

**GENERAL WINFIELD SCOTT HANCOCK.**

General Hancock is a native of Pennsylvania, having been born in Montgomery County, in that State, on the 14th of February, 1824. He graduated at West Point in 1844, and served mainly on Frontier duty until 1846, and afterwards in the war with Mexico, being breveted as first lieutenant for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battles of Contreras and Cherusco. From 1848 to 1855 he was again employed in frontier duty, and from 1855 to 1861 was quartermaster of the southern district of California. In August of the latter year he was recalled to Washington, and when the Army of the Potomac was transferred to the Peninsula in 1862, he was already a brigadier-general, with the appropriate command, in the Fourth Corps. His first opportunity to make a mark occurred at Williamsburg, and he made a brilliant one. He next distinguished himself in the battle of Frazer's Farm, and subsequently took an active part in the campaign in Maryland, at the battles of South Mountain and Antietam. Being made a major-general, he commanded a division at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. At Gettysburg he did magnificent work. On the first day of the battle, July 1st, 1863, he was sent by General Meade to decide whether a decisive battle should be given, or whether the army should fall back. He reported that Gettysburg was the place to fight, and took immediate command until the arrival of Meade. In the decisive action of July 3rd he commanded on the left centre, sustaining the terrific onset of Longstreet's Confederates, and being severely wounded. The thanks of Congress were formally tendered him for his conduct in these engagements. Being disabled by his wounds, he was on sick leave until March, 1864, being meanwhile engaged in recruiting the Second Army Corps, which was placed under his command. At the opening of the campaign of that year under General Grant, he took the active command of this corps, and bore a prominent part in the battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House and North Anna, the second battle of Cold Harbor, and the operations around Petersburg until June 19th, when, his wound breaking out afresh, he was for a short time on sick leave. He afterwards resumed command and participated in several actions, until November 26th, when he was called to Washington to organize the first corps of veterans.

The name of a very great battle in the East is inscribed on Hancock's flags. After the close of the war he was placed successively in command of the Middle Department, the Department of Missouri, of Louisiana and Texas, of Dakota, and of the Department for the East. He has his headquarters on Governor's Island. In the Democratic National Convention of 1868, he received 144 votes for the Presidential nomination. In 1876, in the National Convention of the same party, he received 75 votes for the same nomination. He is now supported by the Democrats of Pennsylvania, Texas and some Eastern States, and will be strongly urged in the Cincinnati Convention next month.

General Hancock has uniformly maintained the doctrine that the military power should in time of peace be subordinated to the civil law. This was particularly shown in his address to the court of inquiry constituted to try General Babcock, in 1875, in which he urged that that officer having been formally indicted at St. Louis, it was right and proper that the military inquiry should be adjourned in order that the ordinary civil processes might take their course—which suggestion was duly adopted. In 1868 while in command of the Fifth Military District, General Hancock in a letter to Governor Pease, said: "On them (the laws of Texas and Louisiana), as on a foundation of rock, reposes almost the entire structure of social order in these two States. Annul this code of laws, and there would be no longer any rights either of person or property here. I say, unhesitatingly, if it were possible that Congress should pass an Act abolishing the codes for Louisiana and Texas, which I do not believe, and it should fall to my lot to supply their places with something of my own, I do not see how I could do better than follow the laws in force here prior to the rebellion, excepting wherein they shall relate to slavery. Power may destroy the forms but not the principles of justice; these will live in spite even of the sword."

General Hancock is a man of handsome presence and most agreeable manners. He is perfectly straight; a blonde, with a rich skin and blue eyes, and light hair now turning gray; and his address is both courtly and simple.

General Hancock, while a citizen of Pennsylvania, is in almost all respects of fellowship and association a New Yorker. He is on excellent terms with the leading volunteer officers of the New York Militia, and co-operates with them in their parades, shooting-matches, etc. He is a favored guest at the houses of some of the best people in New York, but makes no pretension to wealth or style. The regard of his men for him is boundless. While he would, perhaps, draw as many votes in New York as any Democrat, he will poll an immense vote in Pennsylvania, for he is not repugnant to the good sense and feeling of the Republican soldiery, having never stepped out of the course of conviction to recommend himself to one party or the other. As to the imputation that he hanged Mrs. Surratt, it will be of no effect except among the most ignorant and unreasoning.

**SWINBURNE AND NAPOLEON IV.**

AN AMERICAN ANSWER TO THE GREAT ENGLISH POET.

