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## The Eastern Mail (Vol. 06, No. 17): November 11, 1852

Ephraim Maxham

Daniel Ripley Wing

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# The Eastern Mail.

A Family Newspaper... Devoted to Agriculture, Literature, the Mechanic Arts, and General Intelligence.

VOL. VI. WATERTOWN, MAINE, THURSDAY, NOV. 11, 1852.

NO. 17.

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2383-2384, 2385-2386, 2387-2388, 2389-2390, 2391-2392, 2393-2394, 2395-2396, 2397-2398, 2399-2400, 2401-2402, 2403-2404, 2405-2406, 2407-240



le some of them to raise it in such a time as this, they can do so without ruin to themselves. We shall be able to save our household stuffs, so let it go. I can earn three hundred dollars more in the same way I earned that, and in less time. I would not mind it, dear Sue, if it did not render you and our children beggars."

"Oh! do not say so, James," exclaimed his wife. "We are rich—rich in health, rich in each other's love, and rich in our children. Let us rather be thankful for what we have left us, than lament over what we have lost. Pay up all, if possible, and we will then wipe off the slate and commence again. We know how better than we did before, and it is far better for us that this misfortune came upon us now than later in life. We are not so poor as you imagine, either; she added archly, "unless things have changed sadly within the five years of our married life. Did you not tell John you were going to marry a girl worth ten thousand dollars, and am I worth less now?"

"More! a thousand times more, I cried James. "I did not know then, although I thought I did, the priceless value of the treasure I was winning. We will commence again, cheerful and stout-hearted, for I feel myself prepared for anything, when I have such a wife as you to cheer me on."

And he did begin again—turned out the whole three thousand he had earned as an engineer, to John's creditors, and then immersing himself in his boots of unconquerable length, as engineers usually do, he shouldered his tripod once more, and took up his march along the line of the new canal. Three years subsequently found him again the possessor of nearly the same sum he had lost, well invested, and liable to no contingencies.

Poor John! his peace was destroyed by the complaints of a heartless, discontented and unhappy wife, and securing her in the possession of her jointure, he left his native state for the Pacific shore, never to return. He reached California in the midst of the gold excitement, secured and shipped to the care of his brother James, enough gold dust to pay up every dollar of his indebtedness, and also to refund to his wife the whole sum of money he had received from her. Broken in constitution, by the privations and hardships encountered in the mines, he embarked for home in the steamship Golden Gate, but died on his passage, and was buried at sea. Peace to his ashes! He retrieved his character as an honorable man, and was sincerely lamented by his friends at home. His wife still lives—a heartless woman of fashion, proud for her wealth, and hated for everything beside.

#### THE THIMBLE-RIGGER.

[An English correspondent of the Christian Ambassador gives the following as one of his experiences.]

Around the base of the great rock on which Stirling Castle is erected, but still at a dizzy elevation above the plain, there is a wide, conveniently graded walk. It is a favorite promenade of citizens and visitors—and deservedly so, for finer scenery, embracing fruitful fields, precipitous crag, winding river, and lofty mountains in the distance, was never beheld than that which is viewed from the western and northerly section of the walk.

After passing a rapid curve in that pedestrian gallery, we saw a group of five gentlemen a few rods in advance of us, ministering, we thought, to an invalid who was seated on the ground, with his back against the wall. We had not the Levite's choice of "passing by on the other side," even had we been disposed to avoid participation in the work of humanity.

On closer approach, we perceived that the seated mortal was not an invalid, but a Thimble-Rigger, who was adroitly inveigling the gentlemen into the "loss and gain" (especially the loss) of gambling, by means of the three hazel-nut cups the diameter of a thimble, and a ball about the size of a small pea. Under which of the cups is the ball? was the question.

We had frequently heard of this game, as one of the many vagabond ways by which certain men swindle a living out of "green-horns," but never before had we seen it in operation. Partly curiosity and partly sympathy with a young man who was sadly in the losing line, induced us to stop and witness the procedure. The young man was speedily minus five pounds, being all his funds except a half crown, and this the Rigger refused to accept as a stake. He was one of the big bug hum-bugs, and would not play for less than a pound.

The friend of the loser came indignantly to the rescue, determined to win back the spoils. I begged him to desist, and interposed my power to restrain him.

