquet.

Among the prominent members of the Club are the New York State Democratic chairman, William Church Osborn; D-Cady Herrick, ex-district attorney of the State, justice of the Supreme Court and the Appellate Division, and one-time Democratic candidate for governor; and that able, learned, and accomplished international jurist, John R. Dos Passos.

From the newspaper world there are four giants: Frank I. Cobb, editor-in-chief of the New York "World"; Caleb Van Hamm, managing editor of all the Hearst interests; Edward G. Riggs, one of the vital sparks of the old Dana régime on the New York "Sun"; and Louis Seibold, of the "World," who enjoys the confidence of practically all prominent public men.

John Quinn, lawyer and art collector, is a unique figure in the Club. He was instrumental in the success of the now famous "Irish Players." A daily visitor is Frederick B. Tilghman, descendant from an old and honorable line, and prominent on the Stock Exchange. Ex-Lieutenant-Governor William F. Sheehan is always in demand, such is his



ROYAL



## THE MANHATTAN CLUB

of the duty of men who did not merely strive toward making the anniversary lamp, and celebrating the phenomenal success and famous name that has recorded it. The motive power which lay at the heart of their endeavor and which made these men as each each varied course was usefulness and a courageous willingness to serve. I refer to the gentlemen who composed the Anniversary Committee. Their names follow: Morgan J. Stewart, chairman; Victor F. Downing, George F. Harriman, William N. Moore, George L. Ingraham, Alexander S. Lee, Murray N. Lawrence, Hamilton Martin, William F. McCoy, James A. O'Gorman, Alton B. Parker, William F. Woodrow, John R. Knowlton, and Thomas F. Victor.

Patrick Francis Murphy, generally considered the best after-dinner speaker in this country, was one of the men who delivered addresses. *James A. O'Gorman*.

Among the prominent members of the Club are the New York State Democratic members, William Clark, Colonel Murray Herrick, ex-federal attorney of the same name, chief of the Insurance Dept. and the Appellate Division, and ex-federal Department secretary for Germany; and the ex-vice-governor, ex-United States ambassador, and ex-justice, John K. Van Pelt.

From the newspaper world there are few names: Frank E. Cole, editor-in-chief of the New York "World"; Calvin Van Hook, managing editor of all the Hearst papers; Edward G. Heggs, one of the most astute of the old time régime on the New York "Sun"; and Louis Schick, of the "World," who enjoys the confidence of practically all prominent public men.

Mr. Quinn, lawyer and art collector, is a unique figure in the Club. He was instrumental in the success of the new game, "Club Players." A daily visitor is Frederick B. Thompson, specialist from an old and honorable line, and prominent on the Stock Exchange. Ex-Lieutenant-Governor William F. Sheehan is always in demand, such is his



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popularity. Another favorite is the widely known lawyer, Solomon Hanford. George F. Harriman, another lawyer and old member, is a friend of everybody.

The brilliant Edgar Saltus is an old member of the Club, and makes it his home when his literary occupations and errant fancies detain him in this country.

Special privileges are allowed to Sylvester J. E. Rawling. As music critic of the "World," it is necessary that he compose his opera criticism late at night, and the Club is kept open for that purpose!

Other famous lawyer members and frequenters of the Club are John B. Stanchfield and George Gordon Battle. Mr. Stanchfield was formerly Democratic candidate for governor and nominee for United States senator. Mr. Battle at one time served as assistant district attorney, and is at present a law partner of Senator O'Gorman.

Daniel M. Brady is the election expert of the Club. It is popularly said of him that he can prophesy the outcome of any election, such is his broad familiarity with statistics. At the head of the Art Department stands August Benziger. He has painted portraits of Presidents McKinley, Roosevelt, and Taft, one of Senator O'Gorman, and, specially for the Club, one of Judge Dowling.

Herbert D. Lounsbury, a gentleman of brilliant wit, and Congressman Jacob A. Cantor, ex-president of the New York Senate and ex-president of Manhattan Borough, are favorites with all.

J. Henry Haggerty is much sought after because of his genial ways. So are Herbert Smyth, who stands in the front rank of trial lawyers, and Justice Charles L. Guy. Justice Guy was elected Supreme Court justice in 1907 for a term of fourteen years. General favorites, also, are those two gentlemen, Harry Mollenhauer and Conrad Peters, popularly known as "Harry" and "Connie."

James Buckley, general passenger agent of the Erie lines,

## THE MANHATTAN CLUB

one of the ablest and best-known veterans of the American railway service, is a frequenter of the Club, as well as General James B. Burbank, who entered voluntary service in 1862 as lieutenant and adjutant, and the regular army in 1864. He was retired a major-general in 1902. For fifty-three years he served on the active list in all grades, a gallant, accomplished, and meritorious officer. Roger Foster, lawyer and author of "Foster's Federal Practice," and formerly instructor at Yale University, is famous for his splendid service in the improvement of the tenement-house. Another popular *habitué* is Dr. C. J. McGuire, the well-known physician.

An old-time and most popular member of the Club is ex-Senator Watson Carvosso Squire. His public record is a long and brilliant one. He served in the Civil War as a *beau sabreur* and judge-advocate-general, commanded the troop of sharpshooters who constituted General Sherman's body-guard, and was raised to the rank of colonel "for gallant and meritorious services." He was Governor of Washington Territory, 1884-87, and senator in Congress from the State of Washington, 1887-97.

Among the prominent judges are Eugene A. Philbin, Nathan L. Miller, Frank C. Laughlin, Chester B. McLaughlin, Edward J. Gavegan, P. Henry Dugro, Francis B. Delehanty, and John V. McAvoy.

Judge Philbin, in addition to his service on the Supreme Court bench, is noted for his work in connection with Ellis Island. In addition to his position as Supreme Court and Appellate Division justice, Judge Miller has been State comptroller. Judge Laughlin has been justice of the Supreme Court since 1895, and of the Appellate Division since 1899. Judge McLaughlin has likewise been justice of the Supreme Court and the Appellate Division for many years. Judge Gavegan was elected Supreme Court justice in 1910, to serve till 1923. Judge Dugro, besides his activities as Su-



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preme Court justice, built the Hotels Savoy and Seville and organized the Union Square Bank.

Inside the Manhattan Club there are other clubs—circles within circles. Foremost among them is the “Modocs.” One of its most prominent members, Herbert D. Lounsbury, has this to say in reference to its name and history:

“Modoc” is of Indian derivation, and was the name of the tribe inhabiting the southwestern portion of what is now the State of Oregon. It was slightly over forty years ago that this Indian tribe gained newspaper notoriety through its resistance to the authority of the United States Government.

“Attracted to the name by seeing it so frequently printed in the newspapers of that period, it was adopted as the name of a little coterie of men who delighted in each other’s companionship and who wished to meet regularly for dining and general sociability.

“Thus, what has become unique in clubdom—the Modocs—was founded by Charles Duggin, Esq., a well-known builder of the early seventies, and for many years an esteemed member of the Manhattan Club.

“At first the symposiums of the Modocs were held in the office of Mr. Duggin, but the Manhattan Club was later selected, and for over thirty-five years this little club within the Club has met with remarkable regularity and with a membership varying little in number from the original body.

“Nothing is so unchangeable as change, and the span of forty years leaves but few of the original ‘tribe’ living, but that limited number includes Mr. Duggin, its founder; Hon. Henry A. Gildersleeve, the distinguished jurist; and Allan R. Blount—three names which can never be disassociated from the Modocs.

“During these forty years men famous in politics and in nearly all the professions and vocations have been received in the councils of the tribe. That the Modocs still flourishes



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is because of its moderation in all things sociable, an indestructible foundation, and this it is which should insure a continuance of its robust existence.

“Its present membership consists of the following gentlemen:

Hon. Henry A. Gildersleeve  
Mr. O. R. Cauchois  
Mr. Allan R. Blount  
Mr. Herbert D. Lounsbury  
Mr. Edgar L. Newhouse  
Mr. T. Reid Fell  
Mr. J. Stevens Ulman  
Mr. John H. O'Brien  
Mr. Elting F. Warner  
Mr. A. J. Johnson  
Mr. Clarence S. Herter  
Mr. Cornelius S. Pinkney  
Mr. Frederick H. Levey  
Mr. Wilbur L. Ball  
Mr. Walter S. Roberts

“Lives of great men all remind us  
We are of a different kind—  
And departing leave behind us  
Tracks an Indian could n't find.”

Another club, which has been existing all these years without a name, is one of which Joseph S. Ulman, familiarly known on the Stock Exchange and in the Club as “Josephus,” is manager, so to speak.

The “Boarding-house Table” originated with the late Sylvester J. O'Sullivan, and the “boarders,” as they were called, embraced the following persons:

Harry Keene  
Hon. John G. Carlisle

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Charles L. Brodt  
Philip J. Britt  
James A. Deering  
Dr. J. B. Irwin  
Frederick B. Tilghman  
James Buckley

Since the organization of the table, five of its "boarders" have died, and the following are the surviving members:

Philip J. Britt  
Frederick B. Tilghman  
James Buckley

The "honorary boarders," as they were called, were Judge D-Cady Herrick, Justices Dayton and Truax, and the compiler of this history.

The table was always set for ten persons, and scarcely an evening passed but that every seat was taken. During its existence the "Boarding-house Table" entertained many prominent persons from outside of the City and State.

The table was famous for the specialties which were served, and employed persons who furnished game of various kinds during the season, as well as fish from several private preserves. Its favorite beverage was buttermilk.

It was noted during the summer season for the celebrated vegetable dinners which were served, consisting of every known vegetable grown at the time.

The members and guests indulged in discussion of various subjects, political, professional, and financial.

The table is still in existence and occupies the position where it was originally placed.

The popular games played at the Manhattan Club are billiards and dominoes. Each year a domino tournament is held, and the winner is emblazoned champion. The pres-

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ent title-holder is the popular contractor, Edward J. Kelly. Such was the joy of his friends by reason of his achievement that an ambrosial dinner was tendered in his honor.

