1820 WILLIAM H. SEWARD. (1) (Stanton)

In the summer (1828) I attended a Young Men's Adams State Convention at Utica, whereof William H. Seward was President. Here commenced an acquaintance between us which lasted till the death of that great statesman, in 1872.

I relate the following anecdote as I recall it when falling from Mr. Seward's lips, soon after the event. He had won distinction by his presidency over the Young Men's State Convention, and there was a general desire in the Adams party for his advancement. A member of Congress was to be chosen in the Cayuga district, but Seward did not aspire to the position. He was then 27 years old. The party in Cayuga relied on his facile pen to draft the addresses of their conventions, which then filled the place of the long strings of resolutions of a latter period. The Adams leaders in Auburn had fixed on the nomination of an old and popular citizen, not dreaming that the approaching convention would fail to accept him. Taking it for granted that he would be the candidate, young Seward wrote an address describing the nomination of an aged inhabitant of Cayuga, who had long dwelt in the county, had filled important offices during an honorable career, and was revered for his years, solid attainments, and many virtues. Having prepared the addrees Mr. Seward left Auburn for a distant county to try a case in court.

The convention got into a snarl, and, after a long contest, rejected the foreshadowed candidate, and, as a last resort, compromised on Seward. In the dusk of the evening they adopted Seward's addrress without having read it, and sent the record of their proceedings to the printer of the weekly newspaper, with verbal directions to insert Seward's name in the address. It was put in type,and soon appeared. Judge of Seward's surprise and chagrin when he arrived home to find himself not only nominated for Congress, but presented to the voters of Cayuga as an aged inhabitant, who had long dwelt in the county. and was revered for his years and virtues, and so on, in the glowing phrases of his own address. He emerged from the ridiculous position in which the convention had placed him by peremptorily declining the nomination. pp. 33-34.

During the four turbulent years of Buchanan's administration, Mr. Seward was recognized both by coadjutors and opponents as the leader of his party in the Senate. Though always respectful towards antagonists, and never for a moment losing his equanimity in debate, he was so radical in his opinions on negro slavery, and so bold in their utterance, that the drew upon himself the hostility of the Southern senators, and especially such slavery protagonists as Toombs, Slidell, Mason, and Benjamin. The latter had formerly been a Whig, and his seat was on the hereditary Whig side of the chamber, where now sat in adjoining chairs four leaders who had supported General Taylor's administration, namely, Seward and Benjamin, Wade and Toombs, the latter then being in the House. Among the ready,

pungent, and eloquent orators in the Senate stood Judah P. Benjamin. One day, at the close of a set speech on the Kansas embroglio, he made an impassioned and bitter attack on Seward. As Benjamin resumed his seat, Seward rose, and turning to his assailant, said, in a calm and indifferent tone, "Benjamin, give me a cigar, and when your speech is printed send me a copy." Seward then retired to the cloak room and smoked Benjamin's cigar.

This was done without affectiation on the part of Seward...

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In 1860 Mr. Seward made a speech in the Senate which he thought would remove all obstacles to his nomination to the presidency at Chicago. He read it to me before it was delivered, and requested me to write a description for the New York Tribune of the scene in the chamber during ~~its~~ the delivery, which I did. The description was elaborate , the Senator himself suggesting some of the nicer touches, and every line of it was written and on its way to New York before Mr. Seward had uttered a word in the Senate Chamber. Soon a large edition of the speech and the description came to Washington. As he handed me some copies, he said, in his liveliest manner, "Here we go down to posterity together." He was in bouyant spirits, seeming not to doubt that his nomination was assured. He would have felt otherwise if he had known at that critical moment scarcely a half dozen Republican Senators were heartily in favor of his ~~candidacy~~ candidacy. It is my own personal knowledge that Fessenden, Hamlin, Hale, Simmons, Foster, Dixon, Cameron, Wade, Trumbull, and Doolittle were among his opponents.

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Mr. Seward seemed to be certain of receiving the Presidential nomination at Chicago. He felt that it belonged to him. His flatterers had encouraged him in the error that he was the sole creator of the Republican party, both he and they forgetting that it was the grandchild of the Liberty party, which was the legitimate offspring of the Missouri controversy.

At Chicago, Seward encountered the opposition from his own state of such powerful leaders as Greeley, Dudley Field, Bryant and Wadsworth. The first two were on the ground and very busy. The two latter sent pungent letters that were circulated among the delegates from various states. The main point of attack was that Seward could not carry New York. Soon after the adjournment of the convention, William Curtis Noyes, who was a delegate, told me (and there could have been no higher authority for the statement than this learned lawyer) that a careful canvass of the New York delegation showed that nearly one fourth of its members believed it was extremely doubtful if Seward could obtain a majority ~~of~~ at the polls in that state. This doubt was an element of great weakness in Seward's canvass at Chicago. The Barnburners in the Republican party were generally for against him. Perhaps the main stumbling block over which he fell in the convention was Thurlow Weed. As events finally culminated, it was clear that Seward could have carried New York, for the Southern conspirators against the Union were determined that the Republican candidate, whoever he was , should be elected.

Mr. Seward was popular among his neighbors. On the day when the convention was ~~held~~ to ballot for a candidate, Cayuga county poured itself into Auburn. The streets were full, and Mr. Seward's house and grounds overflowed with his admirers. The trees waved their branches on the lawn as if betokening coming victory. Flags were ready to be raised, and a loaded cannon was placed at the gate, whose pillars bore up two guardian lions. Arrangements had been perfected for the receipt of intelligence with unwonted speed from the scene where the battle was proceeding. At Mr. Seward's right hand, just within the porch, stood his trusty henchman, Christopher Morgan. The rider of a galloping steed dashed through the crowd with a telegram, and handed it to Seward. He read it and passed it to Morgan. For Seward, 173½; for Lincoln, 103; and for other aspirants, 189½. Morgan repeated it to the multitude, who cheered vehemently. Then came the tidings of the second ballot: For Seward, 184½; for Lincoln, 181; and for others, 99½. "I shall be nominated on the next ballot," said Seward, and the throng in the house applauded, and those on the lawn and in the street echoed the cheers. The next messenger from the telegraph office lashed his horse into a run. The telegram read, "Lincoln nominated. T.W." Seward turned as pale as ashes. The sad tidings crept throughthe vast consourse. The flags were furled, the cannon rolled away, and Cayuga county wnet home with a clouded brow. Mr. Seward retired to rest at a late hour, and the night breeze in the tall trees sighed a requiem over the blighted hopes of New York's eminent son.

Mr. Seward felt his defeat at Chicago beyond all power of expression, and he never forgave those who had actively contributed to produce it. In incensed moments he accused some men wrongly, as he subsequently admitted. He wasa good hater, and lay in wait to punish his foes. He doubtless defeated General Wadsworth for Governor of New York in 1862. Wadsworth was then military commander at Washington, and Seward was Secretary of State.. Wadsworth told me that Seward was "dead against him" all through the campaign. .....I could relate many marked instances within my own knowledge where Seward's lightning strokes fell on New York Republicans who had opposed his nomination in 1860. If bitter exclamations, welling up from the heart, can prove anything, they demonstrated the depth and intensity of his mortification and anger. More than to any other ~~man~~ one man he attributed his failure to reach the goal of his ambition to Horace Greeley. For twenty years they were coadjutors in politics, but in 1854 they became estranged, and never after were in close accord. pp.214-217

1820 WILLIAM H. SEWARD (4) (Stanton)
~~Amid these warring~~ elements

Amid these warring elements Seward usually appeared self-poised, conscious of his power, and satisfied with his superior influence at the White House. He parted with his temper now and then, when friends pressed him to perform impossibilities, as, for example, on the occasion of a visit from leading New York Republicans of his type, who complained that their followers were not receiving a due share of patronage. It was reported and believed that he broke into a rage, exclaiming in substance, "Why come to me about this? Go to the White House! I, who by every right ought to have been chosen President! What am I now? nothing but Abe Lincoln's little-----clerk."
p. 222

On Mr. Seward's return, in the fall of 1871, from his trip around the globe, Mr. Hugh J. Hastings arranged a plan for my going with the Governor to Auburn, accompanied by a stenographer, to get a condensed report of his journey for publication in the New York Sun. Mr. Dana and I conferred, and I went up. The report filled a broadside of the Sun, and, as Mr. Seward subsequently told me, it saved him much trouble, for, when any of his friends asked him about his trip, he immediately gave them a copy of the newspaper. Of the many incidents that occurred during this trip to Auburn I will relate but one. The morning after our arrival Mr. Seward was walking in his grounds. The servant was pointing him to this, that, and the other thing, but he kept saying, "Show me the bird." I did not understand what he meant. Soon we stood before the largest eagle I ever saw, enclosed in a great cage. The Governor looked at the eagle; the eagle looked at the Governor. They exchanged winks. as much as to say, "We understand each other." Mr. Seward then exclaimed with emotion, "When I was in Alaska they gave me that eagle, and that is all I ever got for my trouble in negotiating the Alaska treaty, except a great deal of undeserved personal abuse."

In the autumn of 1872 Mr. Seward died. In 1828 I had been a member of the Young Men's State Convention, over which Mr. Seward presided. I now stood by his open grave. In the ~~xxxx~~ intervening ~~forty-xxxxx~~ forty-four years he had played a great part in the history of his country. pp.241-242

Random Recollections
Henry B. Stanton
Harper & Brothers
New York
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WILLIAM H. SEWARD*

DEXTER PERKINS

YOUR distinguished President, in the period of his youthful ebullience, once produced a notable and robust volume on the *Decline of Aristocracy in the Politics of New York.* The story which he traced therein is a fascinating one; it suggests many other collateral themes; and among these latter perhaps none is more worth examining than the early political career of one who exemplified the rising popular forces in politics and strove to give them expression, that great New Yorker, and indeed great national statesman, William H. Seward. It so happens that through the kindness of a fellow townsman, I have recently been put in contact with a notable collection of letters, well-nigh 1000 in number, written by Seward to his bosom friend and kindred spirit in politics, Thurlow Weed, and this fact may well afford an additional reason for examining here the career of an individual whose life contains so much that is instructive from the standpoint of the larger movements of our politics, and who was one of the most lovable and attractive figures in the partisan activities of his time.

William H. Seward was the fourth child of Dr. Samuel S. Seward, of Florida, Orange county, and was born in that town May 16, 1801. Not particularly robust physically, and early giving signs of very decided intellectual gifts, he was selected by his father for a professional career. After a secondary education in Florida and in the nearby village of Goshen, at the age of 15 he entered Union College, then under the presidency, as it was to be for nearly a half-century to come, of Eliphalet Nott. His college years were temporarily interrupted by a slight tiff with his father, which sheds some light on the independence of the youth's character. Being unable to pay a tailor's bill which he had contracted, and parental aid having been denied to him, Seward left college for Georgia, where after some hardships he secured a position as a teacher in a small academy. But this transplantation, which might have

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effected quite vitally his whole life, was a very brief one. His father's anger, and perhaps still more the entreaties of his mother and sister, soon brought him northward again, and after a year's absence he returned to Union in January 1820 having in the meantime discharged his debt to the tailor by reading law in Goshen and in Florida. In June he graduated from college with high honors, and the first taste of law having apparently been to his liking, continued his reading for the bar, and was admitted at Utica in October of 1822. Shortly after, at the very beginning of 1823, he was taken into partnership by Elijah Miller of Auburn and began his residence in the town which was to be his home for the rest of his life. During the next two years law and love seem to have run side by side, for in October 1824 Seward married his partner's daughter, Francis. The chosen one was no mere docile companion; it is clear that she had opinions of her own, and that her womanly sympathy with the oppressed, and hatred of slavery, had their part in shaping the career and opinions of her husband.

Seward was formed for public life. His adoption of a profession, of course, pointed in that direction. In addition he was naturally sociable and convivial. He joined the militia, managed the town dancing assemblies, though unable to dance, and participated in all sorts of town activities. Cheerful, self-confident to a degree, and distinctly able, it was inevitable that he should be drawn into politics. The question was, with what group should he align himself?

Seward's father was a Jeffersonian Republican of the strictest sect. But the son, with praiseworthy independence, deviated from the path of orthodoxy. Distrust of the South (so he tells us in his *Autobiography*, written fifty years later) and zeal for internal improvements were the principal factors in aligning him with the partisans of John Quincy Adams in the elections of 1824. The choice once made, like so many other choices in life, in all probability developed a momentum of its own. Adams was a hero to Seward the rest of his life; and there may here be traced an influence none the less potent because not always on the surface of things. The loyalty of the younger man for the older soon had striking expression; the Clintonian faction in New York, which had supported Adams in 1824, soon broke with the acid New Englander, and this just at the time when Seward's name had

been sent to the State Senate as surrogate for Cayuga county. The young Auburn lawyer refused to desert the President; and thus early in his career sacrificed office for his convictions, failing of confirmation at the hands of his enraged former associates.

This little episode prompts me to interpolate at this point a word or two in general touching Seward's regard for principles in politics. There is no question that the future Republican chieftain could be an extremely canny and adroit politician; it cannot be denied that there were elements of political expediency in many of his boldest pronouncements; but it is also to be pointed out that throughout his life Seward was as far as possible from the type of politician who practices a discreet silence on every public issue which he can successfully avoid, and speaks, if speak he must, with calculated equivocations and carefully balanced phrases intended to please both sides at once. Naturally impulsive, naturally generous, honestly interested, not in the mere game of politics but in politics as the means of promoting human welfare, Seward's whole political life affords many an instance of courage, and of conviction.

The active political career of Seward is closely identified with that of another remarkable New Yorker, Thurlow Weed. The two men had met as early as 1824, when Seward's carriage broke down in Rochester and Weed came to his aid. Weed was already active in politics and, like Seward, an Adams man. In the course of the years following their meeting he attained greater and greater influence. He was one of the leading spirits in the formation of the short-lived Anti-Masonic party, and his skill in the arts of political management soon gave him a considerable power. He moved to Albany in 1830 and there established the Albany *Evening Journal*. From this time on his fortunes mounted rapidly, and within a few years he had become the dominant figure in the opposition to the Democracy. From this time on, too, he carried on a voluminous correspondence with the rising young Auburn lawyer, the tone of which attests an intimacy hardly paralleled in American politics, perhaps finding its most suggestive comparison, though by no means an exact one, in the friendship of William McKinley and Marcus Alonzo Hanna. The two men supplemented each other extraordinarily well. In the gifts of partisan maneuvering, in shrewdness, in the cajoling of individuals and the maintaining

of party harmony, Weed was no doubt superior to Seward; but Seward excelled his mentor in boldness, in imagination, in willingness to do battle for positive policies. The combination was destined in course of time to be irresistible.

It was due to Weed that Seward, already active in the politics of Anti-Masonry, around which the forces opposed to the Democracy had temporarily centered, went to the State Senate in the fall of 1830, and was re-elected in 1832. In Albany he speedily made a name for himself; he vigorously opposed Jackson's policy with regard to the bank; sponsored actively internal improvements; and bore an honorable part in the movement for the abolition of imprisonment for debt. Indeed, he did so well that he became the accepted leader of the minority; and though the collapse of the Anti-Masonic party in the elections of 1833 temporarily discouraged him and his political associates, it needed only Weed's political ingenuity to make possible the rise of a new political organization which took the name of Whig and which nominated Seward for the governorship in 1834. The election, however, went against him, and for the moment the rising young statesman retired to private life.

It is interesting to see the evolution of Seward's thought in the next four years, until he emerged from his profession to run again for the governorship in 1838. In the formation of the new Whig party, there was, in his view, one principal danger to be avoided, that is, its identification, as with Federalism thirty years before, with the interests of the aristocrats rather than with the interests of the people. One of his most interesting and penetrating letters is that which he wrote to Weed on April 12, 1835; he was commenting on the great strength of Van Buren.

The People are for him, not so much for him as for the principle they suppose he represents. That principle is democracy, and the best result of all our labors in the Whig cause and under the Whig banner to rouse them to a sense of the progress of Toryism in the Government has been to excite them while they have been more and more confirmed in their apprehensions of the danger of the loss of their liberties by an imaginary instead of a real aristocracy. It is with them the Poor against the Rich—And it is not to be disguised that since the last election the array of parties has very strongly taken that character. Those who felt themselves or believed themselves poor have fallen off very naturally from us.

. . . While the rich we have always with us. Our papers without being conscious of it have been gradually assuring their cause—Not from choice but by way of retaliation upon the victors. . . . Nothing could have been more indiscreet than the articles appealing to national prejudice and religious prejudices against foreigners and Catholics.

The closing words of this letter suggest some further comment on Seward's views on nativism and on Catholicism. He was, from the early period of his career, the straightforward foe of little Americanism and of religious bigotry. His enemies were, in later years, to accuse him of currying favor with the Irish voters; but I am convinced that his general attitude towards the immigrants and towards the religious question in politics was of the most thorough stuff of his convictions. "The fear of Catholicism," he wrote to Weed, May 12, 1835, in words which sound their just reproach down the years to the election of 1928, "is as absurd as the revival of Salem witchcraft." And again, "The Catholic religion is infinitely better than Protestant intolerance." These views were set down in a private letter but, as we shall see, they were to be confirmed in public conduct as time went on.

The slavery question was at this time, though by no means a central issue, rising into greater and greater prominence. Seward early saw the question as one involving humanitarian liberalism, and sought to persuade Weed of this fact. When the latter seemed to suggest that the activities of the abolitionists ought to be checked or controlled, the Auburn lawyer wrote, October 4, 1835, that such action "would only add fuel to the flames," and that if "potent legal restraints" were adopted, "the name of the party that enacted them will from that moment be Ichabod." A year and a half later, Weed having persisted in the not unwarranted view that the agitations of the abolitionists endangered the Union, Seward wrote, it must be admitted with less foresight than his mentor, but from generous feeling:

All the ranting in and out of Congress by Southerners about dissolving the Union is the raving or rather blustering of Priests who swear by their ancient gods when the People have changed their religion. Except South Carolina the most of the Southern people are as fast within the power of the General Government as we of the North are, and that is fast enough, God knows.

From the retirment of the years 1834 to 1838 Seward emerged to run once more for the governorship. During his years of relative inactivity he had maintained and drawn still closer his intimacy with Weed, now the most powerful figure in the Whig party; and he represented the more vigorous and youthful elements in Whiggery. His rival for the nomination was Francis Granger, long a figure of prominence in the anti-Democratic ranks and a courtly, polished and attractive man; but Granger had not proved very successful in his two previous candidacies and, long before the convention, the Whig leader had decided against him. The ground was carefully prepared in advance; but even so, the battle was a hard one, and it required all of Weed's adroitness to secure Seward's nomination. That the rising young politician of Auburn was ardently anxious to be nominated, and that he had done a good deal of careful political pipe-laying in preparation for the event, is amply attested in his correspondence.

The year 1838 was naturally a propitious one for the Whigs. The great depression of 1837 had fallen upon the country, and the mood of revolt was running strong. The Van Buren administration was unpopular, also, because of its vigorous efforts to maintain the peace of the border during the Canadian insurrection; and in the state itself the Democrats had made themselves unpopular by the enactment of the so-called small bills law, prohibiting the issuance of paper money under the value of five dollars. The cards were stacked, therefore, in favor of Seward, and the only question which embarrassed him during the campaign was that of slavery. Three questions were addressed to him, and to his Democratic rival, Governor Marcy, by the abolitionists; would Seward favor the passage of a law granting trial by jury to fugitive slaves; of a law abolishing the special requirements for Negro voters; and would he seek the repeal of a law permitting the bringing of slaves into the state, and their retention there for a period of nine months? Whoever reads Seward's reply to these queries will be impressed, I think, with its candor. Of the three changes suggested, only the first was approved; but the negative answer to the other two queries was stated with frankness, and rested, in the main, upon the unpreparedness of public opinion for any such course. Seward was never a radical, in the literal sense of the word; it is not strange

that he did not wholly satisfy the little group of anti-slavery fanatics in 1838.

The tide of popular revolt, running strong as we have said, bore Seward triumphantly into the Governor's chair; and to this honorable post he was to be re-elected in 1840. His career there deserves attention as a revelation of the man, and also because of its extraordinary appositeness in relation to some of the problems of our own time.

One of the most interesting aspects of Seward in office is the emphasis laid upon the question of internal improvements. The undertaking of such improvements was, of course, good Whig doctrine; indeed, it was one of the things that had attracted Seward to the party of his choice at the beginning. An ambitious program of public building of canals had been recommended by the Whigs in the legislature of 1838; and to such a program the young Governor now addressed himself with ardor. It was his optimistic belief (and optimism was the very mainspring of Seward's character) that a great canal system would pay for itself; he argued this point at length in his message of 1839; and he maintained, with his Whig confrères, that so great would be the productiveness of such improvements, that they would warrant the state in expending the then large sum of $4,000,000 a year for a period of ten years, these funds to be secured by borrowing, and not by taxation. It was impossible to embark upon any such program in the first year of Seward's governorship; for while the Whigs had swept the Assembly in the elections of the previous year, they had not secured control of the Senate; and no legislation of importance in regard to internal improvements was adopted, save a small sum for improving the navigation of the Oneida River. In the meantime, moreover, estimates with regard to the enlargement of the Erie Canal, made in Governor Marcy's administration and the basis of a loan of four millions, had been proven to be widely erroneous, about half as much as would really be required; and the disillusionment which thus confronted the friends of internal improvements, combined with the persistence of the depression, prevented the new Governor from going as far as in his heart he designed. Indeed, it would have been easy to have called a halt on all public building. But Seward, with the two houses of the legislature now in the possession of the Whigs,

strongly advocated the prosecution of existing projects; and he did so in language that suggests some of the economic-political theories of 1933.

> During the severe pressure we have experienced, the industry of the citizen has been stimulated, and the wages of labor, the prices of the products of the earth, and the value of property have been sustained by expenditures in the prosecution of this system [i.e., the canal system]. The sudden arrest of such expenditures, and the discharge of probably ten thousand laborers, now employed upon the public works, at a time when the circulation of money in other departments of business is so embarrased as almost to have ceased, would extend throughout the whole community, and with fearful aggravation, the losses and suffering that as yet have been in a great measure confined to the mercantile class.

The Governor went on to justify the general principles of his system in great detail, and to urge upon the legislature the continuation of the program of public works to which it had already committed itself. Indeed, he went further. Railroads as well as canals came within the range of his vigorous faith in the future. In his messages of 1839 and 1840 he advocated, though in guarded language, the construction of railroads by the state itself, if private enterprise could not be induced to undertake the task; and though reflection led him to see some practical difficulties in the way of such a course, he was entirely in favor of lending the credit of the state to private corporations for the building of this new form of transportation. No doubt there was something a little exaggerated in his view of the matter; but the Governor who advocated a program of public expenditure in the midst of financial gloom undoubtedly arrests the attention and commands the approval of many of the present generation.

It cannot be said, however, that Seward's policy was a success. The works themselves proceeded slowly; the debt of the state rose steadily, the canal debt alone increasing from ten to nineteen millions; in 1841 it was necessary to sell the state's 6% bonds at 20% discount; and the elections of 1841 produced a violent popular reaction which gave the Democrats a majority in both houses of the legislature, and led to the passage of the so-called "stop and tax" law. This provided for the virtual suspension of all new construction, the levy of a new property tax, and the making of

the interest on any loan to be effected a charge on the canal revenues. Orthodox finance held sway once more, and Seward was arguing a lost cause when with courage and tenacity he still defended his policy in his message to the special session of 1842. Yet he did not hesitate to do so. The change of policy he denounced as "sudden and humiliating."

> The danger to which the credit of the state was exposed, arose, not from any cause merely local or temporary, nor at all from the extent of our unfinished works, nor from the firmness with which we had persevered in our improvements during the three previous years, but from the failure of the confidence of foreign capitalists, and even of the American people themselves, in the financial wisdom and integrity of the governments of other States. [He invited the legislature to rescind its action; and declared that the state was oppressed,] "not so much by opposing forces as by our own irresolution, and that a small portion of that energy which was put forth when our system of internal improvements was undertaken, would secure its reestablishment and successful triumph.

Courage and confidence are here, if nothing else; and perhaps depressions would be other than they are if there were more of this spirit.

Nothing is more characteristic of the generous spirits of the nineteenth century than the faith which they felt in the value of education. And in no respect was Seward more typical of the larger views of his time than in the insistence with which he urged the cause of the schools upon the people of New York State. In this subject he had always been interested, and intelligently interested. In a speech delivered at Westfield in 1837 he had urged an ambitious program of educational reform; he had laid stress on the necessity of affording equal opportunities to those whom the society of the 40s so patronizingly described as "females;" and he had criticized the college education of the time as lacking in progressive ideas and in practical adaptation to the needs of the students. In the message of 1839 the newly-elected Governor had much to say on the whole subject. He spoke approvingly of the establishment of school libraries; but devoted his principal attention to what he deemed the crying need of establishing higher standards of instruction. The method which he advocated was that of "visitation," visitation not confined to the schools alone,

but extended to the academies and the colleges, and in this connection he advocated the establishment of a state board, with a state superintendent appointed by the legislature. Those who have witnessed in our own era the growth of an educational bureaucracy at Albany may feel only a qualified enthusiasm for the Governor's recommendations; they may heave a gentle sigh of relief at learning that the legislature failed to act on these recommendations; but there is another side to the matter. It can hardly be denied that state supervision of education has been from the beginning in the interest of higher standards, and that a case can be made out for such supervision on just this ground. At any rate, whatever one's own views, it must be admitted that Seward identified himself with a policy, later to be adopted by the State, and from motives that were altogether worthy.

In his message of 1840 Seward approached the educational problem from a new angle, and in a fashion that was to cause him many heart-burnings. The educational system of the state at this time did not extend to the city of New York. There the schools were administered by a private agency known as the New York Public School Society, sectarian in temper, if not avowedly so, and the benefits of their instruction were by no means as widely diffused as they ought to have been. Seward had visited the metropolis officially during his first year as Governor and had been much impressed with that fact. In his message of 1840 he used the following language:

> The children of foreigners, found in great numbers in our populous cities and towns, and in the vicinity of our public works, are too often deprived of the advantages of our system of public education, in consequence of prejudices arising from difference of language or religion. It ought never to be forgotten that the public welfare is as deeply concerned in their education as in that of our own children. I do not hesitate, therefore, to recommend the establishment of schools in which they may be instructed by teachers speaking the same language with themselves and professing the same faith.

This declaration had not been adopted without reflection; it had been the subject of discussion with Dr. Nott, the venerable president of Union College, and formerly Seward's own teacher, and with at least one other prominent Protestant clergyman; but it was most obviously a political blunder. For the 30s and 40s saw the

rise of one of those movements of nativism of which America history affords so many examples, and in this, as in other instances, religious bigotry combined with nationalist fundamentalism. Seward was violently denounced, all too frequently and to his distress by members of his own party. He was "sapping the foundations of liberty." He was a "betrayer of the innocent to the wiles of the Scarlet Lady." He was "in league with the Pope." He was "himself a Jesuit." The Democrats seized joyfully upon the Governor's language, and capitalized it to excellent advantage. Though Seward was re-elected in the campaign of 1840, he ran behind his ticket, and the astute Weed laid most of the blame upon the pronouncement upon education from which we have just quoted.

The message of 1840 was, undoubtedly, a political misstep; and the wisdom of any such policy as Seward advocated might itself be challenged and has not met with the approval of later generations. Yet the generosity of the Governor's views commands admiration. And as between the Ku Kluxers of the 40s, as myopic in their Americanism as their successors of the 1920s, and William H. Seward, the choice does not appear to be difficult. Nor were the Governor's efforts altogether unavailing. On the proposition which he had made in 1840, Seward was compelled to beat a retreat; in his annual message of 1841 he did so, in language perhaps not strictly accurate:

> I have not recommended, nor do I seek the education of any class in foreign languages, or in particular creeds or faiths; but fully believing with the author of the Declaration of Independence, that even error may be safely tolerated, where reason is left free to combat it, and therefore indulging no apprehensions from the influence of any language or creed among an enlightened people, I desire the education of the entire rising generation in all the elements of knowledge we possess, and in that tongue which is the universal language of our countrymen.

But at the same time he reiterated his strong conviction that the situation in the city of New York was not what it ought to be, and strongly recommended the extension of the public school system of the state to the metropolis. Before his second term had expired, he had the satisfaction of seeing placed upon the statute books a law which carried out this principle, putting the control of the schools in the hands of an elective board, and removing the

Public School Society from the center of the stage. In the controversy of these three years, Seward won the respect of many of those who were opposed to him politically; he formed a firm friendship with Bishop Hughes, whom, contrary to rumor, he had not known at all at the time of the message of 1840; and this friendship was to last for a quarter of a century, and to result in Hughes mission abroad at the time of the Civil War.

The period of Seward's governorship marks an interesting evolution in his views on slavery. As we have seen, he had from the beginning viewed the abolitionist movement with respect, and had disapproved of attempts at repressing it; but in his campaign of 1838 his tone on the Negro question had been far from satisfactory to the ardent foes of slavery. In office, however, he was to delight these gentry beyond measure. For only a few months after taking the oath, Seward was confronted with a request from the governor of Virginia for the extradition of three seamen who had encouraged the escape of a slave while their vessel was undergoing repairs at Norfolk. The Constitution of the United States enjoins the surrender of persons "charged in any state with treason, felony or other crime, who shall flee from justice, and be found in another state." But Seward, in his reply to the governor of Virginia, declared that he could not comply with the requisition, since slavery was not a crime under the laws of the state of New York, nor under the common law. The validity of his reasoning, on this matter, though it met with the emphatic approval of his political idol, John Quincy Adams, must be pronounced ingenious rather than convincing, but that he was acting in accordance with a large body of opinion is evidenced by the endorsement of the Governor's stand by the Whig legislature of 1840. Thus early then, did the tawny-haired Auburn lawyer seek to identify, and in a measure succeed in identifying, the Whig party with an advanced position on the slavery issue. And to the position taken in 1839 Seward steadfastly adhered, despite the wrath of the Virginians and the criticism of party foes in his own state. And in connection with this aspect of his governorship it is also to be set down that in 1840 Seward had the satisfaction of signing a law granting trial by jury to every person claimed as a fugitive slave.

There are many other aspects of Seward's four years in office that might be treated in a longer paper. I cannot discuss them

all, but I do wish to add a word or two with regard to certain questions which further illustrate my central theme, that is, that William H. Seward amply represented the generous, liberal and humanitarian tendencies of his age. Take, for example, the reform of judicial procedure. On this matter Seward benefited in part from the suggestions of his predecessor and political rival, Governor Marcy; in his public papers he generously acknowledged his debt in this regard; and where Marcy had recommended ineffectually, the Whig governor put forth accomplishment. It may not be thought disrespectful to the votaries of a great profession to suggest that a zeal for legal reformation is not generally characteristic of lawyers; in this as in other matters Seward was no mere conformist; he undoubtedly antagonized many of his legal associates; indeed Weed believed that, next to the school question, the legal reforms of the Governor's first term did most to explain his reduced plurality. An easier victory of the liberal tendencies of the time is to be found in the abolition of the last remnants of imprisonment for debt under Seward's leadership; and in the movement for prison reform, so characteristic of his time, the Whig leader had an honorable part.

In his appointments to office, Seward followed the standards of his time. He depended much upon Weed, who was a frank spoilsman, and so great was the influence of the Albany journalist that he was often known as the "Dictator." Yet in an examination of Seward's governorship, one comes to the conviction that the Governor was his own man throughout his four years of office, and that his friend never sought to influence him in any way that could be deemed reprehensible. As to Weed, it is one of his best titles to favorable judgment that he brought into politics, supported and advanced, and on the whole remained loyal to, a man of enlarged and liberal views and farseeing statesmanship. The relationship between the two men remained extraordinarily close during the four years of the governorship; and I should like to close this paper with some emphasis upon this point. Seward poured out his heart to Weed, even when his usually mercurial temperament was a prey to discouragement; there is an interesting letter in which he talked of resignation, written November 29, 1841, after a crushing Whig defeat in the elections. In a mood of deep discouragement, he contemplated laying down the seals of

office. Yet he wrote further: "I dare not oppose your advice. You have been faithful to me, and when I remember how high that fidelity has enabled me to rise I feel that it is treasonable not to procure your advice." Weed, as one would expect, counseled against any such step, and Seward carried on. On the last day of his second term, he summed up much of the experience of four years in another letter to his friend:

The end has come at last. My successor and the New Year come together. He has the keys and seal and I have only recollections and reflections. Those which crowd upon me are different from what I anticipated—I looked for ennui if not for regret. But there is nothing of these. The thousand perils through which I have passed, the thousand enemies by whom I have been opposed, the hundreds by whom I have been causelessly hated, and the many whom I have unavoidably or imprudently offended rise up before me. And yet I am safe and if friends who never flattered when I had power are not false now when I am powerless I am more than safe. My public career is successfully and honorably closed, and I am yet young enough if a reasonable age is allotted me to repair all the waste of private fortune it has cost. Gratitude to God and gratitude and affection toward my friends and most of all to you, my first and most efficient and devoted friend, oppress me until tears like such as woman sheds, flow whenever I am alone.

In the letter I have just quoted, it will have been noted, Seward assumes that his political career is closed. "My principles are too liberal," he wrote to Weed on another occasion, "too philanthropic, if it be not vain to say so, for my party. The promulgation of them offends many; the operation of them injures many; and their sincerity is questioned by all." Holding such views, he seems willingly to have surrendered office, and though it is quite clear that he could not have been re-elected, and that prudence itself dictated retirement, it seems equally clear that when he wrote these lines to his closest political associate, he was expressing his true thought. Time was to prove him wrong; time was to prove that the humanitarianism which came so easily to Seward was to bring him back into public life as the exponent of a great cause, and to have its part in shaping for him a still more distinguished public career. All this, however, was yet in the future; and as the Governor of New York returned to his beloved family, and his flowers, and his law-practice in Auburn, he may well have carried

with him a sense of inadequacy, or even of failure. With him, however, as with many others, the judgment of the moment must be esteemed as of trifling significance; and on this September day of 1933, more than ninety years after the closing scenes at Albany, as we stand in Headquarters House, and Governor Seward gazes down upon us from its walls, we are ready to answer his gaze with one of friendly judgment and high regard.

THE SURPRISE AT TICONDEROGA

*** ***

O proud Ticonderoga, enthroned amid the hills!
O bastions of old Carillon, the "Fort of Chiming Rills!"
Well might your quiet garrison have trembled where they lay,
And, dreaming, grasped their sabers against the dawn of day!

*** ***

They swarm before the barracks — the quaking guards take flight,
And such a shout resultant resounds along the height,
As rang from shore and headland scarce twenty years ago,
When brave Montcalm's defenders charged on a British foe!
Leaps from his bed in terror the ill-starred Delaplace,
To meet across his threshold a wall he may not pass!
The bayonets' lightning flashes athwart his dazzled eyes,
And, in tones of sudden thunder, "Surrender!" Allen cries.
"Then in whose name the summons?" the ashen lips reply.
The mountaineer's stern visage turns proudly to the sky, —
"In the name of the great Jehovah!" he speaks with lifted sword,
"And the Continental Congress, who wait upon his word!"

*** ***

Mary A. P. Stansbury

1820 WILLIAM HENRY SEWARD

William Henry Seward, Secretary of State and eleventh governor of New York, was born in Florida, Orange County, N. Y., May 16, 1801. The family descended from the Welsh, an emigrant from Wales having settled in Connecticut, from whom came Dr. Samuel S. Seward, the father of William H, On his mother's side he came of Irish ancestry. At the age of nine years the boy was sent to an academy in Goshen, N. Y., among whose pupils had been Noah Webster and Aaron Burr. He progressed rapidly in his studies and before he was fifteen was prepared to enter college. In 1816 he was received into Union College, from which he was graduated in 1820, with honors. In the meantime he had been out of the college and settled in the South teaching for a year. Mr. Seward now went to New York where he studied law with John Anthon, afterward returned to Goshen, studied with Ogden Hoffman and John Duer, and was admitted to the bar in 1822. The following year he removed to Auburn, where he formed a partnership with Judge Elijah Miller, whose daughter he married in 1824. He at once began to gain a reputation in his profession for originality of thought, independence of action and industrious devotion to his work. He secured a large and lucrative practice, but turned to the study of political questions, and in 1824 was selected by a political county convention to prepare the usual address. In several orations in this period of his life there is to be found the same fervent devotion to the cause of liberty which ever marked his public career. He delivered the annual address at Auburn on July 4th, 1825, and was one of the committee which welcomed Lafayette. In 1827 he appeared as the champion of the suffering Greeks and by his eloquence secured large contributions to the fund raised in this country for their defence. In 1828 Mr. Seward presided over the convention at Utica, which favored the election of John Quincy Adams to the presidency and displayed marked ability in that position. The same year he was offered the nomination as member of congress but declined. He joined the anti-Masonic party, experiencing then a repugnance against secret political action which never abated. in 1830 he was elected state senator, turning a large opposition majority into a majority in his favor. At the same time he became ex-officio a judge in the highest court in the state. The record of his career as a senator covers the period of the abolition of imprisonment for debt, the amelioration of prison discipline, reforms in the militia system, opposition to corporate monopolies, the extension of popular franchises - and all these movements received a cordial and effective support from Mr. Seward. In 1832 he defended the United States Bank deposits in a speech which was brilliant and caustic. In the meantime he passed the summer of 1833 in Europe, sending home more than eighty letters from different points, which were published in an Albany newspaper. In 1834 Mr. Seward was nominated for governor, but was defeated by William L. Marcy. He now returned to the practice of law but took an active part in the political struggles of the time, and in 1838 was again nominated for governor as a whig, and elected by a majority of more than 10,000. The administration of Governor Seward has been considered in many respects the most remarkable in the history of the Empire state, and has been regarded by many as having exertised a most powerful influence in shaping the political issues which afterward grew up in the country. He confronted the anti-rent troubles, which were settled during his administration, while the courts, the banking laws, and the militia system were all made the subjects of important reforms.

He now began to show more prominently his pronounced opposition to slavery and procured the passage of an act giving fugitive slaves a trial by jury and counsel to defend them at the expense of the state. A controversy arose at this time between Gov. Seward and the governors of Virginia and Georgia, in regard to the return of fugitive slaves to those states, and more particularly in the instance of some colored seamen who were charged with having abducted slaves and brought them to New York . These abductors were arrested in the city of New York and requisition made on Gov. Seward to deliver them up to the state where the offense had been committed. , This, however, he refused to do, and was sustained by the legislature while it remained whig in politics, but on the accession of the democrats to power they denounced his action. In January, 1843, at the expiration of his term, Mr. Seward returned to Auburn and resumed his practice of the law, to which he continued to devote himself during the next six years. It is related of him that he devoted much time and thought to cases which were of no pecuniary benefit to him, and particularly in instances where the question of the fugitive slave law came in. During the political campaign of 1844 Mr. Seward's speeches in favor of the tariff and against the annexation of Texas went far toward the defeat of Mr. Clay. In 1847 Mr. Seward delivered in New York City n oration on the life and character of Daniel O'Connell, which is considered one of his most brilliant and able oratorical efforts. In April, 1848, he delivered before the legislature of New York a eulogy on John Quincy Adams which also gained him renown as an orator. He supported the nomination of General Taylor in 1848 and was one of the leading speakers during the canvass. In a speech at Cleveland, Ohio, he outlined his political platform, which, looked upon in the light of history, amounted almost to prophecy. It concluded with the assertion, "Slavery must be abolished." In February 1847, Mr. Seward was elected United States Senator and entered the senate as the leading opponent of slavery in the whig party. Unfortunately the death of President Taylor led to the complete overthrow of the party which brought him into power. On the introduction of the compromise measures of the thrity-first congress, Mr. Seward opposed them, as against the advocacy of Mr. Clay, Webster, General Cass and other leading statesmen. He predicted, as the result of yielding to the claims of the compromise party, the very ills which were realized in the Kansas-Nebraska troubles. It was during the discussion of these cekebrated measures that Mr. Seward used the phrase, "The higher law," which has acquired so wide a fame. He had, in 1847, in his argument in the case of Van Zandt, accused of aiding fugitives from slavery, declared in the Circuit Court of the United States that: "Congress has no power to inhibit any duty commanded by God on Mount Sinai ir by his Son on the Mount of Olives." In his "Higher Law" speech, Mr. Seward said: "I feel assured that slavery must give way and will give way to the salutary instructions of economy and to the rightful influences of humanity. That emancipation is inevitable and is near; that it can neither be hastened nor hindered; that all measures which fortify slavery or extend it tend to the consummation of violence - all to its peaceful extirpation. But I will adopt none but lawful, constitutional and peaceful means to secure even that end none such can I nor will I forego." This speech was delivered March 11, 1850. The presidential election of 1852 resulted in an overwhelming defeat for the whig party, During the summer of 1853 Mr. Seward delivered two important orations, one at Columbus, Ohio, on "The destiny of America," and the other before the American Institute in the City of New York, entitled "The True Basis of American Independence." In 1854 Yale College gave him the degree of LL.D. after an oration which he delivered before the literary societies of that institution on "The Physical, Moral and Intellectual Development of the American People."