"I beg your pardon, sir, and appreciate your motive," said he, "but I must and will win back my friend's five pounds."

"It is throwing good money after bad," I replied. "Even granting no slight-of-hand cheatery in the case, the Rigger evidently has two chances out of three."

"There, there!" whispered the gentleman, and I turned about. The Rigger's attention was so riveted upon us that he did not see a gentleman on the opposite edge of the semi-circle, slyly lift a cup, reveal the ball, and immediately re-cover it. In brief space than this paragraph can be read, the friend of the loser wagered two pounds on that cup, and gained it like a sum. This so assured him that he tried it again with a single pound, losing—and again, winning—his funds in the end being exhausted.

Meanwhile the sly trick of lifting the cup was successfully repeated on the right and left of the Rigger, according as his attention was attracted by a growing and absorbing interest in the game. I am fearful that this fraud against fraud was not unreservedly condemned in my consideration of the case.

"I will stake this lever watch against a pound," said the loser, with all the earnestness of desperation.

"I will play for nothing but money," coolly answered the Rigger.

"I have a bill of exchange for thirty pounds; I will stake it against ten," said the loser, vehemently—for he had seen the little ball on the board, after a sly lifting of the cup as before.

"I will play for nothing but ready money," replied the Rigger.

"Will any gentleman loan me ten pounds on this bill of exchange?" said the agitated loser. No one responded. "Please, sir, loan me five pounds,—three pounds,—two pounds," he continued, addressing himself to me—the sum diminishing as I slowly but decidedly shook my head.

"You shall have this watch as security," he persisted, pressing it on my hand, as I stood with folded arms surveying him sorrowfully.

"Indeed, sir, I must win back my friend's money and my own. Do loan me two pounds; this time I am sure to win." He had seen the little ball, and so had I.

"No, sir," was my reply. "I never gamble for the value of a pin, and I will not condescend to gambling in any way. I would not wager a pound on that board against a thousand, although certain of winning."

"Do you know which cup the ball is under?" said the Rigger.

"Yes, I do," I replied. "Then why don't you stake a pound or two, and win?" said he.

"Because, sir, I am opposed to gambling, on principle."

"Perhaps the gentleman has no money, and therefore has no means of winning a pound or two," rejoined the Rigger, sarcastically.

"I am opposed to gambling, sir, on principle," said I, "and I would not bet a penny on your board, were Stirling Castle to balance it in the result."

"Perhaps the gentleman is poor. I was once poor myself. It is no sin to be poor," resumed the Rigger; "or perhaps the money he has isn't his own."

"This speech and its insulting tone greatly excited the two losers, and they broke out upon the gamster in terms of stern and terrible invective. It seemed as if they needed little additional aggravation to pitch him headlong over the precipice."

"Take it coolly, gentlemen," said I. "Do not speak after that fashion. Gambling,—swindling, is the man's business. Let him speak of me as he lists. He has no conception of what acting from principle means. I beseech you, do not bet any more," I continued, as the Rigger re-arranged his cups.

"Do you know which cup the little ball is under?" said he, looking towards me with his basilisk eyes.

"Yes, I do," I replied, for at that moment the sly trick of lifting one of the cups was repeated by the gentleman on the extreme left of the semi-circle.

"Then why don't you put down a pound—ten pounds—fifty pounds—any sum you please—if, indeed, you have any cash about you," resumed the Rigger in his bantering tone.

"I should certainly win it," I replied, "but it would be the devil's money, and I would not touch it, if it were multiplied a thousand fold."

"The gentleman is excusable because he has no money," persisted the Rigger. "If any other gentleman is more fortunate, he has a chance to win a pound or two,—again shifting the cups, one of which was immediately lifted slyly by the first loser, who stood on the extreme right."

"O, do, sir, do loan me two pounds on this watch; it is an excellent lever for which I paid six guineas," entreated Loser No. 2, addressing me. I shook my head, whereupon he addressed my wife. "Please, madam, entreat your husband to lend me two pounds!"

"Even if desirous of success, I should not succeed," she replied. "He has said No, and in vain you ask him. Please, sir, desist from this terrible thing," she continued, greatly excited by both alarm and sympathy.

"Nevertheless, he persisted in his entreaty. 'I am sure of success this time, and I pledge you my honor that I will stop so soon as I win back what we have lost.'"