After all, what does all the bitter rage against a monument in Westminster Abbey to the last Napoleon amount to? Of course he has no particular right to be there commemorated, but for that matter neither have a great many others who are. He has as much right as a Duke of Montpensier, or Paoli, the Corsican patriot and friend of Napoleon I. And as for character, it must have occurred to many republicans before this that the venerable shrine holds much worse reputations than even his family's in distinction, while the youth himself, by all accounts, was of more than cleanness, honesty and hopefulness. A prayer which he wrote out shortly before he left England for Africa has been found among his papers at Chiselhurst, and now published, is a pathetic composition:

"I do not pray Thee to disarm my enemies, but that I may conquer myself; if there must be reprisals for the past, strike me; too much happiness is not good for me; the only tranquility I can find is in forgetting the past, yet if I forget those who are now no more, I shall be in my time forgotten. Oh! my God, show me ever where my duty lies, and give me the strength to accomplish it, so that when the time arrives that I must pass away from the earth, I may be able to look back on my life untroubled by fear of remorse. May the innermost thoughts of my heart always remain pure."

There are royal bones enough in Westminster whose wearers in the flesh could not have put up such petitions with as much grace.

Swinburne's hysterical sonnet does not bear cold scrutiny in the moral light that history casts on its lines. Read it again and think it over:

Let us go hence. From the inmost shrine of grace  
Where England holds the elect of all her dead  
There comes a word like one of old time said  
By gods of old cast out. Here is no place  
At once for these and one of poisonous race.  
Let each rise up from his dishallowed bed  
And pass forth silent. Each divine veiled head  
Shall speak in silence with averted face;  
Scorn everlasting and eternal shame  
Eat out the rotten record of his name  
Who had the glory of all these graves in trust  
And turned it to a hissing. His offence  
Makes havoc of their desecrated dust  
Whose place is here no more. Let us go hence.

This is poor as a sonnet in several respects, especially as it weakens in the last three lines almost to make the end an anti-climax. C. C. Merritt has written a sonnet in retort, that is not only a worthy answer to the Englishman, but actually a stronger poem, and we give it here to our readers:

TO SWINBURNE.

Cease, Swinburne, cease! The dead in peace abide;  
They will not hence, nor heed thy peevish call.  
Invoke them not, nor let thy wisdom chide  
For thin distinction covered with the pall.  
Were there no mould laid in thy sacred fane  
But saintly dust shook from the righteous dead,  
No matter there of base corruption stain,  
Then couldst thou boast exultation in the bed.  
But what is there in sea or sweating hell,  
What rots in close confinement of the grave,  
More grossly foul, with poison rank and fell,  
Than England seeks in cherished pride to save?  
Where sleep the lecherous monsters of a line  
Whose crimes disgrace and damn thy famous shrine?

**OPENING OF THE NEW YORK PIANO COMPANY'S ROOMS.**

In connection with this notable musical event our readers will be gratified to read a few biographical details regarding Messrs. Albert Weber, manufacturer of the Weber Piano, and Mr. Oliver King, the renowned artist who presided at the inauguration. We append a review of the grand concert given on the occasion.

MR. ALBERT WEBER,

Whose portrait appears in our present, visited our city on the occasion of the opening of the New York Piano Company's Rooms as referred to above. This gentleman was left at the early age of 20 years sole heir to the immense piano business of his father. To assume this responsible position his business and musical capabilities were most carefully trained for years, and he is thoroughly versed in all the nice mechanism that goes to form a perfect piano. With this he is the possessor of as keen an ear to appreciate tone, and as sharp an eye to detect defects in construction as his late father was. To increase the power and extend the prestige of the Weber Piano is the main ambition of the youthful proprietor. The most expensive materials are used and highest mechanical skill alone employed in its construction, and has resulted in this piano being the especial favorite of all the musical people of the present day. During the past year the business has increased 40 per cent., and the average monthly sales are now seventy-six thousand dollars. The recent inquiry by the trades union has shown that the scale of wages paid by the house of Weber is higher than that of any other American manufacturers, and nearly double that paid by the best European houses.

MR. OLIVER KING, PIANIST TO H. R. H. PRINCESS LOUISE.

Mr. King was born in London, England, in 1855. When six years of age, having shown considerable musical inclination he was placed under the tuition of the famous Joseph Barnby, by whom he was thoroughly instructed in technique and theory, and was appointed assistant organist of St. Anne's Church, Soho, at the age of sixteen. Mr. King's first public appearance was at the exhibition concerts, given in the Royal Albert Hall, London, when he was engaged by the Committee for daily performances. At this period he also received valuable instruction from Mr. W. H. Holmes, of the Royal Academy of Music. For the development of his admitted abilities and for the gaining of further experience, Mr. King proceeded to Leipsic in 1874, and in the celebrated conservatoire of that classical city, became the pupil of Carl Reinecke, a name honored in the musical circles of the world. He also had the advantage of receiving much benefit from such eminent teachers as, Oscar Paul and Ernest Richter. After finishing a very satisfactory course of studies at the conservatoire, Mr. King returned to London in 1877, and became pianist to the London Musical Society, and conductor of the Isleworth Choral Society, which positions he resigned on receiving his present appointment of pianist to H. R. H. the Princess Louise in the spring of 1880. Like all leading artists, his favourite instrument is the New York Weber Piano, which he characterizes as simply perfection in tone and action.