William Henry Seward

Early in the session of the thirty-third congress, Mr. Seward introduced a bill for the construction of a railroad to the Pacific, and another for the establishment of steamship mails between Sanfrancisco, China, Japan and the SandwichIslands. The Kansas-Nebraska bill, introduced by Senator Douglas and which repealed the Missouri Compromise of 1820, met with the continued and powerful opposition of Mr. Seward. In February, 1855, Mr. Seward was re-elected to his seat in the senate for another term of six years, and the news of his election was received with unprecedented demonstrations of rejoicing throughout the free states. In the autumn of 1855 he delivered speeches at Albany, Auburn and Buffalo which made a profound impression. In 1856 Mr. Seward supported Col. Frémont, the republican candidate for the presidency. In the senate Mr. Seward had pronounced orations on the occasion of the deaths of Henry Clay, Daniel Webster and John M. Clayton. In the discussion of tariff questions, Mr. Seward advocated such a discrimination in duties upon imports as would best protect the industries of the country. He was especially opposed to any relaxation of the tariff on railroad iron or other articles of that material. In a speech on this subject he said: "Sir, we are making iron roads across this ~~xxxxxxx~~ continent, and what is now proposed is to bring the iron from England to make roads over the iron and coal beds of the Alleghanies and of Missouriand our Western territories. There must be urgent necessity for this or the senate would not, under such circumstances, be pleased to listen to a proposition so novel and extraordinary, so contrary to all our settled principles of political economy." Nearly three months of the session of the senate of the thrity-fifth congress, in 1858, were taken up with the discussion of the Lecompton constitution and the admission of Kansas to the Union under that instrument. Mr. Seward opposed, with remarkable ability the bill introduced to carry out this scheme, speaking to a crowded house with every senator in his seat. While he was speaking word was brought to the senate chamber that the obnoxious bill had passed the house of representatives. This created a sensation but Mr. Seward continued in opposition to the measure, and it was some time before he even alluded to its passage in the other house. When he did so it was to say that it produced upon him no sense of discouragement. He said: "For freedom in Kansas I have no such concern as for where I shall sleep tonight. Kansas is the Cinderella of the Union, but she will life and survive the persecution." After the adjournment of congress, Mr. Seward was engaged in the United States Courts, and it was at this time that he made his celebrated argument in the Albany bridge case. In October 1858, he delivered the speech at Rochester, N. Y., in which he made use of his celebrated expression, "The irrepressible conflict," alluding to the struggle which he claimed must end in the United States becoming either a slave-holding or a free labor nation. Meanwhile, Mr. Seward made frequent journeys for rest and recreation. Such a one occurred in 1857, when he traveled through Canada and took a trip on board a fishing smack to Labrador, an account of which he published on his return. In 1859 he visited Europe and went as far as Egypt and Palestine. At the Republican convention in 1860 Mr. Seward received 173½ votes on the first ballot, while Abraham Lincoln, who was eventually nominated, received 102. On the election of Mr. Lincoln and his assumption of the office of president of the United States, he appointed Mr. Seward secretary of state. At the beginning of the troubles in the South, Mr. Seward had the impression that they would be of brief duration, and he was in favor of the evacuation of Fort Sumter. In his negotiations with foreign powers, early in 1861, he defined the position of the United States as far as the rights of neutrals were concerned, and sought to establish conventions with the European governments which should establish these rights. He surrendered

the Confederate commissioners who were seized by Capt. Wilkes on board the British steamer Trent, on the ground that this action would commit the British government to the American theory in opposition to the right of search. In all particulars Mr. Seward's foreign policy was shrewd and statesmanlike. When French troops invaded Mexico he asserted the Monroe Dcotrine, and toward the close of the Civil War his communications with the French government on this subject became so emphatic that the French troops were withdrawn. In the spring of 1865, while Mr. Seward was driving he was thrown from his carriage with the result of fracturing one arm and his jaw. He was in bed under treatment for these injuries on the night of April 14th when the attempt was made to carry out the conspiracy which effected the assassination of President Lincoln. On that evening one of the conspirators managed to obtain access to the room in the secretary's residence where he was lying sick, and attempted to kill him by striking him upon the head and face with a knife. Fortunately for Mr. Seward his jaw was protected by a metallic arrangement while the fractured bone was setting, and this saved his life, although he was badly cut and terribly shaken by the assault. His son, Frederick W. Seward, who came to his assistance, was struck down by the assassin. Mr. Seward eventually regained his health, but his face always showed the effect of the double disaster which befell him. In 1867 Secretary Seward succeeded in completing the treaty with Russia by which Alaska was ceded to the United States for the sum of $7,000,000. Mr. Seward was on the side of President Johnson in regard to the reconstruction of the Southern states and was in opposition to the impeachment proceedings. Of course this brought him into conflict with the more radical men of his own party and made him somewhat unpopular. At the election of 1868 he worked for General Grant. Early in 1869 he made a trip across the continent, going as far as Alaska on the North and Mexico on the South, and was received everywhere with warm and respectful hospitality. In August, 1870, he began a journey around the world, accompanied by some of his family, and traversed the more important countries of Europe, Asia and Northern Africa. He was received everywhere by the most exalted personages as a statesman of the highest rank. He remained abroad something over a year, when he returned to Auburn, where he settled and devoted himself to writing his "Travels Around the World." In 1873 Charles Francis Adams published his "Address on the Life Character and Services of Seward." Mr. Seward had himself written his autobiography as far as 1834, and this was continued by his son, Frederick W. Seward, up to 1846, and published in New York in 1877. An edition of Mr. Seward's works in three volumes was published in 1853. A fourth volume was added to it in 1862and a fifth in 1884, and congress ordered published his official correspondence during the eight years he was secretary of state. His "Travels Around the World" was published in 1873 in New York, being edited by his adopted daughter, Olive Risley Seward. Mr. Seward had three sons, Augustus Henry, born Oct. 1, 1826, died Sept. 11, 1876, who was a graduate from West Point and served in the Mexicon War. During the Civil War he was a paymaster in the army. Frederick William (q.v.) the second son, was born July 8, 1830. Mr. Seward's third son, William Henry, was born in Auburn, N. Y., June 18, 1839. At the time of the beginning of the Civil War, he was in a banking house in Auburn. He was made lieutenant colonel of the 138th New York infantry, and afterward colonel of the 9th New York Heavy Artillery. He fought through the battles of the Wilderness, and at the battle of Monocacy was badly wounded. He was made brigadier general Sept. 13, 1864. He resigned June 1, 1865, and settled in the banking business in Auburn. W. H. Seward died in Auburn, N. Y., Oct. 10, 1872.

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1820 WILLIAM H. SEWARD (1)

From "The Emergence of Lincoln
Allan Nevins
Charles Scribner's Sons
New York 1950

Seward, short, rusty-looking, his face and head insignificant, his dress antiquated and badly cut, his only outward title to distinction his quickness of perception and heady flow of talk, possessed talents of a high order. Many thought him the first statesman of the land. He was beloved by all who knew him well; those who saw his affectionate and unselfish deportment in his family circle, his genuine, hearty fellowship with his Auburn neighbors, who gathered about him as freely as the Marshfield farmers had collogued with Webster, were much impressed. His grasp of mind was unquestioned. Carl Schurz thought that he gave an impression of abilities never fully used, of possessing "hidden, occult powers which he could bring into play if he would." His courage had sometimes been conspicuous. Modeling his public career on John Quincy Adams, whose life he had written, he could take large views of public affairs, a trait he had shown as a young governor in promoting public education and legal reform, and would show when an old Secretary of State in buying Alaska. He was an astute politician, quick to measure men at their true worth and subtle in using them. A man of magnanimous heart, he never exaggerated party differences, never sulked under failure (even when he lost the Presidential nomination in 1860), and never showed pettiness. When his constant opponent Jefferson Davis was ill, he was an assiduous and affectionate visitor. "Benjamin," Seward said, as the Louisiana Senator finished some vituperative remarks, "give me a cigar, and when your speech is printed send me a copy." He was always full of talk, bandinage, and kindly offices to others. E.L.Godkin thought him in 1859 the best constitutional lawyer in the country, the least of a demagogue among public men, and the clearest-headed statesman.

But Seward lacked the cardinal requisite of steady judgment. For one thing, he was deficient in tact, in sense of timing, and in verbal discretion, so that most people thought this wary politician rash, and many believed this moderate leader (who had been slow to leave the Whig Party) an extremist. In the debate on Pierce's final message, Senator Mason reminded him that he had told a crowd in 1848 that slavery "can and must be abolished, and you and I must do it." So he had, and though the occasion, a speech in favor of the slaveholder Zachary Taylor, and the context, which was mild, had to be considered, the sentence was indiscreet. His "higher law" speech in 1850 was

not only poor politics but bad statesmanship, and the "irrepressible conflict" address of 1858 was still more unfortunate. While rash in the use of words, Seward was also occasionally too complicated, devious, and crafty in action; at one time the high-minded statesman, he was at others the partner of the sly Thurlow Weed, who made politics pay in crass ways. His best biographer (Frederic Bancroft) describes him as a Jekyll and Hyde personality. Save in devotion to the Union, he seemed to lack constancy. He was capable of taking a bold position one day and retracting three-quarters of it the next, and he frankly told Mrs. Jefferson Davis that he often spoke without conviction.

In short Seward was erratic. Perhaps an excess of imagination contributed to some of his worst blunders., as when in 1861 he suggested provoking a European war in order to bring back the South; perhaps his emotions sometimes overruled his head. His abundant letters and diary notes show an appealing streak of artistry. Whatever the cause of his instability, this brilliant little Welsh wizard was most valuable when he could lean upon a more massive strength , like Lincoln's. pp. 21-23

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"irrepressible conflict speech"	p. 409-411
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Next to Douglas, of course, the two strongest Senators were Seward and Jefferson Davis. The personalities of both, long familiar to the country, were becoming better understood every year--yet neither was genuinely popular in a national sense. Neither had much eloquence or epigrammatic force, Seward adopted a conversational, monotonous delivery, and when he took his favorite stand, leaning against a Senate pillar, his left hand twirling his glasses while his right delivered occasional brief gestures, he might have been talking to a drawing room. His coolness, mental alertness, and balance won admiration, but of a restrained kind. Then, too, he continued to display an impish, mocking, ironic vein, which alternately delighted and enraged his friends but which the public did not understand. Few saw that beneath it lay a calm, patient nature, too philosophical to be capable of unflinching combat, too reasonable to treat any issue as having but one side. p. 429.

William H. Seward at Union College
(Extracts from his Autobiography, published in 1891, and from the 'Memoir' by George E. Baker, prefixed to his Works, published in 1853.)

The eventful career of Union's Greatest Alumnus is replete with concern to Americans, irrespect of political creed, and especially should the incidents of the years 1816 to 1820--when he was a student, interest Union students of to-day. With this hope, these quotations are made.

"At Schenectady I alighted on the banks of the Mohawk River, then navigated with "bateaux." I climbed the College Hill with a reluctant and embarrassed step, to offer myself for an examination at which I feared I might not pass. I called at the office of the registrar Mr. Holland, and by him was immediately introduced into the presence of the Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. The college catalogue, which I had carefully read, described him as the Rev. Thomas McCauley, Doctor of Divinity and Doctor of Laws. I wondered at my presumption in coming into so high a presence. The professor inquired which of the classes I supposed myself prepared to enter. I summoned boldness to answer that I had studied for examination to enter the junior class. He immediately put me through a series of questions for half an hour, in several preparatory class books, and pronounced me more than qualified. He then asked my age, and on receiving the answer "fifteen," he replied that my studies had carried me beyond my years; the laws of the college making sixteen the age for entering the junior class. I did not regret the decision. Life at college seemed very attractive and my previous excess of preparation would make my studies easier. Long before night, my "chum" was chosen, my room supplied with the cheap furniture which the college regulations required, as I sat down to meditate on the dignity of my new situation. I was matriculated as sophomore; and these two large words signified, for me, a great deal, because I had not the least idea of the meaning of either."

"Union College was now, in 1816, at or near the height of its prosperity. The President, Dr. Nott, ranked with the most popular preachers of the day; while his great political talents secured him the patronage of all the public men in the State. The discipline of the college was based on the soundest and wisest principles. There was an absence of everything inquisitorial or suspicious; there were no courts or impeachments; every young man had his appointed studies, recitations and attendance at prayers; and a demeanor was required which should not disturb the quiet or order of the institution. If he failed or offended, he was privately called into the presence of the president or professor, remonstrated with, and admonished that repeated failure would be made known to his parents for their consideration, while habitual insubordination would be visited with dismissal. I think I know of no institution where a manlier spirit prevailed among the undergraduates than that which distinguished the pupils of Dr. Nott.

"I cannot speak so highly of the system of instruction. There was a daily appointment of three tasks, in as many different studies, which the pupils were required, unaided, to master in their rooms, the young, the dull, and the backward, equally with the most mature and the most astute. The pupil understood that he performed his whole duty when he recited these daily lessons without failure. With most of us the memory was doubtless the faculty chiefly exercised; and where so much was committed mechanically to memory, much was forgotten as soon as learned. It was a consequence of the method of instruction that every study was not a continuous one, but consisted of fragmentary tasks, while no one volume or author was ever completed."

"Finding, in my Latin author, passages too obscure to be solved unaided, I went freely, though meekly, to the tutor, and obtained his assistance during the study hours. Soon afterward the leading members of the class, with the support of the rest, determined to oblige the accomplished tutor to give them shorter lessons and more frequent holidays. They attempted to effect this by throwing asafoetida on the heated stove, and, when this proceeding failed, one, bolder than all the rest, standing behind the tutor, pulled him by the hair. Of course he found out the offenders, and of course they were punished. The whole class, suspected an informer; and who could the informer be but myself, who excelled them all in the recitations, who refused to go into the general meeting and who was seen daily going to and from the tutor's room upon some errand unexplained? This, I think, was my first experience of partisan excitement. I need not say that I never afterward offended my classmates by seeking to obtain special instructions or aid from my teacher."

On January 1, 1819, Seward, who was then a senior and had become involved in debts to

"the accomplished tailors of Schenectady," left college to teach in the South, spending six months in Georgia. He subsequently returned to college and graduated the next year.

"A new state of things had occurred during the year of my absence from the college. Previously to that event, the students from the North and the South mingled promiscuously and mingled harmoniously together. Union College during that year received a large accession of "Southerners." Previous to their coming, the students were divided between the two literary societies, the one "the Philomathean," the other "the Adelphic," which were nearly coeval. with the college itself. Of these, the Philomathean was the larger and the more popular, as it claimed to be, by a year or two, the more ancient. I belonged to the Adelphic, which, at the time, consoled itself for its inferiority of numbers by pretensions to superior schol ship. The Southerners, on their arrival at the college, had joined the Philomathean, but soo afterward had complained of oppression, seceded and organized a third society, under the name of the "Delphian Institute."

"The division of the Philomathean Society, not unnaturally agitated the Adelphic, leading members of which anticipated an increase of their own strength from the diminution of the numbers and prestige of their great rival, the Philomathean. The agitation drew into discussion the relative merits of Southern and Northern Society. It seemed to be believed by both parties that the opinions I should express , after having had a six months' experience in the South would carry weight. The Philomatheans claimed my sympathy on the ground of the character which I had established for independence. The Adelphic sympathizers with the seceders claimed my adhesion on the ground of loyalty to the institution to which I belonged, and which had crowned me with all its little honors. Thus at an early date, before my educational course was ended, I stood upon the threshold of national politics. I promptly decided that the Southern secession was unjustifiable and disloyal to the institution, while I made due acknowledgments of the hopitable and chivalrous character of the South."

"My chef d'oeuvre in the Literary Society was an essay in which I demonstrated that the Erie Canal was an impossibility, and that, even if it should be successfully constructed, it would financially ruin the State. On the other hand, the subject of my commencement oration was, "The Integrity of the American Union."

"If I were required now to say from what part of my college education I derived the greatest advantage, I should say, the exercises of the Adelphic Society."

"The college career of young Seward, " observes his biographer, "as related by his contemporaries, gave brilliant indication of the rare qualities for which he has become distinguished. The traits of the future legislator and statesman were foreshadowed in the characte of the modest youth during his period of academic retirement. Even then he displayed great originalty of conception -- the sturdy independence of purpose-- the firm adherence to his co victions of right - the intrepid assertion of high moral principles -- the careful examinatio of a cause before appearing in its defence -- the sympathy with the weak and oppressed -- and the intellectual vigilance and assiduity in the pursuit of the truth, which have formed such conspicious and admirable features in his public career." W.H.A. '02

C. March 13, 1902

1820 Seward, William H. 1. Strode

Soon that clever Whig leader, William Seward of New York, captured Taylor's ear and was ridiculed in the press for currying favor by presenting Old Whitey, the President's war horse, with a gold currycomb. p. 210

(Calhoun) astounded the Senate by taking his seat on March 11, the day Seward proclaimed with a rasping cry, "there is a higher law than the Constitution," and then proceeded to denounce the opinion of the Supreme Court which had just sustained the Fugitive Slave Law in the Prigg case. Davis, like many another Senator, glanced toward the almost-dead Calhoun, who leaned back with scorn on his face, his lips clamped in silence. When he was taken home , he remarked of Seward, "with his ideas, he is not fit to associate with gentlemen." p. 221

(Davis) was not as surprised at his (President Pierce) hazardous journey as he was at a special gracious gesture on the part of William Seward, the South's mighty foe. Though Seward had never met Mrs. Davis, when he heard she was near death and that Mrs. Hetzel, a neighbor of his who was nursing her, could not procure any kind of vehicle to get her through the blizzard, he ordered his own valuable pair of horses put to a sleigh. After some almost disastrous mishaps, the equipage finally got the nurse to Mrs, Davis. To the end of their lives, though political bitterness made it difficult, the Davis never ceased to be grateful for Mr. Seward's kindness. p. 293

Men of all shades of political opinion came to chat with him including such antislavery men as Colonel Edwin Sumner. William Seward came almost daily. He was an incomprehensible man to the Davises, because he was so different in intimate private life from his public political self. He had proved a friend in need when he sent his sleigh through the snow-bound streets, and when Mrs. Davis had met him later she had liked him very much. Seward seemed strangely drawn to his foremost Southern opponent. His solicitude was genuine. Once when it appeared that Davis would have to have the diseased eye removed, he turned to the wife with tears in his own eyes and said feeling: "I could not bear to see him maimed-he is such a splendid embodiment of manhood."

Seward would tell the patient significant things that happened in senatorial debates and speak of "your man" and "our man," One day when Davis remarked how much he himself was inspired by the attention and sympathy of his audience, Seward surprised him by confessing that he had found it somewhat of a relief ro speak to empty benches. "For, he affirmed, "I speak to the papers. They can repeat a thousand times if need be what I want to impress upon the multitude."

p. 303

1820 Seward, Williaam H. 2 Strode

One day when the touchy subject of slavery was brought up, Varina challenged Seward. "How can you, Mr. Seward, with a grave face, make those piteous appeals for the Negro that you do in the Senate? After being a schoolmaster in Georgia, you surely don't believe the things you say." For a moment, he eyed her quizzically, and then with a smile admitted: "I do not. But these appeals, as you call them, have potent effect on the rank and file of the North." Jefferson Davis could not refrain from expressing surprise. "But, Mr. Seward," he said earnestly, "do you never speak from conviction?" "Nev-er," came the frank reply. Davis was so shocked that he raised his blindfolded head from the pillow and half sat up. "As God is my judge, he said impulsively, "I never speak from any other motive." To Seward's ears his words were not self-righteous or priggish; they were merely a simple expression of truth. He put his arm about Davis's shoulder and gently laid his head back on the pillow. "I know you do not," he said with tenderness. "I am always sure of it."

In no sense did this complex, kindhearted man, so full of contradictions, seem to resent "the daily beauty" in Davis's life, nor was he in the least apologetic that expediency ruled his own career. In private he made no pretense to ideals or illusions about politics.

Seward continued to call until the patient's good eye had cleared sufficiently to bear light. He said the walk was good for him and that Davis's conversation relieved his boredom. He backed up Mrs. Davis's objections to her husband's insistence on addressing the Senate on an appropriation Dallas Bache's coast survey. pp.303-304

Seward was proved to have contributed money to John Brown's cause, but he avowed he had no idea what the money was to be used for. p. 340

Happily, observers in Washington insisted that in the new regime Seward would be in high ascendancy, and, for all his barking, Davis knew that Seward was universally regarded as "a friend of peace." An editorial in the New York Tribune of February 4 had commented on the amazing fact that "Senator Seward in his speech of Thursday last (January 31) declares his readiness to renounce Republican principles for the sake of the Union." Though from personal experience Davis felt that Seward could be trusted only so far, he believed, like everyone else, that his one-time friend would never favor warlike aggression. Davis might have been still more optimistic if he had known then that two days before his inauguration, his old enemy, General-in-Chief, Winfield Scott, had proposed to Mr. Seward in a private letter "to let the wayward sisters go in peace." p. 420

Jefferson Davis-American Patriot
1808-1861
Hudson Strode
Harcourt, Brace and Company
New York 1955

fourth term was defeated by William H.

From: The Red Book, by Murlin
1893 - p. 28

1820

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD was born in Florida, Orange county, New York, on May 16, 1801, and was educated at the schools of Goshen and in Union College, where he was graduated in 1820. He then studied law in New York and was admitted to practice at the bar in 1822. He began the practice of law at Auburn in 1823. As a lawyer he rapidly rose to eminence at the bar. He early entered political life and began his official career by being elected a State Senator in 1830 from the Cayuga Senate district as an anti-masonic candidate. He was four years a member of the State Senate and during these years supported the bills abolishing imprisonment for debt, ameliorating prison discipline and establishing a separate penitentiary for female convicts. He became so prominent as a member of the Legislature that in 1834 he was nominated for Governor as the candidate of the Whig Party against Governor Marcy, the Democratic candidate. Mr. Seward was defeated but he was not discouraged, and running again for Governor in 1838 he was elected over Governor Marcy by a majority of 10,400. In his first message he recommended the creation of a board of public works and of improvements in the judiciary and educational system of the State. He also heartily urged the enlargement of the Erie canal, the completion of the Black River and Seneca Valley canals; and the giving of aid to railroad enterprises. After one year he passed of his administration, however he urgently urged retrenchment in the State's expenditures and gave the opinion that the policy of internal improvements had been too vigorously pushed, since it had increased the canal debt to $20,000,000. In his second message he also recommended "that the common school law should be so amended as to permit adopted citizens to have their children educated by teachers speaking their own language and professing the same faith with them and to share in an equal proportion in the public moneys appropriated by the State for school purposes."

In 1840 he was renominated and reelected; the opposing candidate being William C. Bouck. In his second message Mr. Seward recommended the improvements of the common school system, the completion of public works and the abolition of capital punishments. In his last annual message, in 1842, he congratulated the State upon the increasing business of the canals.

Retiring from the governorship Mr. Seward remained in private life until 1849 when he was elected United States Senator to succeed John A. Dix. One of his first acts as Senator was to introduce a bill abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia upon the condition, however, that just and ample compensation should be made to the owners of the slaves. He took a most prominent position in the

Senate on the slavery question and became such a national figure that in 1860 he would be nominated for President as the candidate of the Republican party. In the National Republican Convention, however, Mr. Seward was defeated by Abraham Lincoln. President Lincoln appointed Mr. Seward his Secretary of State on March 5, 1861. Mr. Seward magnificently conducted the foreign affairs of the United States throughout the period of the war of the Rebellion, successfully preventing by his diplomacy the recognition of the Southern Confederacy. He remained Secretary of State during the administrations of President Lincoln and President Johnson. Then he made a tour of the world and returning to Auburn lived there a few years, and then died regretted by the entire nation.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Clipped from

Albany Times-Union

Class #1820

by

Joseph R. Brown, Jr. '03

Date: Apr. 24. 1957

THE ROVING REPORTER:

A Bit of Reminiscence On William Seward

By TIP ROSEBERRY

It was Seward Day in Alaska. We marked the holiday (March 30) by boarding an airplane at Point Barrow, north tip of the American continent, and flying down to Fairbanks on the first leg of a marathon dash back to Albany.

Night before it had been 35 below at Barrow. Some cans of warm beer, set outside the quonset-hut on a snowbank to cool, had to be brought indoors after 15 minutes, turned to slush. From the air, herds of caribou could be seen sprinkling the 200-mile width of white tundra before the stupendous Brooks Range. After the mountains came timber again, the Yukon, and Fairbanks where spring was.

While the panorama slipped underneath, we pondered the significance of Seward Day—named for a one-time Albany resident, William H. Seward . . . This was the 90th anniversary of the Alaska purchase. What if Seward had not been so foresighted? What if Alaska still belonged to Russia?

SERVED UNDER LINCOLN

Seward was Secretary of State under Lincoln. His greatest service to his country was the purchase of Alaska. At the time he did it, in a clandestine manner, he became the target of public abuse and ridicule. Alaska was variously called "Seward's Folly", "Seward's Ice Box" and a "polar bear garden."

Hailing from Auburn, Seward showed up in Albany as a State Senator in 1830, the protege of Thurlow Weed, publisher and dictator-to-be of the Whig Party. Weed made Seward governor in 1838, and he served two terms.

Seward returned to law practice to recoup his finances. Emerging as an anti-slavery man, he went to the U. S. Senate in 1848. Lincoln tapped him for his cabinet in 1861.

During the Civil War, Seward saw how the lack of naval outposts hamstrung the Union. Russia was the only European power that sided with the North. England and France showed bolder signs of support for the Confederacy. The Czar ordered his navy to maneuver in American waters, which was a veiled hint to them to lay off.

WORKED BEHIND SCENES

Behind the scenes, Seward felt out the Russian ambassador on a deal for Alaska. The Czar was receptive. Russia mentioned $10,000,000. Seward offered $5,000,000. They compromised on $7,200,000—roughly two cents an acre. Not more than a dozen people were in the know until it went to the Senate for ratification.

Seward envisioned Alaska as a future state. He said so in a speech at Sitka in 1869. He also saw its defense potential. At St. Paul in 1860, he said:

"Standing here and looking far off into the Northwest, I see the Russian, as he busily occupies himself in establishing seaports, and towns, and fortifications, on the verge of this continent, as the outposts of St. Petersburg; and I can say: 'Go on and build up your outposts all along the coast, up even to the Arctic Ocean; they will yet become the outposts of my own country."

with a message of acceptance all prepared.

But things didn't go quite as Weed had planned them. Seward was far in the lead on the first ballot. On the second ballot, however, a dark-horse named Lincoln came up strongly. On the third ballot, Lincoln had it.

Weed pressed his temples to hold back tears.

Seward's son, Frederick, had been working for 10 years as assistant editor to the foreman of the composing-room: "Abraham Lincoln is nominated for President on the third ballot."

The foreman hesitated, then shouted back: "Say! What damn name was that you said was nominated for President?"

Weed later confessed himself "annoyed and dejected at the defeat of Governor Seward," and said he was "preparing to shake the dust of the city (Chicago) from my feet." Lincoln's two chief campaign managers came to his hotel-room to make peace overtures. Weed replied frankly that he was "so greatly disappointed at the result of the action of the convention as to be unable to think or talk on the subject."

Both Weed and Seward later swallowed their disappointment and supported Lincoln stoutly. Seward was rewarded with the cabinet post of Secretary of State. He took his son, Frederick, out of his Albany newspaper job and made him assistant secretary of state.

Lincoln's election in November—thanks to the split in the Democratic Party—touched off a terrific celebration in Albany. The Wide-Awakes really came awake.

Sewards Hold Reception

Mr. and Mrs. William H. Seward jr., who were married recently, held a small reception yesterday in their home at 55 E. 72d St. for members of their families and intimate friends. Mrs. Seward is the former Mrs. Laura Detwiller Speer, whose marriage to Mr. Paul Speer, of New York, was terminated last spring. Mr. Seward is the great-grandson of William Henry Seward, who was Secretary of State under President Abraham Lincoln. He is a retired banker and formerly lived in Auburn, N. Y.

N.Y. H.T.

Clipped from

N.Y. Herald Tribune

Seward 1820

by

Joseph R. Brown, Jr. '03

Date: Feb. 24, 1951

Fourscore and Seven Years

To the New York Herald Tribune:

I noticed in your obituary column of Saturday, Feb. 17, the passing of William H. Seward 3rd, in his eighty-seventh year.

What I was struck by was the coincidence of the fact that the grandson was 87 years of age when he passed away and that Lincoln's Gettysburg Address was spoken fourscore and seven years ago.

BEN LEVINE.

New York, Feb. 19, 1951.

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Class 1820
by
Joseph R. Brown, Jr. '03
Date: Nov. 25, 1957

Clipped from
N.Y. Herald Tribune
(Wm. H. Seward 1820)
by
Joseph R. Brown, Jr. '03
Date: Feb. 27, 1952

William H. Seward, Secretary of State Under Lincoln, to Be Honored At Union College Founder's Day

William H. Seward was a cousin of Mrs. Henry L. Grose, whose maiden name was Emma Louisa Seward, and the grandmother of Miss Eleanore Grose, Charles H. Grose, Jr., publisher of the Ballston Spa Journal; Edward L. Grose, Mrs. Albert Watson, Miss Mabelle A. Eede, and Arner G. Eede of this village.

William H. Seward, the first United States statesman to successfully negotiate with Russia, will be honored by Union College in Schenectady at its annual Founder's Day ceremony.

Mr. Seward, who was secretary of state of the United States during the Lincoln Administration, and eleventh governor of New York state, was born in Floriday, Orange county, on May 16, 1801. This year marks the anniversary of the 150th year of Mr. Seward's birth.

Enters Union at 15

At the age of 15 he entered Union College, then under the presidency of Eliphalet Nott. He graduated with honors and was admitted to the bar in 1822 at Utica. Two years later, he was married. In the same year he became interested in politics and allied himself with the partisans of John Quincy Adams.

Seward's friendship with Thurlow Weed, founder of the "Albany Evening Journal", led to his election as State Senator in 1830 and re-election in 1832. In 1834, he was defeated for the governorship on the Whig ticket. However, four years later, he moved into the governor's mansion at Albany as the state's 11th governor.

He was already formulating an humanitarian view towards the question of abolition, and in 1840, he was returned to the governor's chair.

At the expiration of his term of office in January, 1843, Seward returned to his law practice in Auburn, New York. In February, 1847, he was elected as United States senator from New York, and entered the senate as leading opponent of slavery in the Whig party. He was re-elected senator for another term of six years in 1855.

Appointed Secretary

On the election of Mr. Lincoln, and his assumption of the office of president of the United States, he appointed Mr. Seward Secretary of State. He served in this capacity during both Lincoln administrations. On the evening President Lincoln was assassinated, Mr. Seward was in bed under treatment for injuries received in an accident. One of the conspirators gained entrance to his room, and attempted to kill the Secretary by striking him upon the head and face with a knife.

However, Mr. Seward regained his health, and succeeded in completing the treaty with Russia by which Alaska was ceded to the United States in 1867 for the sum of $7,000,000.

"Seward's Plot"

The "Boston Herald", in an editorial of January 11, entitled "Seward's Plot", discussed the purchase of Alaska by Mr. Seward in the following manner:

"They found us out. The United States bought Alaska in order to conquer Asia. People called the purchase 'Seward's Folly' at the time, but that was a blind. That aggressive imperialist, President Johnson, and his secretary of state, William H. Seward, the capitalist war monger, put the thing across as part of a diabolical conspiracy to make slave states out of Japan and Russia.

"This has been revealed by the Moscow publication, the 'Literary Gazette, which goes on to say that old E. H. Harriman schemed an Alaska-Siberian railroad with a tunnel under Bering Straits to reduce Northeast Russia to economic slavery.

"Well, so it's out at last. Well, since the Reds have part of the big conspiracy, we may as well let them in on the rest.

"Sure, we're planning a tunnel under the Bering Straits, but that isn't all of it. We're pushing the same bore right under the length of Siberia, as a kind of secret subway. At secret stations along the way, we'll collect Russian slave laborers and ship them to the United States to work in the coal mines as minions of John L. Lewis. Then we'll infiltrate the American miners and John L. Lewis into Siberia.

"Gee! Are we the mean subversives!

"We've got an even more hideous plot for when the secret subway gets to Moscow. We're going to kidnap Molotov and put Senator McCarthy, disguised, in his place. That'll keep the Politiburo in such a ferment that nothing will get done.

"There you have it, boys, the whole of Seward's plot in a nutshell."

An Illustrious Alumni

After his term of office as a public servant ended, he returned to Auburn and resided in that city until his death on October 10, 1872.

Without question, William H. Seward is one of Union's most illustrious alumni.

The ceremonies honoring Seward will be held at the Union College Memorial Chapel on Friday morning at eleven o'clock.

The fourteenth annual Founder's Day program will include addresses by Philip C. Jessup, United States Ambassador-at-large; Professor Dexter Perkins, Watson Professor of History, and chairman of History at the University of Rochester; and Professor Douglas W. Campbell, chairman of the division of social studies at Union College.

Our Little Cold-

E IS WHERE YOU FIND IT. Captain Charles W. Thomas, CG. Illustrated. *378 pp. Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Company. $4.50.*

Reviewed by
EARL PARKER HANSON

SECRETARY William H. Seward, who deserves a modern biography as a statesman who anticipated our modern "global-minded-ess" by almost a century, wanted to buy Greenland and Iceland from Denmark (for strategic reasons) after he had bought Alaska from Russia; the political storm raised over the Alaska purchase prevented any more deals in northern real estate. Subsequent advocates of the old Elizabethan global mindedness broke their hearts, and sometimes themselves, over public apathy and ridicule. "Visionaries" like Stefanson and Wilkins wore themselves out trying to convince the public that the north was a wide-open gateway rather than a natural barrier, while a few geographically-minded Navy Commander (now Ret.) Tho...

MISS MATIE CORY SEWARD

GOSHEN, N. Y., Feb. 26 (AP).—A funeral service was held today for Miss Matie Cory Seward, seventy-three, a direct descendant of William H. Seward, Secretary of State in President Lincoln's Cabinet. Miss Seward, a retired Goshen school teacher, died here Saturday. Surviving is a brother, Dr. Frederick W. Seward, of Goshen. Burial was in the Seward family plot in the Florida, N. Y., cemetery.

BArclay
PRESS CLIPPING BUREAU
165 Church Street - New York
ROCHESTER, N. Y.
Democrat & Chronicle
Circ. D. 107,861 - S. 161,063
FEB 20 1951

Program to Honor Seward's Memory

Dr. Dexter Perkins, Watson professor of history at the University of Rochester, will join United States Ambassador-at-Large Philip C. Jessup and Prof. Douglas W. Campbell of Union College in speeches honoring the memory of William H. Seward, Secretary of State under President Lincoln, at a Founder's Day observance at Union College, Schenectady, Friday at 11 a. m.

The memory of Seward, who negotiated the purchase of Alaska from the Russians in 1867, is being honored by his alma mater on the 150th anniversary of his death.

Joseph R. Brown, Jr. '03

Date: June 16, 1956

BOOK REVIEW

By JOHN K. HUTCHENS

MR. SEWARD FOR THE DEFENSE. By Earl Conrad. Rinehart. 306 pages. $3.95.

HE WAS a small, red-haired man who had splendid moments both before and after the event this book commemorates, but never a finer one than he knew in Auburn, N. Y., in 1846. William Henry Seward had twice been Governor of New York, and later he would be a United States Senator and Abraham Lincoln's Secretary of State. On the day he rose in court to address the jury on behalf of William Freeman, a maniac charged with premeditated murder, he was something more.

Small Giant

"I am the lawyer for Society, for Mankind," said the small man early in his seven-hour speech. As it turned out, this somewhat grand-sounding statement was the truth, and out of his magnificent effort Earl Conrad has fashioned a vigorous salute to a milestone in American jurisprudence and medical history. After the trial of William Freeman, it would never again be quite so easy to send an obviously demented person to his legal death.

Speaking of Seward in the Dictionary of American Biography, a biographer dwells on his "praiseworthy independence," "strong humanitarianism," "tendency to challenge majority opinion"—these in connection with his better-known activities on the national and international stages. But each of those aspects of him shone brightly also in what promised to be the darkest time of his life.

Back in Auburn after his second term as Governor, honored by his proud fellow townsmen, he had resumed the practice of law with a view to restoring his income. Three years later, most of those fellow townsmen were jeering at him in the street, and Auburn, its name derived from Goldsmith's poem, was something less than the loveliest village of the plain.

He was already under public suspicion for having defended, on grounds of "moral insanity," an Auburn Prison convict who had killed another inmate. Then, on a snowy night in March, 1846, one William Freeman, an ex-convict, Negro, twenty-two, illiterate, dim-witted odd-job man around town, went on a rampage. In a few fearful minutes he knifed to death an Auburn family of four, with no apparent motive and no explanation save some tangled phrases about work to do and money owing him for his labor while in prison.

Absent from Auburn when the tragedy occurred, Seward returned to find the town swept by such lynch-minded hysteria as Salem had known 150 years before—and trouble ahead for him if he took the case. When he did take it, it was not because Freeman was a Negro, strong as Seward's Abolitionist sympathies were. Nor had he any hope of reward. On the contrary, his New York State Whig organization disavowed him, and with a view

William A. Seward, portrait by Mathew Brady

to his personal safety his own law partners tried to warn him off. Purely and simply, he acted on the principle that an irresponsible man should not be tried as if he were sane.

Nevertheless, He Won

He could not have hoped for an impartial jury in that inflamed town, and he did not get one. It convicted Freeman an hour after it got the case, a judgment later reversed by the New York State Supreme Court, with Freeman dying of maltreatment in jail before a new trial could be held. But in the greater sense, Seward won even in that original trial, as Mr. Conrad graphically demonstrates. Dueling with State Attorney General John Van Buren, son of former President Martin Van Buren, he brought to the stand one authority after another to say that sanity was not merely the ability to distinguish between right and wrong, that insanity was a disease of the brain. If he did not make his point immediately in Auburn, time and the larger world were on his side.

"The finest forensic effort of the English language," Mr. Conrad quotes William E. Gladstone as saying of Seward's summation, which was published and widely distributed. It is an estimate whose extravagance takes nothing from a gallant and selfless performance. As a writer Mr. Conrad, too, is on the forensic side, frequently exclamatory and given to inserting what must be imagined conversations between excerpts from a court record running to more than a million words. For once, the fictional touch does not blur what is essentially a documentary. The whole story is one to lift the heart, like a good play in which a character from life reaches a point of pure and timeless nobility.

Historical Notes

The home of William Henry Seward, Class of 1820, has recently been opened to the public in Auburn, N. Y. Seward, who was Governor of New York, U. S. Senator, and Secretary of State under Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson, is perhaps most famous for his purchase of Alaska from the Russian empire. The $7,200,000 purchase was at the time widely criticized and Alaska was often referred to as "Seward's Ice-box" or "Seward's Folly." The house in Auburn was built by Seward's father-in-law, Judge Elijah Miller, in 1816-17 and contains a fireplace mantel carved by Brigham Young, disciple of Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism, and himself the founder of Utah. At the time he worked on the Miller house, Young was a 16-year-old carpenter.

* * * 3/56 Princeton Review

Clipped from
Knickerbocker News
Jan 1820
by
Joseph R. Brown, Jr. '03
Date: Jan. 17, 1957

'Prof ... ght to treat peo-
To the ... itholics entered
it appear ... psychiatry be-

Formerly in Mansion

Century-Old Portraits Hung in Law Library

Two portraits more than 100 years old, in storage since they were removed from the Executive Chamber four years ago, are hanging in the State Law Library.

The portraits of William H. Seward and George Washington had been in storage since the Executive Chamber was remodeled in 1954. They were hung in the Law Library Tuesday.

Seward, who came from Auburn, was a state senator from 1831 to 1834 and governor from 1839 to 1842. He was elected a U. S. senator in 1849 and was reelected six years later. In 1861 he was appointed secretary of state under President Lincoln, serving until 1869. He died in 1872.

Alaska was called "Seward's Folly" in 1867, when the secretary of state arranged to purchase the territory from Russia or $7.2 million.

The portrait of Seward was painted by Chester Harding at Auburn in 1843. A group of New York City residents presented the painting to Mr. Seward's children, who turned it over to the state.

The portrait of General Washington was painted by Ezra Ames, who used as a model a painting from life by Gilbert Stuart. Purchased by the state in 1813 under the authority of a joint resolution of the Senate and Assembly, it formerly hung in the Assembly chamber.

Which Is to Be Placed in Statuary Ha
Capitol in Washington.
(© J. W. Collinge.)

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THE CH
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THE SECRETARY OF STATE IN LINCOLN'S ADMINISTRATION: A PORTRAIT BUST OF WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Designed by Daniel Chester French, and Recently Dedicated at Florida, N. Y. George F. Baker, Who Went to a School Taught by Secretary Seward's Father, Is One of the Principal Donors of the Fund for the Exedra on Which the Bust Rests. (Dorr News Service.)

THE WOOD-CHOPPING FASHIONS OF DOORN ON THE BANKS OF THE HUDSON: POULTNEY BIGELOW, Who Went to Holland to Saw Wood With His Old Friend, the ex-Kaiser, Celebrates His Seventy-fifth Birthday at His Home at Malden, N. Y. From a Photograph Taken by Mrs. Percy Grainger.

THE GREAT FAL

N Y Times Oct. 12/30

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH
154 NORTH OVAL DRIVE
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43210

December 7, 1966

Registrar
Union College
Schenectady, New York

not in Philomathean 1820

Dear Sir:

I am doing my Ph.D. dissertation on the "Speaking of William Seward." It is my understanding that he was an undergraduate student at Union. I am particularly interested in any courses which he may have had in speech, and in any extracurricular activity in debate, oratory, dramatics, or what have you. Could you help me with this, or put me in touch with someone who could. I would certainly appreciate any help you could give me.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Cordially,

Harold Lawson

Harold Lawson
Director of Forensics

HF:mfb

listed on back of cat. as honorary member 1840.
listed in Adelphic Society catalogue of members 1820

" 2 — 4 — 1, 4. & 6 — 2, 3 — objects:
literature, "Friendship & morality" / 6 6, nature & essay
& debates

Warwick, 100 Honors Native Son, W. H. Seward, for Alaska Purchase

PAGE ONE

Probably the best bargain ever made by the United States was the purchase of Alaska from the Russians, one hundred years ago, and the man credited with this accomplishment was William Henry Seward, a native of Florida in Warwick Township, N.Y.

The Alaskan purchase, made in 1867, coincides with the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of Warwick Village. Bringing this historic link into focus will be the Florida entry in the big Warwick Valley Centennial parade, a float depicting the life of Seward. The giant float will be transported over the connecting rout between Florida and Warwick, the Seward Highway, for the parade today.

The 100th anniversary celebration at Warwick is the biggest event in the life of the community. Men with beards, women and young girls with ankle-length dresses and bonnets are more numerous on Warwick's Main Street than visitors in modern attire. Shopkeepers, bankers and town officials exhibit genuine warmth to visitors with reminders to stop at the village green for a cup of tea.

The entire village has joined together for the events which commemorate the 100th anniversary of Warwick's incorporation. Old-fashioned Americana is being depicted minus the carnival atmosphere.

Parade Today

A parade today at 4 p.m. and a pageant tonight with 250 townspeople are among the highlights of the celebration.