"I will wager a pound," simultaneously exclaimed Nos. 3 and 4 of the group, as they saw No. 5 reveal the little ball by lifting the cup that covered it.

"They won their wager. The trial was several times repeated with an adverse result, the losers being mostly blind, (as I thought,) in making choice of the cup. Within half an hour from the commencement, every pound in possession of such as were disposed to engage in the game, passed to the purse of the Rigger. I was positive that the result would have been directly the reverse, had I taken the matter in hand."

"If there be no more funds among you," said the gamster, "we may as well adjourn." Whereupon he arose from the ground, and put the little board, cups and ball, into his pocket, with an air befitting his cold, snarling demeanor, or throughout, and the felled ones looked so chaffin, as the group slowly separated, that I sincerely pitied them.

At this instant, two policemen suddenly appeared in view around the corner of the rock. Stepping smartly up to them, "is gambling allowed on these premises?" said I.

"It is not," was their reply. "Have you lost any money?"

"No, sir; I never gamble in any way," was my response; "that man has swindled several of these gentlemen out of considerable sums, by his three shells and a little ball."

The offender was immediately taken into custody, and marched off on the back track, in company with the party from No. 1 to No. 5 inclusive, (as witnesses against him, I presumed,) myself and family being left to pursue our walk alone. Meeting a citizen, from whom we had received some attention the day previous, I narrated the foregoing incidents. He laughed heartily, and assured us that the five swindled gentlemen, whom I described, were well-known confederates of the Thimble-Rigger!

We were certainly "green-horns,"—exceedingly "green!"—for we had not the slightest suspicion of complicity,—yet the whole arrangement was designed to defraud me! It was all plain enough, afterwards, and I am willing to be laughed at,—nevertheless, I must insist that the acting of these confederates was among the most natural exhibitions I have ever witnessed. Nothing but steadfast adherence to principle, saved me from sin, loss and shame—for I was certain, repeatedly, that I knew where the little ball was. I saw it, without possibility of mistake,—yet any sum I might have wagered in the game, would inevitably have been lost, for the Rigger knew what he was about, and could remove the ball at pleasure, by sleight-of-hand, the dupe being not a whit the wiser.

The lesson of this recital will, I trust, be of service. Let no one yield to gambling of any sort. Even when fairly conducted, the chances are with the professional gamster; to which may be added that cheating is not peculiar to the Thimble-Rigger.

#### THE EMPIRE OF HAYTI.

Boston, Oct. 28th, 1852.

Messrs. Editors:—In accordance with your kind invitation to correspond with you, I commence with the subject which is now so fairly before the American people—the recognition of Haytian independence by the "people" of the United States. Not that I propose to discuss the question in its diversified bearings, but to give some facts in my own personal experience, derived from a residence of near six years at the capital of the empire. It is already known, or ought to be, by the American people, that the Haytians have, for nearly fifty years, governed themselves, and "taken care of themselves," in quite as enlightened a way as any nation on the continent of America, south of the United States. It can also be demonstrated that in the liberality of their treatment of foreigners they have equalled not only the governments of South America, but those of Continental Europe, in point of religious toleration, liberty of commerce, and in every other point except their refusal to admit whites (the *Nègres*) to the privilege of citizenship—a prudential measure, which is far from proving them incapable of "taking care of themselves." It is a notorious fact, that, in protestant Germany, the Baptists are, at this time, treated with much greater intolerance than they ever have been in Roman Catholic Hayti. Of the importance of the commerce of

Hayti to the American people, it is quite unnecessary for me to say a word. Forty-eight gentlemen of Boston, representing property to the value of near thirty millions of dollars, have recently spoken with sufficient clearness on this point. I will limit myself to a few facts, bearing upon the maintenance of order and the character of the present administration. I hesitate not to say that I believe there has been the past six years, less murder, less robbery, and less incendiarism at Port-au-Prince, than in any city of the same size, and during the same period, in the United States. During this whole period, and even longer, there has been but one fire at that city of thirty thousand inhabitants! Where can a parallel case be found in the United States? I have travelled in the country at all hours of the day and night, "over mountain heights and in valleys low," in lonely forests and amid cultivated fields, and have never been treated with disrespect by the coarsest peasant or the rudest mountaineer.