In the early part of 1913 there was an exodus of silk-importing firms from their down-town locations to quarters on Fourth Avenue, close to the club-house. They form the backbone of one of the strongest business enterprises of this country, and the admission of their members into the Club has proved a source of mutual satisfaction. They are all men of keen business instincts, and are alive to the exigencies of the day. Although they differ from the old-style type of clubman, this has not caused friction of any sort; on the contrary, the two elements have merged agreeably, the result justifying the wisdom of the Board of Managers in admitting them. These new members have injected into the life of the Club an amount of vim, quick movement, and dash which probably is not to be found in any other similarly conditioned organization in the city. Considerateness, generosity, and good feeling radiate from all, and the Club is proud of having them on its roster. Among their names are the Gerli Brothers (Paulino, Paul B., E., and Joseph), and William G. Chave and William Schramm.

Men who have been members for thirty years or more are numerous. Among them are: Edward R. Bacon (1881), Perry Belmont (1875), John C. Calhoun (1884), Ferdinand E. Canda (1883), Charles H. De Witt (1882), Robert E. Deyo (1885), Francis A. Dugro (1884), P. Henry Dugro (1882), Roger Foster (1885), John J. Freedman (1874), J. A. Geissenhainer (1886), Henry A. Gildersleeve (1881), Lorenzo M. Gillet (1883), George L. Ingraham (1883), Laflin L. Kellogg (1878), Abraham R. Lawrence (1865), S. M. Lehman (1883), Jefferson M. Levy (1878), Mitchell A. C. Levy (1885), Napoleon L. Levy (1881), Julius J. Lyons (1869), Charles F. MacLean (1876), Manton Marble (1865), John C. Maximos (1871), Theodore W. Myers (1885), De





## THE MANHATTAN CLUB

ent title-holder is the populist contractor, Edward J. Kelly. Such was the joy of his interest by reason of his achievement that an ambrosial dinner was prepared in his honor.

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*William F. McCombs*

movement, and dash which probably is not to be found in any other similarly constituted organization in the city. Casual business, however, and more varied interests, such as the Club is proud of having members become. Among their names are the late Stephen D. White, Esq. Esq., and James and William G. Clark and William S. Brown.

Here are some names of members of thirty years or more of membership. Among them are Edward R. Adams (1860), Perry Belmont (1861), John S. Gibson (1861), Ferdinand E. Canda (1863), Charles G. De Witt (1863), Robert E. Deyo (1865), Francis A. Hugo (1864), P. Henry Lloyd (1862), Roger Foster (1865), John J. Freedman (1874), J. A. Geizerdiner (1876), Henry A. Gildersleeve (1871), Lawrence M. Gillet (1873), George L. Ingraham (1861), Ludin L. Kefoy (1874), Abraham R. Lawrence (1867), S. M. Loomis (1861), Jefferson M. Levy (1878), Mitchell A. C. Levy (1882), Napoleon L. Levy (1881), Julius J. Lyone (1861), Charles F. Mackay (1878), Marston Marble (1865), John C. Marshall (1871), Theodore W. Myers (1865), De







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Lancey Nicoll (1885), Frank K. Pendleton (1877), W. McM. Speer (1886), P. Tillinghast (1882), Edgar A. Turrell (1877), George W. Van Slyck (1871), and C. B. Webster (1885).

Among the non-resident members of similar standing are: E. M. Angel (1883), W. E. Baillie (1881), David Barclay (1883), A. W. Black (1883), C. W. Bonyngé (1880), John H. Bradford (1883), Samuel H. Buck (1883), Harry G. Cheney (1885), W. A. Clark (1885), Dubois Collier (1886), Alexander B. Coxe (1883), Davidson Dalziel (1885), Edmund W. Davis (1883), Henry G. Davis (1882), Thomas E. Davis (1878), J. Swan Frick (1883), Edward I. Frost (1886), Charles B. Greeley (1884), William G. Hibbard (1878), James J. Hill (1885), N. K. Honore (1884), Walter Stilson Hutchins (1880), C. H. Hyams (1881), Frank J. Lewis (1880), T. M. Logan (1886), Gardner F. McCandless (1883), W. G. McCormick (1882), W. J. McKinnie (1883), Constantine Menelas (1874), M. H. Murphy (1885), A. G. Ober (1880), R. W. Parsons (1881), H. C. Pierce (1885), J. A. P. Ramsdell (1875), Clarence Rathbone (1875), William G. Rice (1883), E. G. Richmond (1882), Edgar Saltus (1881), Alfred Slidell (1870), Henry E. Smith (1883), W. C. Squire (1883), W. E. Tillotson (1882), Peter D. Vroom (1886), Piers Eliot Warburton (1883), Walter P. Warren (1882), Henry Watterson (1882), Smith M. Weed (1868), W. Boerum Wetmore (1886), and Wm. H. Wheeler (1881).

From the above record might be drawn the axiom, "Belong to the Manhattan Club and live long!"

At present there are twenty-one employees of the Manhattan Club with a record of one year and over, those of longest service being Minnie Roselli, waitress for twenty-eight years; Joseph Tomblin, oysterman for twenty-seven years; Robert Strong, valet, twenty-six years; Alfred Comyns, head waiter, twenty-four years; and George Buschke, houseman, twenty-one years.

There are nine employees who have been with the Club

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between six and nine years, and seven for four—splendid witnesses to the success of masculine housekeeping.

Dan Kinder is the waiter of the two inside clubs. He knows the order of each member without asking him his wants. The same eulogy, in the realm of nectars, may be pressed on J. N. Taylor, head bartender of the Club for many years. The record is complete with a reference to the popular head hallman, William Lavery, for fifteen years in his present employment.







## CHAPTER THE SIXTEENTH

The Anniversary Banquet—A Memorable and Brilliant Affair—President Britt presides and President Wilson outlines an Administrative Programme—Speeches by Judge O'Brien, Mr. Patrick Francis Murphy, and Mr. Frank Lawrence.



**A**PPOINTED by President Philip J. Britt to weigh and discuss all plans and matters in connection with the Fiftieth Anniversary, the Anniversary Committee decided:

First, to publish a history of the Manhattan, which, after all of the foremost American printing-houses had been considered, was contracted to be issued by The De Vinne Press.

Second, and at President Britt's proposal, to erect a bronze tablet in the club-house to bear the following inscription:

### IN COMMEMORATION

Of a half century of the continuance of the Manhattan Club of New York, and more especially of the unswerving dedication of its service to the immortal principles of Democracy as conceived by our Forefathers and carried on to us by the Founders of this Club;

And in reverent thanksgiving for fifty years of our fortune, progress, and invaluable fellowship, we, the loyal

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members of the Manhattan Club of New York, have this day, the . . . day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and fifteen, erected this tablet to the undying honor of the distinguished and devoted citizens whom our Club has given to the City and State of New York and to our beloved Nation.

Third, to hold a banquet in celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary.

Every means was invoked by the Committee, after the successful carrying out of the first two clauses, to bring the third to a happy consummation. But many difficulties interposed, chief of them the circumstance that the dining-hall of the Club was inadequate to accommodate all the members who requested seats. Rather than disappoint a single member, rather than decide against what in all justice meant the rights democratically and fraternally of one and all alike, the Committee, against its original will and sentiment, voted to hold the anniversary banquet elsewhere, and, after a careful study of the many and varied hostelries of the city, the Biltmore Hotel was selected. The choice of this hotel proved the wisest possible.

In the meanwhile, President Wilson had been invited to attend the dinner and to deliver an address. The date of the celebration was left to the discretion and convenience of our Chief Executive. The President graciously accepted the invitation, designated the evening of November 4, the date finally announced by the Committee, as the one most convenient to him, and, in view of the fact that he had delivered no public speeches on the subject, selected the long awaited and universally debated topic of National Defense as the theme for his discourse on the occasion.

November 4 was made all the more momentous and worthy of record by the splendid and enthusiastically admired address of the President. Such was the broad and



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patriotic character of the speech, such was its dramatic significance, its epoch-making power, its sweeping judgment reaching down as an inspiration into the annals of future American generations, that it is imperative to rehearse, in its proper place, the story in its entirety.

Because of the greater accommodations afforded by the Biltmore Hotel, it was deemed advisable by the committee to extend invitations to the friends of guests and to prominent Democrats from all over the country. The response was immediate. When the great hall of the Biltmore finally seated the last comer, the sight was one to thrill the most jaded old-timer. Surrounded by American flags placed at each table, under the brilliant electric legend, "1865 to 1915," Democrats of every shade of Democracy sat and chatted and hobnobbed and passed along the word of good cheer and mutual good will. Republicans and Progressives mingled. The menu was pronounced by the most hardened *habitués* of dinners to be the "finest ever." Quite the most critical expectation of the strongest skeptic would have been satisfied. And the key-note of the whole evening, banquet, speeches, table-talk, repartee, and all, the spirit that played undercurrent to the general march of events, was the all-pervading motive of patriotism. Even political partisanship was forgotten, generously merged as it was in the greater factor.

Before the dinner, President Wilson, true to the highest and noblest precepts of Jeffersonian democracy, good-fellowship, and courtesy, mingled with all, shook hands with all. Those who had never met him were introduced and genially welcomed by him.

Among the invited guests who helped to make the occasion one of the most memorable in the history of clubs the world over were: Mayor Mitchel of New York; Secretary of War Lindley M. Garrison; Frank R. Lawrence, president of the Lotos Club; Rev. W. T. Manning, rector of Trinity



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Church, who delivered a beautifully appropriate prayer; and Joseph P. Tumulty, secretary to the President, all of whom sat at the President's table along with the President of the Club, and William F. McCombs, Victor J. Dowling, Morgan J. O'Brien, and James A. O'Gorman, Club members.

President Philip J. Britt was the toastmaster of the occasion, and a more capable official could not have been found anywhere. Mr. Britt delivered the opening address, a splendid speech full of allusions that warmed the hearts of the oldest as well as the newest Manhattanites. The trend of each phrase was absolutely in keeping with the lofty aims of the Anniversary.

When, after referring to the many gatherings of the Manhattan Club which had become historic, Mr. Britt said, in concluding his address—

“But it was not until to-night that it achieved its greatest distinction in having its only living honorary member, the scholar, historian, and patriot President of the United States, select this celebration as the forum whence to address his fellow-countrymen upon what are probably the most important and vital questions which have presented themselves to the people of this Nation since the beginning of the Republic. [*Continued applause.*] Mr. President, I can assure you, sir, of the heartfelt appreciation of the members and guests of the Manhattan Club of your presence with us to-night. It has shed additional splendor and glory on this celebration. And we, the members of the Manhattan Club, rejoicing in the goodly heritage of fifty years,—may we not, as we look ahead into the dim and uncertain mazes of the future, mindful of the zeal and patriotism of its founders, mindful of its great traditions and achievements, venture the hope that it will live long and prosper, and that it will continue to be a power for conservative thought and action throughout the Nation, until our country, to which it has



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President Philip J. Britt was the heartmaster of the occasion, and a more capable official could not have been found anywhere. Mr. Britt delivered the opening address, a splendid speech full of allusions that warmed the hearts of the oldest as well as the newest Manhattanites. The trend of each phrase was absolutely in keeping with the holy aims of the Anniversary.