Seward displayed remarkable skill in diplomacy throughout the Civil War era but his most important achievement was purchasing Alaska at a cost of $7,200,000 while serving as Secretary of State. It was dubbed "Seward's Folly" and "Seward's Ice Box." But the cries of ridicule were soon muffled by the Gold Rush in the Yukon and subsequent discoveries of its great mineral potential. The property that was purchased for approximately two cents an acre became the 49th and largest state in the union in 1959.

Seward was born in Florida on May 16, 1801. He graduated from Union College in New York City in 1820 and was admitted to the bar in 1822 at Utica. He was elected to the state senate as a Whig in 1830 and later was elected to two terms as governor of the Empire State.

Elected to the U.S. Senate in 1850, Seward advocated the admission of California to the Union. When the Whig Party collapsed, he became one of the leaders of the early Republican party.

Seward was defeated by Abraham Lincoln in a bid for the

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 5)

Paterson Evening News
NORTHERN JERSEY'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
D. 57,780 SUN. 55,704

AUG 19 1967

Warwick, 100 Honors Native Son

(Continued from Page 1)

Republican nomination for the presidency, and later was appointed as Secretary of State by Lincoln. He was wounded by an accomplice of John Wilkes Booth on the night that the President was assassinated. He recovered from his wounds and continued to serve in the same capacity under President Andrew Johnson.

AUBURN, N.Y.
CITIZEN-ADVERTISER
D. 14,500

NOV 28 1967

Historian Review Seward Biography

Dr. May's review of the new volume, "William Henry Seward", which appeared in the Rochester Times-Union, follows.

By DR. ARTHUR J. MAY
University Historian
University of Rochester

On Oct. 25, 1858, the most famous speech ever delivered in the Rochester area was heard in Corinthian Hall, long since demolished.

As frequently he had done before, the speaker alluded to "an irrepressible conflict" which must end with America either entirely a slave-holding country or a land of entirely free labor. Since the Democratic party was the merest tool of the slaveholders, its hold on the government in Washington must be broken. Nationwide, warm praise and torrents of abuse greeted the speech.

On March 30, 1867, a treaty was signed transferring Alaska from tsarist Russia to the U.S. for a comparatively small payment. That gigantic real estate transaction also provoked a flood of adverse criticism and—later on—of loud hosannas as the great potential of the 49th state, economically and strategically, came to be appreciated.

The orator in Corinthian Hall and the principal American negotiator of the Alaska Purchase were one and the same—William H. Seward. It is indeed curious that no first-class biography of this key political figure has been published for over 60 years.

That gap is now closed by "William Henry Seward" (Oxford University Press, $12.50) by Glyndon G. Van Deusen, research professor of history emeritus at the University of Rochester. In this work he fortifies his reputation as an exceptionally talented biographer of American public men which he established by authoritative lives of Henry Clay, Horace Greeley, sometimes an ally of Seward, and Thurlow Weed, "the wizard of the lobby," lifelong counsellor of Seward.

Approximately three fifths of the book are given over to Seward's career between the time of the Rochester address and the Alaska Purchase. Yet the earlier decades are full of interest, enlightening about the man and the great game of politics as played in New York State.

It is advisable to read first the last three pages of the biography which furnish a crisp synopsis of Seward's achievements and far-seeing vision and a scrupulously balanced assessment of the strengths and frailties of the man.

Graduating from Union College in 1820, Seward engaged in the practice of law at Auburn, N.Y., his home to the end of his days. At the early age of 31 he was returned to the state senate and at 39 he was elected governor, in which office he showed superior administrative ability.

In 1849, he began 12 years of service as U.S. senator — a period of hard, devoted work for the country he loved so dearly and of intelligent handling of the supreme national issue — slavery. He won recognition as the foremost spokesman of the anti-slavery wing of the Whig party and then of the newly - founded Republican party.

Twice it seemed as though Seward would attain the great ambition of his life — nomination for the Presidency of the U.S. Twice he fell short of the goal, yielding on the second occasion to Abraham Lincoln.

Lincoln appointed Seward as secretary of state. Especially fascinating is Van Deusen's exposition of the relations between these two leaders during the agonizing ordeal of the Civil War.

Vain to a fault, the polished New Yorker was convinced that national salvation depended upon him and that he, instead of the inexperienced, "canny politician" from the prairies of Illinois, must steer the ship of state. Lincoln decided otherwise.

Despite basic differences of opinion on many fundamental problems, bonds of affection and friendship developed, though "Seward could never really bring himself to recognize Lincoln's greatness."

In the role of secretary of state, Seward demonstrated ability as a diplomatist that places him in the top rank of the holders of that delicate and sensitive office. Sharp controversies that arose with Great Britain and France in particular were surmounted in a manner that consolidated his standing as a statesman.

Seward strongly favored the outward expansion of the U.S. Except for Alaska not much of tangible value was in fact acquired. Yet a good deal of the agenda be envisaged, the course he charted would be fulfilled in a later generation.

Proper attention is devoted to Seward's personal affairs and homelife, and on these pages Van Deusen makes his subject very real, very much alive.

If a prophetic note may be sounded, William Henry Seward" is destined for wide and long usefulness. It protrays an important national character. It is based upon an almost incredible familarity with mountains of original data. It is written with refreshing literary fluency, bound to give "bo pleasure and profit" to the g eral reader, which is precis what the author hoped.

WASHINGTON, D.C., POST
OCTOBER 9, 1938

1820

Seward Nominated for Governor of N. Y.

For the second time the Whigs of New York have nominated William Henry Seward, of Auburn, N. Y., as their candidate for Governor. He was nominated by them in '34, but was defeated by William L. Marcy, the present incumbent.

Mr. Seward was born in 1801 in Orange County, N. Y. "He graduated from Union College in 1820, having taught school for a short time in Savanah, Ga., to help pay his expenses." In '22 he was admitted to the bar at Utica, N. Y., and shortly thereafter took up his residence in Auburn where he became definitely allied with the Anti-Masonic movement. He attended the Anti-Masonic conventions of '30 and '34. When this movement had run its course, Mr. Seward joined the Anti-Jacksonian Democrats through which channel he recently became associated with the Whig Party and is now one of the best exponents of Whiggism.

With Van Burenism becoming more and more unpopular in New York State, there seems to be a very good chance that the Whigs will be able to elect their candidate. The Democrats are finding it difficult to stem the tide of Whiggery in spite of the strenuous efforts of Tammany Hall, which is already suffering from a heart attack brought on by the radicalism of the Loco Focos, dissenters of the Hall.

Albany Times Union.

MAR 9 1944

Portraits of Ancient Foes in Union Chapel

By TONI ADAMS

SCHENECTADY, March 8 (AP) —Portraits of two bitterly antagonistic statesmen of the Civil war period hang peacefully side by side tonight in the Memorial chapel of Union college.

The reunion was brought about by Senator Walter F. George of Georgia, who presented to the college a portrait of Robert Toombs (1810-1885), graduate of Union in 1828 and later secretary of state in the Confederate government.

In juxtaposition to the Toombs portrait, unveiled this afternoon is that of William H. Seward, of the Class of 1820, who was President Lincoln's secretary of state. The painting of Seward, a native of Auburn, has been in the chapel 100 years.

GEORGE'S MESSAGE

George, who holds an honorary degree from Union, said in a message read at the presentation ceremony:

"I am glad to see the portraits of those two illustrious sons of Union college hanging side by side. They represent old controversies, healed at last by understanding, and remind us that we fight today for principles which they both approved."

In accepting the gift, Union President Dixon Ryan Fox said hostility between the two statesmen arose "when Congressman Toombs ardently advocated the Compromise of 1850."

TOOMBS LETTER CITED

Dr. Fox recalled that Toombs wrote in 1852: "We can never have peace and security with Seward, Greeley and company in the ascendant in our national counsels, and we had better purchase them by the destruction of the Whig party rather than of the Union." Toombs left the Whig party.

The contest with Seward continued, kindled by the Kansas-Nebraska bill and climaxed when Toombs led Georgia into secession.

In Memorial chapel, Dr. Eliphalet Nott, who as Union president trained the two statesmen, gazes at the pair from his portrait, and seems to smile.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, A.M., 1820, of ... mber of the Adelphic Society.
Adelphic Catalogue 1830

From NEW YORK HISTORY, published by ... torical A sn.
... tober 1940.

Dea Emeritus James Alton ... iversity has uncovered evidence to show that WILLI... ized the potential wealth of Alaska when its purchase ... nited States from Russia in 1867.

From NEW YORK HISTORY, published by ... storical Assn.
... ly 1940

In the South Atlantic Qua... appears "Some Aspects of the Know*Nothing Movement Recon... arman and Reinhard H. Luthin. The article has many n... nd examines closely the effect of the Know-Nothing movemen... d.

1820

U.A.M. Apr. '42

New York City is celebrating the Centennial of the Board of Education. The enabling act was signed by Governor WILLIAM H. SEWARD, on April 11, 1842. The law won in the Senate by a vote of 13 to 12, all New York City senators voting against it, but won a large favorable vote in the Assembly. It is the largest system of public school education in the world.

...ln, mentioned by Dr. George A

...ward - Sec. of State
... Minister to France
...ley - spiritual advisor
...k - Commander-in-chief of a

Library Archives Furnish Source Data On Henry Clay

Goshen Library and Historical Society will be well represented in a one-volume **Guide to Archives and Manuscripts in the United States** to be published this year through arrangement of the National Historical Publications Commission with Yale University Press. Material in more than 1200 depositories will be listed. And even before publication the Goshen collection has been tapped for source material for an important work.

Shortly after the first of the year notice of the plan and a request to bring the Goshen listing up to date was received from Philip M. Hamer, executive director of the commission; and Harry H. Smith, curator of the library's historical collection, replied with a list and brief description "of some of the 5,000 pieces" (letters, unpublished writings, records of various kinds and maps) which the library holds in addition to published historical matter and family records, published and otherwise.

Almost immediately there came from the University of Kentucky a request for photostats of two letters written by Dr. Samuel S. Seward of Florida village to Henry Clay, the great Abolitionist in Congress, regarding slavery and other subjects. The university is preparing for publication of **The Papers of Henry Clay** in connection with the Civil War Centennial. Mr. Smith said the renowned medic, educator, father of William H. Seward, the Civil War Secretary of State, and ancestor of numerous Orange County residents, was 76 years old when he penned the letters, and he found the handwriting difficult. He said also that the second letter, written about a month after the first, indicated that Seward had received a reply from Clay in the interim, but it has not been found.

The Goshen Library collection of Seward letters is small but includes, besides the Clay correspondence, significant exchanges between the father and the son who was already a political power in N. Y. State because of his influence in the burgeoning Finger Lakes Region surrounding his home at Auburn. These letters deal with the anti-Masonic campaign, with which the Sewards were allied, and the political upheaval and amalgations that evolved into the Republican and Democratic Parties. Dr. Seward, whose latter-day home was the present Lyceum Building on Florida's Main Street, died in 1849.

Photostating of the correspondence with Clay constitutes the second contribution made by Goshen Library in the space of a couple of years to the published record of a man of historic importance to the nation. The other was a pair of documents — a letter from Alexander Hamilton and his lawyer's brief, in his handwriting, summing up the Wawayanda - Cheesecocks Patent boundary hearings in 1785 in behalf of the owners of Wawayanda lands in the disputed area.

Mr. Smith wrote the national commission executive that shortly after he became a library trustee in 1954 he "unpacked several boxes of letters and documents dated as early as 1730;" also that he had lately completed an index book of 20 pages (8½ x 11) listing the library's manuscripts, with a key to where they may be found in the files or on display. The materials are available for examination by interested persons on appointment with Mr. Smith.

recd 4/1/60

IRWINTON, GA.
WILKINSON CO. NEWS
W. 1,427

APR 12 1979

Wonders Of The Oconee

A YOUNG MAN'S FOLLY

The Fall of 1818 was a very distressing time for young Billy Seward. He was in his 17th year and just beginning the great adventure as a college student. He had arrived at New York's Union College from a down state village. His boyish features and naive demeanor were accented by his practical homemade clothing. The incisive mind did not assert itself. He was neither forceful nor commanding in any way.

Billy's fellow students took him for something of a bumpkin and his clothing provided them a target for derision. In a state of anguish, young Seward contracted with a local trailor to make a suit. Because his father was quite well-to-do, it never occurred to him that the order would not be paid for. As it turned out, Billy's transaction was an act of sheer folly. Father wouldn't pay the tailor; the tailor began harassing his student debtor; and the whole charade was progressing to the great merriment of Seward's fellow students.

Finally, Billy's anguish, embarrassment and humiliation overcame him. He determined to relieve the oppressive burden that his folly had brought upon him by running away. He discovered a young man who was leaving school to take a job as principal of a new school being established in Putnam County, Georgia, so Billy decided to make the journey with him and create a new life for himself in the South.

Billy and his companion made their way to New York City and booked passage on a schooner bound for Savannah. By stage they traveled on to Augusta, where Billy's friend was offered, and accepted, a more attractive position. Billy saw this development as the hand of providence and hurried on toward Eatonton to apply for the job his friend had just abandoned. At last, he crowned the Oconee River and arrived at Eatonton only to learn that the school was still ten miles away - at Union Grove.

Despite his youthfulness, Billy did secure the teaching position at Union Grove, but to his dismay, the term was not to begin for another six months. His employers furnished a horse and buggy which he used to tour the Oconee countryside soliciting students for this new educational venture. He ranged as far as Sparta and Milledgeville, exploring, observing, becoming familiar with this new territory he expected to make his home. When school started, he had recruited sixty students - a very impressive and encouraging beginning.

The school progressed under Billy's direction, but in the meantime, his father had sought a grudging reconciliation. It was the pleas of his mother, though, that ultimately induced him to return home to his native New York. Although he had been in Georgia only a few months, Billy had gained a sense of purpose and felt great reluctance to leave his new-found Georgia friends. Nevertheless, when his replacement arrived, he made his way back home, the consequences of his great folly eased, if not erased.

Billy completed his education and became a man of some consequence in his community. He was successful in his profession. His life was one of increasing accomplishment. At the height of his career, however, he entered into another financial transaction which many of his contemporaries viewed as another great act of folly. Would Billy never learn about these things? He negotiated the purchase of a large tract of land which had no apparent commercial or productive value. Although the price was very favorable for the times, he was criticized severely because it was difficult to see just what good would ever come of that particular land.

The purchase was mockingly called "Seward's Folly" -- today, we call it the State of Alaska!

1822?

Billy Seward -- William Henry Seward -- left Putnam County before reaching his 18th birthday and returned to his home in New York. He served as governor of that state and as one of its United States Senators. He held the office of Secretary of State under Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson. But for the surprising rise of Lincoln, it is likely Seward would have become President in 1860, such was his political prominence.

What sort of prominence would Seward have achieved if he had remained a Putnam County school teacher? How would he have effected the public life of this state? Only speculative answers can be offered to such questions. But it is not so much speculation to conclude that while he briefly tarried here, he grew in mind and character, he found values which were lasting, and he formed abiding affections for the Georgians he met.

Seward Used Kane Residence; Social Affairs Were Brilliant

House Previously Property of Wealthy Merchant Who Failed

This is the second of a series of stories on Executive Mansions used by Governors in Albany.

By CHARLES H. LATHROP.

THE social life of Albany in the second quarter of the 19th Century centered in the lower section of the city where Gov. William H. Seward made his executive mansion in the old Kane Residence, the site of which is now occupied by the Philip Schuyler High School.

In 1849 when Seward began his term, the House, with ts spacious grounds, commonly called "Kane's Walk," was even then a landmark. At that date some of the land originally surrounding the house had been sold and the double row of trees forming a driveway from South Pearl Street could be partly seen. Westerlo and Broad Streets were cut through "Kane's Walk" and several churches and many dwellings now stand in what was once a delightfully landscaped park.

The Kane family was one of the first of those not of Dutch extraction to take a prominent part in the life of Albany. Coming chiefly from New England, these leaders of English descent became in a short time the merchants of the conservative community. In this group were the Townsend, Gould, Boyd, Mather families, Isaac and John Hutton, silversmith; William James, the elder, as well as the Kanes.

Leading Merchant

James Kane, last of his line, was for a period the leading merchant of the city. Branches of his enterprises were in New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia and along the Mohawk River. As has happened before and since to other merchant princes, Kane suddenly was left penniless by commercial reverses. His palatial home had to go among other assets and he ended his days in a small room in the American Hotel overlooking his home in the days of splendor.

Stirring times disturbed the placidity of "Kane's Walk" and its mansion, and contemplation of great things accomplished by the occupant of his former home may have been solace to James Kane, one of Albany's politest residents in all its history, as he gazed from his attic window.

Through Kane's eyes we may see the great Whig leaders, Thurlow Weed, Francis Granger and William H. Seward. The political eyes of the nation had the same focal point. Wild cat banking had resulted in financial chaos. The Whigs had recently gone down in inglorious defeat. There were the Abolitionists with their William Lloyd Garrison to reckon with.

In Albany, Weed had his Journal to aid his political projects and once a week there came to this city a brilliant, if unknown youthful editor named Horace Greeley. Under the sponsorship of Weed this youngster saw published each week his paper, the Jeffersonian, a campaign paper that had much to do with Seward's success in the gubernatorial combat with William L. Marcy, running for re-election.

'Dictator'

In his study in the Kane mansion, Seward first used the word given political prominence by Mussolini. After Seward's election the Whig Party was under the complete control of Weed. It was Seward who characterized Weed as "dictator" nearly a century before the era of Il Duce. "The sweetness of Weed's temper," wrote the governor, "inclines me to love my tyrant, ... no idea that dictators were such amiable creatures."

Gazing with Kane from the old hostelry we see a galaxy brilliant as the "Albany Regency" members seated across the street when William Kent, son of the great Chancellor, shouts partly humorous, partly serious, "Mr. Dictator, the whole state is on your shoulders. I take it, some future chronicler, in reciting the annals of New York during this period, in every respect equal to England in the time of Elizabeth, will devote the brightest colors to 'the celebrated Thurlow Weed, who so long filled the office of Governor Seward during his lengthened and prosperous administration'." And the "Dictator" Weed became.

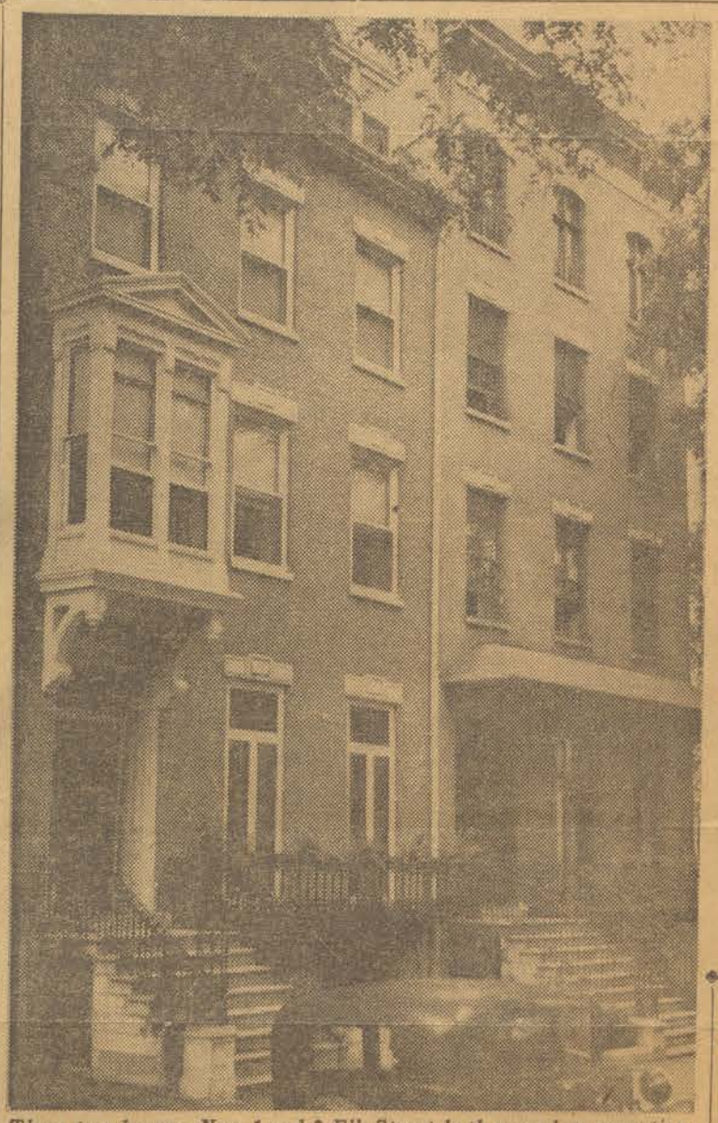
New Year's Day was an occasion for open house in Albany society and entertainment on this festival fell heaviest on Governor Seward. Greeting the state's Chief Executive on the holiday, we see with Kane's eyes, prominent residents of the city, state officials and political leaders of the day, particularly the Whigs. As we watch from the hotel attic there pass over the threshold Dr. Eliphalet Nott, Daniel Webster, Josiah Quincy, Washington Irving, General Scott, John J. Crittenden, John C. Spencer, Gen. Rufus King, Richard M. Blatchford, Simeon Draper, Moses H. Grinnell, Lewis Benedict and Weed.

Stoves throughout the house give warmth. For illumination sperm oil candles twinkle from chandeliers, sconces, candelabras and candlesticks placed in profusion about the massive high-ceilinged rooms. Extinguishing the lights after the New Year's function was in itself no mean task.

Seward, 11th governor of New York, was the first executive to oppose chattel slavery as an institution. Educated at Union College and practising law in Auburn, he was elected to the state senate on the Anti-Masonic ticket in 1830. Eight years later he became the first Whig Governor, defeating W. L. Marcy by a small plurality.

A brief recitation of accomplishments of his tenure gives an idea of conditions in his period as executive: The Anti-Rent Wars were ended, the State Museum and Geological Survey of the state were started and fugitive slaves were first given the privilege of trial by jury with counsel furnished by the state.

Seward served two terms as Governor of New York and was also United States senator. During 1850, while addressi[illegible] Senate on the admission of [illegible] Union, he r[illegible] law" in fighti[illegible] slavery from [illegible] came the rallyi[illegible] tionists and [illegible] Southern De[illegible] party continue[illegible] but there was [illegible] prominence a[illegible] the other s[illegible] Middle We[illegible] Abraham Li[illegible]



These two houses, Nos. 1 and 2 Elk Street both served as executive mansions years ago. Enos T. Throop in 1831-1832 lived at No. 1 and No. 2 was occupied by William L. Marcy, 1833-1839; Washington Hunt, 1851-1853, and by Horatio Seymour, 1853-1854 and 1863-1864.

William H. Seward as Governor of New York State, lived in the Kane Mansion located where now stands the Philip Schuyler High School. Governors Tompkins and De Witt Clinton also lived here for parts of their terms. The first Whig governor, Seward ended the Anti-Rent Wars, began the geological survey of the state and established the State Museum.

Note

Judge S. S. Seward founded the S. S. Seward Seminary at Warwick, Orange Co., N.Y. in 1845. He provided an endowment of $20,000. His son, Wm. H. Seward, U.S. Secy. State, under Lincoln, was born in ~~the town~~ ~~of~~ Florida, town of Warwick, Orange Co. N.Y.

From W. N. P. Dailey '84

William H. Seward Honored at Alaska-Yukon Exposition

Statue Unveiled in Memory of One of Union's Illustrious Sons

At the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, held at Seattle, Wash., from June to October t year, a day was set aside to honor the memory of Lincoln's great Secretary of State, liam H. Seward, one of Union College's most distinguished alumni, and the man who was trumental in effecting the purchase of Alaska from Russia.

As is generally known, Seward was born in 1801. In 1816 he entered the sophomore class Union College and two years later was graduated with high honors, being a Phi Beta pa man. For several years he practiced as a lawyer and then was drawn into the unsettled ional political life of the period. Seward served as United States senator and during Civil War was President Lincoln's Secretary of State.

Seward's Purchase of Alaska

After the war, during which relations between the United States and Russia were es- ially friendly, negotiations were entered upon by Seward for the purchase of Russian th America. Seward recognized that under American control this territory would become great value to the nation and would give to the United States a foothold for commer- l and naval operations from the Pacific States. In the face of the most adverse criti- m from press and public all over the country, Seward carried out his plans and in 1868 was finally passed. This territory act making an appropriation to pay for Alaska, was paying annually into the national asury more than she had cost, and later discoveries of gold and silver helped to swell enormous wealth she was pouring forth. This was the act of a sagacious and far- ing statesman, who added a great and wealthy country to the United States.

Seward Day Exercises

September the tenth was the day set for the ceremonies to commemorate Seward and his at services to the whole country and especially to Pacific development and progress. formal exercises were held at the New York State Building, a replica of the Seward e at Auburn, N. Y. At 12:30 o'clock, Mr. Benjamin M. Wilcox, chief executive officer the New York State Building, gave a luncheon to General William H. Seward, a son of retary Seward and to William H. Seward, Jr., his grandson. A large number of prominent and Exposition officials were present. At 2:00 o'clock, the most important event of day, the unveiling of the Seward statue, occurred with appropriate ceremonies. This held on the grounds of the building, with Hon. Thomas Burke presiding, and addresses e made by prominent men, among them Secretary Seward's son. In the evening a banquet given in the State Building at which Judge Burke also presided.

Funds Raised by Seattle

The first movement for the erection of a suitable monument to Seward was instigated an article to a Seattle newspaper, in which attention was called to the fact that, as ttle had been benefited so largely from the expanding trade with Alaska, her citizens ld well afford to honor the memory of the statesman who purchased that territory for nation. The Seattle Chamber of Commerce responded at once and appointed a committee raise the $15,000 necessary to secure the statue.

The Statue Itself

The task of making the statue was awarded to Mr. Richard E. Brooks of New York, a lptor of high rank. After an extensive study of the subject, Mr. Brooks completed the del and took it to Paris, where is was cast in bronze. The people of the Pacific North- t believe that Seward's greatest achievement was the purchase of Alaska. That belief impressed upon the sculptor, who has protrayed the statesman at that important hour his great career. Around the upper rim of the pedestal appear his memorable words to Russian minister:"Let us make the treaty tonight." This beautiful statue was unveiled the grand-daughter of ex-Governor McGraw, of the State of Washington, in front of the York State Building, and stands as a permanent reminder of the greatness of the man m our whole country admires and to whom Union College points with pride as one who has ought honor and glory to his Alma Mater.

C. Nov. 5, 1910

1820 WILLIAM H. SEWARD

John Bigelow

Business took him to Schenectady one week end of that summer(1844 ?), where he had lunch with one of his former professors and with ex-Governor William H. Seward, who, to Bigelow's scorn, proclaimed Philip Hone a greater orator than Daniel Webster. Bigelow took private revenge in his diary, describing his famous fellow alumnus as "a very mean-looking man. His temperament is sanguine, nervous. Hair very dirty color--if clean it would be nearly red. His complexion is much of the same hue." Seward, one must remember, was a Whig and Bigelow a Democrat. The description changed later when both were of the same party.

Forgotten First Citizen;John Bigelow
p. 34
Margaret Clapp
Little, Brown and Company
Boston.
1947.

An Incident Connected with the Purchase of Alaska

In my younger days I knew the Hon. Benjamin F. Hall of the City of Auburn, New York. Hall had been a neighbor and friend of Secretary William H. Seward, and a fellow practitioner with him at the bar. Seward befriended Hall in various ways and pro-

The Quarterly Journal
of the
New York State Historical Assn.
July 1926.

cured for him the appointment of United States District Judge of Colorado, prior to Colorado's admission as a State into the union. One evening while calling on the attractive daughters of Judge Hall at his home, the Judge related to me his part in the acquisition of Alaska, and the confirmation of the treaty with Russia for its purchase.

Hall had been called to Washington, and was engaged in the editing and publication of the opinions of the Attorney Generals of the United States. Four volumes of this work will be found on the shelves of many of the law libraries of the country. While temporarily living in Washington engaged in this work, Hall was walking down town one morning and the thought occurred to him to stop at Seward's home and pay his respects to his old neighbor and friend. He did so and on meeting the Secretary of State, Seward said, "Hall you are just the man I want to see. I have negotiated a treaty for the purchase of Alaska. I think it a good thing, but to tell the truth know very little about that country. I am to have the members of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations to dine with me tonight when I must tell them what I have done. Now I want you to go down to the Smithsonian Institution and learn all you can about Alaska, and come back and tell me." Hall promised to do so and proceeded at once to the Smithsonian. He introduced himself to the one in immediate charge and began questioning him about Alaska. He was then informed that two young men whom the Institution had sent to Alaska on an exploring expedition were just back and expected in shortly, was asked to wait, and on their arrival promised an introduction and an opportunity to question the explorers.

In a short time the young men came and Hall was introduced. He at once began his inquiries about Alaska and its resources. Among other things he asked if there was any timber there and was informed there was. It had mineral resources and so on and so on. Finally Hall asked if they had brought back with them anything to show for their trip. They said yes, that the finest salmon in the world were caught in Alaskan waters, and they had brought back with them some of the fish packed in ice. Hall asked to see them and was taken into the basement of the Institution building. A box was opened and Hall shown some of the finest salmon he had ever seen. He then asked the young men to

send one of the fish to Secretary Seward's house, which they promised to do. He returned to the Secretary's home and reported what he had learned, and told him about the salmon. Seward exclaimed: "Just the thing. I will have it cooked and served tonight at the dinner to the Senate Committee, and make it the occasion of telling of the treaty."

This was done and the diners all remarked on the excellence of the fish and the Secretary then made known to them the treaty to purchase Alaska.

We all know that, although the purchase of Alaska was by many called "Seward's folly," the treaty was ratified, due no doubt in part to the salmon the Senators ate at Seward's table.

So far as I know the incident related by Judge Hall has never appeared in any published work, and was not known even to Frederick Seward, the Secretary's son, who stated to the writer he had not heard of it until I repeated the incident to him. There can be, however, no doubt I think as to the truth of the story substantially as related by Judge Hall.

Buffalo, June 17, 1926 CHARLES B. WHEELER

Mr. James E. Jenkins, Los Angeles, Cal., recently sent to the State Historian a letter written by the Rev. Merritt Bates, from Albany, Sept. 12, 1845, to his brother in Detroit. From his meager salary, the writer evidently had a struggle to support himself and family and his account of house-hunting is worth quoting:

I went out the other morning and found a house for $130 a year which just suits me, only that it is rather too far from the center of the city. It is a good two story brick house, with parlour, kitchen, woodhouse, pantry and three bed rooms below, and an upper parlour and three bed rooms above, with a large garret and good cellar. The yard is large and full of fruit trees. We have as many peaches, pears and grapes as we shall need for our own use, and some to spare. It is No. 28 Second Street, in the most healthy part of the city. I had to pay $100 where I was before. Surely I may better pay $30 more for this place. I am in the northwest part of the city, two streets west of North Pearl, and two south of Lumber Street, on what is called Arbor Hill. We moved last week, and have got comfortably settled. We are highly pleased with our situation. We have never had better accommodations in any place. The next thing, perhaps you may say, is to pay for them. Well, I must trust Providence for that. So far I have got along without going in debt. True, my salary

Greeley was writing his ever-present listener, Colfax, that Seward "has great qualities, but an enormous self--conceit and a sanguine disposition that are apt to try his friends. I like him very much as a man; I have ceased to follow his lead as a politician." And he added, "Seward is a good fellow at heart, only he is a bad one to belong to. I have been there."

The spindly, long-beaked senator from New York, with his bounding air and irrepressible talk, had become the outstanding Republican presence on the floor--a fact which made Greeley's effort to sidetrack him more difficult. His manner in debate was greatly admired; his hoarse voice could be both brusque and cordial, hearty and confidential. Ideas, phrases, repartee, darted out of him with quick, original gestures. Body and brain moved fast together; he became a hero to the galleries. Murat Halstead, reporting to the Cincinnati Commercial, described him in action:

Seward's is the most singular head in all the (Senate) assortment.....It rises above the ears like a dome, and looks not unlike a straw stack in shape and color....This head is perched upon a body that is active and restless... It walks with a slashing swagger. It strikes off with a rollicking gait from one point to another, and is in and out of the Chamber by turns....He sits down, takes a pinch of snuff, and presently you hear a vociferous sneezing, and the high-headed, straw-thatched gentleman is engaged upon his beak with a yellow silk handkerchief.. In the Republican corner of the Senate Chamber is (another) familiar face and form--you recognize the portly person and massive intellectual development, the frizzly hair and the oval brow of Salmon P. Chase.....Seward comes up....they laugh violently but quietly, and Seward rubs his oaken beeeches with his hands and then gives his nose a tremendous tweak with the yellow handkerchief. He is wonderfullay affable. He acts as though he would kiss a strange baby. Ah, he is a candidate for the Presidency..

From: Horace Greeley, Voice of the People
pp. 208-209
William Harlan Hale
Harper Brothers
New York 1950.

U.A.M.
June 1934

SHELDON H. JACKSON '55

By Professor Warren C. Taylor

On May 18th the Presbyterian Church in America celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of one of its greatest workers. The celebration, however, was not merely a church event, for the greatness of the man far outran even the broad scope of his work within the church and reflected credit on our nation as a whole and on Union College, for the man was Sheldon H. Jackson of the Class of 1855. It was through his efforts that Alaska ceased to be "Seward's Folly" and became a valued and productive territory. It is the work of Jackson in Alaska that brought him the greatest recognition, and it is certainly an interesting coincident that Union College has played so great a part in the history of that region, for it was purchased by William H. Seward of the Class of 1820; and it was made habitable, endowed with a government, with schools and churches by Sheldon H. Jackson of the Class of 1855.

Jackson was first attracted to our newly acquired territory by the reports that came shortly after its purchase, telling of the terrible misery and despair of many of the inhabitants. Stirred by these accounts he went to Wrangell in 1877 and established, under the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions, the first mission station in Alaska. He did not stay long, but he left the mission in charge of a capable worker and returned to the United States to secure funds and workers for the great need that he saw in the new country. He reached Alaska again in 1881 and established a church at Sitka and started an industrial school for boys. From these beginnings he planted churches along the coast towns and as far inland as possible until in 1890 he reached Point Barrow. Here he organized a church, established a school and founded a hospital. The community responded and developed into a most valuable center for that district. At present Point Barrow is the most northerly occupied mission station in the world and is also the location of a Government station for supplies for ships in the Arctic Region.

From the humble mission school at Sitka the educational system of Alaska sprang through the persistent efforts of Dr. Jackson. His continuous knocking at the door of Congress finally brought about the appropriation of $25,000 for schools in 1885, and his appointment as Commissioner of Education for Alaska, an office which he retained for many years. He also persuaded Congress to provide civil government for Alaska in 1884 and thus established the beginnings of law and order in a land which had been in moral chaos.

The most outstanding contribution which Jackson made to Alaska was the introduction of the reindeer. In his trav-

els through the country he found innumerable cases of starvation and appalling conditions of living. In some instances whole villages had been deserted, as the means of livelihood from seal, whale, walrus, and salmon were becoming exhausted with the entrance of fish canning industries and ruthless hunters from the United States. As Jackson looked across the straits into Siberia, he saw the natives supporting themselves in comfort by their great herds of reindeer which provided them with food, clothing, and transportation. With his characteristic energy, Jackson sought to influence Congress to appropriate money to import reindeer into Alaska. His bill was productive of much ridicule and no cash. In 1891, however, with some $2,000 which he had raised personally he tried the experiment on his own responsibility. He succeeded in his venture and reported it to Congress but it was not until 1893 that Congress at last appropriated $6,000 and the work was carried on in earnest until 1200 reindeer had been imported into the country. In 1897 and 1898, still working on the project, he went to Lapland for more reindeer, and returned not only with the reindeer but with a colony of Laplanders to aid in domesticating the animals to the new country. This one contribution to the welfare of Alaska would have made him worthy of the world's honor, for it is credited with raising the Eskimos, in a single generation, an entire stage in the scale of civilization, from primitive, nomadic hunters to a pastoral people, living in villages with their herds as a means of livelihood. It is interesting to note that the Canadian government has recently completed a similar project in an attempt to provide for certain Indian tribes.

But one cannot pass from his Alaskan accomplishments without mentioning his establishment of the first canoe mail service in 1883, and the founding of the Alaskan Society of Natural History, with a museum at Sitka, which now stands as a memorial to him. During his twenty-five years' work in Alaska he travelled to and from the United States twenty-six times, and many thousands of miles in his efforts to provide reindeer. His records indicate that in one year his journeys amounted to over 37,000 miles, many miles of which were at personal peril.

While Dr. Jackson's outstanding accomplishments were in Alaska and went far afield from the duties ordinarily associated with the work of a missionary, his church remembers him as one of its most successful and most tireless workers in the field of missions in the West. After being graduated from College in 1855, he entered Princeton Seminary and being impressed with some of the great pioneers in missionary work, offered himself for service as a foreign missionary to the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church. He hoped to be sent to Syria or Siam, but he was turned down because of poor health and in 1858 was assigned to work among the Choctaw Indians in Indian Territory. He was successful in his work but ill health forced him to seek a different climate. He was then assigned

to La Crescent, Minnesota, a village of fifty or sixty houses.

From La Crescent he struck out into regions beyond, until his parish became 500 miles in extent in both Minnesota and Wisconsin. Thus he began his church activities which were to expand as rapidly and as far as the Great West. As his work in one place became established, he reached out to another. His mission board could not keep pace with him as he pushed ahead, and he was often forced to secure through his own efforts the financial backing necessary for his projects. He started scores of churches until he had established his work in nine states and three territories. In twelve years he advanced from Minnesota and Wisconsin to Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Nevada and even into the Mormon stronghold in Utah, where he founded Westminster College in Salt Lake City in 1895. He raised thousands of dollars for the support of the college, which is now under the control of the Presbyterian Church. Later his work led him to New Mexico and Arizona.

In 1897 Jackson was elected Moderator, the highest honor which the Presbyterian Church confers. In 1898 Union recognized his distinguished career by awarding him the degree of LL.D.

Dr. Jackson was born in Minaville, New York, on May 18th, 1834. His father was a well-to-do farmer and storekeeper, and his family moved to Esperance when Sheldon was a year old. A few years later the family moved to Florida township, and though ten miles distant continued to be regular worshippers at the old Stone Church at Esperance. When fifteen years old, he went to Ohio but returned to New York to attend Union College in 1852. While a student in College, he became a member of the Church at Esperance, at which the centennial celebration took place on May 18th, and at which a tablet in his memory was dedicated.

From Famed Folly to Fabulous Forty-ninth

Alaska Owes Debt to Albany's Seward and O'Brien

By C. R. ROSEBERRY

Times-Union Staff Writer

AS ALASKA dons the mantle of statehood, her gratitude goes out to two upstate New Yorkers who lived a century apart but saw eye-to-eye when they looked North. Their names: Seward and O'Brien.

The former name has long been emblazoned on the map of Alaska. The latter soon will be. That is how much the new state thinks of them.

Both these able politicians who fought Alaska's battles in Washington were launched upon their public careers through the legislative halls of Albany.

William H. Seward, the man who bought Alaska, was a State Senator, then twice Governor, then Lincoln's Secretary of State.

Leo W. O'Brien, the man who adeptly engineered Alaskas statehood through Congress, was Capitol Hill correspondent for The Albany Times-Union before his election as Representative of the 30th Congressional District.

On a Georgetown University panel, O'Brien was asked: "Why should a man from Albany be so interested in Alaska?"

GIVEN A BOOST

"Well," he replied, "a man from upstate who was a part-time Albanian, purchased it, and it seemed logical that another should help boost it to statehood."

Seward predicted statehood for Alaska after he got it purchased. It was a long time in coming. He would have been gratified to know that a fellow York-stater would bring it to pass. And the O'Brien who did it has become, in the process, a student and firm admirer of his predecessor.

"I think that Seward has been much underrated in history," says Leo O'Brien. (This is a Democrat referring to a founder of the Republican Party). "He was one of New York's really great statesmen. That is why it was so inspiring to me to see the majority of this state's delegation in Washington vote yes on the statehood bill."

O'Brien, like most of us, knew little of Seward as a person before he became Alaska's latter-day knight in shining armor. These are some of the things he has since found out:

William H. Seward (his wife always called him Henry) was born in 1801, came up the Hudson on a river-boat at the age of 15 to enroll at Union College, was awed *by his first sight of Albany. His father, a prosperous doctor-farmer, had outfitted him with a good, serviceable college wardrobe—made by an itinerant tailor. The* lad soon noticed that his garments were not exactly what the well-dressed collegian was wearing. He felt "rustic" on the campus. The pater refused to foot any more tailor bills. Young William threupon exhibited two character traits that would be with him through life—a mind of his own and fastidiousness in personal appearance. He ran away from college.

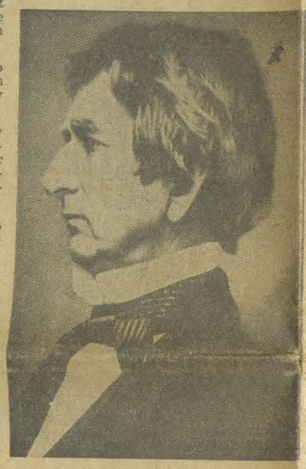
He accompanied a campus chum who was returning to his home in Georgia, and taught school for a time in the South. The elder Seward finally induced him to return to college, and he was graduated in 1820—in rather better style than he entered.

LAW PARTNER

He "read law," fell in love, got married, and became the junior law partner of his father-in-law in Auburn. Rapidly he won a repute for his wit and oratorical talent before a jury, and was especially brilliant as a defense attorney.

A minor accident in 1824 was to have incalculable effect on his future life. A family tour was taken to Niagara Falls. Passing through Rochester on the return, the stagecoach dropped a wheel. *A crowd collected. The most helpful bystander was a tall, dark, magnetic man* who was a printer and the editor of a small newspaper in Rochester. His name was Thurlow Weed. The chance meeting sparked a fateful friendship between Seward and Weed.

Soon, a Batavia citizen, William Morgan, vanished from the face of the earth. The Masonic order was accused of foul play because Morgan was on the verge of publishing a tract disclosing its secrets.



William H. Seward

The Man Who Bought Alaska

—Portrait courtesy of L. Washington Bergh, Albany Art Union.