As the record of Mr. Oliver King has become more known since his arrival with the Princess Louise, a desire to have him play was awakened among the cultured and musical people of Montreal, which wish the New York Piano Company aimed to gratify. And after having obtained permission from H. R. H., Mr. King formally opened the new music rooms Nos. 226 and 228 St. James street, on Tuesday, 22nd ult., with a recital consisting of twelve pieces which fully tested the Weber Grand, a piano that has long since reigned supreme in all our concerts worthy of note.

INAUGURATION OF THE ROOMS.

Bach-Liszt's fantasia of Trique in G minor was the opening piece, and as soon as Mr. King touched the keys every one must have been convinced that a maestro presided at the piano. His graceful bearing, wonderfully light touch, which is entirely free from strain, his due regard to attack and precision as well as expressive clearness, won at once the utmost attention of the critical and fashionable assemblage. Besides the above the programme was made up as follows: Praeludium and Toccata by Laehner; Berceuse and Ballad A flat, by Chopin; Légende, Barcarole, Impromptu Caprice, by Oliver King; Two Humoresken, by Grieg; Etude, by Henselt; Waldesrauchen, by Liszt, and Valse Caprice, by Rubinstein. At the finish of each of these Mr. King, who in public always plays from memory, was heartily applauded.

Mr. King's style as a composer belongs to the advanced German or Wagnerian school, though his compositions are founded upon orthodox scientific principles such as free form, vigour, themes developed in rich harmonies and rhythmic movement in which great perfection of measure and freedom are secured. These points easily account for the lasting reputation he has gained in England by his works for pianoforte and orchestra, which no doubt he will confirm during his sojourn in the United States for the next two months.

Our music-loving public is greatly indebted to the New York Piano Company for the many pleasures afforded by them lately in getting more familiar with high-class music, for it is this *live* Company which some time since gave a series of recitals by Herr Bohrer, and more recently by Herr Gustave Satter, the eminent pianist who won golden opinions even from the most fastidious persons, and who astonished the majority of our professionals by his true rendition of any music at sight.

But while our concert-goers must acknowledge the many efforts the New York Piano Company are making in giving and cultivating the taste for classical music, our city, too, can be proud of the magnificent store just opened, which the Company has spared no expense to make a place worthy of the Weber Grand Piano which has so frequently animated the hearers by its perfection of tone, and carried their mind to the elysium of the great composers whose names are and ever will be dear.

To comment more upon the Albert Weber Piano is superfluous, suffice it to say that, out of twenty-three concerts and recitals we attended during the past year, the Grand Weber figured at nineteen performances which speaks for itself in what high estimation this instrument is held by our local and foreign artists.

**HISTORY OF THE WEEK.**

MONDAY, June 21.—Another Ministerial crisis is threatened in Vienna.—There are rumours of the St. Gothard tunnel showing signs of collapsing.—The Porte refuses to force Albania to surrender territory to Montenegro.—The Queen is about to visit Ireland, where Her Majesty will spend some part of this summer.—The steamer *Andracite*, said to be the smallest steamer that ever crossed the Atlantic, arrived at St. John's, Nfld., yesterday.—Dale, alias Jordan, the captain of the cricket team that went to England from Canada, has been sentenced to 336 days' imprisonment.—The decision on the Bradlaugh case in the Commons last night resulted in a vote of 230 against 275 on Mr. Labouchere's motion permitting Bradlaugh to affirm.

TUESDAY, June 22.—A Constantinople despatch reports a recent defeat of the Russian forces by the Turco-mans.—Numerous French officials have resigned on account of unwillingness to enforce the anti-Jesuit decrees.—It is thought that the supplementary Congress of Berlin will conclude its labours in three more sittings.—Sir Garnet Wolseley has been gazetted to the Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath. He will shortly be detailed for active service.

WEDNESDAY, June 23.—Official despatches from India say so much discontent prevails among the native troops, it is found impossible to raise the army to its original strength.—Oldham master spinners have informed the hands of their inability to carry out their promise of the 5 per cent. advance in wages promised recently, on account of the continued depression in the trade.—When Bradlaugh entered the House of Commons yesterday, the Speaker informed him of the vote of the House the previous evening, and requested him to withdraw. Mr. Bradlaugh, persevering in an attempt to address the House, was subsequently arrested and confined in the Clock Tower.