When, after referring to the many gatherings of the Manhattan Club which had become historic, Mr. Britt said, in concluding his address:

*James Watson Gerard*

"But it was one small to-night that it achieved its greatest distinction in having for its very temporary number, the scholar, historian, and general friend of the United States, make this anniversary in the home which he addressed and followed by a speech upon what are probably the most important and vital questions which have presented themselves to the people of this Nation since the beginning of the Republic. (Continued applause.) Mr. President, I am sure you, sir, of the beautiful appreciation of the members and guests of the Manhattan Club at your presence with us to-night. It has shed additional splendor and glory on this celebration. And we, the members of the Manhattan Club, rejoicing in the goodly heritage of fifty years,—may we not, as we look ahead into the dim and uncertain mazes of the future, mindful of the zeal and patriotism of its founders, proud of its great traditions and achievements, venture the hope that it will live long and prosper, and that it will continue to be a power for conservative thought and action throughout the Nation, until our country, so which it has







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given so many illustrious sons, shall be no more? [*Continued applause.*] Gentlemen, I give you the health of the President of the United States."

—the banquet-hall presented a never to be forgotten scene; every person rose to his feet and joined in the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner," which was followed for some minutes by continuous applause and waving of American flags.

Other speakers were ex-President Morgan J. O'Brien, Patrick Francis Murphy, the nonpareil of after-dinner speakers, and President Lawrence of the Lotos Club. Judge O'Brien, than whom no more appropriate individual for the part assigned to him could have been designated, recounted the glories and memories of Manhattan Club history. Patrick Francis Murphy was in his finest fettle, and when that is said no further tribute can be added. In speaking of President Wilson, he remarked wittily and appropriately: "A man may be too proud to fight, and yet find himself in a serious engagement." President Lawrence spoke in behalf of the sister clubs of New York.

Wave after wave of applause greeted President Wilson after Mr. Britt had said, in presenting him to the company, that history would accord him a place by the side of Washington and Lincoln, and "that this country is not now plunged into that inferno of bloodshed that is devastating Europe is attributable to the cool head, great mind, and patriotic heart of Woodrow Wilson."

Time and time again, outbursts of enthusiasm and hearty cheering accentuated leading points in the President's speech and interrupted its even flow. Mr. Wilson spoke with characteristic dignity and quietude of accent and demeanor. Immediately upon the conclusion of the now famous address, accounts of it and the details of the great Anniversary Celebration were sent to all parts of America and Europe, large



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space being devoted to the occasion by virtually all the great newspapers of the world.

President Wilson's speech was as follows:

*“Mr. Toastmaster and Gentlemen:*

“I warmly felicitate the Club upon the completion of fifty years of successful and interesting life. Club life may be made to mean a great deal to those who know how to use it. I have no doubt that to a great many of you has come genuine stimulation in the associations of this place, and that as the years have multiplied you have seen more and more the useful ends which may be served by organizations of this sort.

“But I have not come to speak wholly of that, for there are others of your own members who can speak of the Club with a knowledge and an intelligence which no one can have who has not been intimately associated with it. Men band themselves together for the sake of the association, no doubt, but also for something greater and deeper than that—because they are conscious of common interests lying outside their business occupations, because they are members of the same community, and in frequent intercourse find mutual stimulation and a real maximum of vitality and power.

“I shall assume that here around the dinner-table on this memorial occasion our talk should properly turn to the wide and common interests which are most in our thoughts, whether they be the interests of the community or of the Nation.

“A year and a half ago our thought would have been almost altogether of great domestic questions. They are many and of vital consequence. We must and shall address ourselves to their solution with diligence, firmness, and self-possession, notwithstanding we find ourselves in the midst of a world disturbed by great disaster and ablaze with terrible war; but our thought is now inevitably of new things about which formerly we gave ourselves little concern.

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“We are thinking now chiefly of our relations with the rest of the world—not our commercial relations—about those we have thought and planned always—but about our political relations, our duties as an individual and independent force in the world to ourselves, our neighbors, and the world itself.

### AMERICAN PRINCIPLES

“Our principles are well known. It is not necessary to avow them again. We believe in political liberty and founded our great Government to obtain it, the liberty of men and of peoples—of men to choose their own lives and of peoples to choose their own allegiance.

“Our ambition, also, all the world has knowledge of. It is not only to be free and prosperous ourselves, but also to be the friend and thoughtful partisan of those who are free or who desire freedom the world over. If we have had aggressive purposes and covetous ambitions, they were the fruit of our thoughtless youth as a Nation, and we have put them aside.

“We shall, I confidently believe, never again take another foot of territory by conquest. We shall never in any circumstances seek to make an independent people subject to our dominion; because we believe, we passionately believe, in the right of every people to choose their own allegiance and be free of masters altogether.

“For ourselves, we wish nothing but the full liberty of self-development; and with ourselves in this great matter we associate all the peoples of our own hemisphere. We wish not only for the United States, but for them the fullest freedom of independent growth and of action, for we know that throughout this hemisphere the same aspirations are everywhere being worked out, under diverse conditions, but with the same impulse and ultimate object.

“All this is very clear to us and will, I confidently predict, become more and more clear to the whole world as the great



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processes of the future unfold themselves. It is with a full consciousness of such principles and such ambitions that we are asking ourselves at the present time what our duty is with regard to the armed force of the Nation.

“Within a year we have witnessed what we did not believe possible—a great European conflict involving many of the greatest nations of the world. The influences of a great war are everywhere in the air. All Europe is embattled. Force everywhere speaks out with a loud and imperious voice in a titanic struggle of governments, and from one end of our own dear country to the other men are asking one another what our own force is, how far we are prepared to maintain ourselves against any interference with our national action or development.

### “NOT FOR AGGRESSION”

“In no man’s mind, I am sure, is there even raised the question of the wilful use of force on our part against any nation or any people. No matter what military or naval force the United States might develop, statesmen throughout the whole world might rest assured that we were gathering that force, not for attack in any quarter, not for aggression of any kind, not for the satisfaction of any political or international ambition, but merely to make sure of our own security. We have it in mind to be prepared, but not for war, only for defense; and with the thought constantly in our minds that the principles we hold most dear can be achieved by the slow processes of history only in the kindly and wholesome atmosphere of peace, and not by the use of hostile force. The mission of America in the world is essentially a mission of peace and good will among men. She has become the home and asylum of men of all creeds and races. Within her hospitable borders they have found homes and congenial associations and freedom and a wide and cordial welcome, and they have become part of the bone and sinew and spirit of



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America itself. America has been made up out of the nations of the world and is the friend of the nations of the world.

“But we feel justified in preparing ourselves to vindicate our right to independent and unmolested action by making the force that is in us ready for assertion.

“And we know that we can do this in a way that will be itself an illustration of the American spirit. In accordance with our American traditions we want and shall work for only an army adequate to the constant and legitimate uses of times of international peace. But we do want to feel that there is a great body of citizens who have received at least the most rudimentary and necessary forms of military training; that they will be ready to form themselves into a fighting force at the call of the Nation; and that the Nation has the munitions and supplies with which to equip them without delay, should it be necessary to call them into action.

“We wish to supply them with the training they need, and we think we can do so without calling them at any time too long away from their civilian pursuits.

“It is with this idea, with this conception, in mind that the plans have been made which it will be my privilege to lay before the Congress at its next session. That plan calls for only such an increase in the regular army of the United States as experience has proved to be required for the performance of the necessary duties of the army in the Philippines, in Hawaii, in Porto Rico, upon the borders of the United States, at the coast fortifications, and at the military posts of the interior.

“For the rest, it calls for the training within the next three years of a force of 400,000 citizen soldiers to be raised in annual contingents of 133,000, who would be asked to enlist for three years with the colors and three years on furlough, but who during their three years of enlistment with the colors would not be organized as a standing force, but would be ex-

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pected merely to undergo intensive training for a very brief period of each year.

“Their training would take place in immediate association with the organized units of the regular army. It would have no touch of the amateur about it, neither would it exact of the volunteers more than they could give in any one year from their civilian pursuits.

“And none of this would be done in such a way as in the slightest degree to supersede or subordinate our present serviceable and efficient National Guard. On the contrary, the National Guard itself would be used as part of the instrumentality by which training would be given the citizens who enlisted under the new conditions, and I should hope and expect that the legislation by which all this would be accomplished would put the National Guard itself upon a better and more permanent footing than it has ever been before, giving it not only the recognition which it deserves, but a more definite support from the National Government and a more definite connection with the military organization of the Nation.

“What we all wish to accomplish is that the forces of the Nation should indeed be part of the Nation and not a separate professional force, and the chief cost of the system would not be in the enlistment or in the training of the men, but in the providing of ample equipment in case it should be necessary to call all forces into the field.

## THE NAVY

“Moreover, it has been American policy time out of mind to look to the navy as the first and chief line of defense. The navy of the United States is already a very great and efficient force. Not rapidly, but slowly, with careful attention, our naval force has been developed until the navy of the United States stands recognized as one of the most efficient and notable of the modern time. All that is needed in order to





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"If we are all right in assuming that in the course of the war the United States should be part of the Nation, and not a separate government, then the only way in which the United States would not be in the possession of the resources of the Nation, but in the possession of such resources as it would be necessary to sell all these men for the war.

## THE NAVY

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bring it to a point of extraordinary force and efficiency as compared with the other navies of the world is that we should hasten our pace in the policy we have long been pursuing, and that chief of all we should have a definite policy of development, not made from year to year, but looking well into the future and planning for a definite consummation.

“We can and should profit in all that we do by the experience and example that have been made obvious to us by the military and naval events of the actual present. It is not merely a matter of building battle-ships and cruisers and submarines, but also a matter of making sure that we shall have the adequate equipment of men and munitions and supplies for the vessels we build and intend to build.