Hysteria flamed up in western New York and grew into the Anti-Masonic Party. Both Weed and Seward climbed on its bandwagon. In 1830, both attended an Albany meeting at which a newspaper, the Albany Evening Journal, was founded as the official Anti-Masonic organ, with Weed as its editor. Seward was elected to the State Senate the same year.

As a legislator, Seward distinguished himself mainly by supporting the abolition of imprisonment for debt. He became a friend of Citizen Genet and made frequent visits to the Niskayuna Shakers. By 1834 the Anti-Masonic Party died out, but Thurlow Weed had tasted power. He *raked its remnants into a new party, the* Whigs, of which he was dubbed the "Dictator."

SEWARD HIS BOY

By this time Seward was "his boy." He tried to make him governor in 1834, but the Whigs were whipped. Four years later, in reaction to the Panic of 1837, the Whigs turned the tables and Seward was governor. He then moved his family to Albany. In those days, governors had to rent their own executive mansions and run them at their own expense. Seward took the stately place known as "Kane's Walk," at Westerlo and Broad Streets, previously occupied by DeWitt Clinton. It cost him twice as much as his salary as Governor to maintain it.

Weed knew the value of propaganda. He went down to New York and hired a young editor, Horace Greeley, to work part-time in Albany editing a Whig paper, the Jeffersonian. Thus originated the triumvirate that was commonly known as "the firm of Seward, Weed & Greeley"—the top echelon of the Whig Party. They made William H. Harrison president in 1840's "Log Cabin Campaign."

Seward was a slender man with a *prominent nose and pointed Yankee features. He was suave, intellectual, gentle* and gregarious. Weed spoke of his "stern integrity" and said he had a "delicacy of habit and character almost feminine." His vice was cigar smoking. To indulge it, he habitually rode outside with the driver when travelling by stagecoach, or in the baggage car on trains.

Anti-slavery sentiment was mounting in the North while he was Governor. He became identified with it by defying the Governor of Virginia. A slave named Isaac stowed away on a ship at Norfolk, bound for New York. His master sent agents to meet the ship in New York and recaptured him. But this did not satisfy Virginia, which accused three Negro sailors on the ship of aiding his escape, and demanded their extradition for trial in Virginia. Governor Seward refused, and a controversy—a small prelude to the Civil War—went on for some time between the two states, with an exchange of letters. Seward wrote to the Governor of Virginia:

"There is no law of this State which recognizes slavery—no statute which admits that one man can be the property of another or that one man can be stolen from another . . . I cannot surrender the supposed fugitives."

HELDERBERG WAR

The "Helderberg War" was another episode of his administration. This was the opening gun of the Anti-Rent Wars in which the tenant farmers of the Van Rensselaer Manor rose in arms against efforts to collect arrears in rent. Seward ordered out the militia to restore law and order in the Helderbergs, then recommended to the Legislature that it work out a compromise of the conflicting claims.

The first state geological survey had just been undertaken, and Seward was so interested in it that he made a study of geology. Ebenezer Emmons came back from the Adirondacks reporting he had found a new unnamed peak and asking Seward's permission to name it Mount Seward. And Mount Seward it is today, one of the higher peaks and nucleus of the Seward Range, towards which Long Lake points.

An admirer gave Seward a fawn. It was named Jenny, and became a pet of *the mansion, being given the liberty of the grounds. When Jenny grew big* enough, she jumped the fence and was chased through the streets of Albany by dogs. Rescued, she was domiciled in the basement, where she ate rat poison but recovered.

The Sewards entertained lavishly, with New Year's open-house and frequent dinner and dancing parties. Washington Irving and Daniel Webster were among illustrious guests at the Mansion.

Meanwhile, a thing gnawed at Seward's compassionate heart. James Kane, original owner of "Kane's Walk," lived in genteel proverty in a Columbia Street garret. A once wealthy merchant, he had failed and lost all his property, but was still well regarded in Albany. The state job of Indian agent, to pay annuities to the Six Nations, became vacant. Seward thought of James Kane, who knew Indians from once trading with them. He sent a messenger to the garret and gave Kane the appointment.

MONEY RUNS OUT

Seward's own finances were dwindling dangerously. He could no longer afford to be governor. He served notice he would not run for a third term in 1842, but would return to his la wpractice and replenish his bank account. As he prepared to leave Albany, he dropped a farewell note to Thurlow Weed, saying:

"My public career is successfully and honorably closed, and I am yet young enough, if a reasonable age is allotted to me, to repair all the waste of my private fortune it has cost."

His public career closed? Before his death 30 years later, Seward told a questioner that he considered the purchase of Alaska the greatest achievement of his life. So has history appraised it.

They didn't let him stay in Auburn. His anti-slavery reputation grew, and on its strength he was sent to the United States Senate in 1848. There his eloquence soon won him a position of leadership in the onrushing vortex of civil war. He made the famous "irrepressible conflict" speech, and supported the admission of California and Kansas as free-soil states.

Having rejoined forces with Weed in helping to get the Republican Party going, Seward wanted the Presidential nomination in 1860 and Weed tried hard to get it for him . Failing, he campaigned actively for Abraham Lincoln and was rewarded with a cabinet appointment. He ranks as one of the best Secretaries of State in history. His shrewd diplomacy helped Lincoln's war policy enormously, especially in keeping certain European nations—notably England—from entering the war on the side of the Confederacy.

The Civil War was ending in the spring of 1865 when fate struck two crushing blows at Secretary Seward in quick succession.

TOOK DAILY DRIVE

It was his habit to go for a daily drive after office hours. On April 5, the horses took fright. To stop a runaway, Seward leaped from the carriage. He was thrown to the pavement so violently that his jaw was fractured in two places and a shoulder dislocted. He was then age 64. The doctors despaired of his life for a few days.

The jaw was set in an awkward steel framework that covered his throat and lower face. He was in bed upstairs in his Washington home the night of April 14. A few minutes after 10, John Wilkes Booth shot President Lincoln in his box at Ford's Theatre. At the identical moment, a confederate in the plot, Lewis Paine, gained entrance to Seward's home and assaulted the helpless invalid with a bowie-knife. Seward was terribly cut about the face, but the metal brace deflected the knife from giving him a mortal wound in the throat. Paine wounded four other inmates of the house before escaping—to be caught and hanged later.

This time Seward's life really hung by a thread. Shock and loss of blood coming on top of his previous injury almost finished him . But he rallied and insisted on being carried to his office before he was out of bandages.

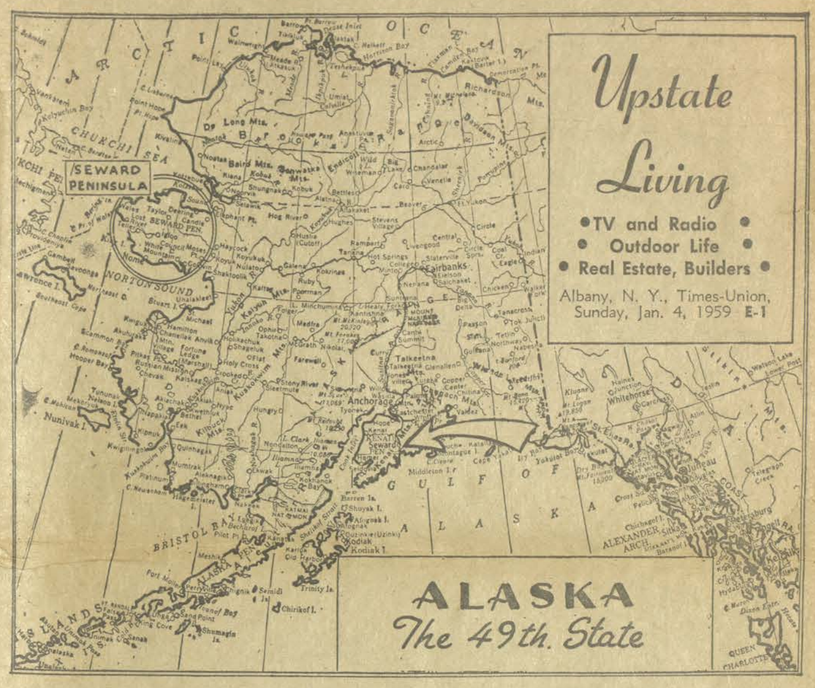
Had the assassin succeeded, it is unlikely that Alaska would be today one

Continued on E5

William A. Egan

Governor of Alaska

Signing of the treaty for purchase of Alaska in 1867. Seated at desk is Secretary of State William H. Seward. Standing at right is Edward de Stoeckl, the Russian ambassador. The date, March 30, is annually observed as a holiday in Alaska—Seward Day.



Seward's name is immortalized on the map of Alaska: A city and a peninsula

Representative Leo W. O'Brien of Albany, who battled statehood through Congress, puzzled over where to place the 49th star.

Charm Works For Alaska

Alaskan leaders, after the statehood victory, asked Congressman O'Brien's permission to name a lake after him. He suggested they name it instead for his four-year-old grandson, Terrence—that is, Lake Terry.

"We have two beautiful twin lakes that are nameless," they informed him. "One shall be Lake O'Brien, the other Lake Terry."

The christening of the lakes is apt to be one of the first bills before the new Alaska Legislature.

This will follow the precedent of honoring William H. Seward on the map. The city of Seward is on the south coast of Alaska. The vast Seward Peninsula juts west until it almost pokes Siberia.

O'Brien Speaker

Soon after the bill passed, the Orange County village of Florida—Seward's birthplace—celebrated it. O'Brien was there as a speaker. Some baby trees from Alaska were planted in front of the old Seward homestead, and soil from its grounds was sent to Alaska in return.

The city of Auburn, Seward's later home and burial place, not to be outdone, is planning a similar ceremony now that Alaska is a full-fledged state. Again the Albany Congress-

Continued on E5

Seward Saw A New Alaska

Photos by Peter B. Hickey

Text by Bill Ringle

"Which of your public acts do you think will live longest in the memory of the American people?"

Sitting in his home in Auburn 86 years ago, William Henry Seward pondered the question that a visitor had just put to him.

A reply would span a large and important portion of American history . . .

— As secretary of state to both Lincoln and Johnson, Seward was "by the judgment of specialists, one of the greatest figures that ever conducted foreign policy," historian Dexter Perkins tells us.

— He had been a leader in imbuing the infant Republican Party with anti-slavery principles and in keeping them alive. Extremely popular, he had been front-runner for the presidential nomination at the 1860 convention. But his record of militant anti-slavery, his championing of the immigrant and opposition to the native-American-first movement—plus a reputation for radicalism (not wholly deserved)—cost him the nomination. It went to Lincoln.

— His terms as U.S. senator and, earlier, as New York's governor, might alone have insured him stature in history — at least from the 1872 viewpoint.

But these things were all thrust into the background that day when Seward answered his guest's question:

"The purchase of Alaska," he replied. "But it will take another generation to find it out."

Today, with only a territorial vote and the President's signature needed for Alaskan Statehood, no one is surprised at Seward's prediction.

Occasionally aides at Seward's house at Auburn—now a fascinating museum of his era, his works and his family—are by a letter reminded that Alaskans, too, think of the man who started it all. And at the University of Rochester, where Seward's papers are stored, occasional requests for information come from Alaska. There, State Senator George R. Metcalf of Auburn is seen frequently as he prepares his book on Seward.

Another reminder of the Alaska Purchase stands on a sideboard in the Victorian dining room. It is a samovar (Russian urn for tea-making) given Seward by Baron Edward Stoeckl, the Russian minister who handled his country's sale of "Russian America" (Seward later suggested the name "Alaska") to the United States for $7,200,000.

Today, dollars and cents are refutation enough to his contemporaries who dubbed the purchase "Seward's folly," "(President Andrew) Johnson's polar bear garden," "a bad bargain palmed off on a silly administration by shrewd Russians," "Walrussia," and "an egregious blunder."

Grudgingly, they conceded that "there might be a few wretched fish, fit only for wretched Esquimaux to eat." Today, Alaska's fisheries alone bring in $26 million a year.

• • •

SINCE 1955 the Foundation Historical Assn. of Auburn has run the house, which it acquired from the Seward descendants, who had occupied it to that time. Because it had remained in the family after Seward died there in 1872, nearly all of his furniture and possessions were still there.

In Seward's library are, among other books, the collected works of Shakespeare, with marginal notes in Seward's hand. These were spotted by author Samuel Hopkins Adams, who lives near Auburn, when he once visited the house.

This did not, Adams decided, jibe with a bit of dialogue from John Drinkwater's play, "Abraham Lincoln." In one scene, Lincoln quoted Shakespeare, then asked the stage Seward: "Do you read Shakespeare?" "No," was the reply. "Ah," said Lincoln. And "Ah" said Adams, who dispatched a sharp correction to Drinkwater.

• • •

IN THE UR LIBRARY, references to the Alaska Purchase are relatively few. A few contemporaries praised it, but generally as an example of Russian-American friendship and solidarity. In fact, Russia did sell it partly because she could not defend it easily and because America would be less likely to use it against her than England or France.

But in the UR collection of Seward's papers, there is a prescient speech of that time made by the French prime minister in the Chamber of Deputies.

"A day will come when the vast domains of Russia will be more densely peopled, when America, the development of which is constantly increasing, will overcome that space of 3,000 miles of ocean which separates us from her today. . . . A day will come when our concern will be, not for the equilibrium of Europe, but for the equilibrium of the world. . . . A day when the great powers may, perhaps, desire to play the part of dominators. Then a national feeling will bring together the people of the West of Europe and unite them against threatening invasions."

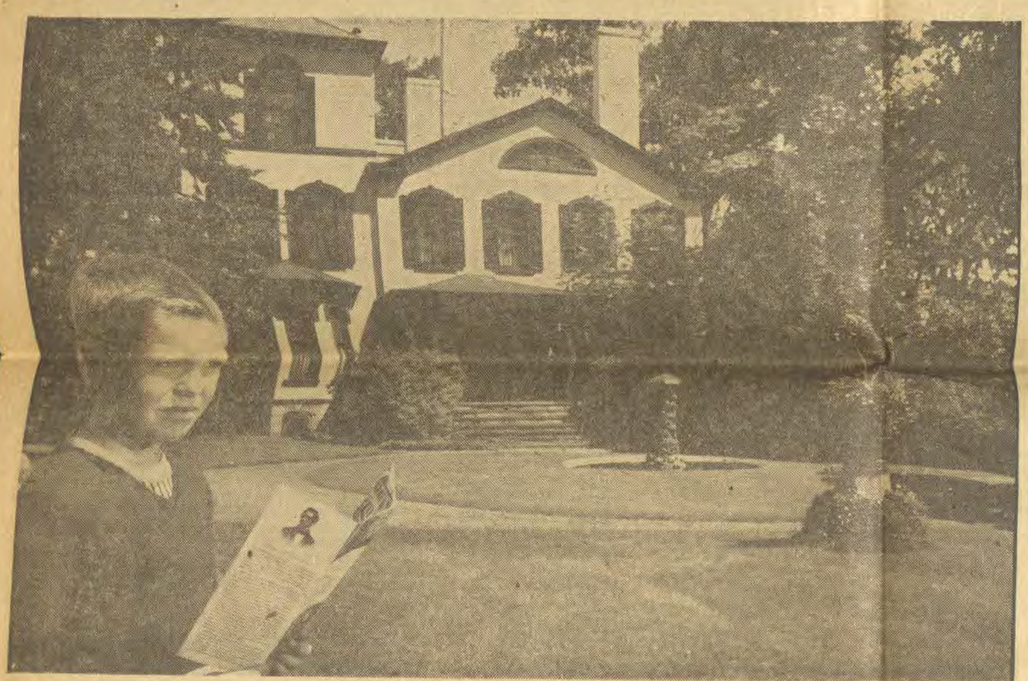
And, whether he interpreted the remarks correctly or not, Seward decided they meant something that has very definitely come to pass. He penciled in:

"He seems to imply that the Monroe Doctrine is at last to be accepted in Europe, and there is to be a similar doctrine adopted there."

"Signing of the Alaska Treaty," an original painting by Leutze, shows the 4 a.m. session on March 30, 1867. The Russian minister, Edward Stoeckl, hand on globe, indicates Alaska to Secretary Seward, seated. By gaslight, aides are comparing translations. At right is Sen. Sumner and at far right the secretary's son, Frederick W. Seward, assistant secretary of state.

Seward's great-grandson, Robert W. Messenger, Auburn fuel distributor, is shown in the Seward library. Friends frequently remark on the resemblance to his small, wiry great-grandfather. "I've got the Seward nose," he says. Messenger was born in the house and lived there as a boy.

This is the samovar given to Secretary Seward by Baron Stoeckl, the Russian minister. The samovar is part of the Seward House collection.



This bust of Secretary Seward is in his library in Auburn. The Seward house also contains a collection of his works and items of his era.

The Seward House (at left) is at 33 South St., Auburn. About 10,000 persons have visited it since it was opened nearly three years ago. The house is open to the public from 1 to 5 p.m. daily except Sundays and holidays.

FROM PORTRAIT BY C. SCHUSSELE

THE CAPITAL TIMES

ZIPPER

MADISON, WISCONSIN
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 1970

LOOKING Backward

by Frank CUSHMAN

Fifty Years Ago

Blowing of an auto horn for any other reason than to warn persons that an automobile is coming is in violation of a city ordinance; a Monroe Street butcher is fined for blowing his horn in front of a house next to the home of **Dr. W. W. Gill** . . . Judging of children's entries at the **Dane County Fair** is completed; among winners are **Stanley Metzler**, McFarland, assortment of knots; **Wayne Wheeler**, Windsor, best plan for hen house; **Laura Meister**, Black Earth, illustrated story of industry; **Evelyn Anderson**, Rockdale, language notes; **Nora Kittleson**, Black Earth, school activity picture; **Marion Kerr**, [illegible], weed seed cam[illegible], [illegible] Nelson, Cottage Grove, modes of travel; **Martha Peterson**, Mt. Horeb, cattle pictures; **Clarence Nelson**, Stoughton, rope halter; **Gladys Meinholz**, Middleton, wash cap and apron; **Kenneth Stevenson**, Dane, seed corn rack; **Cornelia Krings**, 1830 Rowley Ave., tomatoes; **Clara Myklebust**, Waunakee, buttonholes.

Forty Years Ago

Madison lunch hour crowds on Capitol Square pause to watch a large American eagle perform in the air above the statehouse; the bird soared above the downtown district, then diappeared in the direction of Lake Mendota . . . **Jay W. Butts** has resigned as principal at **Poynette High School** to accept an appointment as mathematics instructor at the Boys' Technical High School, Milwaukee . . . **Mrs. Paul Sussnor, Helen Seymour, and Calla Sherwood**, Reedsburg, have been visiting at the home of **Mrs. Richard Butler**, Madison . . . **Dr. Don Wheeler** is named head of the new dental clinic at **Lowell School** . . . **Lester M. Evans** is superintendent of schools at Lancaster; **William E. Webb** is principal of the graded schools there . . . **J. H. Murphy** has been retained as principal of the high school at Highland.

Twenty Years Ago

Madison Police Officer Roy E. Holtzman, 2517 Coolidge St., fires a perfect 100 score in the **Southeastern Wisconsin Police Association** competition . . . **Richard S. Nickeson** is chairman of the **Madison Advertising Club** picnic; committee members are **Karl Elsele, Al Erickson, Jack McDonald, Floyd Malcolmson, William Kleinheinz, William Everson, Shirley Jacobsen, Marge Cooper, and Emil F. Wagner** . . . **Julian H. Johnson**, 4181 Cherokee Dr., is chairman of the annual **West Side Business Men's Association** auction . . . **Col. P. C. Bullard** assumes the post of commander of **Camp McCoy.**

The Candidate Who Lost Out to Lincoln In 1860

Seward Contributed Much to U. S., But Is Remembered Most For His 'Folly'

By Frieda M. Lease

It was spring, 1860, and the Republican Convention was in session in Chicago, May 16-18. Because of the slavery issue, fear of disunion, and possible Civil War, the political occasion was destined to be filled with enormous interest and excitement.

The two principal contenders in the significant contest were: William Henry Seward of New York and Abraham Lincoln of Illinois.

In preparation for the event, an immense wooden "wigwam" had been constructed on Lake Street. It was the first building especially erected to house a political convention. With a balcony for spectators, it had a seating capacity to accommodate 12,000 persons. But now only a

'At Last I Am Even With Seward,' Greeley Told Them In The 'Wigwam'

fraction of the noisy crowd, which had been parading through the city streets shouting for their particular candidate could find room inside.

Seward, the recognized leader of the Republican Party, had left the United States Senate for his home in Auburn, N.Y.

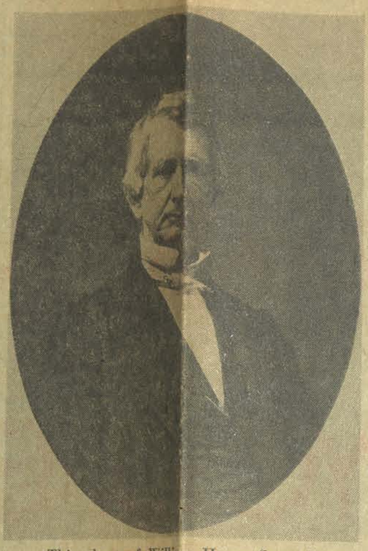
Thurlow Weed, Seward's longtime political partner and manager, was in Chicago with the New York supporters contacting delegations and confidently expecting victory for his candidate.

* * *

Meanwhile, however, the Illinois delegation was pushing even more loudly to generate enthusiasm for Lincoln.

Abraham Lincoln at this time was just emerging from obscurity. Until his debates with Stephen Douglas two years before, he was little known to the public beyond the boundary of his state and so had attracted only mild attention.

When the Convention assembled that morning of May 16, all seemed to indicate that the nomination of the 59-year-old New Yorker was assured. On the first ballot Seward polled



This photo of William Henry Seward was taken in Madison on Sept. 12, 1860, when he was here during the western campaign tour for Abraham Lincoln. *(Photo courtesy State Historical Society)*

173½ votes to 102 for Abraham Lincoln. On the second call Seward had 184½ and Lincoln 181. Before the third balloting began, it was obvious that Weed's vigorous efforts could not forestall defeat — Seward's count was 180 votes, and the "Rail Splitter's," from Illinois, 231½!

But nomination required 233. Delegates shifted again and Lincoln was nominated with 354 votes out of 450. Then the stunned New York delegation moved to make the choice unanimous.

While a tremendous roar of applause filled the building with rejoicing, Thurlow Weed who earlier had been beaming, now burst into tears over the convention outcome.

And back in the Seward home, in Auburn, where the suspense and waiting must have seemed forever, there now came the messenger on horseback carrying the telegram which read "Lincoln nominated Third Ballot."

* * *

It is understandable that Seward, the powerful senator, and major figure in New York politics for 30 years, had valid reasons to be deeply disappointed.

'Public Service Is My Ambition, Not Private Wealth,' Seward Told Weed

But why had this prominent and talented politician lost out to the self-educated Illinois lawyer?

Horace Greeley, the disgruntled office-seeker, perhaps more than anyone else was the underlying cause of the senator's defeat. At one time Seward, Weed, and Greeley had formed an effective political trio. But Greeley became hostile when he had not been rewarded with a public office for favors done the other two. The New York Tribune, of which he was editor, was the country's most influential newspaper. Through his writings he had often spoken out against Seward and Weed.

"Now at last I am even with Seward," he is reported to have remarked to bystanders in the "Wigwam."

Although Seward had lost the golden opportunity which might have led to his being elected to the high office, he tactfully surmounted the greatest disappointment of his life by turning the spotlight on the winner, Abraham Lincoln. He continued rendering valuable service to his party and to his country by campaigning for him.

"Public service is my ambition, not private wealth," he had told Weed some years before.

* * *

In September, William Seward with a picked group of party members including a few backslapping, story telling regulars, began the Western Campaign tour which took in Michigan. Then they came into Wisconsin to speak in Madison, where Alexander W. Randall was serving his second term as governor.

LaCrosse also was on the campaign itinerary. From Minnesota the trail included Iowa, Kansas and back through Illinois. While on the four week trek, making 10 major speeches, Seward gave special attention to the foreign-born who had helped build the nation. He pointed out the importance of free labor, and talked openly against slavery. These and other topics captured the imagination of his western audiences and helped to harvest votes at the Nov. 6 polls.

A closer look into campaign matters reveals Abraham Lincoln won the election without making a single speech! He had left the speechmaking to capable statesmen and orators like William Seward, while he himself remained in Springfield, Ill., to shake hands with neighbors and visitors!

In forming his cabinet the president-elect early honored Seward by appointing him as secretary of state — the post which he continued to hold under the trouble-filled term of Andrew Johnson.

* * *

In his concern to preserve the Union, Seward early felt compelled to give directions to Lincoln regarding foreign as well as domestic policies on the fast growing crisis. But Seward was soon to be convinced that Mr. President, though less skilled in government affairs than he, intended to make the decisions of the administration himself.

In a letter to his wife, Frances in Auburn, he wrote: **"Executive skill and vigor are rare qualities. The President is the best of us."**

And now on the other hand Lincoln, too, had become confident that his secretary of state was going to be the greatest aid of any in the Cabinet. Their working relationship from then on was on a more friendly and harmonious basis.

As secretary of state, William Henry Seward had now attained his greatest political role. In checking into his earlier life we learn about the preparation and training which preceded his appointment. He had been admitted to the bar two years after graduating from Union College in Schenectady. In 1824 he married Frances Miller of Auburn where he set up his law practice in his father-in-law's office.

Politics in which he became involved from time to time was soon to draw him away from the legal profession. In 1830 we find him selected to the New York Senate. From there he moved up rapidly as a leader in state and nation.

He had an excellent understanding of history plus an inquisitive mind. He never tired of acquiring more knowledge, a quality which was to have far reaching results

Lincoln Had Left Speeches To Capable Statesmen and Orators

and ultimately illustrate Bacon's three-word universal truth, "Knowledge is power." He was a fluent orator. His keen sense of humor and easy manner were personal traits which won him listeners and friends in the political field.

* * *

During his terms as governor of New York (1838) the state museum of natural history was established and a bill was passed securing for fugitive slaves a trial by jury — with counsel provided by the state. He was re-elected in 1840 and elected to the U.S. Senate in 1849 where he attained important influence as a party leader and a dependable advisor of President Zachary Taylor who lacked administrative training.

Seward's wife, Frances, a prohibitionist and highly moral woman, was a guiding force in her husband's political career. Unfortunately, however, she had been in poor health for many years caused by neuralgia. Unlike her husband who found Washington social life exhilarating she found it too disturbing and lived most of the time in the family home in Auburn.

Because of living circumstances the family was seldom together. Augustus, the oldest son, was with the Regular Army in the West. Like his mother he cared little for "society." The second son, Frederick William, was assistant secretary of state in his father's office and because of Mrs. Seward's absences the role of official hostess was ably assumed by Anna, Frederick's wife.

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Now, as secretary of state, during the Civil War, Seward had ample opportunity to demonstrate his patriotism. He organized the diplomatic service. And by his foresight and firm stand retained the confidence of Europe which was ready at times to recognize and support the Confederacy. One reason for this was because foreign countries were needing cotton produced by the South.

In the Spring of 1865 Seward had the misfortune of being badly injured when thrown from his carriage by bolting horses. While he was recovering from these injuries President Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth.

And on the same evening, April 14, conspirator Lewis Payne who had been assigned to take Seward, forced his way into the home with a knife inflicted severe wounds on the secretary's face and neck. As Frederick tried to protect his father he was struck on the head with a pistol and critically wounded. Others in the house were also injured but less seriously.

When Seward learned of Lincoln's death he said, "The friends of America ought to have watched Mr. Lincoln better . . . The nation will do him justice."

On the death of the Great Emancipator, Vice President Andrew Johnson moved up to the presidency.

* * *

After a slow and painful recovery Seward returned to his official duties as did his son. Wearing deep facial scars and his red hair having turned white, he now appeared old for his years.

Despite his many setbacks Seward was still an expansionist and dreamer at heart. After his comeback he directed his efforts to this purpose by negotiating to buy the small Islands of St. Thomas and St. John from Denmark. Due to lack of interest the Senate refused to ratify the treaty.

Then about this time the Russian government suggested it might dispose of its American territory. Seward was quick to act. He arranged by treaty to purchase the entire region

They Scoffed At Paying Such A Price For The 'Giant Icebox'

for a price of $7,200,000. From this bargain, the U.S. came into possession of half a million square miles of land endowed with immeasurable resources.

But the task of getting the appropriation to pay Russia created much bitterness against the secretary. During the long battle in Congress they scoffed at paying such a price for "Seward's Folly," the "Giant Icebox." Charges of "Waste" and "Foolish ventures" were among comments from objectors. The treaty was finally ratified by the Senate, April 9, 1867.

* * *

It is doubtful any other official in that era would have had the courage to push the transaction to a finish as did the shrewd and farsighted secretary of state. When he was asked which act in his political career of nearly a half century, he rated most important, he was quick to answer, "The purchase of Alaska." But he predicted two generations would pass before people would appreciate its worth.

Shortly after retiring to private life he made a last visit to his Alaska for which he held great dreams. That, however, was more than four score years before the territory was proclaimed our 49th state.

William Seward, widely identified with the purchase of Alaska and least known as the candidate who ceded the nomination to Lincoln, died Oct. 10, 1872, at his home in Auburn, N.Y.

Tell Me Why!

How Is Mercury Obtained?

Win the New Book of Knowledge (20-volumes). Send your questions, name, age, address to "Tell Me Why!" care of The Capital Times. You must include your Zip Code. In case of duplicate questions, the author will decide the winner. Today's winner is:
Heather Wright, 11, Lacey, Wash.

Mercury is a silver-white metallic element which has many interesting properties.

Mercury reacts very quickly to changes in temperature, which is why it is used in thermometers. Mercury is liquid at room temperature. It freezes at -38 degrees Centigrade and boils at 357 degrees Centigrade.

Mercury has great surface tension. If it is poured on a table, it will not spread and wet the table. Instead it will break up into small balls and roll away.

Mercury has to be mined and it is usually found combined with sulphur in a red mineral called cinnabar. This mineral is usually found in rocks that were formed when volcanoes erupted.

To obtain pure mercury, the cinnabar is heated. This makes the mercury turn into a vapor. This vapor is then caught and cooled. When it condenses it is pure mercury.

Today, the most important use of mercury is in medicine. It is used in drugs and disinfectants. For example, mercurochrome, which kills germs in skin wounds, is made from a mercury compound. But mercury and its compounds are also poisonous to some extent. Mercuric chloride, for example, is a deadly poison.

Other uses of mercury are in paints, scientific control instruments, and dental preparations. Mercury lamps provide ultraviolet rays in hospitals for sunlight treatments.

* * *

FUN TIME

Eve: Do you love me?
Adam: [illegible]

* * *

Parents: Sorry we're so late getting home.

Baby Sitter: Don't apologize. I wouldn't hurry home either, if I had a kid like yours.

* * *

Win a New Book of Knowledge Yearbook for Writing About:
"WHAT I ENJOY DOING MOST"

What activity to you enjoy most? Write a short letter about it and you may win a New Book of Knowledge Yearbook. Entries must be addressed "Enjoy," Tell Me Why, and give your name, age, address (zip code).

* * *

Answer to Tuesday's, How Many? Back, tackle, block, line, end, kick, goal, center, signal, guard, coach, run, touchback, huddle, dropkick, halfback, fullback, ball, down, field.

To win the New Book of Knowledge Yearbook, send your riddles or jokes to: Riddles, Jokes, "Tell Me Why!" Give your Zip Code. Today's winner is:
Eva Pettine,
Santa Monica, Calif.

MARMADUKE

"I tell you this country is going to the . . . uh . . . ahem . . . well, it's getting out of hand."

Question of the DAY?

By GENE COFFMAN

The Capital Times will pay $2 for each question used in "Question of the Day." Today's winner is Lucia Brown, 222 S. Carroll St.

TODAY'S QUESTION
Do you think elected local officials really represent their constituents?

WHERE ASKED
Copps Department Store.

THE ANSWERS
George Sauer, 3727 W. Karstens Dr., Salesman—

I think Mayor Dyke is doing as good a job as could be expected under our local society as it is now. I think his stand on the welfare situation, for instance, is correct. When I was younger, we were on welfare for a time, after my father died. My mother, with three young children, was forced to go to work for us to gain enough additional income for us to survive. I'm not sympathetic to those on welfare who would rather be on television protesting at the mayor's office than out working.

David Bicknell, 130 Lakewood Gardens Lane, Instructor—

I've only been in Madison a short while, so I really can't speak for the situation locally. In a city the size of Madison, it would seem that the policies which go into effect are often far removed from what the people actually want. In the small New England town I came from, we settled local matters through the old-fashioned town meeting. This gives people the immediacy of living with policies which they have helped to formulate.

Don Harms, Lake Mills, Factory Worker—

I think the situation usually works out to be about half and half. Some of the time our elected officials are extremely sensitive to the desires of their constituents, and on other occasions they appear to follow a course dictated by their own ideas on a particular issue. It would be ideal if the politicians had longer memories when it came to carrying out their campaign promises, but unfortunately this is not always the way it works out.

Mrs. Charles McConnell, 4016 School Rd., Lab Technician—

I feel that while they are in office they do try their best to meet the needs of the community and to be responsive to the expressed desires of most of their constituents. Naturally it's not possible for them to please all of the people all of the time. I've just moved into the ward where we live now, so I'm not personally acquainted with our alderman and have had no occasion to contact him with regard to any specific issue. I plan to follow the activities of city government more closely in the future, and probably participate more in the local political process.

THE LOCKHORNS

"LEROY'S IN THE BACKYARD CULTIVATING."

1820 Willkiam H. Seward

The literary influence of Seward and his Book of Common Prayer is plainly seen in many of the Presidential proclamations which that secretary wrote and Lincoln signed; but Lincoln's only reference to Seward's religious proclivities was regarding the similarity of Seward's technique in swearing to that of a "mule skinner" in the military camp across the river; which might indicate that the President did not take his secretary's piety very seriously. p. 166

During the recent Presidential campaign, Thurlow Weed, David Davis, Leonard Sweet, and Simon Cameron, had met at Saratoga, and agreed that the Weed-Davis, Sweet-Cameron combination should be the controlling force of the new admistration. Weed was Seward's political manager and closest friend. It was supposed because of Seward's former leadership of the party, his experience, and his talents, he would be able to dictate both the foreign and domestic policies of the new administration. A few weeks after Lincoln's inauguration, Seward, now Secretary of State, handed Mr. Lincoln a paper headed, "Some Thoughts for the President's Consideration," which suggested that it should be the duty of "somebody" to decide without question or hindrance the policies which the administration should follow: adding, "I neither seek to evade or assume responsibility." Mr. .incoln put Seward in his place with a reply that breathed so much understanding, kindness, magnanimity, and firmness, that Seward was soon writing to his wife, "The President is the best of us all", and to his credit be it said, hewas thenceforth oneof Lincoln's most respectful, loyal, and useful lientenants.

Some recent historians have suggested that, after Lincoln and Seward had taken each other's measure, abd arrived at an understanding, much of Seward's apparent belligerency, and some of Lincoln's ostensible pacifism, when dealing with England and France, were assumed for effect, and to make those governments step warily, because they could not be sure in advance just what the attitude of the United States might be if pushed too far. p 186

Source: Lincoln's Educayion
and Other Essays
M. L. Houser
Bookman Associates
New York
1957

NEWS BUREAU: Area Code 518 344-6751 Ext. 209

NEWS RELEASE from UNION COLLEGE

10/17/67
Richard L. Sine
1/2/3/4/spec

SCHENECTADY, N. Y. 12308

For Release 6:30 P.M., October 18, 1967

Alaska Centennial Commission Honors Union College

SCHENECTADY, N.Y.---Exactly 100 years, to the minute, after the Alaska Purchase agreement was signed, Union College received a commemorative medallion for the indirect part it played in the purchase.

The man who engineered the purchase was graduated from Union in 1820. He was William H. Seward, secretary of state in both the Lincoln and Andrew Johnson administrations, who obtained the 586,000 square miles of Alaskan territory from Russia for $7,200,000.

The purchase became final at precisely 6:30 p.m., Oct. 18, 1867.

Dr. Harold C. Martin, Union College president, received the special medal from Colin C. McCowan of Juneau, Alaska, a member of the freshman class at Union. The presentation was made at ceremonies in Union's Schaffer Library, where the college's portrait of Seward now hangs.

Also on hand at the presentation was Dr. Fred Seward, a member of Union's Class of 1926 and a great-grandnephew of the former secretary of state, and Mrs. Jean Uppman of New York City, a great-great-granddaughter of W. H. Seward. Her husband, Theodore Uppman, is a baritone at the New York Metropolitan Opera Company.

-more-

McGowan first learned of Union's part in the Alaska Purchase when he was a student at Juneau-Douglas High School in Juneau, Alaska. Jonathan R. Pearson III, admissions director at the college, mentioned the information to McGowan in correspondence.

The high school student, having been accepted at Union, approached the Alaska Centennial Commission to ask if Union College might be recognized for its service to our northern-most state.

The president of the commission replied favorably and designated McGowan as his official representative.

The medallion has on one side Seward's profile and on the other the official Centennial seal.

Union College's stake in the development of Alaska does not stop with Seward. An 1855 graduate of the college, the Rev. Dr. Sheldon Jackson, was called the "Apostle of Alaska."

Rev. Jackson, a Presbyterian minister, is credited with bringing civilization to that territory. He introduced both public schools and reindeer to Alaska. A college in that state bears his name.

-30-

May-June '83

The name is familiar

By Elizabeth Pease

According to one of America's most noted writers about place names, the names of mountains, valleys, streams, villages, and towns have evolved from the life and life blood of all those who have gone before.

"From the names might be known how here one man hoped and struggled, how there another dreamed, or died, or sought fortune, and another joked, twisting an old name to make a new one...," writes George R. Stewart in *Names of the Land.*

"In this heritage of names," he continues, "Americans were fortunate, for in general the names were good, and they were closely bound with the land itself and the adventures of people."

Such named places would include Seward, Alaska; Tuckerman Ravine in New Hampshire; Berthoud, Colorado; Fritts Mountain, Alaska; and even Constable Hall in New York. What they have in common is an association with the College and its own heritage of names.

□

About 100 miles south of Anchorage on the Kenai Peninsula is Seward, named in 1903 for one of Union's most illustrious alumni. William H. Seward, Class of 1820, was Secretary of State under Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson. One of his major accomplishments was the negotiations that led to the acquisition of Alaska from Russia.

The red-haired Seward came to Union in 1816 at the age of fifteen and enrolled in the sophomore class. His stay was interrupted by a financial misunderstanding with his father.

Ashamed of his rustic appearance, young Seward had a Schenectady tailor make him clothing. His father refused to pay what he thought was an unreasonable expense. So Seward withdrew from the College, travelled to Georgia with a friend, and became a schoolmaster for a short time.

After a change of heart, he returned to Union and completed his studies with high honors, becoming one of the earliest members of the College's chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. After graduation, he studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1822.

Before being named Secretary of State, Seward served as a New York state senator, governor of the state, and a U.S. senator. Although inexperienced in foreign affairs, he was a shrewd politician and had the gift of understanding the popular mood.

Seward negotiated for Alaska's sale in the face of heavy political opposition, which used "Seward's Folly" to describe the effort. He believed the territory's value would increase and that it would be a secure place for commercial and naval operations.

The treaty to buy Alaska was signed in 1867. The cost of adding 590,000 square miles (about one-fifth the area of the continental United States) was $7.2 million.

When asked what his greatest political achievement was, Seward apparently told a friend, "The purchase of Alaska. But it will take another generation to find out."

Today the town named for Seward, which is flanked by Mt. Marathon, has a population of 2,000. It serves as home port for the state ferry and is the site of Alaska's largest fishing derby each year.

North of Nome is the Seward Peninsula, and across the nation in Auburn, N.Y., can be found the Seward House, a museum containing many articles associated with the former secretary's career.

Seward, Alaska *(above) was named after Secretary of State William H. Seward, Class of 1820, the man responsible for the purchase of Alaska.*

Seward House in Auburn Opened For Eighth Season

The historic Seward House in Auburn, home of William H. Seward—secretary of state during Lincoln's administration — was opened March 1 to the public for its eighth season.

The two-story home is completely furnished with original family items and includes Civil war articles and original Lincoln letters in its exhibits.

It is open until Dec. 31, Monday through Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m. and closed Sundays and holidays.

Seward entered Union College in 1817 at the age of 16. As a junior, he was accepted into the Phi Beta Kappa society, then in its first year at Union, and was graduated in 1820 with high honors.

He moved to Auburn in 1823 and entered into a law partnership. Then followed a long political career with its beginning as a state senator. He served as governor for two terms, then was in the U.S. Senate for two terms.

At Lincoln's request, he became secretary of state and later served in the same office for President Johnson. Seward died in 1872.

Gazette 3/9/63

The following paper was read at a meeting of the N.Y. State Society, held in Sept. 1933. by Mr. Dexter Perkins of the Univ. of Roc

WILLIAM H. SEWARD

Your distinguished President, in the period of his youthful ebullience, once produced a notable and robust volume on the "Decline of Aristocracy in the Politics of the State of New York." The story which he traced therein is a fascinating one; it suggests many other collateral themes; and among these latter perhaps none is more worth examining than the early political career of one who exemplified the rising popular forces in politics, and strove to give them expression, that great New Yorker, and indeed great national statesman, William H. Seward. It so happens that through the kindness of a fellow towns-, I have recently been put in contact with a notable collection of letters, well-nigh 1000 in number, written by Mr. Seward to his bosom friend and kindred spirit in politics, Thurlow Weed, and this fact may well afford an additional reason for examining here the career of an individual whose life contains so much that is instructive from the standpoint of the larger movements of our politics, and who was one of the most lovable and attractive figures in the partisan activities of his time.