In these journeys I have never been refused a night's lodging at the poorest cabin where from necessity or convenience I chose to stop! And when I have called for the bill of fare I am almost universally answered by the expression "Just what you choose to give," (*Ce que vous voulez me donner*), or, in the simple patois of the paysan, *ca ou voulez ballle moi*. And although it is the land of the old bucaniers, and where the example of foreigners has exhibited more of violence and fraud than of gentleness and honesty, still from Tiburon to Samana and from Jacmel to Cape Haytian, I know of not a single case where a ship may not enter, nor a single mountain fastness where a traveller may not pass with safety from robbers. And notwithstanding all that American editors have said of the "bloody reign of Souloque," I am able to say from my own personal knowledge, that His Majesty Faustin the First did not come to the head of the government by any of his own ambitious efforts. So quietly had he always lived, and with such regularity had he always fulfilled his duties as simple commandant at the Arcahaie, that when he was announced to the people, there was almost a universal inquiry among the masses except in his own commune, who is Souloque? He was elevated to that position by a constitutional vote of the Senate in that solemn and very critical moment when the much beloved Riché laid a corpse in the palace national. I was informed that he even shed tears of surprise when his election was announced to him.

I was standing on the veranda of the palace, when the Senate, with the President elect, came out of their hall. Souloque, (as he was then called) seated himself with a circle of venerable generals, with whom he conversed in such a pleasing and yet dignified manner, that I said to the American gentleman at my side, "this is certainly about as interesting an appearing man as I have ever seen. And I have as yet had no proof that the title of Emperor was one of his own seeking. A petition was circulated for a few days in Port-au-Prince asking the Senate to confer upon his excellency Souloque, President of Hayti, the title of Emperor. This the Senate did in a very peaceful manner, and the act was not followed by any demonstrations of discontent on the part of the people. Where can a parallel case be found in Europe? Will Louis Napoleon, who is now straining so hard to follow in the steps of his illustrious predecessor, succeed as well? Last April I saw him put on his crown with quiet dignity, surrounded by many thousands of the Haytians, in an immense temporary edifice, very tastefully arranged, erected for the occasion at the *Champ de Mars*. And I would ask those who are pleased to sneer at the "black Emperor," wherein he is a sinner above the Sovereigns of Europe, with whom the United States has treaties of amity and commerce?"

But as this article is already lengthy I will close by answering the question, which may arise in some minds: why a missionary should meddle with matters of this nature? There are two very good reasons. First: like the merchants who ask that their commerce may be protected by treaty stipulations, I consider that the very absurd position of the United States, in refusing to acknowledge the independence of Hayti, is calculated to embarrass the benevolent efforts of American missionaries as well as the commerce of American merchants. On this account, I consider that the American churches will be sadly regretted, if Congress is not inundated with petitions demanding immediate efforts for the establishment of treaty stipulations with Hayti. My second reason is, that, as a Christian minister I feel bound to believe that "God is no respecter of persons."

W. L. JUDG.  
Missionary of the Am. Bap. Free mission Society at Port-au-Prince.

THE ALLEPO BUTTON.—A singular disease. The Allepo button is a singular ulcer, which attacks every person born in the city, and every stranger who spends more than a month there. It can neither be prevented nor cured, and always lasts a year. The inhabitants almost invariably have it on the face—either on the cheek, forehead, or tip of the nose—where it often leaves an indelible and disfiguring scar. Strangers, on the contrary, have it on one of the joints, either elbow, wrist, knee or ankle. So strictly is its visitation confined to the city proper, that in none of the neighboring villages, nor even in the distant suburbs is it known. Physicians have vainly attempted to prevent it by inoculation, and are at a loss to what cause to ascribe it. We are liable to have it, even after five days' stay, but I hope it will postpone its appearance till after I reach home. Bayard Taylor.