“Part of our problem is the problem of what I may call the mobilization of the resources of the Nation at the proper time, if it should ever be necessary to mobilize them for national defense. We shall study efficiency and adequate equipment as carefully as we shall study the number and size of our ships, and I believe that the plans already in part made public by the Navy Department are plans which the whole Nation can approve with rational enthusiasm.

“No thoughtful man feels any panic haste in this matter. The country is not threatened from any quarter. She stands in friendly relations with all the world. Her resources are known, and her self-respect and her capacity to care for her own citizens and her own rights. There is no fear among us. Under the new world conditions we have become thoughtful of the things which all reasonable men consider necessary for security and self-defense on the part of every nation confronted with the great enterprise of human liberty and independence. That is all.

### “NO PRIDE OF OPINION”

“Is the plan we propose sane and reasonable and suited to the needs of the hour? Does it not conform to the ancient

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traditions of America? Has any better plan been proposed than this programme that we now place before the country? In it there is no pride of opinion. It represents the best professional and expert judgment of the country.

“But I am not so much interested in programmes as I am in safeguarding at every cost the good faith and honor of the country. If men differ with me in this vital matter, I shall ask them to make it clear how far and in what way they are interested in making the permanent interests of the country safe against disturbance.

“In the fulfilment of the programme I propose I shall ask for the hearty support of the country, of the rank and file of America, of men of all shades of political opinion. For my position in this important matter is different from that of the private individual who is free to speak his own thoughts and to risk his own opinions in this matter.

“We are here dealing with things that are vital to the life of America itself. In doing this I have tried to purge my heart of all personal and selfish motives. For the time being I speak as the trustee and guardian of a Nation’s rights, charged with the duty of speaking for that Nation in matters involving her sovereignty—a Nation too big and generous to be exacting, and yet courageous enough to defend its rights and the liberties of its people wherever assailed or invaded.

“I would not feel that I was discharging the solemn obligation I owe the country were I not to speak in terms of the deepest solemnity of the urgency and necessity of preparing ourselves to guard and protect the rights and privileges of our people, our sacred heritage of the fathers who struggled to make us an independent Nation.

“The only thing within our own borders that has given us grave concern in recent months has been that voices have been raised in America professing to be the voices of Americans which were not indeed and in truth American, but which spoke alien sympathies, which came from men who



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loved other countries better than they loved America, men who were partisans of other causes than that of America and had forgotten that their chief and only allegiance was to the great Government under which they live.

“These voices have not been many, but they have been very loud and very clamorous. They have proceeded from a few who were bitter and who were grievously misled. America has not opened its doors in vain to men and women out of other nations. The vast majority of those who have come to take advantage of her hospitality have united their spirit with hers as well as their fortunes. These men who speak alien sympathies are not their spokesmen, but are the spokesmen of small groups whom it is high time that the Nation should call to a reckoning.

“The chief thing necessary in America in order that she should let all the world know that she is prepared to maintain her own great position is that the real voice of the Nation should sound forth unmistakably and in majestic volume in the deep unison of a common, unhesitating national feeling. I do not doubt that upon the first occasion, upon the first opportunity, upon the first definite challenge, that voice will speak forth in tones which no man can doubt, and with commands which no man dare gainsay or resist.

“May I not say, while I am speaking of this, that there is another danger that we should guard against? We should rebuke not only manifestations of racial feeling here in America, where there should be none, but also every manifestation of religious and sectarian antagonism.

“It does not become America that within her borders, where every man is free to follow the dictates of his conscience and worship God as he pleases, men should raise the cry of church against church. To do that is to strike at the very spirit and heart of America. We are God-fearing people. We agree to differ about methods of worship, but we are united in believing in Divine Providence and in worship-



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ing the God of Nations. We are the champions of religious right here and everywhere that it may be our privilege to give it our countenance and support. The Government is conscious of the obligation, and the Nation is conscious of the obligation. Let no man create divisions where there are none.

“Here is the Nation God has builded by our hands. What shall we do with it? Who is there who does not stand ready at all times to act in her behalf in a spirit of devoted and disinterested patriotism? We are yet only in the youth and first consciousness of our power. The day of our country’s life is still but in its fresh morning. Let us lift our eyes to the great tracts of life yet to be conquered in the interests of righteous peace. Come, let us renew our allegiance to America, conserve her strength in its purity, make her chief among those who serve mankind, self-reverenced, self-commanded, mistress of all forces of quiet counsel, strong above all others in good will and the might of invincible justice and right.”

The day after the delivery of the President’s speech the newspapers contained a “statement” from the recent Secretary of State in which he not only antagonized every position and opinion of his former Chief, but assailed his choice of a forum. “I hope,” said Mr. Bryan, “the President will not be deceived by the atmosphere of the Manhattan Club. That is the one place in the United States where the mammon-worshipping portion of the Democratic Party meets to exchange compliments; there is no group farther removed from the sentiment of the masses, whether you measure that sentiment by economical, social or religious standards.” Upon reading this, one of the oldest members of the Club, a veteran Democrat and by no means a millionaire, sententiously observed: “A man who could go into a court of law and contend with a widow for a share of a small estate upon which he had no just claim; who could serve grape-juice to save

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wine-bills; and who, forgetting alike the duties and dignities of his office, whilst complaining of a stipend regarded by all his predecessors as sufficient, could discredit the one and neglect the other by converting himself into a peripatetic showman, is not a fit person to lecture anybody upon the mammon of unrighteousness."

Dinners may come and dinners may go; other great anniversaries will follow; men, nations and events will take their course. But when records pass down into history to be perused and contemplated by the sons and grandsons of present-day Manhattan members, November 4, 1915, will be not only remembered, but it will be referred to with a certain admiration and reverence justly due to the greatest night in the history of the Club. And with the radiance of the future there will silently join the spirit of the past, represented by the loyal men who started the Manhattan Club on its way and carried it to its present development, in recognition at once of efficient brotherhood and of splendid achievement so wholly yet unobtrusively won by those who made the fourth of November what it was.









*Henry Watterson*







## L'ENVOI







## L'ENVOI

### I



**L**THOUGH something less than fifty years ago, it seems a full century since the Editor of these records crossed the threshold of the old Benkard house and entered the Manhattan Club, the guest of one of the most eminent and important of its members, the late August Belmont.

I recall that we were joined at luncheon by Mr. Samuel J. Tilden and General Elijah Ward. I had known both of them, as, indeed, Mr. Belmont, before the war—that is, the War of Sections, which was then but just ended—to most thoughtful Americans a horrible nightmare. The Democratic Party had reached a low ebb in its fortunes, but Democracy was still a password. The four of us were Democrats. The Club had been organized, if possible, to revitalize Democracy.

Curiously enough, our talk was not political, but personal and reminiscential. It dealt mainly with Washington City and New York, and what had happened the last few years, and was passing now, the changes of relation and fortunes the great upheaval had brought about, the queer marriages and untimely deaths—Mr. Tilden, a bachelor, and

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General Ward, but recently a Benedict, both men of society, and interested in fashion; Mr. Belmont, the master of a household whose chatelaine, with Mrs. Astor, stood at the head of the "Four Hundred" of the period. Mrs. Belmont was a Perry, of the celebrated naval family, and the story of her marriage to Mr. Belmont was still a familiar and inspiring romance. He went lame and walked with a cane to the end of his days from a bullet wound acquired in a somewhat Quixotic duel fought in defense of what he thought his manhood and honor. Though a statesman and a banker of recognized standing and high rank, he remained a *preux chevalier*, quick to answer and punish insult, prompt in sympathy, a generous friend and a dangerous enemy.

An almost unconscious rivalry arose in time between Mr. Belmont and Mr. Tilden. There was a certain intellectual likeness between them. Each had a genius for finance, and each was a publicist.

Two softer-hearted human beings in the sentimentalities of life were never born into the world. Mr. Belmont attached himself to Mr. Bayard. He appeared in two National Conventions, that of 1876 and that of 1884, at the head of the committee urging Mr. Bayard's nomination for the Presidency. At the outset Mr. Tilden resented this; but in the campaign following the convention of 1876, which had nominated him and not Mr. Bayard for President, he found no reason to complain of Mr. Belmont's whole-hearted and bountiful support.

There was not so much as a dream of Governorship and Presidential nominations as our little party of four sat and gossiped that day about the lunch-table. Nearly ten years were to pass before Mr. Tilden "got into the game," that is, became a candidate for office and a militant party force, being then and through the intervening decade a Democrat of character and influence, but as committeeman and counselor. The successful movement to break the Tweed Ring



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and bring its brigand chief to justice made him a conspicuous figure and a power to be reckoned with.

He had a fancy for the gubernatorial nomination in 1872, when there was no chance of election, and was given the nomination in 1874, when it seemed that there was small chance, and when in consequence no one else desired it.

I had first met Mr. Tilden in the National Democratic Convention of 1860 at Baltimore, where I was serving as a newspaper reporter. We went away from the Manhattan Club that day arm in arm; he took me to his house in Gramercy Park; we passed the afternoon in his noble library, dined together, and thenceforward to the day of his death our relations were of the most intimate and affectionate. Though a modest and somewhat retiring member of the Manhattan Club, he was a most earnest and interested member. The history of the Club and his history ran on very nearly parallel lines from those days to the day of his death. As they mark the renaissance of the Democratic Party, to which the Club was dedicated, it may be neither irrelevant nor uninteresting to relate that particular chapter with some detail.

## II

The nomination of Horace Greeley in 1872 and the overwhelming defeat which followed left the Democratic Party in an abyss of despair. The old Whig Party, after the disaster which overtook it in 1852, had not been more demoralized. Yet in the general elections of 1874 the Democrats swept the country, carrying many Northern States and sending a great majority to the Forty-fourth Congress.

Reconstruction was breaking down of its very weight and rottenness. The panic of 1873 reacted against the party in power. Dissatisfaction with Grant, which had not sufficed two years before to displace him, was growing apace. Favoritism bred corruption, and corruption grew more and



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more defiant. Succeeding scandals cast their shadows before. The chickens of carpet-baggery let loose upon the South were coming home to roost at the North. There appeared everywhere a noticeable subsidence of the sectional spirit and a rising tide of the national spirit. Reform was needed alike in the State governments and in the National government, and the cry for reform proved something other than an idle word. All things made for Democracy.