William H. Seward was the fourth child of Dr. Samuel S. Seward, of Florida, Orange County, and was born in that town May 16, 1801. Not particularly robust physically, and early giving signs of very decided intellectual gifts, he was selected by his father for a professional career, and after a secondary education in Florida and in the nearby village of Goshen, at the age of 15 he entered Union College, then under the Presidency, as it was to be for nearly a half-century to come, of Eliphalet Nott. His college years were temporarily interrupted by a slight tiff with his father, which sheds

some light on the independence of the youth's character. Being unable to pay a tailor's bill which he had contracted, and parental aid having been denied to him, Seward left college for Georgia, where after some hardships he secured a position as a teacher in a small academy. But this transplantation, which might have effected quite vitally his whole life, was a very brief one. His father's anger, and perhaps still more the entreaties of his mother and sister, soon brought him northward again, and after a year's absence he returned to Union in January, 1820, having in the meantime discharged his debt to the tailor by reading law in Goshen and in Florida. In June he graduated from college with high honors, and the first taste of law having apparently been to his liking, continued his reading for the bar, and was admitted at Utica in October of 1822. Shortly after, at the very beginning of 1823, he was taken into partnership by Elijah Miller of Auburn, New York, and began his residence in the town which was to be his home for the rest of his life. During the next two years law and love seem to have run side by side, for in October, 1824, Seward married his partner's daughter, Francis. The chosen one was no merely docile partner; it is clear that she had opinions of her own, and that her womanly sympathy with the oppressed, and hatred of slavery, had their part in shaping the career and opinions of her husband.

Seward was formed from the first for ~~politics~~ public life. His adoption of a profession, of course, pointed in that direction. In addition he was naturally sociable and convivial. He joined the militia, managed the town dancing assemblies, (though unable to dance), and participated in all sorts of town activities. Cheerful, self-confident to a degree, and distinctly able, it was inevitable that he should be drawn into politics ~~activities~~. The question was, with what group should he align himself?

Seward's father was a Jeffersonian Republican of the strictest

sect. But the son, with praiseworthy independence, deviated from the path of orthodoxy. Distrust of the South, (so he tells us in his Autobiography, written fifty years later), and zeal for internal improvements were the principal factors in aligning him, in the elections of 1824, with the partisans of John Quincy Adams. The choice once made, like so many other choices in life, in all probability developed a momentum of its own. Adams was a hero to Seward the rest of his life; and there may here be traced an influence none the less potent because not always on the surface of things. The loyalty of the younger man for the older soon had striking expression; the Clintonian faction in New York, which had supported Adams in 1824, soon broke with the acid New Englander, and this just at the time that Seward's name had been sent to the State Senate as Surrogate for Cayuga County. The young Auburn lawyer refused to desert the President; and thus early in his career sacrificed office for his convictions, failing of confirmation at the hands of his enraged former associates.

This little episode prompts me to interpolate at this point a word or two in general ~~with regard~~ touching to Seward's regard for principles in politics. There is no question that the future Republican chieftain could be an extremely canny and adroit politician; it cannot be denied that there were elements of political expediency in many of his boldest promouncements; but it is also to be pointed out that throughout his life Seward was as far as possible from the type of politician who practices a discreet silence on every public issue which he can successfully avoid, and speaks, if speak he must, with calculated equivocations and carefully balanced phrases intended to please both sides at once. Naturally impulsive, naturally generous, honestly interested, not in the mere game of politics, but in politics as the means of promoting human welfare, Seward's whole political life affords many an

instance of courage, and of conviction.

The active political career of Seward is closely identified with that of another remarkable New Yorker, Thurlow Weed. The two men had met as early as 1824, when Seward's carriage broke down in Rochester, and Weed came to his aid. Weed was already active in politics, and like Seward, an Adams man. In the course of the years following their meeting he attained greater and greater influence. He was one of the leading spirits in the formation of the the short-lived Anti-Masonic party, and his skill in the arts of political management soon gave him a considerable power. He moved to Albany in 1830, and there established the Albany Evening Journal. From this time on his fortunes mounted rapidly, and within a few years he had become the dominant figure in the opposition to the Democracy. From this time on, too, he carried on a voluminous correspondence with the rising young Auburn lawyer, the tone of which attests an intimacy hardly parallelled in American politics, perhaps finding its most suggestive comparison, though by no means an exact one, in the friendship of William McKinley and Marcus Alonzo Hanna. The two men supplemented each other extraordinarily well. In the gifts of partisan manoeuvering, in shrewdness, in the cajoling of individuals and the maintaining of party harmony, Weed was no doubt superior to Seward; but Seward excelled his mentor in boldness, in imagination, in willingness to do battle for positive policies. The combination was destined in course of time to be irresistible.

It was due to Weed that Seward, already active in the politics of Anti-Masonry, around which the forces opposed to the Democracy had temporarily centered, went to the State Senate in the fall of 1830, and was re-elected in 1832. In Albany he speedily made a name for himself; he vigorously opposed Jackson's policy with regard to the bank; sponsored actively internal improvements; and bore an honorable part in the move-

ment for the abolition of imprisonment for debt. Indeed, he did so well that he became the accepted leader of the minority; and though the collapse of the Anti-Masonic party in the elections of 1833 temporarily discouraged him and his political associates, it needed only Weed's political ingenuity to make possible the rise of a new political orgainzation which took the name of Whig, and which nominated Seward for the governorship in 1834. The election, however, went against him, and for the moment the rising young statesman retired to private life.

It is interesting to see the evolution of Seward's thought in the next four years, before he emerged from his profession to run again for the governorship in 1838. In the formation of the new Whig party, there was, in his view, one principal danger to be avoided, that is, that it should be identified, as had the Federalism of thirty years before, with the intersts of the aristocrats rather than with the interests of the people. One of his most interesting and penetrating letters is that which he wrote to Weed on April 12, 1835. He was commenting on the great strength of Van Buren. "The People are for him," he wrote, "not so much for him as for the principle they suppose he represents. That principle is democracy, and the best result of all our labors in the Whig cause and under the Whig banner to rouse them to a sense of the progress of Toryism in the Government has been to excite them while they have been more and more confirmed in their apprehensions of the danger of the loss of their liberties by an imaginary instead of a real aristocracy. It is with them the Poor against

the Rich--And it is not to be disguised that since the last election the array of parties has very strongly taken that character. Those who felt themselves or believed themselves poor have fallen off very naturally from us.....While the rich we have always with us. Our papers without being conscious of it have been gradually assuring their cause--Not from choice but by way of retaliation upon the victors. Nothing could have been more indiscreet," he added, "than the articles appealing to national prejudice and religious prejudices against foreigners and Catholics." The closing words of this letter suggest some further comment on Seward's views on nativism and on Catholicism. He was, from the early period of his career, the straight-forward foe of little Americanism and of religious bigotry. His enemies were, in later years, to accuse him of currying favor with the Irish voters; but I am convinced that his general attitude towards the immigrants and towards the religious question in politics was of the most thorough stuff of his convictions. "The fear of Catholicism," he wrote to Weed May 12, 1835, in words which sound their just reproach down the years to the election of 1928, "is as absurd as the revival of Salem witchcraft." And again, "The Catholic religion is infinitely better than Protestant intolerance." These views were set down in a private letter,

~~letter~~, but as we shall see, they were to be confirmed in public conduct as time went on.

The slavery question was, at this time, though by no means a central issue, rising into greater and greater prominence. Seward early saw the question as one involving humanitarian liberalism, and sought to persuade Weed to this fact. When the latter seemed to suggest that the activities of the Abolitionists ought to be checked or controlled, the Auburn lawyer wrote, October 4, 1835, that such action "would only add fuel to the flames," and that if "potent legal restraints" were adopted, "the name of the party that enacted them will from that moment be Ichabod." A year and a half later, Weed having persisted in the view, not without warrant, that the agitations of the abolitionists endangered the Union, Seward wrote, it must be admitted with less foresight than his mentor, but from generous feeling, "All the ranting in and out of Congress by Southerners about dissolving the Union is the raving or rather blustering of Priests who swear by their ancient gods when the People have changed their religion. Except South Carolina the most of the Southern people are as fast within the power of the General Government as we of the North are, and that is fast enough, God knows."

From the retirement of the years 1834 to 1838 Seward emerged to run once more for the governorship. During his years of relative inactivity he had maintained and drawn still closer his intimacy with Weed, now the most powerful figure in the Whig party; and he represented the more vigorous and youthful elements in Whiggery. His rival for the nomination was Francis Granger, long a figure of prominence in the anti-Democratic ranks, and a courtly, polished and attractive man; but Granger had not proved very successful in his two previous candidacies, and it is clear that long before the convention, the Whig leader had decided against him. The ground was

carefully prepared in advance; but even so, the battle was a hard one, and it required all of Weed's adroitness to secure Seward's nomination. That the rising young politician of Auburn was ardently anxious to be nominated, and that he had done a good deal of careful political pipe-laying in preparation for the event, is amply attested in his correspondence.

The year 1838 was naturally a propitious one for the Whigs. The great depression of 1837 had fallen upon the country; and the mood of revolt was running strong. The Van Buren administration was unpopular, also, because of its vigorous efforts to maintain the peace of the border during the Canadian insurrection; and in the state itself the Democrats had made themselves unpopular by the enactment of the so-called small bills law, prohibiting the issuance of paper money under the value of five dollars. The cards were stacked, therefore, in favor of Seward, and the only question which embarrassed him during the campaign was that of slavery. Three questions were addressed to him, and to his Democratic rival, Governor Marcy, by the abolitionists; would Seward favor the passage of a law granting trial by jury to fugitive slaves; of a law abolishing the special requirements for negro voters; and would he seek the repeal of a law permitting the bringing of slaves into the state, and their retention there for a period of nine months? Whoever reads Seward's reply to these queries will be impressed, I think, with its candor. Of the three changes suggested, only the first was approved; but the negative answer to the other two queries was stated with frankness, and rested, in the main, upon the unpreparedness of public opinion for any such course. Seward was never a radical, in the literal sense of the word; it is not strange that he did not wholly satisfy the little group of anti-slavery fanatics in 1838.

The tide of popular revolt, running strong as we have said, bore

Seward triumphantly into the Governor's chair; and to this honorable post he was to be re-elected in 1840. His career there deserves attention as a revelation of the man, and also because of its extraordinary appositeness in relation to some of the problems of our own time.

One of the most interesting aspects of Seward in office is the emphasis laid upon the question of internal improvements. The undertaking of such improvements was, of course, good Whig doctrine; indeed, it was one of the things that had attracted Seward to the party of his choice at the beginning. An ambitious program of public building of canals had been recommended by the Whigs in the legislature of 1838; and to such a program the young Governor now addressed himself with ardor. It was his optimistic belief, (and optimism was the very mainspring of Seward's character), that a great canal system would pay for itself; he argued this point at lenght in his message of 1839; and he maintained, ~~of~~ with his Whig confrères, that so great would be the productiveness of such improvements, that they would warrant the state in expending the then large sum of $4,000,000 a year for a period of ten years, these funds to be secured by borrowing, and not by taxation. It was impossible to embark upon any such program in the first year of Seward's governorship; for while the Whigs had swept the Assembly in the elections of the previous year, they had not secured control of the Senate; and no legislation of importance in regard to internal improvements was adopted, save a small sum for improving the navigation of the Oneida river. In the meantime, moreover, estimates with regard to the enlargement of the Erie Canal, made in Governor Marcy's administration, and the basis of a loan of four millions, had been proven to be widely erroneous, about half as much as would really be required; and the disillusionment which thus confronted the friends of internal improvements, combined with the per-

sistence of the depression, prevented the new Governor from going as far as in his heart he designed. Indeed, it would have been easy to have called a halt on all public building. But Seward, with the two houses of the legislature now in the possession of the Whigs, strongly advocated the prosecution of existing projects; and he did so in language that suggests some of the economic-political theories of 1933. "During the severe pressure which we have experienced," he wrote, "the industry of the citizen has been stimulated, and the wages of labor, the prices of the products of the earth, and the value of property, have been sustained by expenditures in the prosecution of this system, (i.e., the canal system). The sudden arrest of such expenditures, and the discharge of probably ten thousand laborers now employed upon the public works, at a time when the circulation of money in other departments of business is so embarrassed as almost to have ceased, would extend throughout the whole community, and with fearful aggravation of the losses and suffering that have, as yet, been in a great measure confined to the mercantile class." The Governor went on to justify the general principles of his system in great detail, and to urge upon the legislature the continuation of the program of public works to which it had already committed itself. Indeed, he went further. Railroads as well as canals came within the range of his vigorous faith in the future. In his messages of 1839 and 1840 he advocated, though in guarded language, the construction of railroads by the state itself, if private enterprise could not be induced to undertake the task; and though reflection led him to see some practical difficulties in the way of such a course, he was entirely in favor of lending the credit of the state to private corporations for the building of this new form of transportation. No doubt there was something a little exaggerated in his view of the matter; but the Governor who advocated a program of public expenditure in the midst of financial

gloom undoubtedly arrests the attention, and for many persons, commands the approval of the generation of today.

It cannot be said, however, that Seward's policy, in the circumstances of the time, was a success. The works themselves proceeded slowly; the debt of the state steadily rose, the canal debt alone increasing from ten to nineteen millions; in 1841 it was necessary to sell the state's six per cent bonds at 20% discount; and the elections of 1841 produced a violent popular reaction, which gave the Democrats a majority in both Houses of the legislature, and led to the passage of the so-called "stop and tax" law, providing for the virtual suspension of all new construction, the levy of a new property tax, and the making of the interest on any loan to be effected, a charge on the canal revenues. Orthodox finance held sway once more, and Seward was arguing a lost cause when with courage and tenacity he still defended his policy in his message to the special session of 1842. Yet he did not hesitate to do so. The change of policy he denounced as "sudden and humiliating." "The danger to which the credit of the state was exposed," he wrote, "arose not from any cause merely local or temporary, nor at all from the extent of our unfinished works, nor from the firmness with which we had persevered in our improvements during the three previous years, but from the failure of the confidence of foreign capitalists, (the wicked foreigners, you see), and even of the American people themselves, in the financial wisdom and integrity of the governments of the states." He invited the legislature to rescind its action; and declared that the state was oppressed, "not so much by ~~its~~ opposing forces as by our own irresolution, and that a small part of the energy which was put forth when our system of internal improvements was undertaken, would secure its re-establishment and successful triumph." Courage and confidence are here, if nothing else; and perhaps depressions would be other than they are

if there were more of this spirit.

Nothing is more characteristic of the ~~more~~ generous spirits of the nineteenth century than the faith which they felt in the value of education. And in no respect was Seward more typical of the larger views of his time than in the insistence with which he urged the cause of the schools upon the people of New York State. In this subject he had always been interested, and intelligently interested. In a speech delivered at Westfield in 1837, he had urged an ambitious program of educational reform; he had laid stress on the necessity of affording equal opportunities to those whom the society of the 40's so patronizingly described as "females"; and he had criticized the college education of the time as lacking in progressive ideas, and in practical adaptation to the needs of the students. In the message of 1839 the newly-elected Governor had much to say on the whole subject. He spoke approvingly of the establishment of school libraries; but devoted his principal attention to what he deemed the crying need to establishing higher standards of instruction. The method which he advocated was that of "visitation," visitation not confined to the schools alone, but to the academies and the colleges, and in this connection he advocated the establishment of a state board, with a state superintendent appointed by the legislature. Those who have witnessed in our own era the growth of an educational bureaucracy at Albany may feel only a qualified enthusiasm for the Governor's recommendations; they may heave a gentle sigh of relief at learning that the legislature failed to act on these recommendations; but there is another side to the matter. It can hardly be denied that state supervision of education has been from the beginning in the interest of higher standards, and that a case can be made out for such supervision on just this ground. At any rate, whatever one's own views, it must be admitted that Seward identified himself with a policy later to be adopted, and

and from motives that were altogether worthy.

In his message of 1840 Seward approached the educational problem from a new angle, and in a fashion that was to cause him many heart-burnings. The educational system of the state at this time did not extend to the city of New York. There the schools were admitted by a private agency known as the New York Public School Society, sectarian in temper, if not avowedly so, and the benefits of their instruction were by no means as widely diffused as they ought to have been. Seward had visited the metropolis officially during his first year as Governor, and had been much impressed with that fact. In his message of 1840 he used the following language. "The children of foreigners, found in great numbers in our populous cities and towns, and in the vicinity of our public works, are to often deprived of the advantages of our system of public education, in consequence of prejudices arising from difference of language or religion. It ought never to be forgotten that the public welfare is as deeply concerned in their education as in that of our own children. I do not hesitate, therefore, to recommend the establishment of schools in which they may be instructed by teachers speaking the same language with themselves and professing the same faith." This declaration had not been adopted without reflection; it had been the subject of discussion with Dr. Nott, the venerable President of Union College, and formerly Seward's own teacher, and with at least one other prominent Protestant clergyman; but it was most obviously a political blunder. For the 30's and 40's saw the rise of one of those movements of nativism of which American history affords so many examples, and in this, as in other instances, religious bigotry combined with nationalist fundamentalism. Seward was violently denounced, all too frequently and to his distress by members of his own party. He was "sapping the foundations of liberty." He was a "betrayer of the innocent to the wiles of the Scarlet Lady." He was

"in league with the Pope." He was "himself a Jesuit." The Democrats seized joyfully upon the Governor's language, and capitalized it to excellent advantage. Though Seward was re-elected in the campaign of 1840, he ran behind his ticket, and the astute Weed laid most of the blame upon the pronouncement upon education from which we have just quoted.

The message of 1840 was, undoubtedly, a political misstep; and the wisdom of any such policy as Seward advocated might itself be challenged, and has not met with the approval of later generations. Yet the generosity of the Governor's views commands admiration. And as between the Ku Kluxers of the 40's, as myopic in their Americanism as their successors of the nineteen twenties, and William H. Seward, the choice does not appear to be difficult. Nor were the Governor's efforts altogether unavailing. On the proposition which he had made in 1840, Seward was compelled to beat a retreat; in his annual message of 1841 he did so, in language perhaps not strictly accurate. "I have not recommended, nor do I seek, the education of any class in foreign languages, or in particular creeds or faiths; but fully believing, with the author of the Declaration of Independence, that even error may be safely tolerated when reason is left free to combat it, and therefore indulging no apprehensions from the influence of any language or creed upon an enlightened people, I desire the education of the entire rising generation in all the elements of knowledge we possess, and in that tongue which is the universal language of our countrymen." But at the same time he reiterated his strong conviction that the situation in the city of New York was not what it ought to be, and strongly recommended the extension of the public school system of the state to the metropolis. Before his second term had expired, he had the satisfaction of seeing placed upon the statute books a law which carried out this principle, putting the control of the

schools in the hands of an elective board, and removing the Public School Society from the center of the Stage. In the controversy of these three years, Seward won the respect of many of those who were opposed to him politically; he formed a firm friendship with Bishop Hughes, who, contrary to rumor, he had not known at all at the time of the message of 1840; and this friendship was to last for a quarter of a century, and to result in Hughes's mission abroad at the time of the Civil War.

The period of Seward's governorship marks an interesting evolution in his views with regard to slavery. As we have seen, he had from the beginning viewed the abolitionist movement with respect, and had disapproved of attempts at repressing it; but in his campaign of 1838 his tone on the negro question had been far from satisfactory to the ardent foes of slavery. In office, however, he was to delight these gentry beyond measure. For only a few months after taking the oath, Seward was confronted with a request from the Governor of Virginia for the extradition of three seamen who had encouraged the escape of a slave while their vessel was undergoing repairs at Norfolk, Virginia. The Constitution of the United States enjoins the surrender of persons "charged in any state with treason, felony or other crime, who shall flee from justice, and be found in another state." But Seward, in his reply to the Governor of Virginia, declared that he could not comply with the requisition, since slavery was not a crime under the laws of the state of New York, nor under the common law. The validity of his reasoning, on this matter, though it met with the emphatic approval of his political idol, John Quincy Adams, must be pronounced ingenious rather than convincing, but that he was acting in accordance with a large body of opinion is evidenced by the endorsement of the Governor's stand by the Whig legislature of 1840. Thus early then, did the tawny-haired Auburn lawyer seek to identify, and in a measure succeed in

identifying, the Whig party with an advanced position on the slavery issue. And to the position taken in 1839 Seward steadfastly adhered, despite the wrath of the Virginians and the criticism of party foes in his own state. And in connection with this aspect of his governorship it is also to be set down that in 1840 Seward had the satisfaction of signing a law granting trial by jury to every person claimed as a fugitive slave.

There are many other aspects of Seward's four years in office that might be treated in a longer paper. I cannot discuss them all, but I do wish to add a word or two with regard to certain questions which further illustrate my central theme, that is, that William H. Seward amply represented the generous, liberal and humanitarian tendencies of his age. Take, for example, the reform of judicial procedure. On this matter Seward benefitted in part from the suggestions of his predecessor and political rival, Governor Marcy; in his public papers he generously acknowledged his debt in this regard; and where Marcy had recommended ineffectually, the Whig Governor put forth accomplishment. It may not be thought disrespectful to the votaries of a great profession to suggest that a zeal for legal reformation is not generally characteristic of lawyers; in this as in other matters Seward was no mere conformist; he undoubtedly antagonized many of his legal associates; indeed Weed believed that, next to the school question, the legal reforms of the Governor's first term did most to explain his reduced plurality. An easier victory of the liberal tendencies of the time is to be found in the abolition of the last remnants of imprisonment for debt under Seward's leadership; and in the movement for prison reform, so characteristic of his time, the Whig leader had an honorable part.

In his appointments to office, Seward followed the standards of his time. He depended much upon Weed, who was a frank spoilsman, and so

great was the influence of the Albany journalist that he was often known as the "Dictator." Yet in an examination of Seward's governorship, one comes to the conviction that ~~he~~ the Governor was his own man throughout his four years of office, and that his friend never sought to influence him in any way that could be deemed reprehensible. As to Weed, it is one of his best titles to favorable judgment that he brought into politics, supported and advanced, and on the whole remained loyal to, a man of enlarged and liberal views, and far-seeing statesmanship. The relationship between the two men remained extraordinarily close during the four years of the Governorship; and I should like to close this paper with some emphasis upon this point. Seward poured out his heart to Weed, even when his usually mercurial temperament was a prey to discouragement; there is an interesting letter in which he talked of resignation, written November 29, 1841, after a crushing Whig defeat in the elections. In a mood of deep discouragement, he contemplated laying down the seals of office. Yet he wrote further, "I dare not oppose your advice. You have been faithful to me, and when I remember how high that fidelity has enabled me to rise I feel that it is treasonable not to procure your advice." Weed, as one would expect, counseled against any such step, and Seward carried on. On the last day of his second term, he summed up much of the experience of four years in another to his friend. "The end has come at last. My successor and the New Year come together. He has the keys and seal and I have only recollections and reflections. Those which crowd upon me are different from what I anticipated--I looked for ennui if not for regret. But there is nothing of these. The thousand perils through which I have passed, the thousand enemies by whom I have been opposed, the hundreds by whom I have been causelessly hated, and the many whom I have unavoidably or imprudently offended rise up before me. And yet I am safe and if friends who never flattered when I had power are

not false now when I am powerless I am more than safe. My public career is successfully and honorably closed, and I am yet young enough if a reasonable age is allotted me to repair all the waste of private fortune it has cost. Gratitude to God and gratitude and affection toward my friends and most of all to you, my first and most efficient and devoted friend, oppress me until tears like such as woman sheds, flow whenever I am alone." In the letter I have just quoted, it will have been noted, Seward assumes that his political career is closed. "My principles are too liberal," he wrote to Weed on another occasion, "too philanthropic, if it be not vain to say so, for my party. The promulgation of them offends many; the operation of them injures many; and their sincerity is questioned by all." Holding such views, he seems willingly to have surrendered office, and though it is quite clear that he could not have been re-elected, and that prudence itself dictated retirement, it seems equally clear that when he wrote these lines to his closest political associate, he was expressing his true thought. Time was to prove him wrong; time was to prove that the humanitarianism which came so easily to Seward was to bring him back into public life as the exponent of a great cause, and to have ~~in~~ its part in shaping for him a still more distinguished public career. All this, however, was yet in the future; and as the Governor of New York returned to his beloved family, and his flowers, and his law-practice in Auburn, he may well have carried with him a sense of inadequacy, or even of failure. With him, however, as with many others, the judgment of the moment must be esteemed as of trifling significance; and on this September day on 1933, more than ninety years after the closing scenes at Albany, as we stand in Headquarters House, and Governor Seward gazes down upon us from its walls, we are ready to answer his gaze with one of friendly judgment and high regard.

1820 Seward, William H.

On his tour around the world, William H. Seward, who was Secretary of State under both President Lincoln and President Johnson, visited the orphanage asylum in Madras, India. The pupils asked what they might sing for ~~him~~.their distinguished guest, and he asked for "From Greenland's Icy Mountains."

Hymns That Endure
p. 130
W. Thorburn Clark
Broadman Press
Nashville, Tenn.
1942.

201 Victory Avenue
Schenectady, N.Y.
June 1, 1966

Mr. Henry J. Swanker
Director of Alumni Relations
Union College
Schenectady, N.Y.

Dear Henry:

Please drop into the probably already bulging folder of William H. Seward (Union 1820) this letter with its reference to a significant article about this distinguished alumnus. Since there is, in the article's footnotes, no reference to the Union College Library as a source of information, it may not otherwise be of record in his file.

Joseph J. McCadden, "Governor Seward's Friendship with Bishop Hughes," New York History, Vol. XLII, No. 2, April 1966, pp. 160-184.

The article contains, in addition to references to Seward correspondence to be found in several other repositories, a few mentions of letters to and from President Eliphalet Nott, with notes as to their location.

I presume the College Library receives this magazine New York History, since its publisher is the N.Y. State Historical Assoc., the long-time baby of both Freddie Richards and Dixon Ryan Fox.

Sincerely,

Neil

Neil B. Reynolds

legend

WM. H. SEWARD. Class of 1820.

United States Secretary of State.

This picture was taken in August, 1865, after his partial recovery from wounds inflicted by Payne on July 14.

Civil War Record

THE ALASKA-YUKON

N.Y. Sun Dec. 31, 1922

Facts and Figures About This U. S. Issue of 1909.

1835

In order to commemorate the Alaska-Yukon Exposition, held in Seattle during 1909, the Post Office Department had a two-cent stamp printed bearing a portrait of William H. Seward, who, as Secretary of State, conducted the negotiations for the purchase of Alaska from Russia.

The design, as released, consisted of the words "U. S. Postage" across the top and "Two Cents" across the bottom. The numerical values were placed on each side, and in the center a ribbon with the words "Alaska-Yukon-Pacific-1909" forms an incomplete circle over the portrait. Underneath is the inscription, "William H. Seward."

The stamps appeared on May 26, 1909, in perforated condition, 152,990,051 in number. However, on June 18, the stamps appeared imperforate, with post office figures giving 422,660 as the number issued. Later Government reports record 525,400 stamps as having been issued without perforations.

THE following is a picture of William H. Seward, 1820, just preceding the opening of his career as United States Senator. It appears on page 475 in the late Albert J. Beveridge's "Life of Lincoln," Vol. I: —

"Finally on September 22, 1848, Lincoln spoke in Boston. This meeting was held in Tremont Temple. The principal speaker, William H. Seward, was a man of singularly calm and gentle manner, grave but cordial, with a face of marked intellectuality, and the restrained eloquence of a great orator. He had been Governor of New York for four years and was then the personage upon whom the anti-slavery forces of that State had, by common consent, united for the United States Senate the following year. Determined, suave, and fertile in resource, he was the most promising of the rising statesmen of the day. Eight years older than Lincoln, Seward was the outstanding leader of the movement that was to create the Republican party. He had come to Massachusetts because of the bold declarations in the Whig platform adopted at Worcester.

"For the first time, on the stump in a political campaign, Lincoln heard a speaker of the highest rank."

Seward at this time was committed definitely to the anti-slavery program and while he supported Taylor in the election he did so on the ground that it was the best practical choice an anti-slavery man could make at the time. Commenting on the effect of Seward's speech on Lincoln, Mr. Beveridge writes (page 476):

"We can only conjecture the effect of Seward's method and manner on the speaking of Lincoln; but when we again listen to him on the stump, we find him making speeches so unlike those of the party-politician phase of his life now drawing to a close, that another and entirely different man seems to be delivering them. Next day Lincoln said to Seward: 'I have been thinking about what you said in your speech. I reckon you are right. We have got to deal with this slavery question, and got to give much more attention to it hereafter than we have been doing.' One of the greatest qualities of Lincoln, if, indeed, not the very greatest, was his eagerness to learn, his capacity to grow."

H.A.M. April 1929

Star - 5/5/11 Sunday

THE EVENING

LOST FIANCEE; GAINED FAME

Romantic Incident in College Life of One of New York's Governors

18M

DISCARDED BY FIANCEE

Dazzled by Handsome and Dashing Young Man of Reputed Wealth, Barrett St. Belle Breaks Marriage Engagement With Country Student.

There came to Union College in the class of 1819 a raw country boy from our neighboring town of Florida, Montgomery county. He wore high water pants in the days when they were not turned up and they disclosed red stockings. He had been here but a short time when he attracted the attention of the greatest of college presidents, with D. D., LL. D., and many more alphabetical tags to his distinguished name, who had a fad, the sculpturing of character, the making of successful men out of the crudest material, and who wanted to do it all alone. He wanted to be boss in the great workshop, and desired apprentices, repelled all professional aid and who, surrounded by men marking high in the republic of letters, had a university staff whose assistance he never asked. He was inferior in education and Belle Lettres to most all of them, but head and shoulders above the best of them in making a successful man. His lectures to the Senior class were marvels of wisdom, worldly wisdom. He taught men to manage and handle their fellow men. A more competent teacher never lived, for he was the most brilliant politician that ever handled the New York Legislature. Murphy isn't in it with the doctor, for the doctor never failed and Murphy in the height of his fame has more than once over-reached.

The devotedly pious in the college complained of the president's neglect of them, not entirely without cause. He did really seem to have no use for ready-made Christians; he wanted to make them himself. He certainly was content to leave them to walk alone beside the green pastures and by the still waters and fear no evil.

It must be confessed that the teachings of the great artificer of success savored more of Michiavelli and Talleyrand that of the meek and lowly God-like Nazarine. He was magnificently successful. At the breaking out of the Rebellion the roll of Union, greatly outnumbering Harvard and Yale, called up from every State in the union governors, senators, judges, bishops and presidents of universities, great Americans known and honored the world over.

He prepared men grandly for this world. How well he succeeded in the fitting them for the world to come will not be known until the judgment day. He had his eye on every man who entered college. He had a wonderful gift of selection and of discovering where were the elements of success, a wondrous power of developing what there was in the make-up of every collegian, freshman to senior, who furnished evidence of future greatness. So he watched the ungainly lad, who soon discarded the red stockings and the cowhide boots. He was a fine looking fellow, and grew to be of noble presence. One will see his picture in the Executive Chamber at Albany on entering the door, a tall gentleman with bronze hair, erect in figure, stately in attitude. The doctor saw in him a lad of commanding intellect, and took him under his majestic wing. He frequently selected such fine material for his sculpture and to the last day of his brilliant life our Floridian neighbor reverenced the man who made him.

There was in the years 1819-20 a young girl, almost a woman, of remarkable beauty, a fascinating and proud creature whose pride was pardonable. She was the great granddaughter of one of the original proprietors of the little quadrangle that Arent Van Curler laid out and called Schenectady and the daughter of one of the first judges of Schenectady county, a brilliant lawyer and polished gentleman. Our Floridian, no longer a country lout, but a polished and accomplished gentleman, fell in love with Mary, won out and their engagement was announced.

They were never married. Along came a dashing young gentleman, reputed to be unquestionably handsome, and what they used to call "debonair." He dazzled the fiancee of "Billy," as we used to affectionately call him, and won her away from him and they say the heart of the embryo Statesman was broken.

Dick and Mary duly married and then their story becomes a sad one. The husband's handsome estate was squandered or wasted by mismanagement or downright robbery. Lawsuits followed, with the old story, and the couple sank into abject poverty. The proud woman retired from all social intercourse with her old friends, her unhappy husband, born to great expectations, became a common laborer at odd jobs, the wife a recluse in a little house in Barrett street.

Meanwhile the rejected suitor rose by leaps and bounds to an eminence and renown that carried his name all over the world. Entering the bar, his first case was a suit for a poor woman against a wealthy mill owner. Public sympathy was with the plaintiff. He won out immediately, levied on the water wheel of the mill and made the owner pay over at once.

He won renown as one of the rising lawyers of New York; great corporations employed him. When he went into politics men called him crafty, wily, adroit; piled every adjective but good ones upon him, but all the same he rose. Suave in manner, democratic with the people, an impressive speaker, a deep thinker, he was a giant among men in the middle of the last century.

Schenectady knew him and loved him and he soon became a familiar figure. He thought he saw his opportunity, embraced it and was carried into the gubernatorial chair on the meanest and narrowest issue ever before the people of this State—the anti-Masonry craze. No other man would have survived it, yet his marvelous tact, his command over the hearts and brains of men, learned from his great master in diplomacy, carried him on and up.

Meanwhile, perhaps the unhappy woman in her seclusion was reading and learning the upward flight of her discarded lover. If she deplored her unhappy fate no one was permitted to see or hear of it. Billy came often to Schenectady. As governor in the old days he was head of the Board of Trustees of Union College. Many of us remember his sitting, the first figure on the right side among the Dons on the platform. He used to ride of choice in the baggage car, traveling on a gold pass presented to him by the New York Central. New York presented and urged his name for that awful night of the assassination of the greatest American of the century, all the old stock of Schenectady read with affectionate anxiety the daily bulletins from his bedside. President at the convention which nominated Lincoln, and nowhere was his defeat more sincerely mourned than here. And when he so narrowly escaped the knife of the assassin

So the lives of the discarded suitor and the husband ran on lines parallel only in years. Both kept on sawing wood, the successful suitor wherever he could get a job, the discarded one, long since happily married, in the workshop of the skilled politician. And still the recluse of Barrett street rigidly enforced the seclusion which was one of her own choice. None of the old Schenectady people would have closed their doors against a spotless wife and mother who was the descendant of a patroon of 1664 and the daughter of a Schenectady judge. The reason of her cloistered life was obvious and well known. Her womanly pride would not permit acceptance of a hospitality, a reciprocation of which poverty would not permit. But we may be assured that she never lapsed into the old crone swaying in a rocking chair with the doleful refrain,

"Of all the sad words of mortal ken,
The saddest of these is, might have been."

For the old citizen well knows she did her full duty as a wife and a mother from her bridal morning to her peaceful death.

What of him, the great discarded, who came in the forties to Schenectady again and again to see his beloved teacher and his guide, counsellor and friend, and the professor at the South End of the South College, his classmate and cherished friend? The great Statesman was well known and liked here. He had been no milksop; the Doctor would never have allowed that. He had, in a street fight with a "Towney"—afterward a justice of the Supreme Court, and whom he subsequently met in the Capitol at Albany as a brother assemblyman, and with whom he was a delegate to the convention that in 1854 gave birth to the Republican party—showed pluck and nerve. He therefore became a distinguished man well known in the city before he graduated. We used to see him in the door of the baggage car where he sat and chatted and made votes all along the R. R. line, as his master had taught him to do. Had he forgotten? No, he had not, his passion ending in a forgiving, sincerely admiring friendship. He always came to see her. He did not dare, we may well believe, to have offered in any way to help her. She would have been, in the language of Dick Sheridan,

"Beautiful in her anger,
Lovely though in her frown."

It must have been delightful converse between these two old people in the Indian Summer of their lives in the gloaming and the twilight of their evening days. It could have been made a charmingly pathetic story by Mrs. Humparey Ward; a dreary fiction long spun out by Henry James.

But this is only a hum-drum incident, very common in our American lives, interesting to the readers of The Star, perhaps, because of its local interest, and bringing home to us the record of an episode of a great Statesman, and a proud but lovely woman.

Fifth Avenue's Memorials Show Its Sentimental Side

Thoroughfare Dotted with Monuments to Great Men and Treasures Recollections of Dewey and Great War Parades,

N.Y. Mail 10/29/24

By James Craig.

The story of Fifth avenue, which is being retold in honor of that street's approaching centennial, has its sentimental chapter, even if sentiment is not supposed to be a major business of a great retail shopping section. And when Fifth avenue grows emotional it is thinking mainly of Madison square.

It has been pretty emotional, too, in its time. Its eyes grew misty and there was a clutch at its throat when the boys in blue, back from the Spanish war, marched north under the Dewey Arch. It still remembers the tug at its heartstrings when the long lines of the Twenty-seventh Division, headed by General John J. Pershing, marched south under the Victory Arch only a few years ago.

Both of these structures were temporary, and not a vestige of them remains except in photographs. Near by, however, the Eternal Light burns at the top of its long pole in testimony that in times of peace the square and the avenue have not forgotten the heroisms and sacrifices of war.

In fact, the square is dotted with memorials. It has no fewer than five statues erected in memory of famous New Yorkers, all of whom in one way or another touched the life of the avenue at one of its points.

Farragut Statue the Best.

In the opinion of art critics, the most notable of them all is the statue of Admiral Farragut, even though the Admiral has lost his sword straps and carries the weapon in a mysterious way, which the spectator viewing his effigy for the first time cannot possibly understand.

This is the fault, however, of some vandal and not of the sculptor. The statue is regarded as the finest one of a marine figure to be found anywhere. Originally it had sword straps. But they fluttered out from behind, as if the Admiral were standing in a gale, imparting an indescribable sense of motion. Somebody stripped them off one night. But the stout-hearted gentleman, who once dammed the torpedoes and went ahead, dams the vandals and still does the same thing.

St. Gaudens designed the figure. The base, which is scarcely less famous, was designed by Stanford White. People who know all about such things are fond of declaring that there never has been happier co-operation than the two effected in this case.

If there is not, there is one which was at least as happy, and its results [illegible] the same corner of the city. They are the handsome tower above Madison Square Garden and the triumphant figure of Diana. The same two worked together in this. Mr. White designed the tower, reproducing the Giralda tower at Seville, Spain, and St. Gaudens modelled the effigy of the celestial huntress.

Perhaps better known to the public, because of its more advantageous location at the street line, is the equestrian to General Worth, the Mexican War hero, over his city grave.

Seward Statue.

Of all of them, however, perhaps the most remarkable is the statue of William H. Seward, attributed to Randolph Rogers. The curious thing about it is that it shows Lincoln's Secretary of State as a man of tall and commanding presence, whereas it is commonly known that his figure was exceedingly slight and he was hardly so tall by a foot.

Out of this has grown a curious story, which is doubtless apocryphal, but which is characteristic of gossip when a sense of humor seeks to supply gaps in information. According to this legend, after the statue had been projected, it was found necessary to economize on the expense. The sculptor had already modeled a figure of Lincoln, with which he was not satisfied. It was—so the tale runs—decided to make use of the old torso but slipply a new head. And thus the stern brow of Secretary Seward appears above a body that might have done for Lincoln's.

Mr. Seward was another of the habitues of the old Fifth Avenue Hotel in the days when it was the capital of the Republican party in the United States. Indeed the hostelry was so much more of a club than an inn that it is related of Jerome Travers, the celebrated wit (uncle, by the way, of William Travers Jerome), that when he was invited to join one of the city's oldest and most exclusive social organizations, he asked:—

"Why should I join a club when I am a member of the Fifth Avenue Hotel?"

Conkling Also Honored.

Another of the place's famous guests who is honored with a statue in the square was Roscoe Conkling. Through his long career in public life and when he was United States Senator, he made the hotel a sort of headquarters.

He was bound thither the day after the great blizzard of 1888, walking with a reporter on the Evening Sun, and became exhausted when they reached Madison Square. He was taken into the hotel, where he died.

The statue of him was modelled by J. Q. A. Ward. It is a commanding figure, with a generous fulness and breadth of breast.

Another sculptural work in the Garden is the drinking fountain by Emma Stebbins and a statue of Chester A. Arthur by Bissell. The fountain has been much admired and it and its surroundings have lent inspiration to the brushes of such artists as J. Alden Weir, Edith Dimock and Ernest Lawson.

Both the Dewey Arch and the Victory Arch, although temporary, were imaginative and daring pieces of art. Most of those now in New York remember the second one, on which Paul Bartlett, John Flanagan, Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney and others lavished their efforts.

The Dewey Arch was allowed to stand until it had begun to deteriorate and fall to pieces. In those days it was the thing for a swain to take his best girl to dinner at Martin's or the Brevoort and drive with her afterward up the avenue and under the arch.

On a panel under the main arch were the following words:—

> To the Glory of the American Navy
> and in Greeting to Our Admiral
> A Grateful City, Relying on Their Valor,
> Has Built This Arch.
> MDCCCXCIX.

Admiral Dewey was greatly touched by this tribute when he visited New York after the war, and his friends said it gave him his first idea of running for the Presidency.

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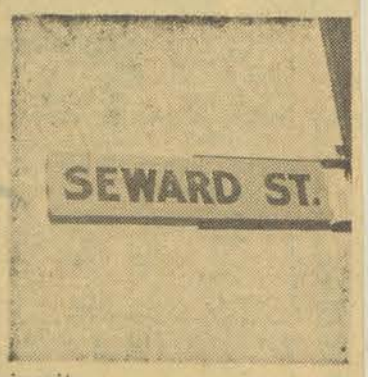
Your Street

HOW IT GOT ITS NAME

William Henry Seward was one of the most important figures in a critical period of American history.

"He was brilliant, attractive, alert, zealous, and daring in whatever he undertook, unsteady as to means, but resolute as to purpose—yet always preferring to succeed by the best methods," wrote Frederic Bancroft, one of his biographers.



Seward was born in Florida, N. Y., on May 16, 1801. At 15 he entered Union College; was graduated in 1820; began to practice law in Auburn, N. Y., in 1822.

He had a natural talent for politics. In 1830, he was elected to the New York State Senate and for four years was a distinguished member of the minority.

In 1838 and 1840 he was governor of New York. That period put a dent in his finances. He spent the next seven years hammering it out in private practice.

He attracted attention with a brilliant defense of a poor, imbecile Negro under sentence of death; continued his interest in politics by taking part in almost every campaign.

Championed Irish Freedom

He championed the cause of Irish freedom, thereby gaining the support of Irish-American voters. In 1848, he took a leap into the U. S. Senate, then embroiled in the slavery issue.

From then on, William Henry Seward became known to every newspaper reader in the United States. From 1855 to 1860, as much as any one man, he embodied the growing anti-slavery sentiment of the North; coined the famous statement that the slavery struggle was an "irrepressible conflict' between opposing and enduring forces.