THURSDAY, June 24.—The Government refused to receive Mr. Parnell's Irish relief bill.—The Prussian Landtag has passed the second reading of the May Laws.—The French Chamber of Deputies passed the public worship budget yesterday.—Lord Beaconsfield is said to be desirous of resigning the leadership of the Opposition.—The case of Arthur Orton, the Tichborne claimant, was before the Supreme Court of Judicature yesterday.—The Burmah rebellion has not been entirely quashed yet.—A recent advantage of the rebels is reported.—It is rumoured that the Duke of Cambridge is about to resign, and will be succeeded as Commander-in-Chief by the Duke of Connaught.—Sir Selby Smyth's scheme for the establishment of a permanent military force in Canada is said to be favourably entertained by the War Office.—On motion of Sir Stafford Northcote, who had moved for his committal, Bradlaugh was released from the Clock Tower yesterday, and shortly afterwards entered the House and resumed his seat.

FRIDAY, June 25.—London despatches say the question is being agitated for greater accommodation for the rulers of the country than the present Houses of Parliament afford.—The Imperial Government has announced the postponement of the alteration in the French wine duties, and the new duties will not be likely to go into operation till next year.—Despatches from Melbourne, Australia, state that the resignation of the Ministry is likely, on account of their reform bill having been defeated.—A London cable says the Chairman of the Bank of Oldham committed suicide yesterday.—Mr. Forster, Under-Secretary for Ireland, moved the compensation for ejectment bill in the Commons last night.—The House of Lords last night rejected the deceased wife's sister bill by a vote of 201 to 90.—The Berlin conference has accepted the technical commission's frontier.—Peace has been concluded between Egypt and Abyssinia.

SATURDAY, June 26.—The Burmese insurgents have been routed and their chief arrested.—A Rio despatch says peace negotiations have been opened at Buenos Ayres.—Abdul Rahman's reply to the British terms is said to be fairly satisfactory.—The *Desaouk*, with the American obelisk on board, left Gibraltar on Saturday for the United States.—Mr. Baring has been appointed to succeed Mr. Strachey as Financial Secretary of India, the latter having resigned.—Bismarck's organ denies that any compromise has been effected on the Falk Laws amendment bill, and states that the Government are determined not to give up any portion of the bill.

**VARIETIES.**

PEOPLE have been a good deal puzzled by the name of the Derby winner, for a knowledge of the mysteries of heraldry has not as yet been included in the Board School curriculum. The "bend" is a tolerably prominent feature of the heraldic shield on which it occurs. It is a broad band extending diagonally from the right top to the left bottom, or, in heraldic phrase, "from the dexter chief to the sinister base;" and a "Bend" may either be "Or," or "Argent." Hence the name "Bend Or" which was, of course, suggested by the Duke of Westminster's coat of arms. The Duchess of Westminster has received quite an ovation this week whilst out driving, the familiar golden colours of the livery being at once recognized.

COLD DRINKS AND HOT WEATHER.—Attention is often called by medical men to the danger which arises from the indiscriminate use of cold drinks in hot weather. Much injury is done to health thereby, and many deaths have resulted. It is said that the people exposed to the heat, especially those who are hard at work, will not, or cannot, refrain from drinking, for they feel the need of supplying the waste from copious perspiration. What, then, shall they drink? Water seems, under the circumstances, to be inadequate to the wants of the system. It passes through the circulation to the skin as through a sieve, and flows over the surface in streams. A big drink of cold, or even of cool, water on an empty stomach is very dangerous; it is liable to produce sudden death. The danger may be avoided, it is said, by putting farinaceous substances, particularly oat-meal, with the water to be drunk by labourers, the proper proportion being three or four ounces of meal to a gallon of water. Why oatmeal should be better than rye, millet, buckwheat, or cornmeal cannot easily be determined, but those who have used oat-meal, especially firemen, coal-heavers, and the like, say that it gives them greater endurance, and increases their strength. This may be a mere notion, but the peculiar aroma of the oats may be so associated with an agreeable stimulation of the alimentary mucous surface as to promote complete digestion. The meal appears to fill the blood-vessels without increasing the cutaneous exhalations. Workmen who have tried acid, saccharine, or alcoholic drinks as a substitute for the oat-meal drinks have invariably expressed unsatisfactory results. Water with oat-meal seems to be by all odds the most wholesome and desirable summer drink for manual labourers.

**NOTICE.**

In order to prevent any delay in the delivery of the News, or loss of numbers, those of our subscribers who change their place of residence will kindly advise us of the fact.