Yet there were multiplied and serious handicaps. The light and leading of the historic Democratic Party which had issued from the South were in exile; most of those surviving who had been distinguished in the party conduct and counsels were disabled by act of Congress. Of the few prominent Democrats left at the North, many were tainted by what was called copperheadism. To find a leader wholly free from this contamination, Democracy was turning to such disaffected Republicans as Chase, Field, and Davis of the Supreme Court, having failed of success not only with Greeley, but with McClellan and Seymour. At last Heaven seemed to smile from the clouds upon the disordered ranks and to summon thence a man meeting the requirements of the time. This was Samuel Jones Tilden.

To his familiars Mr. Tilden was a dear old bachelor who lived in a fine old mansion in Gramercy Park. Though sixty years of age, he seemed in the prime of manhood; a genial and overflowing scholar; a trained and earnest doctrinaire; a public-spirited, patriotic citizen, well known and highly esteemed, who had made fame and fortune at the Bar, but had never held important office. He was a dreamer with a head for business; a philosopher, yet an organizer. He pursued the tenor of his life with measured tread. His domestic fabric was disfigured by none of the isolation and squalor that so often attend the confirmed celibate. His home life was a model of order and decorum; his home as unchallenged as a bishopric, its hospitality, though select, abun-



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more defeat. Sweeping scandals cast their shadows before. The chickens of copper-beggery let loose upon the South were eating hoppers to hoast at the North. There appeared everywhere a noticeable abridgment of the national spirit and a rising tide of the national spirit. Reform was needed alike in the State governments and in the National government, and the cry for reform, against something other than an idle word. All things must be revolutionary.

Yet there was multifolied and various leadership. The light and leading of the historic Democratic Party seems to have issued from the South were in effect none of those surviving who had been distinguished in the party conflict and councils were disabled by act of Congress. Of the few prominent Democrats left at the North, many were tainted by what was called copperheadism. To find a leader wholly free from this contamination *John T. Agnew* turning to such disaffected Republicans as Cass, Field, and Davis of the Supreme Court, having voted at various one party with Greeley, but with McDowell and Sherman. At this juncture seemed to arise from the clouds upon the horizon a man and a nation whose a man working for the government in the west. This was Samuel James Tilden.

To Mr. Greeley Mr. Tilden was a dear old bachelor who lived in a four-story house in New York City. Though sixty years of age, he seemed in no sense of youth; a genial and overflowing scholar; a trusted and earnest debater; a public-spirited, patriotic citizen, well known and highly esteemed, who had made fame and fortune at the bar, but had never held important office. He was a dreamer with a head for business; a philosopher, yet an organizer. He pursued the track of his life with measured tread. His domestic life was defaced by none of the isolation and seclusion that so often attend the confirmed celibate. His home life was a model of order and decorum; his home as unchallenged as a bishopric, its hospitality, though select, shun-





The portrait of General Paul de la Motte, a French general, was painted by the artist, the French painter, in the year 1800.



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dant and untiring. An elder sister presided at his board, as simple, kindly, and unostentatious, but as methodical, as himself. He was a lover of rare books, but also of blooded cattle, horses and dogs, and out-of-door activities; not much of music and art. He was fond of young people, particularly of young girls, and drew them about him, and was a veritable Sir Roger de Coverley in his gallantries toward them and his zeal in amusing them and making them happy. His tastes were frugal, and their indulgence sparing. He took his wine not plenteously, though he enjoyed it—especially his “blue seal” while it lasted—and sipped his whisky-and-water on occasion with a pleased composure redolent of discursive talk, of which, when he cared to lead the conversation, he was a master. He had early come into a great legal practice and held a commanding place at the Bar. His law judgments were believed to be infallible; and it is certain that he rarely appeared in the courts, settling most of the cases that came to him in chambers.

It was such a man whom in 1874 the Democrats nominated for Governor of New York. To say truth, it was not thought by those making the nomination that he had much chance to win. He was himself so much better advised that months ahead he prefigured very nearly the exact vote. The afternoon of the day of election I found him in his library, confident and calm.

“What majority will you have?” he asked cheerily.

“Any,” I replied, having, of course, the Presidential nomination in mind.

“How about 15,000?”

“Quite enough.”

“25,000?”

“Still better.”

“The majority,” he said, “will be a little in excess of 50,000.” It was 53,315. His estimate was not guesswork. He had organized his campaign by school districts. His



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canvass system was perfect, his canvassers were as penetrating and careful as census-takers. He had before him reports from every voting precinct in the State. They were corroborated by the official returns. He had defeated General John A. Dix, thought to be invincible, by a majority very nearly the same as that by which Governor Dix had been elected two years before.

There was great rejoicing that night at the Manhattan Club. The Club had a right to claim its share of the glory, which was all the more grateful because it was unexpected. Mr. Tilden was no rabble-rouser. He kept alike his secrets and his counsels. He had not proclaimed the impending victory from the house-tops. But let us draw the curtain and leave the braves at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Fifteenth Street to their unrestrained conviviality.

### III

The time and the man had met. Although Mr. Tilden had not before held administrative office, he was ripe and ready for the work to be done. His experience in the pursuit and overthrow of the Tweed Ring in New York, the great metropolis, had prepared and fitted him to deal with the Canal Ring at Albany, the State capital. Administrative reform was now uppermost in the public mind, and here in the Empire State of the Union had come to the head of affairs a chief magistrate at once exact and exacting, deeply versed not only in legal lore, but in a knowledge of the men through whom and the methods by which political power was being turned to private profit. There were Democrats as well as Republicans among those preying upon the substance of the people.

The story of the two years that followed relates to investigations that investigated, to prosecutions that convicted, to the overhauling of the civil fabric and the rehabilitation

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of popular censorship, to reduced estimates and lower taxes. The Manhattan Club supported these manfully. It saw in them the realization of the objects which had called it into being.

The campaign for the Presidential nomination began as early as the autumn of 1875. The Southern end of it was easy enough. A committee of Southerners residing in New York, most of them members of the Club, was formed. Never a leading Southern man came to town who was not "seen." If of enough importance, he was shown around to 15 Gramercy Park. Be sure he next turned up at the corner of Fifteenth Street and Fifth Avenue.

Mr. Tilden measured up to the Southern standard of the gentleman in politics. He impressed the disfranchised Southern leaders as a statesman of the old order, and altogether after their own idea of what a President ought to be. The South came to St. Louis, the seat of the National Convention, represented by its foremost citizens and almost a unit for the Governor of New York. The main opposition sprang from Tammany Hall, of which John Kelly was then the chief. Its very extravagance proved an advantage to Tilden. Two days before the meeting of the convention I sent this message to Gramercy Park, "Tell Blackstone" (his favorite among his horses and a Kentuckian) "that he wins in a walk." The anti-Tilden men put up the Hon. S. S. ("Sunset") Cox for temporary chairman. It was a clever move. Mr. Cox, though sure for Tammany, was popular everywhere, and very much so at the South. His backers thought that with him they could count upon a majority of the National Committee.

The night before the assembling Mr. Tilden's two or three leading friends on the Committee came to me and said, "We can elect you chairman over Cox, but no one else." I demurred at once. "I don't know one rule of parliamentary law from another," I said. "We will have the best parliamen-



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tarian on the continent right by you all the time," they said. "I can't see to recognize a man on the floor of the convention," I said. "We 'll have a dozen men to see for you," they replied. So it was arranged, and thus at the last moment I was chosen.

I had barely time to write the required "key-note" speech, but not to commit it to memory, nor sight to read it even had I been willing to adopt that mode of delivery. It would never do in such a matter to trust to extemporization. A friend, Colonel Stoddard Johnston, who was familiar with my rough penmanship, came to the rescue. Concealing my manuscript behind his hat, he lined the words out to me between the cheering, I having mastered a few opening sentences.

Luck was with me. It went with a bang. Not wholly without detection, however. The Indianians, devoted to Hendricks, were very wroth. "See that fat man behind the hat telling him what to say," said one to his neighbor, who answered, "Yes, and wrote it for him, too, I 'll be bound."

One might as well attempt to drive six horses by proxy as preside over a National Convention by hearsay. I lost my parliamentarian at once. I just made my parliamentary law as we went along. Never before nor since did any deliberative body proceed under manual so startling and original. But I delivered each ruling with a resonance—it were better called an impudence—which had an air of authority. There was a good deal of quiet laughing on the floor among the knowing ones—though I knew the mass were as ignorant as I was myself—and, realizing that I meant to be just and was expediting business, the Convention soon warmed to me, and, feeling this, I began to be perfectly at home. I never had a better day's sport in all my life.

One incident was particularly amusing. Much against my will and over my protest, I was brought to promise that Miss Phoebe Couzins, who bore a Woman's Rights me-



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morial, should at some opportune moment be given the floor to present it. I foresaw what a row it was bound to raise. Toward noon, when there was a lull in the proceedings, I said with an emphasis meant to carry conviction: "Gentlemen of the Convention, Miss Phœbe Couzins, a representative of the Woman's Rights Association of America, has a memorial from that body, and, in the absence of other immediate business, the Chair will now recognize her."

Then the storm broke loose. Instantly, and from every part of the hall, there arose cries of "No!" The opposition put some heart into me. Many a time as a school-boy I had proudly declaimed the passage from John Home's tragedy, "My name is Norval." Again I stood upon "the Grampian hills." The committee was escorting Miss Couzins down the aisle. When she came within the range of my poor vision I could see that she was a beauty and dressed to kill! That was reassurance. Gaining a little time while the hall fairly rocked with its thunder of negation, I laid the gavel down, stepped to the edge of the platform, and gave Miss Couzins my hand. As she appeared above the throng there was a momentary "Ah," and then a lull broken by a single voice: "Mr. Chairman, I rise to a point of order." Leading Miss Couzins to the front of the stage, I took up the gavel and gave a gentle rap, saying, "The gentleman will take his seat."

"But, Mr. Chairman, I rise to a point of order," he vociferated.

"The gentleman will take his seat instantly," I answered in the tone of one about to throw the gavel at his head. "No point of order is in order when a lady has the floor."

After that Miss Couzins received a positive ovation, and, having delivered her message, retired in a blaze of glory.

Mr. Tilden was nominated on the second ballot. The campaign which followed proved one of the most memorable in our history. When it came to an end the result showed

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on the face of the returns 196 in the Electoral College, 21 more than a majority, and in the popular vote 4,300,316, a majority of 264,300 over Hayes.

How this came to be first contested and then complicated so as ultimately to be set aside has been minutely related by its authors.