Lincoln made him his secretary of state. In 1867, Seward negotiated the purchase of Alaska; in a burst of enthusiasm, sought to acquire the two most important islands of the Danish West Indies. But Congress refused to ratify.

Assassination Missed

Seward was seriously injured in a carriage accident in 1865. At the time Lincoln was assassinated, an attempt was also made to murder Seward. He was injured, but saved from death by a Sgt. Robinson, whom Congress gave a gold medal and five thousand dollars.

Seward was the first important American politician to take a trip around the world. When he came back, 100 guns thundered in City Hall Park, New York.

He died in Auburn, N. Y., on Oct. 10, 1872, at 71.

Seward street first appeared in Worcester in 1874. It reaches from Shrewsbury street northwest to Chilmark street.

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ORIGIN OF LAW FIRM TRACED TO SEWARD OFFICE

Hitherto Unknown Auburn Lore Flavors Book Giving History Of Famous N. Y. Cravaths

A book recently published privately for one of the major New York law firms throws into relief much hitherto unknown Auburn lore. "The Cravath Firm and Its Predecessors, 1819-1947," by Robert T. Swaine, traces the origins of the firm to Seward's law office in Auburn, and devotes a large part of the massive first volume to local legal history.

The author, in his preface, expresses particular indebtedness to Miss Clara M. Skilton of Auburn, who was responsible for the research on the Auburn portions of the book.

The present Cravath firm, according to this account, traces its origin to two separate sources: A New York beginning in 1819 under Richard M. Blatchford, and an Auburn beginning in 1823. In 1854 these two branches merged and became permanently established in New York City.

The Auburn beginning occurred when Judge Elijah Miller, on retiring from the bench, took into partnership young William Henry Seward, then twenty one. Seward was engaged to Judge Miller's daughter, and one of the conditions of the judge's consent to the marriage was that Seward and his bride live in the new house which Miller had built for himself in 1817. Seward lived there, indeed, the rest of his life, and the house has been lived in by Sewards until this present time.

Young Seward in Auburn, and Blatchford in New York, had been together in Union College, and a natural affinity grew up between their two firms. Both men were opposed to the politics of Andrew Jackson. When Seward's political careerd brought him in his early thirties to Albany as governor, Blatchford's son Samuel became his secretary. Later Seward's nephew, Clarence A. Seward, became an apprentice in Blatchford's New York office.

Throughout these years, W. H. Seward was engaged in politics, and was frequently absent from Auburn. The various partners in his changing firm are tracked down by the chronicler. In addition to Seward and Miller, those whose lives are sketched include Nelson Beardsley, John Porter, Benjamin Franklin Hall, John C. Beach, George Underwood, Christopher Morgan, Samuel Blatchford and Clarence Armstrong Seward.

Perhaps the low point of the Seward firm was reached on Seward's return to Auburn after his time as governor. He was virtually alone. For some months he carried on his legal work in his home, and the story is told that although he had visits from many friends, he had very few from clients. His first case at this time was that of a farmer, and concerned a broken fence and some "breachy oxen." Damages involved amounted to $10.

At the start of the Auburn branch of the present Cravath firm, Auburn was a small country town of some four thousand souls. The author remarks that it has grown in the interval, but that it is "still one of the most beautiful small cities in the state, with many architecturally exquisite private homes."

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Seward Foresaw It

40 As Alaskans celebrate their annual territorial holiday today, Mar. 30, known as Seward Day, attention is directed once again to the career of the statesman who foresaw the strategic importance of the territory when few others did.

Son of a physician-merchant in Orange County, who had married an Irish girl, the boy displayed remarkable mental capacity as a mere child and in addition was capable of great physical endurance and intense application. He interrupted his studies repeatedly to earn money for further schooling, but was graduated from Union College in 1820, when only 19 years of age. He was admitted to the bar in 1822 and the next year settled in Auburn, which was his home until his death in 1872.

As a young man Seward formed a warm friendship with Thurlow Weed in Rochester, a relationship which endured through life. Another of his friends was Hiram Sibley, whose investigations years later into the possibility of a land telegraph through Alaska to Siberia and Russia are thought to have persuaded Seward to purchase Alaska from Russia at a time when few persons could imagine any possible value in the distant territory.

As governor of New York, as secretary of State under Lincoln and in a score of other important offices, Seward displayed a high standard of statesmanship and almost prophetic vision. Only now is the true measure of his foresight with regard to Alaska becoming apparent, as that territory is seen to be a bastion of national defense.

Seward's Deal For Alaska Not Just Blind Luck

Historian Reports Sec. of State Knew Russia's 'Icebox' Was Full of Riches

1940

EVANSTON, Ill., July 4 (AP).—A Northwestern University scholar made public today a research report which he said scotched a seventy-three-year-old accusation that William H. Seward, Civil War era Secretary of State, contrived the purchase of Alaska to advance his own political fortunes. Tribune

Citing recently uncovered journals of an explorer as conclusive authority, James Alton James, dean emeritus of the university's graduate school and formerly chairman of the history department, said the purchase of "Seward's icebox" from Russia in 1867 was not merely a lucky deal for the United States arranged "unwittingly" through a politician's self-interest, as some historians have contended.

"Seward was not primarily motivated by thoughts of aiding himself politically," Dean James said, "but by his knowledge of Alaska's potential wealth" disclosed mainly through the explorations of two members of Northwestern's staff.

The dean's investigations were assisted by the finding of five journals of Dr. Henry M. Bannister, one of the explorers, in the home of his daughter, Miss Ruth Bannister, of Evanston.

The journals, together with a study of official records and a review of the writings of Maj. Robert Kennicott, the other explorer, convinced Dr. James that Seward was amply aware of Alaska's economic resources.

Maj. Kennicott, first curator of Northwestern's Museum of Natural History, explored Russian territory twice and died in desolate mountain country 500 miles up the Yukon River.

Dr. James said Maj. Kennicott obtained important information concerning trade at Fort Yukon in commodities such as fur and fish.

Dr. Bannister, who became the second curator of Northwestern's museum, was in charge of one section of the later Kennicott expedition, and made valuable observations of climatic and economic conditions.

He returned to Washington, the dean related, and gave Seward and Charles Sumner, chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, additional information about Alaska.

It was after Dr. Bannister had told his story, Dean James said, that the Senate, with only two dissenting votes, decided to purchase Alaska for $7,200,000.

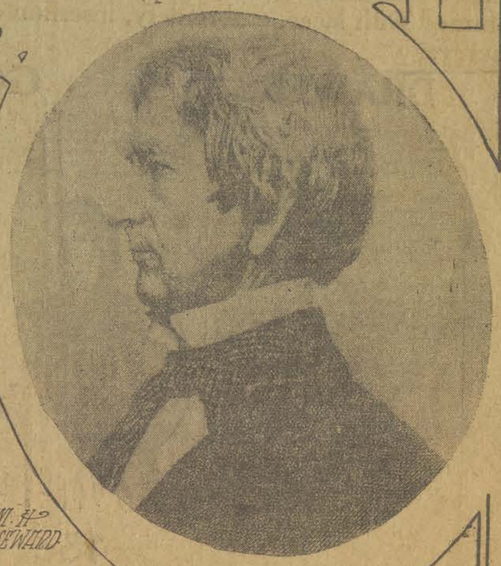
March 13, 1950

William H. Seward 1820

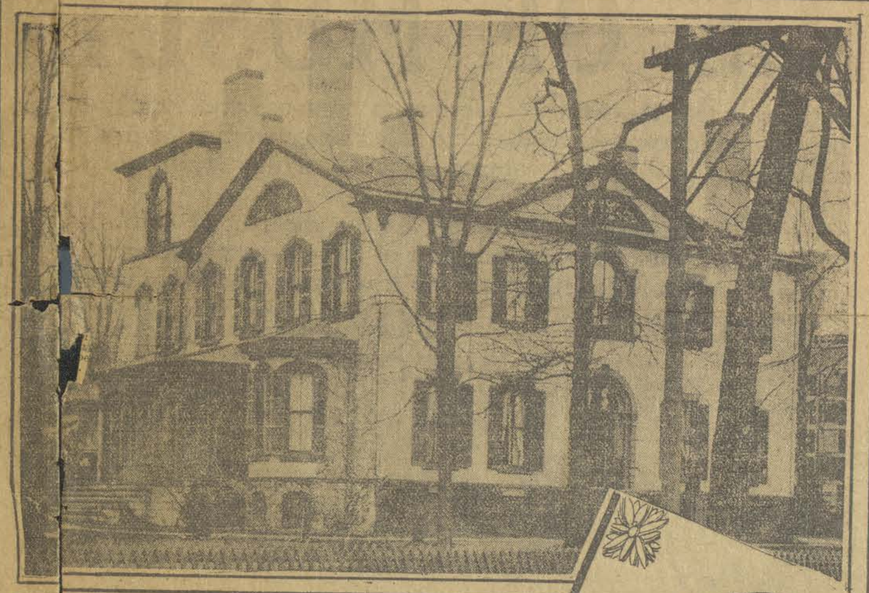
One of the parlor cars on the New York Central's train Empire State Express bears the name of William H. Seward.

AUBURN HOUSE to be COPIED At Seattle Fair

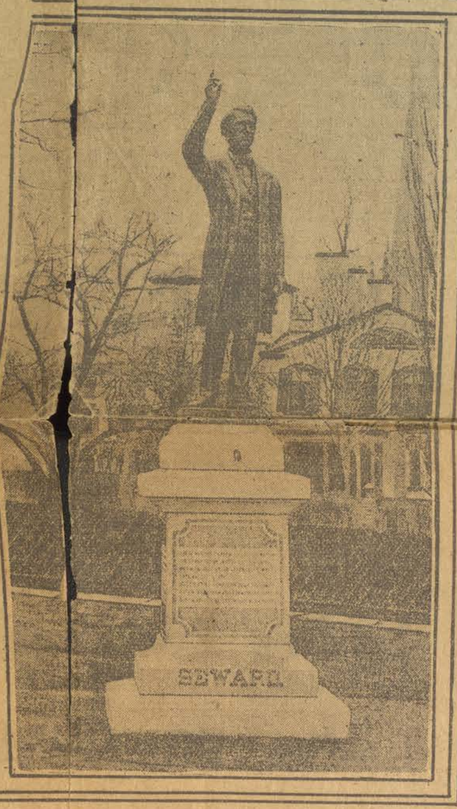
WILLIAM H. SEWARD'S OLD HOME FULL of REMINDERS of the GREAT STATES-MAN.



WM. H. SEWARD



THE SEWARD HOUSE



SEWARD MEMORIAL STATUE

GEN. WM. H. SEWARD

(FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT.)

AUBURN, Jan. 23.—A singularly happy choice was made when the house of William H. Seward in Auburn was selected as the model for the New York State building at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition in Seattle. It was while Mr. Seward was Secretary of State under Lincoln that the Alaska purchase was made, and to him much of the credit is given for its consummation. Also the Seward house itself is especially well fitted to represent this State at the great Western fair. Not even excepting Sunnyside, the home of Washington Irving, is there a house in the State more full of memories of its former master than the home of Seward. Here are the books he loved, just as he left them; the gifts he received from Kings and Queens and great men of his world-wide travels; his private correspondence during the Civil war, and all the intimate belongings of his lifetime. The house has the dignity of age, lacking but seven years of a century, and it has an old-fashioned, rambling beauty and spaciousness which make it representative of the earlier history of the State.

The house (now occupied by the Secretary's son, Gen. William H. Seward, and his family) is in South street. Two tall stone pillars, on which stony lions crouch, guard the main entrance. The grounds are spacious and the rambling yellow brick house, built in the Dutch colonial style, sits well back from the street. Successive generations have added to it as their needs required, after the manner of English country gentlemen. Great yellow brick chimneys cluster on its low-pitched roof, and on its north side is a square tower that somewhat relieves the dignified simplicity of its lines. In the summer ivy from the home of Sir Walter Scott, in Abbotsford, Scotland, clambers over the brick walls.

Many Reminders of Seward.

Under the guidance of General Seward, representing the third generation that has occupied the house, a staff correspondent of The Sunday Herald the other day went all through the building that is to be reproduced at the coming exposition. So far as possible everything has been left as it was in Secretary Seward's lifetime, and the visitor comes so frequently upon reminders of the Secretary himself that it almost seems as if the former owner, with his strong, rugged face and his heavy eyebrows, might be encountered at any moment in one of the spacious rooms.

The Seward house was built in 1816 by Judge Elijah Miller, grandfather of the present General Seward. Brigham Young was at that time a bricklayer in Auburn and helped to lay the brick. Successive generations of the family have enlarged and improved it since then, but they have done their work with such good taste that instead of marring, they have made the original building more beautiful.

Having entered the wide front doors one finds oneself in a long, wide hallway, running straight through the center of the house. Its walls are hung with a wealth of pictures and mementoes. A massive staircase of polished California rosewood leads upward, and half way up can be seen the family clock in a case of mahogany.

How the Chinese Honored Seward.

In this hall is the great globe, standing higher than a man's head, that Mr. Seward used when Secretar of State. On the wall hangs a rifle with a stock of polished rosewood and heavy with gold, finely engraved, which was given to Mr. Seward on his trip to California. Pictures with historic associations hang everywhere on the walls. Half way up the staircase is a fine copy of "The Signing of the Emancipation Proclamation," by F. B. Carpenter, in which Lincoln and Seward are the principal figures. Then, ascending a little further, one faces a great Chinese banner, flaming in red and gold, which has a history that General Seward explained.

"When Mr. Seward was in China," he said, "men of note sought to honor him by some special mark of favor. They set about planning for some sign of their esteem.

"'In your country are you not a mandarin?' they asked.

"'I suppose so,' replied Mr. Seward.

"'Then you should have an ancestral banner with your own picture and those of your family and ancestors.'

"So they sent a Chinese artist to him, who, with many expressions of regard, besought him for an account of the members of his family. Mr. Seward told him about us, and there is the result. That figure on the right of the three larger ones above the at-tenuant is a portrait of Mr. Seward is supposed to represent him."

So General Seward is here represented as a benevolent-looking Chinese, in robes of red and gold, holding a Chinese baby in his arms. This last touch the artist added because the great War Secretary told him that his son, William H. Seward, Jr., was the only one of his children that had children of his own.

"Finally," continued General Seward, "they asked him about his ancestors.

"'Oh, I've had so many of them that I can't remember them all,' replied Mr. Seward. 'Just put in a lot of figures and it will do.'"

The banner is surrounded with smaller figures representing Mr. Seward's ancestors, and every one of them is a typical Chinese.

In the Foreign Gallery.

This stairway leads to a stately room which the Seward family has named the foreign gallery, and which contains a wealth of portraits of rulers and great personages in Europe and Asia. Most of them are fine steel engravings. Here also is a toilet set used by Emperor Maximilian in the Chapultepec palace, Mexico; a china plate from the set given by Lafayette to Martha Washington; a wreath of pressed leaves from the coffin of Lincoln, and a small box containing a dried and shrunken piece of the Prince of Wales's wedding cake. To enumerate the articles of historic interest contained in this room alone would take a column of The Sunday Herald, and there are many other as interesting as the ones named. Not the least important reminders of the high honors paid Mr. Seward on his travels are the framed invitations, in many strange languages, to functions arranged by Princes in order to pay honor to the great American.

North of the central hall is the north library, one of the oldest rooms in the house, and one fairly redolent with memories of Seward. Here are many of the books he loved, and on the upper shelves are ninety-five large leather-bound volumes containing Mr. Seward's private correspondence during the Civil war. These constitute archives that would be worth their weight in gold to a historian, and only a small portion of them has ever been published.

Diplomatic Secrets of War Days.

"Horace Greely has used extracts from some of them," said General Seward, "but others of them will never be given to the world. They could not well be published."

Thus some important secrets of Civil war days, touching our relations then with foreign powers, will probably always remain behind the glass doors of these shelves.

Above the mantel in this room is a portrait of Seward in his young manhood and of his bride, Frances Adeline Miller, a daughter of the Judge Miller who built the house. She was only 19 when Seward, then a young lawyer of Auburn and junior partner of her father, married her; and the Judge consented to give him her hand only on condition that both should make their home with him. Apart from the rest of the books is kept the small library of his only daughter, who, never recovering from the shock of Lincoln's assassination and the simultaneous attempt of the conspirators upon the life of her father, slowly pined away and died.

Directly in front of the north library, with broad windows, looking out upon the street, is a parlor whose walls are almost entirely covered with paintings of interest alike to the historian and to the painter. The largest is a canvas given Mr. Seward by the Mexican Academy of Design. It represents Dante and Virgil on a visit to the infernal regions and is chiefly remarkable for the lurid glow cast on the faces from the flames of hades. Another canvas chiefly interesting for its historic associations (though by no means contemptible from an artistic viewpoint) was painted in London by Capt. J. W. Anderson of the U. S. S. Kearsarge and represents the famous engagement of the Kearsarge with the Alabama off Cherbourg on June 19th, 1864.

The Throne of a Prince.

Works of art other than paintings and relics of antiquity crowd the floor and tables and constitute an unusual collection of bric-a-brac. Here, for instance, is the throne of an Abyssinian prince, not much bigger than a footstool, which was given to Mr. Seward by the Prince himself in 1871, and there a wine jug used by the Greeks at least 2,000 years ago.

Opening from the hall on the south is a room of noble length, communicating through an archway with the dining room. This is known as the drawing room, but the long rows of book shelves with which all its walls are lined gives it rather the appearance of a library. In this room hang many of the family portraits, including that of the daughter who died as the result of the assassins' attack on her father. The brass andirons used by Judge Miller still stand in front of the fireplace. The faces of Mr. Seward's father and mother, Dr. and Mrs. Samuel S. Seward of Florida, N. Y., look down from the walls in old-fashioned dress, and here also are portraits of Secretary and Mrs. Seward, painted by Inman in 1840, a picture of Seward's birthplace in Florida, and the desk used by the first Constitutional Congress in New York in 1879, presented to Mr. Seward when he was Governor of New York.

In the dining room is the solid mahogany table used by Seward in the Executive mansion, Albany. Around this board have gathered some of the greatest men of the age. General Seward recalls an occasion when President Johnson, General Grant, General Custer, General Hancock, Admiral Farragut and other celebrities all put their legs under the mahogany.

When Grant Climbed a Fence.

"General Grant's carriage," he said, "had run over a small boy and injured him slightly. The General insisted on visiting the boy, and I went with him. When we returned the crowd in front of the house was so dense we couldn't get through, so General Grant and I had to climb over that tall fence you see there (pointing through the back window) to get into the house."

The old house has seen scores of other distinguished guests. The foreign diplomats and attaches at Washington, passing through Auburn on their way to visit Niagara Falls, stopped there, for instance, on August 20th, 1863. They included the Ministers from Great Britain, Prussia, Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Sweden and of nearly all the foreign powers, numbering sixteen in all.

Throughout the house are seen reminders, not alone of the great men, but of the other members of the family which for three generations has lived within its walls. There is a cabinet in which has been put the toys of the children as they have discarded them, and here are bon-bons brought by Mr. Seward to the children from the table of Queen Victoria and other rulers, which they carefully saved.

The Couch Where He Died.

But the room in which cluster the most intimate memories of the statesman is his small private office or study on the first floor of the north tower. In the sunlight of the cheerful bow window is the chair in which he did most of his work. It has a large movable arm covered with green baize on which he did his writing. And close by is the couch—a large red upholstered piece of furniture—on which he died.

He had been failing for some time. Meeting a friend who inquired about his health, he replied: "I am living in a very old house, and as near as I can learn, the proprietor is not going to make any repairs. That is what John Adams answered to Daniel Wenster."

On the day he died he was working with his adopted daughter on the notes of his travels. Suddenly he began to breathe heavily and lay down on the lounge. The family realized that this condition was serious and a doctor was summoned.

"Father, have you anything to say to us" asked his daughter-in-law.

"Nothing; only love one another," replied, and soon breathed his last.

The grounds originally surrounding the Seward house consisted of several acres, but the southern part, now separated from the estate by a stone fence, has been given to the city of Auburn for a park. Here stands the statue of Seward presented to the city by his townsmen and friends, "in commemoration (as the inscription says) of his beneficient life, and of his distinguished services to the State, to the nation, and to mankind." On the west face is the inscription—the last eight lines of A. D. F. Randolph's sonnet:

"How through these years in silence thou hast borne
The cruel doubt, the slanders of debate,
The assassin's knife, and keener blade of scorn
Wielded by party in its narrow hate;
How could'st thou pause each step to vindicate
Of thy surpassing work? Lo! it is done.
Freedom enshrined in our regenerate state,
And they who were divided made as one!"

Quotation From a Speech.

The south face bears this quotation from Seward's California speech in the Senate on March 11th, 1850:

"The Constitution regulates our stewardship; the Constitution devotes the domain to union, to justice, to defense, to welfare and to liberty.

"But there is a higher law than the Constitution, which regulates our authority over the domain and devotes it to the same noble purposes."

After all, the Seward house, filled as it is with things that recall his life, is his best memorial. And its selection for reproduction at the northwestern exposition does honor to the good taste of those who conceived the project.

14. WILLIAM HENRY SEWARD (Whig)

1838–1841
(Two-year terms)

Born, Florida, Orange county, May 16, 1801
Died, Auburn, October 10, 1872

1820	Graduated Union College
1822	Admitted to bar
1823	Lawyer at Auburn
1831–34	State Senator
1834	Defeated for Governor
1838–41	Governor
	Recommended abolition of capital punishment, and return of fugitive slaves
1848	Delivered eulogy on John Quincy Adams in Legislature
1849–61	United States Senator
	Advocated abolition of slavery in District of Columbia
	Introduced bill for construction of Pacific railroad
	Delivered orations on deaths of Clay and Webster
1859	Visited Europe
1861–69	Secretary of State
1865	Wounded by assassin
1867	Contracted for purchase of Alaska
1870	Made tour of the world
	Opponents: 1838 William L. Marcy (Dem.)
	1840 William C. Bouck (Dem.)
	1842 Luther Bradish (Dem.)

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WCNY tells story of William Henry Seward

Documentary travels often to Auburn in one-hour look at Lincoln's "right-hand man."

By William LaRue
Staff writer

6734

William Seward was a political giant of the mid-1800s, a U.S. senator, a secretary of state for two presidents, and the man who helped Abraham Lincoln hold together the union.

"William Henry Seward: Lincoln's Right Hand"
★★★
(out of four)

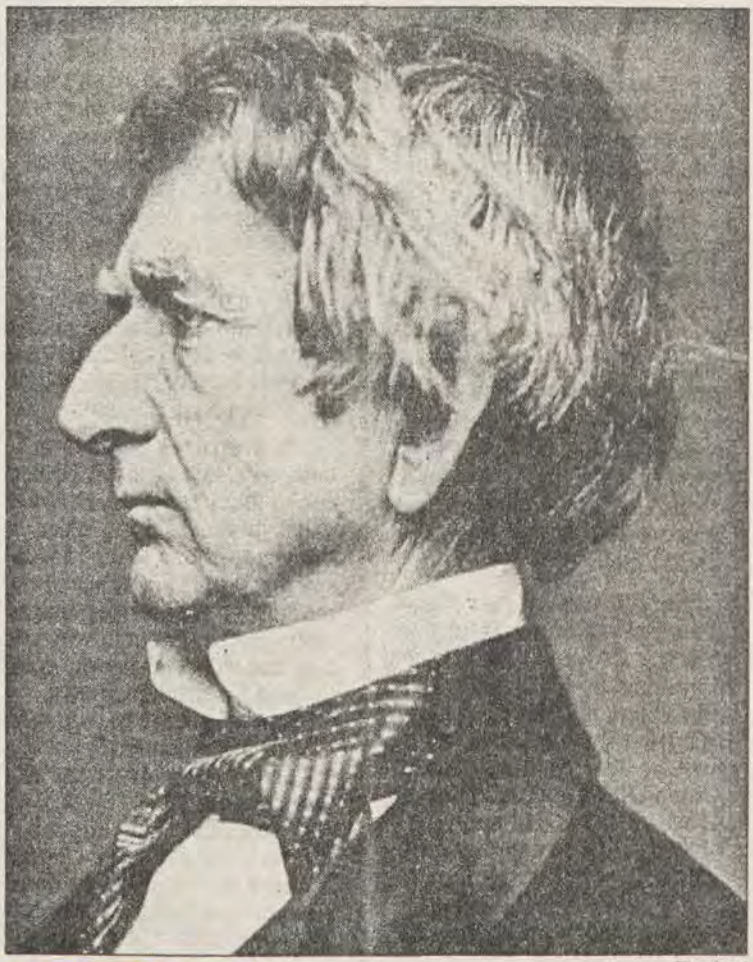
Yet today, to most of the public, Seward is barely known, perhaps remembered only for his late-in-life crusade to purchase Alaska in a deal that critics at the time called "Seward's folly."

A more complete portrayal of this longtime Auburn resident is offered in a strong new documentary, "William Henry Seward: Lincoln's Right Hand," produced by WCNY-TV (Channel 24). It airs at 8 p.m. Tuesday.

Filmed in cooperation with Seward biographer John Taylor, the one-hour special travels often to Auburn for historic photographs and current footage of the Seward Mansion.

Seward moved to the city as a young adult and died there in 1872 at the age of 71.

The documentary offers glimpses here and there of his personal life, such as Seward's fragile health as a youngster, which contrasted with his strong intellect.



File photo

WILLIAM SEWARD'S professional career included serving as governor of New York. Among his major accomplishments: extension of the Erie Canal.

He won enrollment to Union College at age 15 and admittance to the bar at age 21.

"He was a very gregarious gentleman, feisty, sometimes a little bit too much aware of his own importance, which I think is normal for a person of his position," museum curator Bette Mae Lewis says.

The documentary touches on life for Seward in Auburn, including his support for his wife's housing of slaves escaping on the Underground Railroad.

It's too bad the WCNY special doesn't do a little more to explore the intimate side of Seward, perhaps through dramatic readings of his letters and other writings.

However, "William Henry Seward" smoothly handles his professional career, which included governorship of New York, where his major accomplishments included extension of the Erie Canal.

The documentary explains how Seward — once his own hearty ambitions to become president are shattered in 1860 — threw himself into serving his country as one of Lincoln's most influential advisers on issues of diplomacy, antislavery efforts and the Civil War.

One of Seward's biggest successes as secretary of state involved persuading other nations not to come to the aid of the Confederacy during the war.

Without Seward, Alaska might be part of Russia and the South a country separate from the United States.

It's definitely no folly for WCNY to tell Seward's great story.

The details

What: "William Henry Seward: Lincoln's Right Hand," a one-hour documentary on the former U.S. secretary of state.

When: 8 p.m. Tuesday.

Where: WCNY-TV (Channel 24).

From: N.Y. History
Vol. XV, No. 2
April 1934

NEW YORK AND THE ELECTION OF 1860*

By Milledge L. Bonham, Jr.

SUPPOSE New York had played a different role in the conventions of 1860, what would have beent he effect upon the ensuing history of the United States? This is a fascinating example of what Professor Hearnshaw calls "The IFS of History."[1] *If* New York had acted differently at Charleston, could Douglas have been nominated on a platform satisfactory to the South? Or might he have withdrawn and so obviated the disruption of the Democratic party? *If* New York had been united at Chicago, would Seward have been nominated? *If* so, would the Republican party have split, as it did at Chicago in 1912? In that case, would the Democratic nominee—*if* there had been but one—have been elected? *If* so, South Carolina would not have seceded, war would have been postponed, possibly averted. What then would be the position of the United States today? These speculations open up such a vast range of possibility that it seems worthwhile to go back and contemplate New York's part in the election of 1860. If it was not the *dominant* factor in both parties, it was assuredly one of the most decisive ones.

New York Democrats in 1860 were divided into two main factions. The division had begun (1838–1841) over the differences between the conservative and the radical elements in the party as to the disposal of the surplus of the Erie Canal revenues. The Wilmot Proviso and the Free-Soil campaign of 1848 had widened the rift.[2] At first the conservatives were called "Hunkers" because they were accused of *hungering* for office and *hankering* for Texas. They retorted by calling their radical brethren "Barnburners," comparing them to a farmer who would burn down his barn to get rid of the rats. In the next decade the Hunkers began calling their adversaries "Softshells," or trimmers, while the Barn-

*Paper read at the meeting of the New York State Historical Association, Ticonderoga, September 15, 1933, by Professor Bonham, who is the P. V. Rogers professor of history in Hamilton College, Clinton, N. Y.

[1]Hearnshaw, F. J. C., *The "Ifs" of History*, 9–11.

[2]Alexander, D. S., *Political History of the State of New York* II, ch. v, xi, xiv; Dyer, O., *Great Senators of the United States Forty Years Ago*, 43.

burners denominated the Hunkers "Hardshells," because they were impervious to new ideas. Soon these affectionate appellations were shortened to "Hards" and "Softs." The latter included many Free-Soilers; the former, if not pro-slavery, were decidedly opposed to the abolitionist movement.

Aside from the slavery question, the two factions were, by 1860, divided mainly on the question of allegiance to different leaders—including the national administration. New York city Democrats were further split, the division sometimes cutting across Hard and Soft lines. Tammany Hall, then as ever, was guided by one principle: devotion to its own interest. Hence it might vote now with the Hards, again with the Softs, a third time divide its vote. At this period it was led by S. F. Purdy and H. W. Genet. Fernando Wood, the erratic and bizarre mayor, unable to dominate Tammany Hall, had created his own organization, known as Mozart Hall. Theoretically it should have been Hard when Tammany was Soft, and *vice-versa*, but it was never safe to count upon this.[3]

The conservatives generally and most of the Federal office holders in the State were Hards. Their outstanding leader was Daniel S. Dickinson ("Scripture Dick") of Binghamton, a former attorney-general and one time United States senator (1844–1851).[4] The regular, radical, or Soft faction was led by ex-Governor Horatio Seymour of Utica, Samuel J. Tilden, John A. Dix, Erastus Corning, William Cassidy, editor of the Albany *Argus and Atlas*, and Dean Richmond of Buffalo, the state chairman. This group had inherited the name of "Albany Regency" from the time of Martin Van Buren. "Prince John," the eloquent but unreliable son of Martin, was nominally a Soft. He was often an embarrassment to both factions, at other times a most valuable campaign orator.

Thurlow Weed, editor of the Albany *Evening Journal* managed the New York Republicans. Their pre-eminent statesman was Senator William H. Seward of Auburn. Other leaders were Governor Edwin D. Morgan, Senator Preston King, Congressman Roscoe Conkling, George William Curtis, William M. Evarts, Horace Greeley of the *Tribune* and Henry J. Raymond of the

[3]Alexander, II, 249; Myers, G., *History of Tammany Hall, passim.*

[4]Dickinson, Daniel S., *Speeches and Correspondence, passim; Dictionary of American Biography*, V, 294.

Times. Greeley was as much of a trial to his political bedfellows as John Van Buren was to the Democrats. He was to prove a veritable thorn in the flesh to the Republicans in this campaign. As a young and minority party, the Republicans should have been closely united. Having absorbed such dissimilar elements as anti-Lecompton Whigs, Free-Soil Democrats and most of the Americans, or "Know Nothings," the party contained abundant germs of dissension.[5]

Mozart and Tammany Halls had fought strenuously for delegates to the state Democratic convention of 1859. Tammany won. Nevertheless Wood took a complete delegation to Syracuse in September. Before the hour appointed for the assembling of the convention, Wood's delegates and some others entered the hall, proceeded to organize the convention and had chosen a chairman when the other delegates began to arrive. After a genuine brawl the regulars withdrew and the Wood aggregration nominated a state ticket and appointed delegates to the national convention of 1860, after which they adjourned. At once the regular convention assembled and the up-state Hards felt bound to support the Softs and Tammany rather than to play into Wood's hands. By promising support for him for the presidential nomination "whenever the national convention should show any tendency towards him," the Softs secured the favor of Dickinson and his friends. Accordingly the delegation to the national convention contained thirty Hards and forty Softs, counting as fifteen and twenty votes, respectively. The Softs then adroitly gagged the Hards in the delegation by a strict unit rule.[6]

Wood took his delegation to the National Democratic Convention in Charleston, April 23, 1860, and demanded admission: first, as the rightful New York delegation. Being refused that he demanded equal rights with the Tammany-Hard delegation led by Richmond. John Cochrane, the "brains" of the regular delegation, by adroit application of parliamentary rules speedily and completely defeated Wood's attempts.[7] President James Buchanan and General John A. Dix later considered this exclusion

[5]Alexander, II, *passim;* Weed, Thurlow, *Autobiography, passim;* Bancroft, F., *Life of W. H. Seward, passim;* Curtis, F., *The Republican Party*, I, chap. xii.

[6]Alexander, II, 257–258. [7]New York *Daily Tribune*, April 26, 1860.

of the Wood delegates a "fatal blunder." Three years later Buchanan wrote a friend: "It would be curious to speculate what might have been the present condition had Fernando Wood instead of Dean Richmond delegates been admitted at Charleston."[8] Yet there is no doubt that the Richmond delegation was the regular and official one.

In spite of his exclusion from the convention, Wood's presence in Charleston had an important influence on the regular delegation, which was at best lukewarm for Stephen A. Douglas. Wood sought, before the convention, to insure admission by assiduous wooing of the Southern anti-Douglas delegations, with the natural result of throwing the Richmond delegation into the Douglas camp—at least nominally.

Although Channing said of the New York delegation that in its roll "hardly a name of distinction appears except that of August Belmont," Rhodes considered it an able group. "Many were eminent men of business, anxious for peace; others were adroit politicians, adept at a trade and eager to hold the party together by any means." The "eminent men of business" included Belmont, the financier, and Erastus Corning, president of the New York Central railroad, while Richmond and Cochrane exemplified the "adroit politicians." Another careful historian, our own Alexander, thought that though "altogether it was a disappointing delegation, distrusted by the Douglas men, feared by the South, at odds within itself: yet it is doubtful if the Empire State ever sent an abler body of men to a national convention."[9] The rejection of the Wood delegation was resented by many anti-Douglas Democrats in New York and had repercussions in the autumn elections. This first factious fight was ominous to those who had eyes to see. Even before the convention began, as delegates gathered in the city, the Charleston *Mercury* sensed this and remarked: "It is plain men feel as if they were going into a battle." Fifty years later McMaster believed that the convention met "with all signs pointing to a rupture."[10]

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[8]Auchampaugh, P. G., "The Buchanan-Douglas Feud," *Journal of the Illinois Historical Society*, April–July 1932, 34, 44.

[9]Channing, Edw., *History of the United States*, VI, 237; Rhodes, J. F., *History of the United States from the Compromise of 1850*, II, 474; Alexander, II, 271.

[10]Charleston *Mercury*, April 21, 1860; McMaster, J. B., *History of the People of the United States*, VIII, 448.

Douglas controlled a majority of the individual delegates, but the South, supported by Oregon and California, dominated seventeen of the thirty-three states represented, so had a bare majority of the committee on resolutions. On the fifth day of the convention this committee submitted a majority and several minority reports. Even after recommitment, it could not agree upon a single platform. The majority then reported a set of resolutions embodying the extreme Southern views upon slavery in the territories. The principal minority report favored abiding by the decisions of the Supreme Court upon this point. "General B. F. Butler of Massachusetts, who throughout the convention occupied an attitude peculiar to himself," says Stanwood, "presented a second minority report" which was merely the Cincinnati platform of 1856.[11] New York's first important decision was upon the question of which report to sustain. Richmond favored Douglas, but hoped that if Douglas could not be nominated, sentiment would swing to Seymour, while Dickinson's friends hoped the lightning might strike him. Should New York vote for the majority report, it would be adopted, but Douglas could hardly accept a nomination upon such a platform. If New York voted for the minority report as it stood, the South would more than probably withdraw from the convention or bolt the ticket—which would mean that either Douglas or Seymour would stand a poor chance of election. So the New York delegation withdrew for consultation, which gave time for passions to rise in and between other delegations. Finally, New York decided to accept the minority report, with the recommendation of the exclusion of the passages obnoxious to the South. Had such a decision been reached immediately upon the presentation of the reports, the quick adoption of a platform might have averted a crisis. Now it was too late. Passions had become inflamed over the sectional issue. Unfortunately, Sunday intervened, giving more time for acrimonious wrangles and wire-pulling. On Monday, April 30, the Butler report was quickly rejected and the minority report was substituted for that of the majority of the committee. On the vote for substitution fourteen free states, including New York, voted for the minority report. New Jersey and Pennsylvania did not vote as states, but their delegates balloted as individuals. The

[11]Stanwood, Edw., *History of the Presidency*, 283.

South voted solidly against the minority report, which was adopted, 165 to 138. Had New York voted against the substitution, it would have been lost, 130 to 173. Here, then, New York's vote was decisive. Buchanan attributed the subsequent *débâcle* to the diversity of methods of voting. "Had all the states voted as units," he wrote, "without regard to the respective minorities in each; or, on the other hand, had the delegates from all the states voted as individuals, in either case the majority report would have been sustained, and the Democratic party might have been saved."[12] The minority report having been substituted, it was then put upon its passage, paragraph by paragraph. The storm broke when the plank was reached which pledged the party to abide by the decisions of the Supreme Court, regarding slavery in the territories. The seven states from Georgia to Texas refused to vote at all. New York and most of the other states voted *No* and the plank was defeated, 21 to 238. Had the seven silent sisters spoken, it would have been 21 to 282. New York's hope that the South would accept a platform silent upon this point was vain. Led by Alabama, seven Southern states withdrew from the convention, as did two delegates from Delaware.[13]

Buchanan held New York directly responsible for this disruption. In his defense of his administration he remarked:

> The position of New York casting an undivided vote of thirty-five with Dean Richmond at their head, had been a controlling power from the commencement. Her responsibility was great in proportion. Had she cast her weight into the scale at Charleston, in favor of the majority report on the resolutions and in accordance with the [Dred Scott] decision of the Supreme Court, this . . . would have prevailed by a vote of 173 to 130. Such a result might probably have terminated the controversy between the North and the South.[14]

While one may dissent from this last conclusion, it is evident that New York did bear a great responsibility for the schism. Without going all the way with Buchanan as to the termination of the controversy, we can agree that New York could have averted a

[12]Buchanan, James, *Mr. Buchanan's Administration on the Eve of the Rebellion*, 69.

[13]Halstead, Murat, *History of the National Political Conventions of the Current Presidential Campaign*, 65–76.

[14]Buchanan, 78.

rupture at Charleston. Fite is of the opinion that the vote for the minority report was a victory for popular sovereignty, but, he shrewdly adds: "The victory was so hollow that Douglas never reaped any fruits from it."[15]

The rump convention, 253 out of 303 delegates, turned optimistically to the nomination of candidates. At once a new problem confronted the delegates, the interpretation of the two-thirds rule. Did that regulation require that a candidate must have two-thirds of the original convention (202 votes) to be nominated? Or would two-thirds of the delegates present (169 votes) suffice? On this point Alexander pertinently observes: "As New York's vote was now decisive, it put the responsibility directly upon Richmond. It was his opportunity to help or break Douglas. . . . He decided that the nominee must receive the equivalent of two-thirds of the electoral college,"[16] which meant, of course, 202 votes. This interpretation was adopted 141 to 112. New York's vote in the negative would have rejected it, 106 to 147. An acute journalist, present at the time, thought that New York's vote "sounded like clods falling on the Little Giant's coffin."[17] Nevertheless, in spite of having rendered Douglas's nomination impossible, Richmond steadily cast his thirty-five votes for Douglas through fifty-seven ballots. "The drive of the New York delegation and its united vote created a murmur of applause at its solid and commanding front," observed the New York *Tribune*.[18] Douglas never received more than 152½ votes, Dickinson never more than 16. For fifty-one ballots Ben Butler cast one vote for Jefferson Davis, the only one he received. In view of Davis' later offer of a reward for Butler, dead or alive, this vote has a grim humor all its own. Perceiving the futility of further balloting at that place and time, the convention adjourned to meet at Baltimore on June 18.

An interesting light upon Richmond's attitude is thrown by the dispatches to a Republican journal. The day after the Southern delegations withdrew from the convention, the reporter telegraphed the *Tribune* that New York had been "ready to accept

[15]Fite, E. D., *The Presidential Campaign of 1860*, 106–107; *cf.* also, Stanwood, 284; Alexander, II, 273–277; Fuess, C. M., *Life of Caleb Cushing*, 248–250. [16]Alexander, II, 277. [17]Halstead, 85.

[18]New York *Daily Tribune*, June 19, 1860.

[James] Guthrie[18a] [of Kentucky] at any proper moment," and this was used as a bait to keep the Southern states in the convention, but to no avail. Next day he wrote that New York's interpretation of the two-thirds rule "was purposely adopted to [exclude] Douglas and New York was fully apprised of the consequences when her vote was cast for it." The following day he thought the seceding delegates were ready to accept Guthrie, if the regulars should nominate him.[19] Now it was too late. This suggests the possibility that if Wood had never gone to Charleston, New York and the South might have nominated Guthrie and avoided a split. Horace Greeley hailed the rejection of the majority report with delight, observing editorially that "for the first time in our history, a Democratic national convention has looked the slavery propoganda calmly in the face and virtually said 'Thus far and no further.' "[20]

Meanwhile the seceding delegates had met in another hall and organized their own convention, calling themselves the "National Democracy," which inevitably suggests the three tailors of Tooley Street. The persistent Fernando Wood sought admission for his delegation to this convention and was again rebuffed, so New York had no voice in its deliberations. After some sparring and much oratory, this convention also adjourned, to meet at Richmond, June 11. It invited all Democrats throughout the land who favored the rejected majority report to appoint delegates to the adjourned session. When it re-assembled at Richmond it again refused to seat any New Yorkers.[21]

Let us consider now our first IF. Suppose New York had voted for the majority report: this would have prevented the secession of the Southern delegates, but their presence would have precluded Douglas' nomination, as his biographers freely admit. One of them observes that while Douglas could probably have controlled "the whole [Democratic] party, barring its extreme Southern section," he had "hopelessly alienated" that group. Another thought that "practically the whole mass of the Northern Democrats were for Douglas now, and the mass of Southern Democrats were against him . . . But the Southerners would not yield a

[18a]Secretary of the Treasury under Pierce, 1853–1857.