LANGUAGE OF THE LAW.—If a man would, according to law, give to another an orange, instead of saying, "I give you that orange," which one would think would be what is called in legal phraseology, "an absolute conveyance of all right and title therein," the phrase would run thus:—"I give you all and singular my estate and interest, right, title and claim, and advantage of, and in that orange, with all its rind, skin, juice, pulp and pipe, and right and advantages therein, with full power to bite, cut, suck, and otherwise eat the same, or give the same away, as fully and effectually as I, the said A. B., am now inclined to bite, cut, suck, or otherwise eat the same orange, or give the same away, with or without its rind, skin, juice, pulp, or pipe, anything heretofore or hereinafter, or in any other deed, or deeds, instrument, or instruments, of what nature or kind soever, to the contrary, in anywise notwithstanding; with much more to the same effect. Such is the language of lawyers; and it is gravely held by the most learned men among them, that by omission of any of these words the right to the said orange would not pass to the person for whose use the same was intended.

BILLY BOWLEGS IN FLORIDA.—The New York Mercury states that a gentleman in that city who has a son in Florida, has received a letter from him, dated Fort Meade, Florida, from which we make the following extract. It would seem that Billy has very little disposition to leave Florida:

"Billy Bowlegs, Grand Sachem of the Seminoles in Florida, has returned to Tampa and taken passage for Fort Myers. His joy on embarking for Fort Myers knows no bounds. He leaped and yelled, cursed and swore like a crazy man; and during his caperings he tore a new suit of children's clothes into a thousand ribbons. About this time, a soldier at Tampa said, 'Now, Billy, give us the war-whoop.' Billy stood as if riveted to the spot, his eyes seemed to send forth sparks of fire, and drawing himself up to his full height he exclaimed, in a low, yet passionate voice, 'By blood! when you do hear the war-whoop your blood will curdle in your veins!' In reply to a question put to him by an officer at Tampa, 'So you are going to leave Florida, are you?' he answered with a very knowing laugh, 'Oh, yes, I told them so in Washington; but did I do it, though? If he don't go and that very soon, too, Uncle Sam will find a way to make them leave—either by steamboat or 'by blood!' They can take their choice."

and France. (New York, Leonard Scott & Co.)

Public Meeting. We notice that bills are posted through our village, signed by a large portion of our leading business men, calling a public meeting of our townsmen, on Saturday next, 10 o'clock forenoon, at the Town Hall. While the particular object of the meeting, as set forth, is the location of the junction of the contemplated Penobscot and Somerset Railroads, we suppose the general business interests of our town and village are to pass in review. Such a meeting seems to be highly proper, and indeed absolutely necessary to the judicious improvement of the great local advantages everywhere conceded to us. We need a better appreciation of these advantages, and a better and more general knowledge of the way to render them available. Consultation and discussion will lead to union of sentiment and concert of action. The vast influence of railroads upon business resources and character, as it is gradually developing itself to the world, is intimately known only to the few. To be profitable it must be commended to the investigation and consequent comprehension of the great mass. This meeting will tend to this end; and with this object in view we hope to see a full gathering of our townsmen. Come and reason together, and by discussion, learn of one another.

Waterville Lyceum. The preliminary meeting, contemplating a winter course of lectures, convened at J. H. Drummond's office on Monday evening. A general meeting of subscribers and all interested, to organize by appointing officers, is called at the same place on Saturday evening next. The number of subscribers thus far obtained indicates liberal encouragement; and with the facilities offered for procuring lecturers, if efficient measures are taken, we may hope for a course of interesting and profitable evening entertainments. It should be so; and those who feel that the enterprise is important and due to our character as a village, should attend the meeting on Saturday evening, and give it their countenance.

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THE WESTMINSTER REVIEW for October has articles of merit on The Oxford Commission, Whewell's Moral Philosophy, Plants and Botany, Our (English) Colonial Empire, The Philosophy of Style, The Poetry of The An-Professor, Goethe as a man of Science, The Jacobin of Literature, The Duke of Wellington, and according to its monthly custom, short notices under the heads of Contemporary Literature of England, America, Germany

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and that more than one little Knick. is interested in its success. May it be liked, for its own sake and ours."

Waterville Writing Academy. We are glad to discover, from Mr. Perley's arrangements, indications that Waterville is to be its permanent headquarters. A brief course of lessons, by this and that man, seldom makes good writers. A good hand is not acquired at once, but requires time and effort, a singular instruction. Bad penmanship has, under regular popularity in Waterville, and yet many of our business men write their names as seldom as possible, and only with a blush of modesty. Such men know that "the schoolmaster is abroad," but it is too late for them. They can only be a beacon to their children. A good handwriting is as necessary to a "nice young man" as a good coat; while to a young lady a bad one is positively worse than—a beard. Go in then, young ladies—young men—boys girls—and join Mr. Perley's class, just now opening.