The newspapers of the eighth of November, the morning after the election, both Republican and Democratic, conceded an overwhelming victory for Tilden and Hendricks. There was, however, a single exception. The "New York Times" had gone to press with its first edition leaving the result in doubt, though inclining toward the success of the Democrats. In its later editions this tentative attitude was changed to the statement that Hayes lacked the vote only of Florida, "claimed by the Republicans," to be sure of the required 185 votes in the Electoral College. The story of this surprising discrepancy between midnight and daylight reads like a chapter of fiction.

After the early edition of the "Times" had gone to press certain members of the editorial staff were at supper, very much cast down by the returns, when a messenger brought a telegram from Senator Barnum of Connecticut, finance head of the Democratic National Committee, asking for the "Times's" latest news from Oregon, Louisiana, Florida, and South Carolina. Except for that unlucky telegram, Tilden would probably have been inaugurated President of the United States.

The "Times" people, intense Republican partisans, saw at once an opportunity. If Barnum did not know, why might not a doubt be raised? At once the editorial in the first edition was revised to take a decisive tone and declare the election of Hayes. One of the editorial council, Mr. John C. Reid, hurried to Republican headquarters in the Fifth Avenue Hotel, which he found deserted, the triumph of Tilden having long before sent everybody to bed. Mr. Reid then





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After the early edition of the "Times" had gone to press  
calling attention of the world and here in New York, they  
found out that by mistake the news, while a messenger brought  
a telegram from the Governor of Connecticut, stating  
head of the Editorial Board, that the result was  
"Times's" news was that the result was Tilden and  
South Carolina. Every one in the city who saw the  
would probably have been surprised if it had  
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sought the room of Senator Zachariah Chandler, chairman of the National Republican Committee. While upon this errand he encountered in the hotel corridor "a small man wearing an immense pair of goggles, his hat drawn over his ears, a great-coat with a heavy military cloak, and carrying a gripsack and newspaper in his hand." The newspaper was the "New York Tribune" announcing the election of Tilden and the defeat of Hayes. The newcomer was Mr. William E. Chandler, just arrived from New Hampshire and very much exasperated by what he had read.

Mr. Reid had another tale to tell. The two found Mr. Zachariah Chandler, who bade them "leave him alone and do whatever they thought best." They did so consumingly, sending telegrams to Columbia, Tallahassee, and New Orleans stating to each of the parties addressed that the result of the election depended upon his State. To these were appended the signature of Zachariah Chandler. Later in the day, Senator Chandler, advised of what had been set on foot and its possibilities, issued from National Republican Headquarters this laconic message: "Hayes has 185 Electoral votes and is elected." Thus began and was put in motion the scheme to confuse the returns and make a disputed count of the vote.

## IV

The day after the election I wired Mr. Tilden suggesting that, as Governor of New York, he propose to Mr. Hayes, the Governor of Ohio, that they unite upon a committee of eminent citizens, composed in equal numbers of the friends of each, who should proceed at once to Louisiana, which appeared to be the objective point of greatest moment to the already contested result. Pursuant to a telegraphic correspondence which followed, I left Louisville that night for New Orleans. I was joined en route by Mr. Lamar of Mis-

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issippi, and together we arrived in the Crescent City on Friday morning.

It has since transpired that the Republicans were promptly advised by the Western Union Telegraph Company of all that passed over its wires, and my despatches to Mr. Tilden were read in Republican headquarters at least as soon as they reached Gramercy Park.

Mr. Tilden did not adopt the plan of a direct proposal to Mr. Hayes. Instead he chose a body of Democrats to go to the "seat of war." But before any of them had arrived, General Grant, anticipating what was about to happen, appointed a body of Republicans for the like purpose, and the advance-guard of these appeared on the scene the following Monday.

Within a week the St. Charles Hotel might have been mistaken for a caravansary of the national capital. Among the Republicans there were John Sherman, Stanley Matthews, Garfield and Evarts, Logan, Kelly, and Stoughton, and many others. Among the Democrats, besides Lamar and myself, came Lyman Trumbull, Samuel J. Randall, and William R. Morrison, McDonald of Indiana, and many others. More or less of personal intimacy existed between the members of the two groups, and the "entente" was quite as unrestrained as might have existed between rival athletic teams. A Kentucky friend sent me a demijohn of what was represented as very old Bourbon, and I shared it with "our friends the enemy." New Orleans was new to most of the "visiting statesmen," and we attended the places of amusement, lived in the restaurants, and "saw the sights," as though we had been tourists in a foreign land and not partisans charged with the business of adjusting a Presidential election from irreconcilable points of view.

My own relations were especially friendly with John Sherman and James A. Garfield, a colleague on the Ways and Means Committee, and with Stanley Matthews, who was a



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near kinsman by marriage and had stood as an elder brother to me from my childhood.

Corruption was in the air. That the Returning Board was for sale and could be bought was the universal impression. Every day some one turned up with pretended authority and an offer. Most of these were, of course, the merest adventurers. It was my own belief that the Returning Board was playing for the best price it could get from the Republicans, and that the only effect of any offer to buy on our part would be to assist this scheme of blackmail.

The Returning Board consisted of two white men, Wells and Anderson, and two negroes, Kenner and Casanave. They were one and all without character. I was tempted through sheer curiosity to listen to a proposal which seemed to come directly from the Board itself, the messenger being a well-known State senator. As if he were proposing to dispose of a horse or a dog, he stated his errand.

"You think you can deliver the goods?" said I.

"I am authorized to make the offer," he answered.

"And for how much?" I asked.

"Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars," he replied. "One hundred thousand each for Wells and Anderson, and twenty-five thousand apiece for the niggers."

To my mind it was a joke. "Senator," said I, "the terms are as cheap as dirt. I don't happen to have the exact amount about me at this moment, but I will communicate with my principal and see you later."

Having no thought of communicating with anybody or seriously entertaining such a proposal, I had forgotten the incident, when, two or three days after, my man met me in the lobby of the hotel and pressed for a definite reply. I then told him I had found I possessed no authority to act, and advised him to go elsewhere.

It is claimed that Wells and Anderson did agree to sell, were turned down by Mr. Hewitt, and, their demands for



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cash refused by the Democrats, took their final pay in patronage from their own party.<sup>1</sup>

### V

I passed the Christmas week of 1876 in New York with Mr. Tilden. We dined alone on Christmas Day. The outlook was, on the whole, cheering. With John Bigelow and Manton Marble he had been busily engaged compiling the data for a constitutional battle to be fought by the Democrats in Congress, maintaining the right of the House of Representatives to concurrent jurisdiction with the Senate in the counting of the Electoral vote, pursuant to an unbroken line of precedents established by the method of procedure in every Presidential election between 1793 and 1873.

There was very great perplexity in the public mind. Both parties were far at sea. The dispute between the Democratic House and the Republican Senate made for thick weather. Contests of the vote of three States, Louisiana, South Carolina, and Florida—not to mention single votes in Oregon and Vermont—which presently began to blow a gale, had already spread menacing clouds across the political sky. Except Mr. Tilden, the wisest among the leaders knew not precisely what to do.

From New Orleans, the Saturday night succeeding the Presidential election, I had wired Mr. Tilden detailing the exact conditions there and urging active and immediate agitation. The chance had been lost. I thought then, and I

<sup>1</sup> At a meeting held at Chickering Hall on the evening of November 12, 1891, to sympathize with Governor Nichols's war on the Louisiana lottery system, the late Abram S. Hewitt was one of the speakers. In the course of his remarks in denunciation of the lottery gambling in Louisiana, Mr. Hewitt said:

"I can't find words strong enough to express my feelings regarding this brazen fraud. This scheme of plunder develops a weak spot in the government of the United States, which I would not mention were it not for the importance of the issue. We all know that a single State frequently determines the result of a Presidential election. The State of Louisiana has determined the result of a Presidential election. The vote of that State was offered to me for money, and I declined to buy it. But the vote of that State was sold for money!"

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still think, that the conspiracy of a few men to use the corrupt Returning Boards of Louisiana, South Carolina, and Florida to upset the election and make confusion in Congress, might, by prompt exposure and popular appeal, have been thwarted. Be this as it may, my spirit was depressed and my confidence discouraged by the intense quietude on our side, sure that underneath the surface the Republicans, with resolute determination and multiplied resources, were as busy as bees.

Mr. Robert M. McLane, later Governor of Maryland and Minister to France, a man of rare ability and large experience who had served in Congress and in diplomacy and was an old friend of Mr. Tilden, had been at a Gramercy Park conference when my New Orleans report arrived, and had then and there urged the agitation recommended by me. He was now again in New York. When a lad he had been in London with his father, Lewis McLane, then American Minister to the Court of St. James, during the excitement over the Reform Bill of 1832. He had witnessed the popular demonstrations and been impressed by the direct force of public opinion upon law-making and law-makers. An analogous situation had arisen in America. The Republican Senate was as the Tory House of Lords. We must organize a movement such as had been so effectual in England. Obviously, something was going amiss with us, and something had to be done.

It was agreed that I should return to Washington and make a speech, "feeling the pulse" of the country with the suggestion that there should assemble in the national capital "a mass convention of at least one hundred thousand peaceful citizens," exercising "the freeman's right of petition."

The idea was one of many proposals of a more drastic kind, and the merest venture. I myself had no great faith in it. But I prepared the speech, and after much reading and



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revising it was held by Mr. Tilden and Mr. McLane to cover the case and meet the purpose. Mr. Tilden wrote Mr. Randall a letter, carried to Washington by Mr. McLane, instructing him what to do in the event that the popular response should prove favorable.

Alack-the-day! The Democrats were equal to nothing affirmative. The Republicans were united and resolute. I delivered the speech, not in the House, as had been intended, but at a public meeting which seemed opportune. The Democrats at once set about denying the sinister purpose ascribed to it by the Republicans, who, fully advised that it had emanated from Gramercy Park and came by authority, started a counter-agitation of their own.

I was made the target for every manner of ridicule and abuse. Nast had a grotesque cartoon which was both offensive and libellous. Being on friendly terms with the Harpers, I made my displeasure so resonant in Franklin Square—Nast himself having no personal ill-will—that a curious and pleasing opportunity which came to pass was taken to make amends. A son having been born to me, "Harper's Weekly" contained an atoning cartoon representing the child in its father's arms, and beneath the legend, "The only one of the one hundred thousand in arms who came when he was called."