[19]New York *Daily Tribune*, May 1–4, 1860.

[20]*Ibid*, May 4, 1860. [21]Halstead, 97–100.

hair's breadth."[22] Douglas was ready to withdraw in the interests of party solidarity. Had he been permitted to do so, probably Guthrie would have been nominated and the ensuing contest would have been between him and the Republican nominee, with a good chance for Guthrie, judging by the results of the Congressional elections of 1860. Having rendered Guthrie's nomination impossible, *if* the New York delegation had voted that two-thirds of the rump convention was sufficient to nominate, Douglas could have been chosen. Confronted by *un fait accompli* would the Southerners, meeting at Richmond, have decided to support Douglas rather than risk a Republican victory? It is extremely unlikely. Today it is evident that Douglas could have been nominated, if at all, only upon a platform acceptable to the Southerners, and that he could hardly accept. Had he been willing, it would even then have been very difficult to nominate him. There was a determined element of Southerners who would have fought him to the last ditch, besides which he had to contend against the influence of President Buchanan, who was determined to prevent Douglas' nomination if he could.[23] Senator John Slidell of Louisiana, though not a delegate, skilfully managed the anti-Douglas forces at Charleston and pulled wires adroitly and effectively. His biographer is forced to concede that Slidell was not above suborning some of the Douglas delegates.[24] Hence it appears that Douglas stood almost no chance of nomination by the full convention on any platform. So our first two IFS boil down to one: *if* New York had prevented the withdrawal of the Southern delegations a united party might have won the election. In the nature of things such an hypothesis cannot be proven, but it has the merit of probability and is certainly "An IF of History."

Having lost this opportunity, what would New York do at Baltimore? For a week before the Democratic convention reassembled, leaders of the party were arriving in Washington and holding earnest conferences. One observer remarked that "There was no question, however, that New York had the fate of the convention in its keeping." This was soon shown when the Democratic forces moved from Washington and mobilized at Baltimore.

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[22]Willis, H. P., *Stephen A. Douglas*, 310–311; Brown, W. G., *Stephen Arnold Douglas*, 132–133.

[23]Auchampaugh, *passim*.

[24]Sears, L. M., *John Slidell*, 164.

Some of the delegations which had seceded at Charleston had experienced a change of heart and now desired to resume their seats in the national convention; but their constituents had appointed new delegations. Which group should be seated? Dean Richmond would really have preferred to admit the seceders and with their aid, and that of the Northwest, swing the nomination to Seymour. But the adherents of Douglas would not permit his floor manager to withdraw the "Little Giant's" name. So Richmond again applied the unit rule to his delegation and cast New York's vote against the seceders, which decided the matter. The import of this vote lay in the fact that it precipitated a new secession, in which the chairman, Caleb Cushing of Massachusetts, participated.[25] Yet had the seceding delegates been re-admitted, it is very doubtful if harmony could have been restored.

No longer was it worth while for New York to insist upon two-thirds of the original convention to nominate, so it acquiesced, even participated, in the nomination of Douglas by nine-tenths of the twice depleted convention, 181½ votes out of 194, which fell far short of being two-thirds of the original convention: it was not quite three-fifths. And furthermore, as Buchanan pointed out, if from these 181½ votes were subtracted the 29 from Southern states in which Douglas could hope for no electoral vote his total would have been a bare majority of the original convention, 152½.[26]

In the convention of Baltimore seceders, which nominated John C. Breckinridge, New York had two representatives, but their influence was negligible.

At Baltimore, as at Charleston, New York's votes had operated to divide the party. It was now hopelessly split, and neither wing—the Charleston-Richmond seceders having endorsed Breckinridge—had any chance of success, unless the Republicans should split likewise. Neither Democratic faction appears to have realized this. As suggested above, had New York voted to re-admit the Charleston seceders at Baltimore, it might have procured outward harmony, but as this would have rendered the nomination of Douglas impracticable, it is evident that his friends would have been cool towards the successful candidate. Had

[25]Fuess, 257 *et seq.*; Halstead, 176–205; Alexander, II, 259.

[26]Stanwood, 286; Buchanan, 81; Halstead, 159 *et seq.*

Douglas refused the Baltimore nomination and urged the "rump of a rump" to endorse Breckinridge, the schism might have been ended—but this is hardly even an IF of history. As at Charleston, so at Baltimore, Douglas had been willing to withdraw his name *before* nomination, to avoid a rift. Partly vanity, partly stubbornness, mainly devotion to the principle of popular sovereignty, account for his determination to make the race, once he had been nominated. As Willis sees it: "The result of the convention had merely strengthened his determination to maintain his own position; he believed that he might draw away from the Republican party the more conservative elements which had passed over to it from the Democrats." This view is supported by Douglas' own words when he was informed of Lincoln's nomination. Douglas said that Lincoln was "an upright, gifted and popular candidate [who] would carry Illinois against any other candidate than [Douglas] by 20,000."[27] Actually, Lincoln had a plurality of about 12,000 over Douglas in Illinois, and a majority of about 5000 over all his opponents. Douglas apparently never realized that the nomination of Breckinridge doomed both to defeat. He expected that the North would go Republican, and he believed that he was the only exponent of true Jeffersonian democracy and that his election alone could save the Union. Doubtless he thought this must be obvious to all patriotic voters. Not until too late did he realize that his chance "in the border states and the Democratic states of the North was destroyed by the new party,"that of Breckinridge.[28]

Buchanan rightly estimated the nomination of Breckinridge:

> The 23rd of June, 1860, [he said] was a dark and gloomy day both for the Democratic party and the Union. It foreboded nothing but evil. There could be no pretence that either candidate had been nominated according to the established rules of the party. Every individual Democrat was, therefore, left at liberty to choose between them. In many localities, especially in the North, their respective partisans became more violent against each other than against the common foe. No reasonable hope could remain for the election of Mr. Douglas or Mr. Breckinridge.

After putting the responsibility for this situation squarely upon New York's shoulders, Buchanan drew this conclusion:

[27]Willis, 314; New York *Tribune*, May 19, 1860. [28]Brown, 135.

It was not until after the breaking up of the Democratic part at Charleston and Baltimore, that the masses, even in the cotton states, always excepting South Carolina, could be induced to think seriously of seceding from the Union.[29]

This would attribute an even greater importance to New York's action than the present writer is ready to concede. It is not feasible to prove or disprove Buchanan's hypothesis as to the sentiment in the cotton states, but the assertion seems rather too sweeping.

Twenty-one states were represented in the "National Constitutional Union Convention" which assembled at Baltimore, May 9, 1860. Ex-Governor Washington Hunt of New York was chairman of that body, which nominated Bell and Everett. Hunt, once a Whig, then a Know-Nothing, "had become a thorn in the sides of his old friends, now the leading Republican managers."[30] In the ensuing campaign he engineered a coalition with the Douglas men of New York, by which a joint electoral ticket, consisting of ten Bell and twenty-five Douglas electors, was nominated. Hunt maintained that if this ticket were elected his ten would be free to vote for Bell, while the Douglas men insisted that the unit rule prevailed, and all thirty-five must vote for Douglas.[31] Naturally that impaired Democratic efficiency in the State that fall and helped towards the success of the Republicans. Seemingly, at home and abroad the New York Democracy in 1860 lost no opportunity of doing the wrong thing at the right time.

Nor did their Republican fellow-citizens display much greater acumen. As the time for the Republican convention approached, the mass of New York Republicans, marshalled by Thurlow Weed, were confident that their "favorite son," William H. Seward, would be nominated on the first ballot. Seward had made a notable record as governor and senator, and was very popular in the Northwest with all classes. At home the range of his adherents extended from idealists like George William Curtis to such as the prize-fighter ward-boss, Tom Hyer.[32] Yet there were serious obstacles in Seward's path. Weed was guilty of the irredeemable error of underestimating these. Astute politician that he was, he had failed utterly to appreciate the intensity and im-

[29]Buchanan, 83, 85. [30]Alexander, II, 326.
[31]New York *Tribune*, July 14, 24, 1860. [32]Bancroft, I, 538.

portance of Greeley's desire for political office. So he and Seward, so far from forwarding, had obstructed Greeley's efforts to be governor or senator. This coldness had alienated the influence of the powerful *Tribune*, at a time when that influence was badly needed. Again, Weed did not seem to realize that Seward's dictum of the "irrepressible conflict" and a "higher law than the Constitution" was that very dangerous weapon, a two-edged sword. While these utterances had alarmed many conservative Northerners, they had failed to convince radicals like Wendell Phillips and William Lloyd Garrison of the sincerity of Seward's anti-slavery pronouncements. So both of these elements in the party were prepared to oppose his nomination. Even within the ranks of New York Republicans were found men of influence who distrusted Seward. William Cullen Bryant, editor of the New York *Evening Post*, a Free-Soil Democrat turned Republican, was suspicious of Seward, partly on the slavery question, partly because of Seward's intimacy with Weed, whom Bryant abhorred as a malign "boss." Originally favoring Salmon P. Chase of Ohio, Bryant was completely won to Lincoln by the latter's Cooper Union speech, February 27, 1860.[33] Amongst the New York Republicans opposed to Seward's nomination loomed the brilliant jurist, David Dudley Field. Like Bryant, Field detested and distrusted a political boss. He too, like Bryant, was a former Free-Soil Democrat who had been captivated by Lincoln's Cooper Union speech. Again, he feared Seward's centralizing tendencies and believed that if elected President Seward would interfere unwarrantably with intrastate affairs.[34] Another lion in Seward's path was James S. Wadsworth of Geneseo. Of Whig antecedents, he had become a Van Buren Democrat. Displaying anti-slavery leanings in the "Forties" he had repudiated Buchanan for Fremont in 1856 and soon became an out-and-out Republican. As an ex-Barnburner Democrat he naturally detested both Seward and Weed.[35]

While such leading Republicans as Governor John A. Andrew of Massachusetts and Carl Schurz, then of Wisconsin, enthusiastically supported Seward, the conservative Republicans in such

[33]Godwin, P., *Life of W. C. Bryant*, II, 123; Alexander, II, 262–263; *Seward at Washington*, 441.

[34]Field, H. M., *Life of David Dudley Field*, 122, 133–134.

[35]Parsons, H. G., *James S. Wadsworth of Geneseo*, 35–48; Stanton, H. B., *Random Recollections*, 78–79.

pivotal states as Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Illinois and Indiana considered him too radical. Former Know-Nothings in the party had neither forgotten nor forgiven Seward's vigorous opposition to their "order."[36] Thoroughly honest himself, Seward had many friends, personal and political, who had been associated with rather unsavoury deals in the granting of charters, the financing of railroads and the like. It was common knowledge that many of these dubious associates were large contributors to Seward's campaign fund. This alienated many of the more idealistic members of the party, within and without New York. Weed had failed utterly to evaluate these factors at their true worth. So his grandson is decidedly in error in asserting that "with a unanimity of purpose never paralleled before or since, the Republicans of New York State presented as their candidate for President the name of William H. Seward."[37] Yet despite all these untoward influences, before the convention met "there seemed [to his friends] but little question that Seward would be nominated."[38]

New York was well to the forefront at Chicago. Several days before the convention Weed had astonished Chicago and its Republican visitors with mammoth processions, mass-meetings, orators and bands, to stimulate and manufacture enthusiasm for Seward. Both Seward's friends and his enemies affirmed confidence in the success of their respective candidates. The day before the convention, one journalist believed that if the doubtful states adopted the unit rule Seward would be defeated. Greeley believed the chances were even. But Weed carried his street demonstrations too far and antagonized as many as he stampeded into the Seward camp. This early example of "machine methods" irritated and alienated many, both Easterners and Westerners.[39]

Seward's local popularity was attested by the throng of neighbors who gathered about his home in Auburn the day the convention was to ballot for nominees. As one writer expressed it:

Cayuga county poured itself into Auburn. The streets were full and Mr. Seward's house and grounds overflowed with his

[36]McMaster, VIII, 452.

[37]Barnes, T. W., *Memoir of Thurlow Weed*, 261.

[38]Curtis, I, 353; Channing, VI, 235; Nicolay, J. G., and Hay, J., *Abraham Lincoln*, II, 270.

[39]New York *Tribune*, May 14–17, 1860; Nicolay and Hay, II, 262; Rhodes, II, 462.

admirers. The trees waved their branches on the lawn as if betokening victory. Flags were ready to be raised and a loaded cannon was placed at the gates, whose pillars bore up two guardian lions. Arrangements had been perfected for the receipt of intelligence with unwonted speed from the scene where the battle was proceeding.[40]

Governor Morgan, chairman of the national committee called the convention to order on May 16, Seward's birthday. He introduced David [Proviso] Wilmot as temporary chairman. The New York delegation included such notables as Senator King, Evarts, Curtis, Theodore M. Pomeroy and W. C. Noyes. It did *not* include Horace Greeley, which was a tactical error on the part of Weed and Seward. For Greeley was there as a delegate from Oregon, with his knife whetted for Seward. David Dudley Field was there as an observer, but not an idle one. Bryant and Wadsworth, in New York, kept in close touch with Seward's opponents at Chicago and supplied them with arguments and encouragement. They sent "pungent letters which circulated amongst the delegates from various states. [Their] main point of attack was that Seward could not carry New York."[41] While Bryant and Wadsworth were probably mistaken, the mere fact that prominent New York Republicans so expressed themselves had a cooling effect on lukewarm Sewardites from other states.

Curtis, by sheer eloquence, secured the inclusion in the platform of a declaration that "all men are created free and equal," after almost the identical proposition, sponsored by Joshua R. Giddings, had been voted down. Evarts was Seward's floor manager and presented his name amidst vociferous applause, much of it arranged for by Weed, who had paraded about 4,000 Seward adherents from New York and Michigan into the galleries. On the first ballot Seward led with 173½ votes, Lincoln had 102 while 189½ were scattered amongst eleven candidates. Seward's friends were sanguine of his nomination on the next ballot. Greeley and Field, however, had been working all night and had not yet relaxed their efforts. Greeley's first choice was Edward Bates of Missouri, but he preferred Lincoln—or anyone else—to Seward. Field, like Bryant and Wadsworth was an enthusiastic Lincolnite. While on the second ballot Seward had a plurality, 184½ votes, he

[40]Stanton, 108. [41]Parsons, 48.

had gained but eleven votes, whereas Lincoln had advanced from 102 to 181. Yet Seward, receiving this news by telegram at Auburn, said: "I shall be nominated on the next ballot." The crowd in the house applauded and the mob on the lawn took up the cheers. The third ballot gave Seward only 180 votes. Lincoln had 231½, only 1½ less than a majority. "In dead silence the convention waited to see what state would change its vote . . . A member from Ohio mounted his chair and said: 'I rise, Mr. Chairman, to announce the change of four votes of Ohio from Mr. Chase to Mr. Lincoln.' "[42] Other states hastened to follow this example until Lincoln had 354 votes. Thurlow Weed burst into tears, but Evarts gamely rose to his feet and "in a voice of unconcealed emotion, but with admirable dignity and touching eloquence, speaking for Seward and New York, moved to make the nomination unanimous."[43] Andrew of Massachusetts, Schurz of Wisconsin and Austin Blair of Michigan seconded the motion. The words of Blair deserve quotation:

> Michigan, from first to last, has cast her vote for the great statesman of New York. She has nothing to take back. She has not sent me forward to worship the rising sun, but she has put me forward to say, that at your behests here today, she lays down her first, best-loved candidate, to take up yours, with some beating of the heart, with some quivering in the veins, but she does not fear that the fame of Seward will suffer, for she knows that his fame is a portion of the history of the American Union; it will be written and read and beloved long after the temporary excitement of this day has passed away, and when presidents themselves are forgotten in the oblivion which comes over all temporal things. We stand by him still. We have followed him with an eye single and with unwavering faith in times past. We marshal behind him in the grand column which shall go out to battle for Lincoln.[44]

Seward had arranged for riders to bring him dispatches from the telegraph office as fast as they arrived. Beside him on the porch

[42]McMaster, VIII, 454; Rhodes, II, 470; Channing, VI, 236; New York *Tribune*, May 17–18, 1860; Greeley, Horace, *American Conflict*, I, 321; Stanton 109. [43]Nicolay and Hay, II, 277; New York *Tribune*, May 18, 1860.

[44]Halstead, 150. On the convention, *cf.* Halstead, 120–153; Nicolay and Hay, II, 264–278; Stanwood, 290–295; Parton, Jas., *Life of Horace Greeley*, ch. xxx; Greeley, I, 319 *et seq.;* Rhodes, II, 460–471; *Seward at Washington*, 449–452; Field, 125–140; Barnes, 261–267; Alexander, II, ch. xxi; Curtis, 352–361.

"stood his trusty henchman, Christopher Morgan," says Stanton. As the rider galloped up to the porch, Seward took the messages, read them, passed them to Morgan, who shouted them to the crowd. At Weed's laconic telegram: "Lincold nominated," Seward "turned as pale as ashes. The tidings crept through the vast concourse. The flags were furled, the cannon was rolled away, and Cayuga county went home with a clouded brow. Mr. Seward retired to rest at a late hour, and the night breeze in the tall trees sighed a requiem over New York's eminent son."[45]

Lincoln's secretaries say: "The credit of the nomination is claimed by many men and several delegations, but every such claim is wholly fictitious. Lincoln was chosen, not by personal intrigue, but through political necessity."[46] Frederic Bancroft appears to be nearer the truth when he avers that "Lincoln's nomination was the triumph of availability and local enthusiasm, assisted by unexpected circumstances, over great merit and still greater popularity."[47] Is it not evident that Greeley, Field and other New Yorkers were amongst those "unexpected circumstances"? Murat Halstead, who was present as a reporter, concurs in Bancroft's opinion. At this distance of time and space it seems very probable that had Weed and Seward acted with just a little more discretion and tact, at home and in Chicago—had the New York Republicans been united—Seward would have been nominated.

So much for the conventions. Very little space is needed to recount New York's part, important though it was, in the election. Richmond's cavalier treatment of the Hards at Charleston and Baltimore had offended Dickinson as much as Weed's indifference had angered Greeley. So Dickinson and his friends went over to the Breckinridge camp. They sponsored a Breckinridge convention at Syracuse, in August, in which every county but one was represented. As most of the delegates had opposed the Free-Soilers, it had somewhat the aspect of a pro-slavery meeting; really, it was an anti-Douglas one. John A. Dix and the eloquent Charles O'Conor were amongst the leading members. The convention nominated a state ticket, led by James T. Brady, a brilliant lawyer, said to be the most popular man in New York city. The

[45]Stanton, 109.
[46]Nicolay and Hay, *Lincoln*, II, 263.
[47]Bancroft, I, 539.

Softs, led by Seymour and Richmond, met a week later, and joined with the Bell-Everett men, led by Hunt, to nominate a joint ticket, which, as we have seen, led to much bickering. Hunt did not hope to elect Bell or Douglas; his aim was to defeat Lincoln by throwing the election into Congress, in which case he thought Bell would be chosen. Fernando Wood startled everyone by coming forward as an advocate of harmony and seeking to unite all the anti-Lincoln elements in the state. He soon reached an agreement with Richmond and Hunt, but the Dickinson-Breckinridge men just then hated the "Albany Regency" more than they did the Republicans, so Wood's efforts were as futile here as at Charleston.

Rejoicing over the dissension in the Democratic ranks, Weed, Greeley, Morgan and the rest followed Seward's loyal example and worked hard for the Republican ticket. The Republican state convention approved the Chicago platform and nominated Morgan for re-election by acclamation. Bryant and J. O. Putman were chosen electors-at-large, the former as a previous "oracle of the radical Democracy," and the latter as a "Whig of the school of Clay and Webster."

"Without the thirty-five electoral votes of the Empire State," says a distinguished historian, "Lincoln could not be chosen President."[48] So the campaign in this state was strenuous and bitter. Mass-meetings, processions, rallies, speech-making, exceeded anything ever seen here before. Greeley thought that at least ten thousand speeches were delivered in New York city alone. Seward spoke more outside the State than within it, but Bryant, Curtis and Henry Ward Beecher were amongst the Republican orators here, while Seymour, Van Buren, O'Conor, Dickinson, Hunt and Brady led the various anti-Lincoln cohorts. Much money was expended. It was alleged that one of the Astors contributed a million to the Lincoln fund. Tammany and Mozart Halls ran true to form. The historian of Tammany asserts that "the frauds practised against the Lincoln electors [on registration and election] days surpassed anything the city had known." Amongst those registered as Tammany voters were the six and seven year old sons of a widow.[49] But all this chicanery was in vain. When the votes were counted, New York state had given

[48]Rhodes, II, 497. [49]Myers, *passim*.

Lincoln 362,646, which was a majority of about 50,000 over all three opponents. Douglas received about 200,000, Breckinridge and Bell about 50,000 apiece. New York city gave the anti-Lincoln tickets a majority of over 30,000 but this could not prevail over the "landslides" in the rest of the State.[50]

Lincoln's electoral vote was 180 to 123 for his three opponents. Had New York's thirty-five votes—or even thirty of them—gone to any of the other three, or been divided amongst them, there would have been no election. The choice would then have devolved upon the House of Representatives of the outgoing (36th) Congress. The Southern states would not have seceded yet, but would have continued to fight against Lincoln in the House. Though there was a small Republican plurality here this would not have helped much, as the voting would have been by states. The Democrats were divided into "administration" and "anti-Lecompton" wings, which hated each other so bitterly that probably neither Douglas nor Breckinridge could have been chosen. There were also a score or so of Americans, or Know-Nothings, in the House, mostly from the South.[51] Hence there was a distinct possibility that had New York not given Lincoln her votes, once the choice got into the House, Washington Hunt's far-fetched hopes might have been realized, and Bell elected. So again New York's action was decisive. Her thirty-five electoral votes assured the undisputed election of Lincoln. All three of his opponents conceded it. Truly, New York made history in 1860. *If* New York had done other than she did at Charleston; *if* New York Republicans had not worked for Lincoln at Chicago—Guthrie and Seward might have been the candidates, with the odds in favor of Guthrie. *If* New York had not cast her electoral vote for Lincoln, Bell might have become President. Who can say what our subsequent history would have been?

* * * * *

As a footnote to this "IF of History" it may be observed that

[50]Smith, R. B. (ed.),*History of New York State, Political and Governmental*, II, 446; Rhodes, II, 497; Stanwood, 297; *Albany Evening Journal Almanac*, 1861, 71; Alexander, II, 337; Fite, 233; Greeley, I, 328.

[51]Schouler, Jas., *History of the United States*, V, 440; Paullin, C. O., *Atlas of the Historical Geography of the United States*, 99 and plate 105C; Rhodes, II, 418.

rec'd 3/10/00 Goshen, NY newspaper

Dr. F. W. Seward Dies At 85, Was Interpines Chief

Dr. Frederick Wittelsey Seward, a grandnephew of William H. Seward, and an American pioneer in the field of modern psychiatric treatment, died March 4 in Horton Hospital, Middletown following a short illness.

He was 85.

Most of his years were spent at the Interpines Sanitarium, a private hospital for the mentally ill which was located on Main Street, until its purchase three years ago by the County.

Dr. Seward joined his father, also a physician, there in 1898 following his graduation from the New York Homeopathic Medical College in New York City. By the time he inherited the Sanitarium in 1925, he had gained considerable recognition in his profession for what was then a new approach to mental illness. The sanitarium was run to provide each patient with the maximum freedom in a home-like atmosphere.

He was born November 6, 1874 to Dr. Frederick W. and Matie Corey Seward in Middletown.

He married the former Leona Truax of Oneida, N. Y. December 3, 1902.

They have two children, a son Dr. Frederick T. Seward, 25 Wisner Terrace, Goshen and daughter Mrs. Alice Brodie, 43 Orange Avenue, Goshen, and two grandchildren, John T. Seward of Boulder, Colo. and Dr. Frederick D. Seward of Livermore, Calif.

Dr. Seward served in World War I as a first Lieutenant in the U. S. Army Medical Corps, stationed at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D. C.

A member of the Republican Party, he was active in the campaign for Theodore Roosevelt in 1912. He was also interested in the prohibition movement, serving on the Board of Directors of the Anti-Saloon League of New York State which he later served as president in 1931.

He was a candidate for governor of New York State in 1926 on the Constitutional or Independent Republican Dry Ticket, a political manuever, representing followers of the League. He withdrew his candidacy before the election, the bargaining having been successful.

Dr. Seward also took an active part in community affairs and ran for mayor several times. He was a member of the local U. S. Selective Service Board since its inception in 1940.

He was a member of the Orange County and New York State Medical Societies; a past president of the New York State Homeopathic Medical Society; the American Medical Association; a past commander of the Goshen Post 377 American Legion; a Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and a Knight Templar Mason. (Dr. Seward was to have been honored by Goshen Masons Monday as a 50-year member).

Following a divorce in 1933 he married the former Mary E. Pike of Sandborn, N. Y. Since his retirement in 1938 they have lived at "La Colina" on New Hampton Road where they have maintained a kennel of Great Pyrenees and St. Bernard dogs.

Services were conducted by Rev. Eugene W. Ebert, pastor of Goshen First Presbyterian Church, at the Donovan Funeral Home at 11 a. m. Tuesday, March 8. Burial was in Pekin, N. Y.

NEWS

Newburgh N.Y.
SEP 17 1932

Timely Notes

Historical and Otherwise

of Newburgh

By J. W. F. Ruttenber

1855

In what we may call modern times, Orange County's foremost statesman was William H. Seward, who became Secretary of State in Lincoln's Cabinet and a national figure in other respects. He was born in the village of Florida, Town of Warwick, where his father was a man of prominence and wealth who entered public life after retiring from business.

Although not a member of the legal profession, the elder Seward was appointed first judge of Orange County, which office he held for 17 years. Another of his achievements was to found and endow the S. S. Seward Institute, in Florida. The name of this beautiful village, by the way, is said to be derived from the Latin word Floridus, signifying covered or red with flowers.

At the age of nine years William H. Seward was sent to Farmers' Hall Academy in Goshen, which then boasted of having had the celebrated Aaron Burr and Noah Webster among its teachers. When 15, young Seward became a student in Union College, from which he withdrew for about a year, passing six months of the time as a teacher in the South.

After graduating with honors from Union he became a student in John Anthon's law office in New York. Seward completed his legal preparation with John Duer and Ogden Hoffman in Goshen, and soon after located in Auburn, where he passed his life. The first office he held was state senator. His biograph is one of absorbing and dramatic interest, from first to last.

Orange County, as now constituted, contains within its borders Newburgh, New Windsor, West Point, Minisink, Fort Montgomery, Fort Putnam and other places famous in the annals of the Revolution. It has also been the birthplace or residence of George Clinton, James Clinton, De Witt Clinton, Cadwallader Colden, General Belknap, James Burt, Robert Armstrong, John Duer, Ogden Hoffman, Samuel R. Betts, Samuel J. Wilkin, Benjamin B. Odell Jr., the Morgan family, (Highland Falls), E. H. Harriman and others who were not so prominent in their day and generation.

11/1/51

AUBURN, N.Y.
Citizen-Advertiser

WILLIAm H. SEWARD, Lincoln's secretary of state and Auburn's most famous citizen, has just been honored by his alma mater, Union College, Schenectady, by the publication of a booklet on his life.

Sixth in a series entiteld "UnionWorthies" the booklet "William H. Seward" was written by three distinguished historians. Each contributed a chapter.

The Seward booklet and its five predecessors are outgrowths of Union College's recent sesquicentennial celebration. They deal with the lives and accomplishments of distinguished persons who have been closely connected with the institution during its first 150 years.

News Release

Union College
Founded 1795
Schenectady, New York

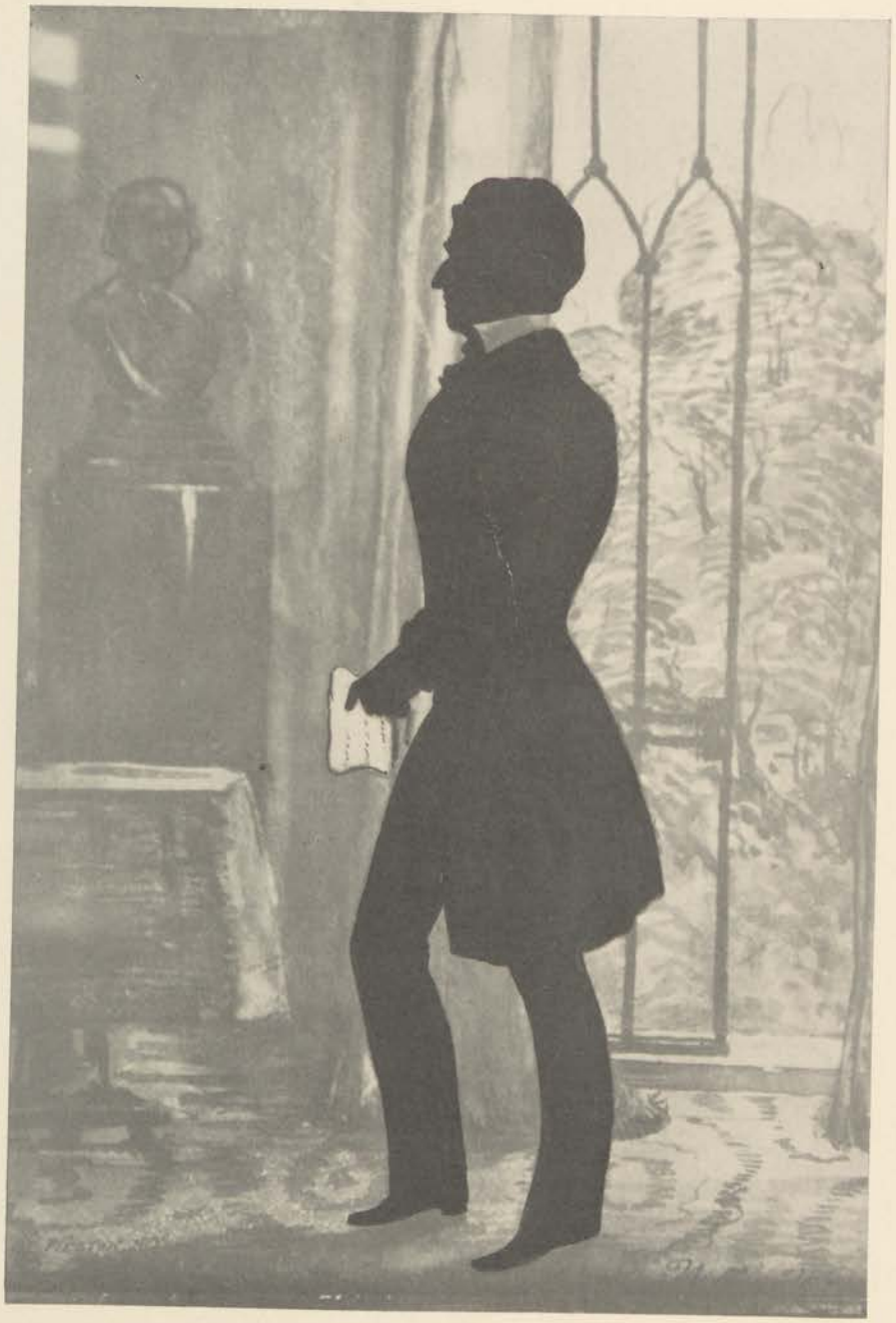
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL: NEWS BUREAU SCHENECTADY FRanklin 2-3384

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Union College Article Translated by U. S. Information Agency

Schenectady, N.Y., June 7: With the permission of Union College, an article which appeared in the 1951 edition of the "Union Worthy" series will be translated into forty-seven languages.

The article, "William H. Seward (Class of 1820) as Secretary of State", was written by Professor Dexter Perkins, formerly of the University of Rochester and now of Cornell University. It has been incorporated in a new volume entitled "Foreign Policy and the American Spirit", edited by Professors Richard C. Wade and Glyndon G. Van Deusen of the University of Rochester.



WILLIAM H. SEWARD

Class of 1820

A silhouette of William H. Seward, as Governor of New York, done by Weston in 1839. Presented to The College by Ludlow L. Melius '96 and Joseph R. Brown, Jr. '03.

11/1/51
Auburn, N. Y.
Citizen-
Advertiser

William H. Seward, Lincoln's secretary of state and Auburn's most famour citizen, has just been honored by his alma mater, Union College, Schenectady, by the publication of a booklet on his life.

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UNION COLLEGE AND ALASKA*

1. "SEWARD'S FOLLY."

By John D. Guthrie, '02

For many years after William H. Seward, Union, '20, completed the negotiations with Russia which resulted in the purchase of Alaska for the United States it was the custom to refer to Alaska as "Seward's Folly." It was regarded as a land of perpetual ice and snow, of glaciers, Eskimos, of dog teams and furs. Even to-day, thanks to our modern motion pictures, made in Southern California, when the average American thinks of Alaska he thinks snow and ice. It is even yet referred to as "the Nation's Ice Box." Because a Union man was responsible for Alaska being a part of America it was peculiarly a pleasure to me during the summer of 1920 to spend two months in Alaska and to learn first-hand something about that land of immense resources and wonderful promise. Seward bought better than he knew.

From 1741 when Bering and Chirikof first sighted the Alaskan coast down through the Russian occupation to 1867, when Seward and de Stoeckl signed the treaty, even to the present day, Alaska has not been appreciated for what it is worth. The early history of Alaska was a series of struggles between the Russian American Company (who were vested with full authority in Alaska after 1799) and the natives for the wealth of the Northland. The fame of the richness of the fur harvest in the new country attracted the attention of the traders of other nations, and Spain, England, France, and the United States all sent expeditions to attempt to secure for themselves a share of the riches. All these nations took some of the harvest, all withdrew except the United States, leaving little else than their names in the country, and to-day many topographic features bear Russian, English, French, and Spanish names.

* The first of a series of three articles.

Union Alumni Monthly, February, 1921

JULY 31, 1958 - Catskill News

Alaska Statehood Creates Interest In Seward's Homes

Albany, N. Y.—Two New York State communities—Florida and Auburn—closely associated with the life of William Henry Seward have come into new prominence now that Alaska is to become the forty-ninth state.

Seward, as Secretary of State, purchased Alaska for the United States from Russia in 1867. He had been Secretary under Presidents Lincoln and Johnson and had been a former Governor of New York State.

Seward was born in the village of Florida, Orange County, in the Hudson Valley region, May 16, 1801. He moved to Auburn, Cayuga County, in the Finger Lakes region, where he spent most of his life. He died there October 10, 1872.

His birthplace on Main Street in Florida is today an unimposing barn in the rear of a private home. An historic marker placed at the site by the New York State Education Department directs attention to its importance.

SEWARD—William H., of 333 South st., Auburn, N. Y., died Friday, Feb. 16, 1951. Private funeral services Monday, Feb. 19, at his home.

N.Y. Tribune 2/18/51

Clipped from American Weekly Times-Union

Class 1820

by

Joseph R. Brown, Jr. '03

Date: Aug. 10, 1958

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here.

He spoke of the White House and Mrs. Hoover's painstaking restoration of rooms and objects associated with Abraham Lincoln. He related the story of Carpenter's painting of Lincoln reading the Emancipation Proclamation to his Cabinet.

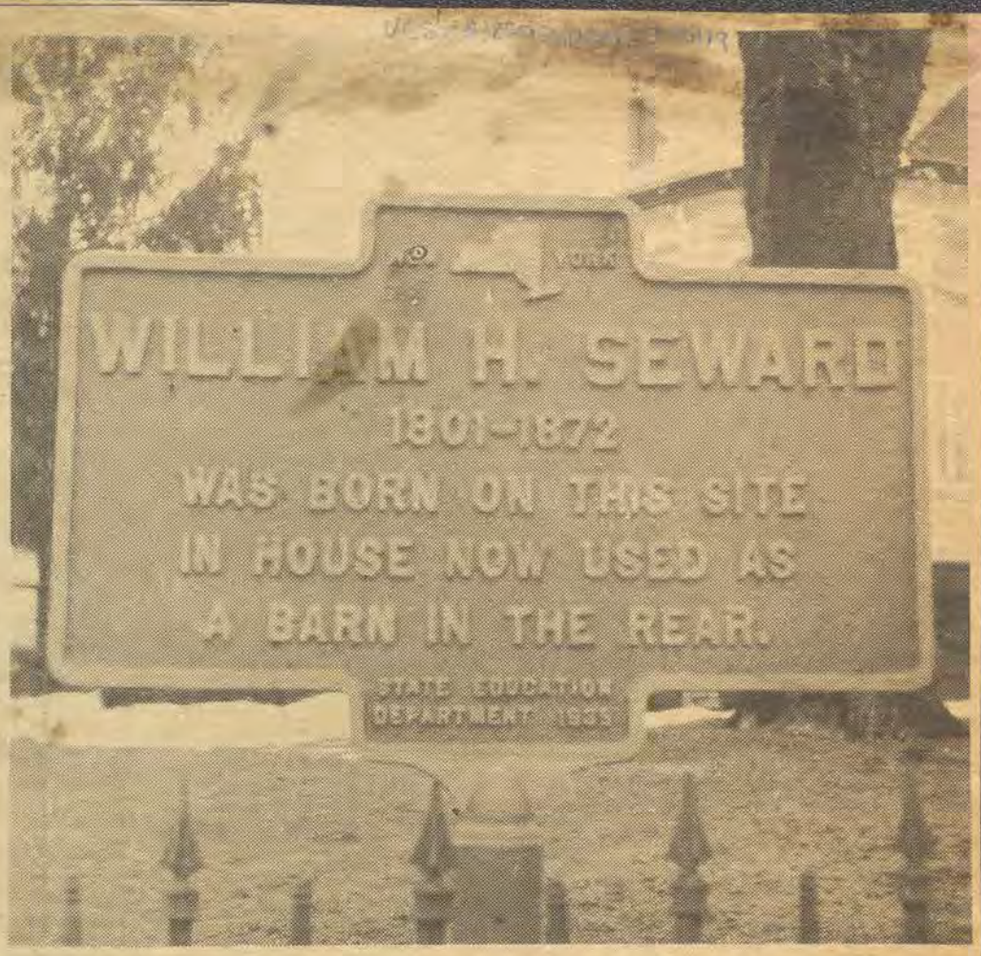
"Carpenter," the former President said, "feeling that the picture needed a touch of color, took the liberty of painting Secretary of State Seward's pants white. Mr. Seward, upon seeing this, objected violently and Carpenter had to repaint them. In the meanwhile engravings of the painting had been struck off. I have one of them." Mr. Hoover showed it to me, white pants and all. "I suppose you might call it poetic license."

From "Herbert Hoover Today" by Nanette Kutner

FEB 22 1951

UNION COLLEGE HONORS SEWARD

Dr. Philip C. Jessup, United States Ambassador-at-large, and Dr. Pexter Perkins, chairman of the history department at the University of Rochester, will receive honorary degrees at the Founder's Day ceremony to be held at Union college tomorrow. The program will start at 11 a. m. and will honor William H. Seward, class of 1820, who was Secretary of State during Lincoln's administration and the 11th Governor of New York.



William H. Seward, secretary of state who arranged the purchase of Alaska, about to become our 49th state, was born in the Florida house above that now serves as a barn. It stands a short distance off Florida's Main st. *Record Photos by Jack Williams.*

Mr. Seward Of Florida In The Limelight

By JACK WILLIAMS
Record Staff Writer

FLORIDA

William Henry Seward--"The Man From Florida"--is the toast of this youngest of all Orange County villages today.

From the small fry on up to Mayor Edward Turchen, the statue that stands on Florida's Main st., and the old barn that served as Seward's birthplace here in 1801, have taken on a new meaning.

The house, marked by a state education department historical marker, stands just a short distance from the village's business section on Main st.

NOT FAR AWAY is the bronze bust, mounted atop a marble pedestal in the center of a small enclosure on Main st., where marble benches are set in a park-like alcove.

Mayor Turchen told The Record that Floridians were justly "thrilled" with the news that "Seward's Folly," the rich territory of Alaska, is destined to become America's 49th state.

Floridians of all ages yesterday took another look at the bronze bust of Mr. Seward and paid him tribute as the village's most famous son."

MR. SEWARD spent his boyhood in Florida, and graduated from Union College in 1820. He established himself as a lawyer in Auburn in 1822.

Generally liked by everyone when he served as secretary of state under Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson, Mr. Seward arranged for the purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867 for $7.2 million in gold.

The purchase came during President Johnson's administration, and immediately drew the criticism in and out of congress.

* * *

THE NATIONAL by-word soon became "Seward's Folly," and remained so until gold was discovered in Alaska and proved Seward to be a shrewd bargainer.

The cries of "Seward's Folly," soon died and today, Alaskans still mark the purchase on March 30 and the holiday is known there as "Seward's Day."

Now Alaska will become the 49th state. The joy being felt in Alaska, is being shared in Florida, N.Y., almost 4,000 miles away.

Burrelle's
ESTABLISHED 1888
BArclay 7-5371
PRESS CLIPPING BUREAU
165 Church Street – New York

POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y.
NEW YORKER
D. 28,246 S. 29,226
JUL 5 1959

Orange Mayor a Guest As Auburn Honors Seward

AUBURN — (AP) — Auburn staged a big celebration yesterday for a famous son — William H. Seward who, as Secretary of State, purchased Alaska from the Russians for $7,200,000 in 1867.

Four Congressmen, scores of dignitaries and a crowd of 15,000 watched the new 49-star flag, representing the addition of Alaska to the union, hoisted in Seward park.

Present for the ceremonies was Edward Turchen, mayor of Florida, Orange county, as a guest of Mayor Herbert T. Anderson.

* * *

SEWARD WAS BORN in Florida. He was graduated from Union college at Schenectady in 1820 and resided in Auburn from 1823 until his death in 1872.

Bands played, firecrackers exploded and jet planes roared overhead as a sun-washed two-hour parade passed through this city of 40,000 on Owasco lake—one of the Finger lakes in central New York.

The new 49-star flag was one that flew over the nation's capitol early yesterday morning. It was flown to Syracuse by jet plane and brought to Auburn by helicopter.

* * *

THRONGS OF stamp collectors swarmed the Postoffice where the new 49-star, four-cent stamp went on sale. Most were after first-day cancellations, issued only here.

President Eisenhower's greetings were brought by Representative Charles Halleck (R-Ind.), House minority leader.