SAD RESULT FROM TICKLING A BOY.—A case will be investigated before Alderman Izard this morning, growing out of the following circumstances:—A lad aged about 14 years, an adopted son of Mr. David Simon, residing in South street, above Second, was tickled by a young lawyer named Michelson, a few days ago, for some alleged offences respecting a book. It appears that the lawyer, from all accounts, to punish the boy, held him fast between his knees, and commenced tickling him in various parts of the body. The lad struggled to get away, and in so doing strained the sinews of one of his legs and also bruised the flesh. In a short time after this he was taken ill, the limb became black, and several medical gentlemen were called in, among whom was Prof. Mutter. An opinion was entertained yesterday that the bruised and strained limb will have to be amputated, in order to save the boy's life.—[Philadelphia Sun, Friday.]

DOMINICAN MATTERS.—In allusion to the Dominican movement, Duff Green publishes a letter in the Herald this morning, giving an account of all the movements. It appears when Mr. Clayton entered the State Department, Green placed in his hands important papers relative to St. Domingo, and called his attention to others in the State Department. He deemed it expedient to send a special agent to ascertain the condition of the Dominican republic, the result of whose investigation induced Mr. Clayton to urge upon the committee of foreign relations of the Senate, the recognition of the independence of the Dominican republic, and a proposition from that Committee intended to accomplish it, was submitted to the Senate, and would have been unanimously adopted had it not been opposed by Mr. Webster.

The death of General Taylor, and the appointment of Mr. Webster in the State Department, which occurred immediately thereafter, defeated the movement.

THE "MURDER CASE."—The fracas on Tuesday evening, which resulted in the shooting of Levi G. Morton, took place on the lower side of Washington street, in Ward No. 2, and not on Mount Joy, as stated.

The facts, as we understand them, are as follows:—Two persons, Wm. H. Howard and Stephen H. Sterling, went to the house of Mr. Charles Sargent, between 7 and 8 o'clock in the evening, and commenced raising a rumpus with the inmates of the house, and finally got so uproarious that Mrs. Sargent went out and called for help. Morton, and another man named Rice, answered her call, and went into the house, and succeeded in ejecting the two rowdies, who went along towards Tukey's Bridge. They soon returned, and found Morton standing near his own house, and Howard presented a pistol at his head and fired, but missed his aim. Morton then remarked, coolly, "Well, you haven't killed me, have you?" Howard then cried, "Then, you sort of a—take that," at the same time discharging the other barrel of his pistol, (which was a double-barrelled one) and hit Morton in the breast, wounding him so severely that it is supposed he cannot possibly recover. Howard was arrested the same evening, by the police, and is now in jail awaiting his examination. He hails from Boston.

Mr. Sargent was not at home at the time, and knew nothing of the matter till after it was all over.

CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION.—The report by telegraph is that the State of New York has chosen 20 Democrats, 12 Whigs, and 1 Abolitionist, (Gerritt Smith). In the present Congress, the delegation was equally divided, 17 Democrats and 17 Whigs. Under the new ratio of representation, New York loses one representative. Five of the Whigs now chosen are classed as Seward Whigs, the rest are "silver grays." The election of Mr. Smith, an Abolitionist of the most radical stamp, is remarkable, and was wholly unexpected. The N. Y. Evening Post says of him,

"He is one of the most eloquent public speakers in the country. He is a man of vast wealth; very highly cultivated, and qualified in every way to stand in the very front rank of Congressional debaters."

In New Jersey, four Democrats and one Whig are chosen—same as present Congress. The Democrats have also chosen a large majority of the Legislature, which will give them a U. S. Senator in place of Mr. Miller, Whig, whose term expires with the present Congress.

DEATH OF HON. ANSON G. CHANDLER.—Hon. Anson G. Chandler, who has been sick for some time, is dead, and a worthy man has gone from among us. Judge Chandler was a native of Monmouth, and son of the late General John Chandler. He was a lawyer by profession, and a Judge of the Eastern District Court, which office he filled with justice, impartiality and dignity. During the last summer, he was run by a party of the Democratic party as a candidate for Governor.