For many years afterward this unlucky speech—or rather the misinterpretation given it alike by friend and foe—pursued me. Nast's first cartoon was accepted as a faithful portrait, and I was accordingly satirized and stigmatized, although no thought of violence had ever entered my mind, and in the final proceedings I had voted for the Electoral Commission Bill and faithfully stood by its decisions. Joseph Pulitzer, who immediately followed me on the occasion named, declared that he wanted my "one hundred thousand" to come fully armed and ready for business, yet was never taken to task or reminded of his temerity.





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I was made the target for every manner of ridicule and abuse. Next had a general cartoon which was both offensive and libellous. But on friendly terms with the Harpers, I made my appearance as a resonant in Franklin Square—Next himself having a general will—that a curious and pleasing opportunity was afforded me to make a speech. A son of mine, who was then a member of the "Weekly" sustained an evening of the proceedings, the address in father's name and to the effect, "The one hundred and one hundred thousand" was the name. The one hundred and one hundred thousand was the name when he was called."

For many years afterward the obnoxious expression rather the misinterpretation given it calls by friend and foe—pursued me. Mast's first cartoon was accepted as a belittling portrait, and I was accordingly satirized and stigmatized, although no thought of violence had ever entered my mind, and in the first proceedings I had voted for the Electoral Commission Bill and faithfully stood by its decisions. Joseph Paine, who immediately followed me on the occasion named, declared that he wanted my "one hundred thousand" to come fully armed and ready for business, yet was never taken to task or reminded of his tenacity.







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### VI

But a truce to historic detail. The untoward events that followed do not properly belong to this narrative. Let us return to the Club and the personality of its most celebrated member. As I have said, Mr. Tilden's "blue seal" Johannisberger was very famous. I recall a dinner he gave Lord Houghton at the Club, when that delightful bon vivant, man-of-the-world, and poet was a visitor in America and he was Governor of New York. The Club cellar was justly celebrated, and it furnished the awful succession and prodigal variety of rare and costly wines usual to the semi-barbaric banquets of a day that is happily gone forever. Toward the close the glasses were changed and the Club butler appeared with an air of superiority almost regal. "Lord Houghton," said Manton Marble, who sat next his lordship, "Governor Tilden has a vineyard in Minnesota which his friends think very well of, and he is going to ask your opinion." I sat directly opposite and could see the suppressed grimace with which the most knowing and fastidious of gourmets prepared to deliver a diplomatic judgment upon a presumably raw product of Yankee ignorance and vanity. The wine was poured. The old Lord lifted his glass. As it reached the half-way point between the table and his nose, and he caught the aroma, he paused, put the wine slowly to his lips, and with perfect but all-embracing composure said: "I think the Governor has reason to congratulate himself upon his vineyard."

There is yet another story to be told of the "blue seal." It has to do with the Presidential campaign of 1876. Indiana had become the storm-centre. In those days there was an October vote and a State election, a month in advance of the National election. Both parties made this their objective point; the party that carried the first election was likely to carry the second. The electoral votes of Indiana and New

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York, with those of the "Solid South," gave the Democrats the Electoral College. We were sure of New York; we were sure of the Solid South; Indiana was the missing "link."

About the middle of September I was called to Indianapolis by the chairman of the Democratic State Committee. Three weeks later the October State election would be held; money was indispensable—not corruption money; money for banners and bonfires, for demonstrations and processions, for barbecues and orators. The Republicans seemed to have plenty. The Democrats had exhausted their slender local resources, and unless they could get help from the National Committee the leaders felt that they were lost. I had a pocketful of railway annuals, a duster, and a straw hat, and I took the midnight train for New York. If I expected to get the wherewithal and return by the next train,—and my present memory is that this was about the size of it,—I reckoned decidedly without my host.

Governor Tilden came down from Albany. He, Mr. Hewitt (then chairman of the National Committee), Mr. Edward Cooper, and myself had a number of conferences extending from Thursday to Saturday. Time was precious.

Saturday afternoon the Governor took me back into the famous bay-window overlooking the garden of the house in Gramercy Park.

Said he: "I have some money. I am not afraid to spend it. But don't you think it a little unusual to expect so much of the candidate?"

"No, Governor," I promptly replied, "I do not. On the representation that money would not be wanting, we got the nomination."

He took three lengths of the room, came back into the little vestibule connecting with the library, that served also for a dining-room, where Hewitt and Cooper were anxiously waiting, and in that peculiar half-nasal voice of his, part peremptory and part querulous, he said:



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"How much do you require?"

"Sixty thousand dollars," I said.

"You don't want it all at once?" said he.

"No, twenty thousand next Monday, twenty thousand the Monday after, and twenty thousand the Monday before the October vote!"

"Will you take it?"

"No."

"Why?"

"Because I have nothing to do with it. I am here to tell you the facts. I am not a money-handler. Of course I won't have anything else to do with it."

"How will Barnum do?"

"The very man."

Mr. Barnum was in Indianapolis the next Monday morning. It will be recalled that later on he was authorized to "buy seven more mules."

We carried the October vote "hands down," and likewise the November vote. But upon that particular visit my tribulation was by no means over. The Governor had uses for me in New York. In vain I pleaded my own affairs. In vain I pleaded imperative speaking appointments. He would take no excuses. From the warm days of September into the cool days of October he detained me—kept me busy, too. He had a number of hats and overcoats, and I had appropriated a hat and an overcoat as the weather changed. Finally he consented to let me go. The last night I came into the cozy old library-dining-room and found him alone with Manton Marble.

"Governor," said I, "you have treated me worse than a stepson or a poor relation. You have kept me here three weeks on your own business. You have loaned me an old overcoat and an old hat. If you had had the least style about you, you would have presented me with new ones. I leave these with Louis." (Louis was the valet.)

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“Oh, don’t do that!” he exclaimed. “Wear them home and send them back by the sleeping-car porter. Those Pullman porters are perfectly reliable.”

“Governor Tilden,” said I, sternly and with reproach in every word, “when I get on the train I shall not need them. When I get home I shall find my own. But I ’ll tell you what I ’ll do. If you will send down for a bottle of the ‘blue seal’ for Marble and me, I ’ll forgive you and call the account square.”

He was a dear old body as ever lived. He loved his friends to take liberties with his hospitality. David, the butler, the most imposing person then resident in or near Gramercy Park, was standing at the sideboard.

“Why, certainly,” said Mr. Tilden; and, turning to the butler, he added, “David, go down and bring Mr. Watterson a bottle of the ‘blue seal.’ ”

David, who knew his business, hesitated.

“Henry,” said Mr. Tilden, “do you know that I consider that Steinberger Cabinet every bit as good as the ‘blue seal’? Sometimes I think it better. But you can have whichever you please.”

I answered that, if I might have my choice, I would take the “blue seal.” The end of it was that we had both; first the “blue seal” Johannisberger and then the Steinberger Cabinet, and I am bound to allow that there was precious little difference between them—both the rarest of German wines and the best. The Governor, Manton Marble, and I sat for an hour or more over those two bottles, and had a deal of friendly talk. The Governor, in particular, glowed under the influence of the fragrance, and Marble, the most agreeable of men, was in his best mood and vein. We were “three of a kind.” At last, in a moment of assurance and exuberance, Marble said:

“And, Governor, what are we—Watterson and I—to have when you come into your kingdom?”



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I shall never forget—for I happened to look directly at him—the expression that came over the face of our delightful “Uncle Samuel”! He was a little flushed by the wine. His bright eyes were a trifle brighter. With a half-humorous, half-shy expression—an affectation with him, for his was a direct and an open nature—he said with deliberation and epigrammatic stress: “You boys don’t want any offices. They would do you more harm than good. What you really want is big influence with the administration.”

To me, at the moment, what he said had no significance. I was a young member of Congress for an emergency, who could not afford to stay in public life. My professional world, which was yet in issue, quite sufficed me, and I was not dreaming of office. The bottles were empty. We passed into the corridor. The old gentleman went with us and saw us out of the great storm-door. As he closed this, Marble said to me:

“Watterson, did you hear what that old devil said?”

“No,” I answered innocently. “What about?”

“Why, about no office, but big influence with his administration. Do you know—blank blank him!—that he meant every word of it?”

It was too good to keep. After all was over, after the turbulence of the succeeding Congress, after the Electoral Commission, after the exclusion, the funny incident recurred to me, and during some moments of effusion and confidence it escaped me. And, somehow, it got to the ears of Governor Tilden. And one evening at Greystone, with a party of friends, the Governor turned to me and said, “Tell us the story of the ‘blue seal.’” And, as here related, I told it.

## VII

Mr. Tilden accepted the result of the Electoral Tribunal of 1877 with equanimity. “I was at his house,” says John



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Bigelow, "when his exclusion was announced to him, and also on the fourth of March, when Mr. Hayes was inaugurated, and it was impossible to remark any change in his manner, except perhaps that he was less absorbed than usual and more interested in current affairs." His was an intensely serious mind; and he had come to regard the Presidency rather as a burden to be borne, an opportunity for public usefulness, involving a life of constant toil and care, than as occasion for personal exploitation and rejoicing.

However much of captivation the idea of the Presidency may have had for him when he was first named for the office, I cannot say, for he was as unexultant in the moment of victory as unsubdued in the hour of defeat; but it is certainly true that he gave no sign of disappointment to any of his friends. He lived nearly ten years after, in a noble homestead called Greystone, which he had purchased for himself, overlooking the Hudson River, the same ideal life of the scholar and gentleman he had passed in Gramercy Park.

Looking back over these untoward and sometimes mystifying events, I have often asked myself was it possible, with the elements what they were and he himself what he was, to seat Mr. Tilden in the office to which he had been elected. The missing ingredient in a character intellectually and morally great, and a personality far from unimpressive, was the touch of the dramatic discoverable in most of the leaders of men: even in such leaders as William of Orange and Louis XI, as Cromwell and Washington.

There was nothing spectacular about Mr. Tilden. Not wanting the sense of humor, he seldom indulged it; nor positivity of opinion and amplitude of knowledge, yet always courteous and deferential in debate. He had none of the audacious daring, let us say, of Mr. Blaine, the energetic self-assertion of Mr. Roosevelt. Either, in his place, would have carried all before him.

A character further from that of a subtle schemer sitting

## L'ENVOI

behind his screen and pulling his wires—which his political and party enemies discovered him to be as soon as he began to get in the way of the machine and obstruct the march of the self-elect—it would be hard to find. His confidences were not effusive nor their subjects numerous. His deliberation was unfailing, and sometimes carried the idea of indecision, not to say actual love of procrastination. But in my experience with him I found that he generally ended where he began, and it was nowise difficult for those whom he trusted to divine the bias of his mind where he thought it best to reserve its conclusions. I do not think that in any great affair he ever hesitated longer than the gravity of the case required for a prudent man, or that he had a preference for delays, or that he clung over-tenaciously to both horns of the dilemma, as his professional training and instinct might have led him to do, and certainly did expose him to the accusation of doing.

He was a philosopher and took the world as he found it. He rarely complained and never inveighed. He had a discriminating way of balancing men's good and bad qualities and of giving each the benefit of a generous accounting, and a just way of expecting no more of a man than it was in him to yield. As he got into deeper water his stature rose to its level, and, from his exclusion from the Presidency in 1877 to his renunciation of public affairs in 1884, and his death in 1886, his walks and ways might have been a study for all who would learn life's truest lessons and know the real sources of honor, happiness, and fame.

## VIII

Robert C. Hutchings was in the seventies one of the gayest, most brilliant, and conspicuous members of the Manhattan Club. He was surrogate of New York County, at that time, except the sheriff, quite the richest paying office within the



## THE MANHATTAN CLUB

popular gift. Being a son-in-law of Richard Connolly, next to Tweed the chief of the Tammany Ring which Mr. Tilden had driven from power, he could not, Mr. Tilden being now governor and party leader, hope to run for re-election.

One morning, newly arrived in town, as I was entering the Club I met "Bob" Hutchings coming out. According to his custom, he greeted me warmly. Douglas Taylor joined us as we stood upon the stoop. "Boys," said Hutchings, "I want you to join me at dinner this evening at seven, to meet my dear friend, Mr. Van Schaick."

"And who is Mr. Van Schaick?" I asked.

"He is one of my deputies who has just been nominated to succeed me," he answered, "and I particularly want you to meet him and tell him you don't think he ought to accept the nomination."

"Why, what in thunder have I to do with it?"

Robert was a humorist and something of a dramatist, and with an air of finality he said, "That is my business. I give you and Douglas here a good dinner. You tell old man Van Schaick not to run for surrogate. That is all. Is it a whack?"

To be sure it was. Mr. Van Schaick appeared to be a most amiable old gentleman. The dinner was a feast for a Bar-mecide. The wines could not be excelled. As the flow of soul proceeded, the comedy of the situation took possession of my fancy, and when the opportune moment arrived I not only told him that in my judgment he should decline the nomination he had just received, but I gave him unanswerable reasons that shaped themselves as I proceeded, though knowing nothing whatever about the case. Pen, ink, and paper were sent for. Mr. Van Schaick thanked me for my counsels, and then and there indited a note declining the nomination, which was immediately despatched to the newspapers and printed the next morning. The day after the same papers contained another note cancelling the first note



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and accepting the nomination. A month later Mr. Van Schaick was elected.

The incident passed out of my memory. Ten years later, however, as Hutchings and I were driving in the Bois de Boulogne, it recurred to me, and I said, "Robert, what was the meaning of the game you got me to sit in that night at the Manhattan Club?"

He looked at me, a little surprised and a little quizzical. "Did n't you know?" said he.

"No," I answered, truly enough.

"Did n't you suspect?" he again asked.

"What had I to suspect?" said I.

"Well," and he gave a long sigh of incredulity, "you are an innocent! I could never have believed it of you. The nomination of old Van Schaick, my deputy, took me un-awares. I had not expected it. I had made no arrangements to meet it. I required twenty-four hours. The moment I saw you a way to these framed itself. I had you for dinner. I had Van Schaick. Don't you see? You were Tilden."

## IX

In closing this chronicle of incidents and characters that already begin to fade in the direction of shadow-land, I cannot deny myself the story of an experience having to do with the old homestead purchased by the Manhattan Club and reconstructed to suit itself, which is now its permanent and honored abode. Originally the residence of Leonard Jerome, it became in the early sixties the Union League Club, and when that rich and powerful organization was able to buy a site and build a home of its own, a club, improvised to find Mr. Jerome a tenant, and called the Turf Club, moved in. It was rather a queer conglomeration, devoted, as its name implied, to sport. It lived only two or three years. After it the University Club took the house.

## THE MANHATTAN CLUB

One night, after a dinner party at Delmonico's, just across the Square, Mr. James R. Keene, enjoying his first fling as "King of the Street"; Mr. Lawrence R. Jerome, and myself—all members of the Turf, albeit no one of us had ever been within its doors—thought to "see what it was like," and, not to be out of fashion or behind the procession, were presently embarked in a game of baccarat, which the club affected and was trying—vainly, as the issue proved—to introduce to New York. There was an iron-clad club rule—very necessary, we were assured—against either borrowing or lending in the club-house, and to weather this restriction we had pooled the inconsiderable amounts we had in hand, playing at first in such luck that we might have retired betimes happy, respectable, and rich. But at last the inevitable arrived, for poor Cinderella overstayed her time and overplayed her means, and went broke—flat broke—dead broke. When we descended to the street below, it was raining cats and dogs. Mr. Keene called a cabman from the long line in front, and telling the man he wished him to take each of us to his destination, asked what would be his charge for the service.

"Ten dollars," said Cabby.

"All right," said Keene; "drive up."

"But," said Cabby, "I want my money in advance."

This was a poser. "My friend," said the "King of Wall Street," "you ought to know me—I am Mr. Keene—Mr. James R. Keene—and—"

"Thunder!" exclaimed the cabman; "there 's been three Jeems R. Keenes out here to-night, and I ain't able to tell which from t'other!"

Finally I induced Cabby to drive us to the Everett House in Union Square, my own abiding-place. There I obtained the requisite ten dollars from the night clerk, and sent my two temporarily impoverished and rather dejected companions home.





## THE MANHATTAN CLUB

One night, after a dinner party at Belmont's, just across the Square, Mr. James R. Keene, enjoying his first ding as "King of the Street"; Mr. Lawrence R. Jerome, and myself—all members of the Turf, although no one of us had ever been within its doors—thought to "see what it was like," and, not to be out of fashion or behind the procession, were presently introduced to a game of baccarat, which the club adopted and was trying—successfully, as the house proved—to introduce to New York. There was an iron-clad club rule—very necessary, we were warned—against either borrowing or lending in the club-house, and to weather this restriction we had pooled the inconsiderable amounts we had in hand, playing at first in such luck that we might have retired betimes happy, respectable, and rich. But at last the inevitable arrived, for poor Cinderella overstayed her time and overplayed her means, and we broke—flat broke—dead broke. When we descended to the street below, it was raining cats and dogs. Mr. Keene—his advance from the long line in front, and railing the cabman—was obliged to take each of us to his destination, and we were unable to get together for the night.

"Ten dollars," said Cobby.

"All right," said Jerome.

"But," said Cobby, "I am not a member."

This was a poser. "The name?" said the "King of Wall Street." "you ought to know me—I am Mr. Keene—Mr. James R. Keene—and—"

"Thunder!" exclaimed the cabman: "there 's been three James R. Keenes out here tonight, and I ain't able to tell which from 'other."

Finally I induced Cobby to drive us to the Ryeooc House in Union Square, my own abiding-place. There I obtained the requisite ten dollars from the night clerk, and went my two wretchedly impoverished and rather dejected companions home.







## L'ENVOI

### X

"Little Old New York," the show people call it. Seen in fancy beyond a succession of endless cross-ties, it must seem so, indeed; though no other city in the world has for its sobriquet any such term of endearment. The "sound of Bow Bells" is merely an historic saying, not an affectionate reminder of London; the "smell of the asphalt," a rather unmeaning Parisian epigram. No one ever heard the "Bells," while the asphalt may be "smelt" in many cities; but the "Rialto" and the "Great White Way"; Fifth Avenue and the Park and Madison Square in succession to the yet older landmarks of fashion southerly and eastward—sacred to the memory of the Flora McFlimseys of yore—and Harlem, "Maggie Murphy's Home," no less than that of the Mulligan Guards, shrine of the McSorleys and the Cordelias of an era when a little burnt-cork theatre was a local, almost a national institution—never a "sky-scraper" to distract, nor a "movie" to mislead—Gotham of the seventies, the eighties, and the nineties will live in legend as itself; none like it; just beloved, plain "little old New York."

To the men of those days who yet survive it must always remain a radiant memory. Everybody knew everybody. If "he" or "she" were in town, the seeker had only to wait long enough about Delmonico's or the Fifth Avenue Hotel, or upon any of many street corners. The clubs were not too numerous; nor the theatres, the restaurants and chop-houses. The Union League and the Manhattan led club life then, as they lead it now—the Century over-literary, the Lotos over-artistic, the University and the Metropolitan in embryo—a certain community both of interest and feeling permeating all memberships, which the expanding conditions of a world centre are fast dissipating. The pretty provincialism of Murray Hill is going—going—gone. The picturesque long since disappeared from Swelldom. Wall

## THE MANHATTAN CLUB

Street, that melancholy cul-de-sac which takes its start out from a churchyard to end in a deep and mighty stream,—yet, like King Cole, “a jolly old soul,”—has become a ruler of finance, lending to nations and underwriting empires; a *grand seigneur*, disdaining the antics which once distinguished the money devil, to hold the “ignobile vulgus” at arm’s length. The ghosts of Jim Fisk and old Daniel Drew, of Gould and Sage, walking under the shadow of the spire of Trinity, would see many changes and encounter people even queerer than themselves; though the “Commodore,” who in life knew what he was about and planned a century ahead, might, revisiting the glimpses of the moon, turn about and say, “Did I not tell you so?” It seems but yesterday that he sat playing whist in the Manhattan Club, with Ben Wood for a partner, the Belmonts, the Wards, and the Schells as onlookers—one of them now and again sitting in the game.

Memory as she flies may take but a kodak snap, yet it has a character all its own; and it is something not wholly lost to the present to be able to catch from the past even the faintest aroma of those days, and to murmur as the curtain falls:

“The gaits we have gone without tiring,  
The songs that together we’ve sung;  
The jests to whose merry inspiring  
Our mingling of laughter hath rung;  
Oh, trifles like these become precious,  
When seen through the vista of years,  
And the smiles of the past so remembered,  
How often they waken our tears!”

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