There were warm words for Alaska and Canada, and some tart remarks directed toward Russia.

* * *

HALLECK TOLD the throng that the United States can "outfight, outlast and outproduce the Russians."

Representative Leo O'Brien, Albany Democrat, who sponsored the Alaska statehood bill, said: "On past Fourth of Julys we have looked back on history. Today we are a living part of history."

Ralph J. Rivers, Alaska's first representative in the House, said Seward would "hold an honored and warm spot in the heart of all true Alaskans."

THE KNICKERBOCKER NEWS
Albany, N. Y., Friday, July 18, 1958

Seward Birthplace Now Used as Barn

Florida (AP) — The birthplace of the man who bought Alaska from Russia for the United States in 1867 now is just a barn.

William Henry Seward, former secretary of state, was born in this Orange County community in 1801. A marker designates the barn, at the rear of a house.

Burrelle's
ESTABLISHED 1888
BArclay 7-5371
PRESS CLIPPING BUREAU
165 Church Street – New York

NEW YORK, N.Y.
TIMES
D. 600,319 S. 1,221,337
JUL 5 1959

SEWARD HONORED AT AUBURN FETE

Upstate City Marks Addition of Alaska Star to Flag by a Parade and Speeches

AUBURN, N. Y., July 4 (AP) —Auburn staged a big celebration today for a famous son, William H. Seward, who, as Secretary of State, purchased Alaska from the Russians for $7,200,000 in 1867.

Four Congressmen, scores of dignitaries and a crowd of 15,000 watched as the new forty-nine-star flag, representing the addition of Alaska to the Union, hoisted in Seward Park.

Bands played, firecrackers exploded and jet planes roared overhead as a sun-washed two-hour parade passed through this city of 40,000 on Owasco Lake —one of the Finger Lakes in central New York.

The new forty-nine-star flag was one that flew over the Capitol in Washington early this morning. It was flown to Syracuse by jet plane and brought to Auburn by helicopter.

Stamp Goes on Sale

Throngs of stamp collectors swarmed the post office, where the new forty-nine-star, 4-cent stamp went on sale. Most were after first-day cancellations, issued only here.

President Eisenhower's greetings were delivered by Representative Charles A. Halleck of Indiana, the House Republican leader.

Mr. Halleck told the throng that the United States can "outfight, outlast and outproduce the Russians." Referring to Frol Kozlov, Soviet First Deputy Premier now touring the United States, Mr. Halleck declared:

"The guy over here might as well figure that out."

Representative Leo O'Brien, Albany Democrat who sponsored the Alaskan statehood bill, said:

"On past Fourth of Julys we have looked back on history. Today we are a living part of history."

Alaskan Present

Ralph J. Rivers, Alaska's first Representative in the House, said Seward would "hold an honored and warm spot in the heart of all true Alaskans."

Representative John Taber, Auburn Republican, also spoke briefly.

C. J. Woodsworth, Canadian consul and information officer in New York City, said the forty-nine states should not consider themselves separated because Canada lies between Alaska and the other forty-eight. "The friendship of our two nations obliterates the boundaries," he said.

Also present for the ceremonies was Edward Turchen, Mayor of Florida, N. Y., as a guest of Auburn's Mayor Herbert T. Anderson.

Seward was born in Florida, in Orange County. He was graduated from Union College at Schenectady in 1820 and resided in Auburn from 1823 until his death in 1872.

ALBANY, N.Y.
TIMES-UNION
D. 67,629 S. 118,093
SEP 10 1960

LETTERS

Seward and a Modern Counterpart

To the Editor: I don't know whether to be flattered or discomfited by the many letters that have come to me since my recent epistle to The Times-Union concerning the consistent arrogance of Russian leadership over the past century.

One correspondent asks me how come I think I know so much about Alaska and Secretary of State William Henry Seward. Well, the fact of the matter is that Seward's roots were right in this Mohawk-Hudson Valley. Born in the Village of Florida and graduated from Union College in 1820, he practiced law in Auburn before entering politics and lived right here in Albany from 1851 to 1861 when part owner and publisher of The Albany Evening Journal.

Which brings me to the issuance of a new assignment for my young readers who profess an interest in history . . . a trip to the New York State Library and perusal of the several excellent books on the life and works of William H. Seward.

They will be startled, I am sure, by the similarity between Seward, a former Governor of this state, and Nelson Rockefelfel, our present chief executive. A hesitant vacilator, Seward never could make up his mind in a crisis. He should have been the Republican nominee for the presidency in 1856 and 1860. He really was the 'father" of the new Republican party, you know, after having been a Whig and an anti-Mason. Like Rockefeller he waited for a draft that never came!

In the election of 1952, Seward supported General Winfield Scott, but campaigning against the very platform upon which Scott stood. Doesn't that suggest the Rockefeller approach to Nixon and the GOP Old Guard compromises by Nelson? Scott, had he been of the compromising personality of Nixon, could have had the platform planks watered down with meaningless, glib phraseology concerning moral and civil right issues of the day, in which event history would have recorded that Seward "dictated" the party platform of the Whigs. He did nothing of the kind, but neither did Rockefeller do any dictating at Chicago.

So much for Seward. Another correspondent asks why I did not point out that the man who discovered what is now Alaska was a Dane, not a Russian. So he was Danish, having been born at Horsens, Jutland, in 1681. But he ENLISTED in the RUSSIAN navy and served in the war against Sweden . . . and Czarist Russia was the deadly enemy of Norwegians, Swedes and DANES. Vitus Jonassen Bering was an unscrupulous adventurer and few tears are shed over the disgraceful treatment accorded him by jealous Russians in the service of Catherine the Great.

Well, students, there's your September assignment. Let's hear from you.

JAMES T. HEALEY

Albany.

Junior Golfer's Thanks

To the Editor: I wish to thank the Times-Union for the wonderful trip to Los Angeles to compete in the Hearst National Junior Golf Championship at the Riviera Country Club.

It was the most fabulous thing that I have ever experienced and I don't think that I'll ever forget it. We were treated like royalty from the time we boarded the plane at Albany until we got back home. Everything possible was done for our enjoyment and comfort, and we met some wonderful and famous people.

I wished that I could have won the tournament so that I could have brought honor to The Times-Union, but I just couldn't make it. However, I did try my very best. Thank you again for making possible an unforgettable experience.

PETER FAMIANO

Schenectady.

College Across River?

To the Editor: The Times-Union reports that State University officials have been looking for a 150-acre site for relocation of the College of Education.

Why hasn't the idea of locating on the east side of the Hudson been considered: There are large areas available, plus the fact that there are two new schools locating south of Troy. Why is Rensselaer forgotten?

A RENSSELAER TAXPAYER

Watch Presented to Benito Juarez By W. H. Seward Owned by Refugee General, to Be Placed in Museum

June 1933.

A watch which is reminiscent of Lincoln's time and likewise recalls the pronounced attitude assumed by the United States of America as the result of the French invasion of Mexico, is zealously kept by Mrs. Blanca Sordo de Villarreal, 217 Howard Street, wife of Gen. Antonio I. Villarreal, at one time candidate to the Mexica presidency and a refugee here.

The heirloom which is toda clicking off time correctly wa presented to President Benit Juarez of Mexico by William F Seward, then Secretary of Stat under President Lincoln and John son, as a token of friendship.

The watch, gold throughout, al though of German invention, wa made in Liverpool, England, it be ing considered an innovation a that time. It has four faces, a forming one solid piece and it wound by means of key which shown in picture.

It bears the following inscrip tion: "W. Nov. 1866. Compliment to President Juarez, W. H. Sewar

William Henry Seward, the Secretary of State under Presiden Lincoln, firmly asserted the Monroe Doctrine in relation to the French invasion of Mexico. Before the close of the Civil War he intimated to the French government the irritation felt in the United States in regard to its armed intervention in Mexico. Many dispatches on this subject were sent during 1865 and 1866 until the French forces started to withdraw from Mexico during the month of November 1866.

It was at this time that relations between Seward and Juarez were cemented and Seward as a token of friendship presented Juarez with this masterpiece, now in San Antonio.

President Juarez kept the watch until his death when it was bequeathed to his sons and later to a niece, Carmen Sanchez Juarez de Algara. This niece in recognition of General Villarreal's admiration toward Juarez and her own friendly relations with Mrs. Villarreal, presented General Villarreal with the relic, which Villarreal said, will be donated to the national museum of Mexico in the near future.

RELIC—A watch, the gift State under President Linc of Mexico, is held by Mrs. Blanca Sordo de Villarreal, while her husband, General Antonio I. Villarreal, awaits the proper time to donate it to the national museum of Mexico.

ATLANTA, GA.
GEORGIAN
DEC 18 1924

'Abraham Lincoln,' Seward And Georgia

By Wightman F. Melton

SEEING the picture, "Abraham Lincoln," at the Metropolitan Theater, in Atlanta, this week, reminds us that William H. Seward, one of the principal characters in the picture, and Secretary of State in President Lincoln's Cabinet, was once a country schoolteacher in Putnam County, Georgia.

In "The Story of Culloden: A Famous Village in Middle Georgia," by the late United States Senator Thomas M. Norwood, mention is made of the fact that Lyman Trumbull, of Connecticut, was teaching in Troup County at the same time William H. Seward, of New York, was teaching in Putnam County.

The fact that Seward, as a young man, taught in Georgia, is interesting. How he happened to be here is more interesting.

—

TO GET the whole story, it is necessary to go back a little: William Turner, the father of Joseph Addison Turner and William Turner, of Turnwold, Putnam County, Georgia, came from Virginia to Putnam County not very long after the county was organized. He settled on a large plantation, some nine miles from Eatonton, and not very far from the Oconee River. Here he built the home known as "Turnwold." It was here that the Turner brothers, Joseph Addison and William, edited and published "The Countryman," the paper on which the little boy, Joel Chandler Harris, learned to set type.

William Turner, Sr., at that time was secretary of the board of trustees of a community schol known as Union Academy. This school was within a mile of "Turnwold." The principal of the school having resigned, the board of trustees directed Secretary Turner to insert an advertisement in a Savannah paper for an applicant to fill the vacant principalship.

Just at that time, William H. Seward, then a student in Union College, New York, had some sort of a difference with his father, and in a fit of anger left college and came South to seek his fortune, landing in Savannah. Seeing Secretary Turner's advertisement, he applied at once for the principalship of Union Academy. He was elected and served to the end of the year—several months. The differences with his father having been adjusted, the young man returned to Union College and finished his course.

EITHER Seward was a very brilliant young man or Union Academy was sorely in need of a principal. He was born 1801 and was graduated from Union College in 1820. He must have been, therefore, about 18 or 19 years old when he was teaching the "young (Georgia) idea how to shoot."

After young Seward returned to New York, he and William Turner, Sr., engaged in a long and voluminous correspondence on the subject of slavery, Seward arguing against it and Turner defending it. The letters written by Seward are still in the possession of members of the Turner family, in Eatonton, Ga.

It was while Seward was Governor of New York that he came to be recognized as the leader of the anti-slave Whigs; but he believed, even after he became a member of President Lincoln's Cabinet, that the Union could be saved without war. He advocated a policy of delay, which he thought would prevent the secession of the border states, and that these border states would influence the more Southern States to return to the Union. He assured commissioners from the seceded states, at an informal conference, that Fort Sumter should be speedily evacuated.

The war party in the Cabinet having overruled Secretary Seward, he then thought to avert a fratricidal war by suggesting that all America—Canada, the United States, Mexico and Central America—engage in a war against most of Europe, especially Spain, France, England and Russia. His idea was that dangers from abroad would unite the forces at home and save the Union. President Lincoln quietly put the proposal aside.

—

WHO knows but that young Seward's brief residence in Putnam County, Georgia, and the friendships he formed in the South, had much to do with his sincere desire to avert war? Is it wicked to wish that he and his father had not become reconciled so early?

Oh, well, if he had remained in Georgia and become a member of President Davis' Cabinet, some one as powerless as he to avert war would have been found to fill the position that has placed his name on the pages of the world's history.

But it is interesting that nearly every time something big happens in the United States somebody from Georgia—or who used to live in Georgia—is either on the right side or the wrong side.

By D. C. PORTEOUS, Secretary

MACON, GA., TELEGRAPH
MARCH 17, 1936

To the Editor of The Telegraph:

Mr. John Hammond is writing some very interesting articles around about in the small towns in this section. Of course he has to write a few little fairy tales, but he is not to blame. He writes what is told him, and those that tell him believe they are telling the truth.

One of these is to the effect that William H. Seward was once a resident of Eatonton. Probably in a few years they will be pointing out the old house in which he lived and then probably they will place a marker on the spot.

Every one that it familiar with the life of Seward know that he resigned his school at Union Academy, now Phoenix, after teaching a little over eight months and went back to Union College in New York state. Probably he went to Eatonton a few times in the carriage with the family of Major Crafton or Major Frederick Ward.

PITTSBURGH
PENNSYLVANIA
CHRONICLE TELEGRAPH
MAY 15 1924

WAS LINCOLN'S PREMIER

Tomorrow Will Be the Anniversary of the Birth of William H. Seward.

WILLIAM HENRY SEWARD, United States Senator and cabinet member, was born on May 16, 1801, in Florida, N. Y. He was graduated from Union College in 1820, studied law and became prominent in that profession. Joining the Whigs, he was the leader of that party in the New York Senate from 1830 to 1834 and in 1838 was elected governor of the state, being re-elected in 1840, and refusing a nomination for a third term.

Mr. Seward entered the United States Senate in 1849, and served with distinction in that body until 1861, when he was called to the cabinet of President Lincoln as Secretary of State, holding that position from March, 1861, to March, 1869. His moderation in the Trent seizure affair during the Civil War probably saved us from war with Great Britain in that crucial time. His claim for damages from the British government for depredations committed by the Confederate privateer Alabama, fitted out at English ports, was sustained and paid. Perhaps his most important service to the nation was his purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867. Early in 1865 Mr. Seward was accidentally thrown from his carriage in Washington, breaking his jaw and one arm. While confined to bed on the night of President Lincoln's assassination, April 14, 1865, one of the conspirators gained entrance to his bedroom and severely cut him about the face and neck.

After retiring from public life Mr. Seward made a tour through California and Oregon and northward to Alaska, and in August, 1870, started upon a journey around the world, returning in October of the following year. He died in Auburn, N. Y., on October 10, 1872.

Government [illegible] To-morrow, [illegible] like, I will come to the Department and [illegible] can enter upon a treaty. The Emperor [illegible] gives his consent to the cession."

Seward with a smile of satisfaction pushed away the whist table, saying: "Why wait till to-morrow, Mr. Stoeckle? Let us make the treaty to-night."

"But your Department is closed. You have no clerks and my secretaries are scattered about the town."

"Never mind that," responded Seward, "If you can muster your Legation together before midnight you will find me waiting for you at the Department, which will be open and ready for business."

In less than two hours afterward light was streaming out of the windows of the Department of State and apparently business was going on as at midday. By 4 o'clock on Saturday morning the treaty was engrossed, signed, sealed and ready for transmission by the President to the Senate. There was need of this haste in order to have it acted upon before the end of the session then near at hand.

Perhaps it is proper that I should say here that this resume of the indidents attending the treaty of purchase is in accordance with the recollection of my brother, Frederick W. Seward, who was at the time Assistant Secretary of State. To him had been assigned the duty that night of finding Mr. Sumner, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, to inform him of the negotiations in progress and to urge his advocacy of the treaty.

On the following morning while the Senate was considering its favorite theme of administrative delinquencies the sergeant at arms announced: "A message from the President of the United States." Glances were significantly exchanged with the muttered remark "Another veto." Great was the surprise in the chamber when the secretary read: "A treaty for the cession of Russian America." Nor was the surprise lessened when the chairman of Foreign Relations, a leading opponent of the President, rose to move favorable action. His remarks showed easy familiarity with the subject and that he was prepared to give reasons for the speedy approval of the treaty. The debate which followed in the Senate was animated and earnest, but in the end the treaty was confirmed without serious opposition. But the purchase was not consummated without a storm of raillery in conversation and ridicule in the press. Russian America was declared to be "a barren, worthless, godforsaken country, whose only products were icebergs and polar bears."

It was said that the ground was "frozen six feet deep" and "the streams were glaciers." "Walrussis" was suggested as a name for it if it deserved to have any. Vegetation was said to be "limited to mosses" and "no useful animals could live there." There might be some few "wretched fish" only fit for "wretched Eskimos" to eat, but nothing could be raised or dug there. Seven millions of good money were going to be wasted in buying it. Many millions more would have to be spent in holding it and defending it, for it was "remote, inhospitable and inaccessible." It was "Seward's Folly." It was "Johnson's Polar Bear Garden." It was an "egregious blunder," a "bad bargain palmed off on a silly Administration" by the shrewd Russians, &c.,

Many of those jeers and slings were from those who disliked the President and blamed Seward for remaining in his Cabinet. Perhaps unwillingness to admit that anything wise or right could be done by "Andy Johnson's Administration" was the real reason for the wrath visited on the unoffending Territory. The feeling of hostility to the purchase was so strong that the House of Representatives would not take action toward accepting the Territory or appropriate any money for it.

The Russian Government courteously waived any demand for immediate payment and signified readiness to make final transfer whenever the United States might desire. Accordingly commissioners were appointed and proceeded to Sitka. On a bright day in August, 1867, with brief but impressive ceremonies, amid salutes

Sea and in the North Pacific Ocean [illegible] cordial relations between Russia a[illegible] United States enabled him at once t[illegible] informal discussion of the subject [illegible] Mr. Stoekl, the Russian Minister. [illegible] tary Seward found that Russia wo[illegible] no case allow her American posse[illegible] to pass into the hands of any Eur[illegible] Power, but the United States alway[illegible] been and probably would be a f[illegible] Russian America was a remote pro[illegible] not easily defensible, and not likely [illegible] soon developed. Under American co[illegible] it would develop more rapidly and be [illegible] easily defended.

Seward and Gortschakoff were not [illegible] n arriving at an agreement upon a sub[illegible] which instead of embarrassing the [illegible] flicting interests presented some mu[illegible] advantages. After the graver quest[illegible] of national ownership came the minor [illegible] of pecuniary cost. It was necessary to [illegible] upon a definite sum to be named in [illegible] treaty—not so small as to belittle the tra[illegible] action in the public eye nor so large as [illegible] deprive it of its real character as an act [illegible] friendship on the part of Russia towa[illegible] the United States. Neither side was e[illegible] pecially tenacious about the amount. Th[illegible] previous treaties for the acquisition o[illegible] territory from Spain, France and Mexi[illegible] seemed to afford an index for valua[illegible] The Russians thought that $10,000,000 w[illegible] be a reasonable amount. My father p[illegible] posed $5,000,000. Dividing the differe[illegible] made it $7,500,000. Then at Seward's s[illegible] gestion the half million was thrown [illegible] But the territory was still subject to s[illegible] franchises and privileges of the Russian Fur Company. Seward insisted that these should be extinguished by the Russian Government before the transfer and was willing that $200,000 should be added on that account to the $7,000,000. At this valuation of $7,200,000 the bargain could be deemed satisfactory, even from the standpoint of an individual fisherman, miner or woodcutter, for the timber, mines, furs and fisheries would easily yield the annual interest on that sum.

On the evening of Friday, March 29, 1867, Seward was playing whist in his parlor with some of his family when the Russian Ministe[illegible]

AROUND T[illegible]

By Eugene

MY MISTAKE, THANKS — I wouldn't so much mind m[illegible] errors if all my fans were as considerate as this one:

"Dear Mr. Anderson: In your very interesting article in The Telegraph Tuesday, you state that Charles Sumner, the abolitionist, taught school at Eatonton, Ga. You are mistaken in your history; the abolitionist who taught at Eatonton was William H. Seward, secretary of state in the Lincoln cabinet. Review your history. Your articles are absorbingly interesting. I enjoy all of them. Keep on in the same line.—Sincerely, A. C. Cannon, 80 Baker Street, N. E., Atlanta, Ga."

My humble defense: One of the lessons taught to me by the pastor of the Baptist Church in Hawkinsville when I was a youth was not to be afraid to make a mistake; that it is better to try to do something and fail than to try to do nothing and succeed. Up to that time I had been afraid to open my mouth, lest I might make an error. Then in my newspaper experience I learned how dangerous it is to "trust" your memory. It should be verified. I followed Rev. Mr. Coates' pulpit advice when I dared to state which of the Lincoln abolitionists taught school near Eatonton. I tried to verify my memory by consulting three sets of encyclopedias and some other reference books found in the Carnegie library at Moultrie and in private homes. I had become suspicious, but being peripatetic, through life in a house trailer, I couldn't get back to my High Falls library. My story was published before I could consult my old reliable Georgia historian Lucien Lamar Knight. In his second volume of Georgia Landmarks, Memorials and Legends he gives a generous excerpt from the diary of William H. Seward, who was the abolitionist school teacher at the Turner settlement in Putnam County. My mistake in saying Charles Sumner was the teacher caused me to read much more of this history than I had ever read before; and causes me to regard Mr. Seward much more kindly. I had been attributing to him much of the venom that showed itself in the writings of Charles Sumner and the garrulous Phillips.

ANDERSON

I also learned that Seward was only seventeen years old when he, passing for 21, was given the principalship of the academy in Putnam. He had run away from Union College in New York, because his father wouldn't let him have a tailor-made suit of clothes. Two other brothers had also run away from that same parental home to escape what they considered tyranny. The trustees at Putnam academy voted the 17-year-old Seward an eighteen hundred dollar salary and gave him a horse and buggy and free board while waiting for the school term to open. He was lionized, and his youthfulness was not discovered. But his father threatened all sorts of punishment against the employers of "the delinquent" and "absconding" Union College boy. It was finally agreed that young Seward would get Union College to send somebody else to hold the teach-

That you would be glad to hear this
1820

Auburn Landmark

The Seward Mansion in Auburn at long last has been recognized by the U. S. Department of Interior as a national historic landmark.

Because of "exceptional value in commemorating the history of the United States" it will be given a bronze plaque and a certificate designating it as a landmark.

The Seward Mansion is nearly 150 years old. It was the home of Abraham Lincoln's Secretary of State William H. Seward, who brought about the U. S. purchase of Alaska in 1867. At least three presidents of the United States and other famous men were entertained there.

It was occupied by three generations of Seward descendants, and it contains many objects of great historical significance. The home is indeed a landmark comparable to any in the United States and this recognition is well deserved.

Seward was a great American whose career has not been dimmed by the passage of time.

★ ★ ★

1964

Seward Home a Landmark

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28 (UPI) —The Interior Department recognized today the home of President Lincoln's Secretary of State, William H. Seward, at Auburn, N. Y., as a historical landmark.

dre Gazette 11/3/88

William E. Seward, who later became the U.S. secretary of state responsible for the purchase of Alaska, is said to be the first lawyer ever to use insanity as a legal defense. It was during the trial of an accused murderer at Auburn, NY, in 1847.

8 p.m. Classified Ad Closing

N. Y. Sun, Sept. 11, 1909

SEWARD STATUE UNVEILED

SON TELLS OF SECRETARY'S PURCHASE OF ALASKA.

State of Washington Honors Man Whose Foresight Resulted in the Cession of Russia's American Possessions and the Acquisition of Rich Territory.

SEATTLE, Sept. 10.—Harriet May Baxter to-day drew aside an American flag, disclosing in bronze the features of William H. Seward at the New York building at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition. Hundreds of persons witnessed the unveiling.

Gen. W. H. Seward, son of the late secretary, made the principal address and W. T. Dovell spoke in behalf of the Chamber of Commerce. A poem, "Hail to Thee, Seward," by Prof. Edmond S. Meany, was one of the contributions to the programme. Judge Thomas Burke presided.

The statue is of heroic size and was modelled in this country by Richard E. Brooks. It was cast in Munich. It was exhibited in the Paris salon and won very favorable comment. Both of Secretary Seward's surviving sons aided the sculptor with criticism of the model and the work. The statue is temporarily in the exposition grounds, but will stand permanently in the grounds of the University of Washington.

In his address Gen. Seward said in part:

One of the lessons which the civil war forcible impressed upon my father was the lack of naval outposts in the Caribbean from the Russian and American naval vessels, the American flag was raised over the new territory to be thenceforth known as "Alaska." It was not, however, until July 27 of the following year that the act making the appropriation to pay for Alaska was finally passed and approved, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House, Gen. N. P. Banks, being its effective advocate. The next day the Secretary of State, Mr. Seward, made his requisition upon the Treasury for $7,200,000 to be paid to the Russian Government.

It was a surprise to the Eastern public when they were informed a few years since that the neglected Territory was already paying into the national Treasury more than it had cost and that its productions and revenues were yearly increasing. Within a decade the explorers began to report the discoveries of gold, silver, copper and coal in apparently inexhaustible supply. Alaska commenced to pay back its cost price over and over again each year, so that now in lieu of $7,000,000 we are likely to have seventy times seven. To-day there is a steady influx of population such as indicates the growth of future States. Railway systems and modern civilization are steadily pushing up toward Bering Strait both in the Eastern and Western hemispheres. When they meet at its shores it will be found that America and Russia are separated only by the same distance that separates England and France. Trade and travel will ultimately open up between them, and Alaska may be destined to become a thoroughfare between the old world and the new.

During the last year of Seward's life he was visited at Auburn by Frank Carpenter, who painted the historic picture of "The Emancipation Proclamation." The artist asked him: "Governor Seward, which of your public acts do you think will live longest in the memory of the American people?"

Seward replied: "The purchase of Alaska;" "but," he added, "it will take another generation to find it out."

That was thirty-seven years ago. A new generation has come, and they have "found it out."

Seward ref.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1950.

President's Statement on Acheson

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 (AP)—Following is the text of President Truman's formal statement rejecting Republican demands for the dismissal of Secretary of State Dean Acheson:

There have been new attacks within the past week against Secretary of State Acheson. I have been asked to remove him from office. The authors of this suggestion claim that this would be good for the country.

How our position in the world would be improved by the retirement of Dean Acheson from public life is beyond me. Mr. Acheson has helped shape and carry out our policy of resistance to Communist imperialism. From the time of our sharing of arms with Greece and Turkey nearly four years ago, and coming down to the recent moment when he advised me to resist the Communist invasion of South Korea, no official in our Government has been more alive to communism's threat to freedom or more forceful in resisting it.

Red Foes Would Shoot Acheson

At this moment, he is in Brussels representing the United States in setting up mutual defenses against aggression. This has made it possible for me to designate General Eisenhower as Supreme Commander in Europe.

If communism were to prevail in the world—and it shall not prevail—Dean Acheson would be one of the first, if not the first, to be shot by the enemies of liberty and Christianity.

These recent attacks on Mr. Acheson are old in the sense that they are the same false charges that have been made time and time again over a period of months. They have no basis in fact whatever.

It is the same sort of thing that happened to Seward. President Lincoln was asked by a group of Republicans to dismiss Secretary of State Seward. He refused. So do I refuse to dismiss Acheson.

If I did anything else, it would weaken the firm and vigorous position this country has taken against Communist aggression.

Wisdom of All People Needed

If those groups attacking our foreign policy and Mr. Acheson have any alternative policies to offer they should disclose them. They owe it to their country. This is the time for hard facts and close thinking.

It is not a time for vague charges and pious generalities.

There are some Republicans who recognize the facts and the true reasons for these attacks on Secretary of State Acheson and who do not agree with their colleagues.

This nation needs the wisdom of all its people. This is a time of great peril. It is a time for unity, for real bipartisanship. It is a time for making use of the great talents of men like Dean Acheson.

Communism—not our own country—would be served by losing him.

Alaska Port Town Rebounds From Slide to Obscurity

By WALLACE TURNER

Special to The New York Times

SEWARD, Alaska—A decade ago a lot of people thought Seward would become a ghost town. Now, The Seward Phoenix Log, a weekly, is planning a progress issue.

"I think we have enough to justify it," said Beverly D. Dunham, editor and publisher, who with her husband, Willard, founded the paper nine years ago.

After a long slide from its one time economic importance as a terminal of the Alaska Railroad, a decline capped by the destructive Alaska earthquake and tidal wave of 1964, the town has staged a comeback with state help and a resurgence of fishing and wood industries. Lately, the Alaska pipeline construction has spurred the revival.

And more economic growth may come when offshore oil exploration begins. Dr. George Rogers, a University of Alaska economist living in Juneau, has noted that Seward is the most favorably situated port to supply six of the nine exploration sites. Representatives of a company specializing in providing supplies to oil exploration crews have been in Seward recently.

Named for the Secretary of State who bought Alaska from the Czars, this port on Resurrection Bay once served all of interior Alaska. It is the salt water end of the 470-mile Alaska railroad, which ends in Fairbanks. President Harding drove the railroad's golden spikes on July 15, 1923, and died in San Francisco en route home to Washington.

After World War II, the Alaskan Highway opened the state's backdoor through Canada while aviation advances took away a lot of passenger traffic. Shipping companies managed to overcome Anchorage's 30-foot tides to move freight through there, and a tunnel was punched through to Whittier on Prince William Sound. All this cut into Seward's economic health, built on payrolls to longshoremen.

The tidal wave created by the earthquake that struck on

The New York Times/June 14, 1975

Good Friday, 1964, destroyed the town's waterfront. The docks and railroad yards disappeared into the bottom of the bay. So did a fish cannery. Stevedoring work fell from 200 jobs to almost nothing and is just now beginning to come back.

Every other storefront was empty a few years ago. Families had moved away. There were no jobs to be had. Population fell to below 1,500 but is now back to about 2,200.

In 1961, Seward handled 62 per cent of the cargo that came into Alaska by sea, with Anchorage handling 26 per cent and Whittier handling 12 per cent. In 1966, even with Seward's docks and railroad yards rebuilt after the tidal wave, it got only 4 per cent, Whittier 10 per cent and Anchorage 86 per cent.

The resurgence began after the state established Seward as a home port for some marine highway system ferries and continued when the state located a vocational training center here.

In 1967, a four-ship fleet of scallop fishermen moved here from New Bedford, Mass., establishing a fishing operation that has grown to 20 vessels. The halibut fleet is bigger now and the University of Alaska is building an oceanographic branch here. There is a fish-processing plant employing up to 400 persons.

Construction of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline has caused a resurgence of shipping through the port here and has increased traffic on the railroad. A wood products company, which sells 80 per cent of its output to the pipeline company, has been established.

Some days as many as 80 longshoremen are at work. The registered membership of Local 60 of the International Longshoreman and Warehousemen's union is only 55, but the dockside work gangs are filled out with casuals from the surrounding area.

$132.70 for 12 Hours

Pay on the docks runs $132.70 for the 12-hour shift, which is what is being worked these days. A City Councilman, Bernard Hulm, is a registered longshoreman and works his full share of 12-hour shifts.

Seward has escaped a lot of boomtown problems that are now hitting pipeline cities such as Fairbanks and Valdez because the growth here has been slow. There is little crime here, for example.

However, old-timers sometimes find themselves in social confrontation with new residents they call "the bush hippies," who live in the woods in shacks made of boxes and old signs, in tents, or in caves. They work in the summers at the fish processing plant.

"One woman said her boys had built a play fort and when they went back the bush hippies had moved into it," said Police Chief Louis Bencardino, "I told her to ask them to move out and if they didn't we'd evict them."

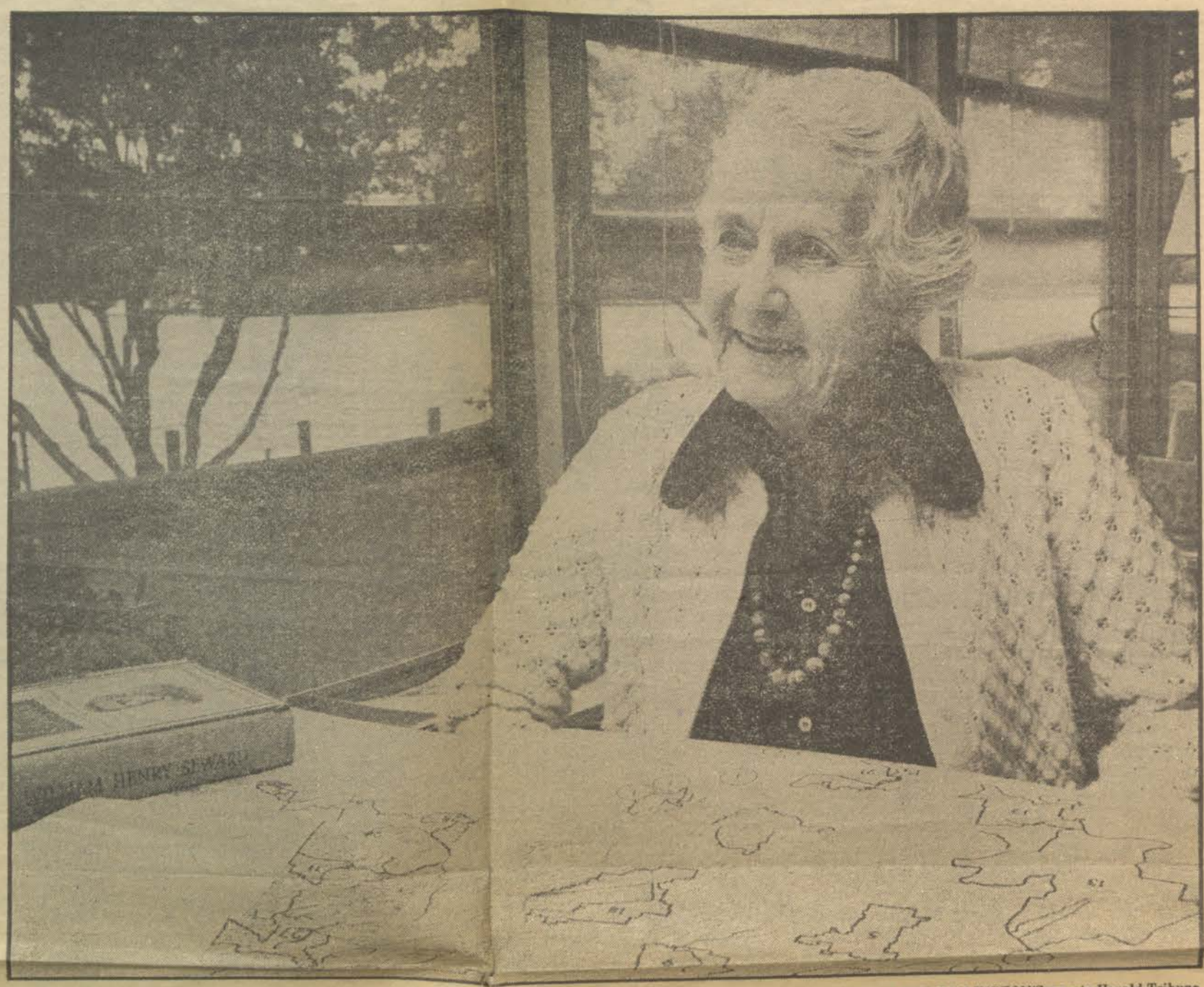
Grand Canyon Study Backed

WASHINGTON, June 13 (AP) —President Ford has signed legislation requiring a study of the Grand Canyon National Park that could lead to its inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, the White House said yesterday.

NASA Aide Is Promoted

WASHINGTON, June 13 (AP) —The promotion of A. Neil Hosenball from deputy general counsel to general counsel of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration was announced yesterday.

Sarasota Herald Tribune
Mar. 5, 1978



ROD MILLINGTON/Sarasota Herald-Tribune

A cool eye on Alaska

Elizabeth Seward Smith's concern for this nation's largest state is not surprising. It's in her blood.

By GARY MORGAN
Florida West staff writer

They laughed when 1855 Secretary of State William Henry Seward wanted to buy Alaska from the Russians in 1867 for more than $7 million, but the chuckling stopped with the discovery of the state's vast petroleum and mineral resources.

Now, more than 100 years after Congress consummated the purchase of one of the world's great real estate bargains, a descendant of old William Henry Seward is trying to prevent the willy-nilly exploitation of Alaska's vast resources.

Even if Mrs. Elizabeth Smith's middle name were not Seward, she'd be interested in preservation of the Alaskan wilderness. But she is a Seward and she is working in her own modest way to stay the environmental degradation of one of the nation's remaining wilderness areas.

Mrs. Smith, a spry, 70ish widow with a quick smile and bright blue eyes that don't miss much, talked with the Herald-Tribune about her illustrious ancestor and about her own interest in conservation.

Her great-great uncle, William Henry Seward, was secretary of state under Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson. He was an ardent expansionist and advocate of a vigorous foreign policy. Seward was an imperialist during an era when empire wasn't a dirty word.

After a great deal of effort, Seward was able to induce the Senate to ratify the purchase treaty and the House to appropriate the funds to purchase Alaska. That was in 1867. Four years later, gold was discovered near the Alaskan town of Sitkam.

Seward was less successful in attempting to persuade Congress to take over the Dominican Republic or to purchase the Danish West Indies (the Virgin Islands) from Denmark. He did manage to engineer the annexation (in 1867) of the Midway Islands, which were to play a key role in the American victory during World War II.

"William Henry wasn't much of a family man," said Mrs. Smith, recalling the family legends of her great-great uncle.

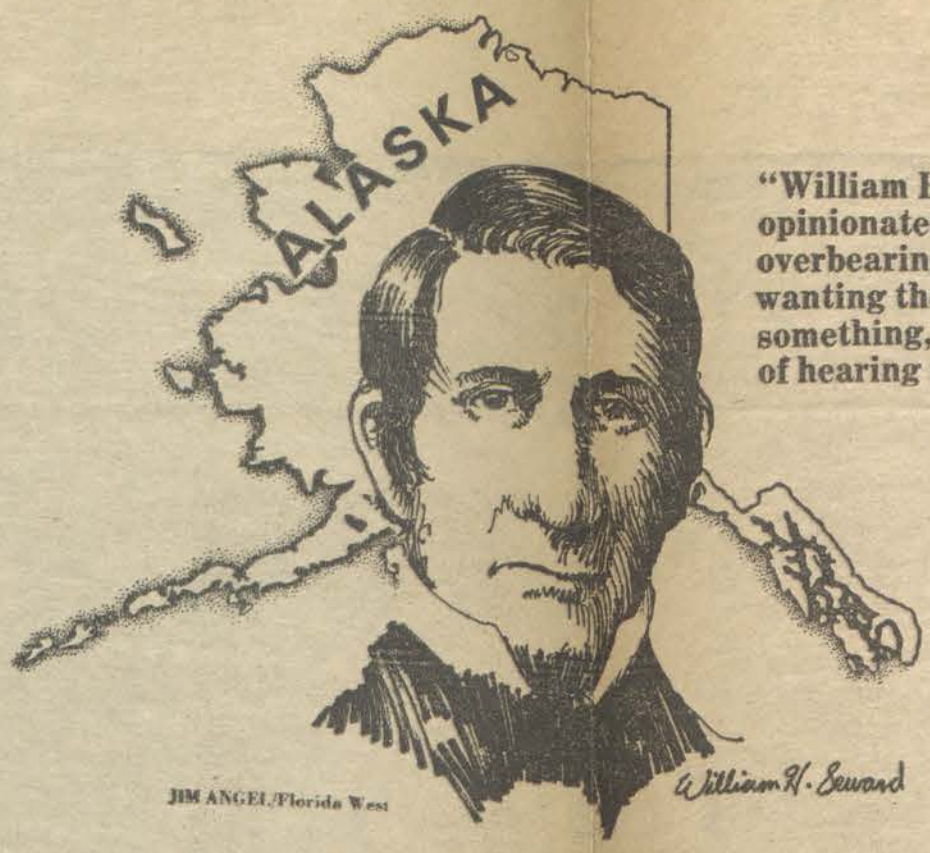
"He was a small man with flaming red hair," she said, adding Seward was also "opinionated, abrasive and overbearing. He was always wanting (the country) to buy something and people got tired of hearing it."

But Seward was an overachiever who apparently sprang from a family of overachievers. His father was a physician, farmer, merchant, politician, magistrate and county judge.

He was, said Mrs. Smith, an "ambitious, driving man who ruled the roost."

Had it not been for William Henry's quick wit and lack of stature and brawn, he might have remained on the family's upstate New York farm with his three brothers.

(Continued On Next Page)



JIM ANGEL/Florida West

"William Henry (Seward) was opinionated, abrasive and overbearing. He was always wanting the country to buy something, and people got tired of hearing it."

(Continued From Page 3)

Such was the fate of Seward's brother, George Washington Seward, Mrs. Smith's great-great grandfather.

"The other three boys were big and husky," said Mrs. Smith, "but William Henry was small and rather frail." For that reason Seward's father sent the future secretary of state to school. Upon graduation with honors from Union College in New York, Seward studied law and was admitted to the bar. He was married and had four children, but politics was his mistress.

He became in succession a state senator, governor of New York and United States senator. One of Seward's greatest disappointments was that he never became president. He merely ended up being one of the nation's most important secretaries of state.

Of all the Seward siblings, William Henry deserved and got most of history's attention. However George Washington Seward didn't exactly turn out to be a bum.

He had a son who was American consul to China and a daughter who served as a medical missionary in India. Another child, Mrs. Smith's grandfather, became a physician.

John Seward, Mrs. Smith's father, was a mining engineer. She remembers spending her childhood years in a succession of mining towns in the American West and in Canada.

Conservation was probably one of the furthest things from William Henry Seward's mind when he advocated the purchase of Alaska. However, the subject of conservation has always been near and dear to Mrs. Smith.

She became a member of the Audubon Society while a college undergraduate. This long-held interest in conservation broadened and blossomed into activism when she and her late husband, Herbert H. Smith, moved to the Sorrento Shores subdivision near Osprey late in 1964.

From their home on North Creek just across U.S. 41 from Oscar Scherer State Park, the Smiths observed the area's growing development with alarm. But the catalyst was a plan to commercialize the wilderness of Oscar Scherer.

Mrs. Smith, along with a number of other individuals and organizations, was against development in the park. The antidevelopment faction didn't win the battle but it didn't exactly lose either.

Some commercial ventures were allowed to operate in the previously undeveloped park, but the scale was much smaller than developers originally proposed, thanks to the outcry of persons like Mrs. Smith.

One of Mrs. Smith's current interests is in the battle shaping up in Congress to determine how much of Alaska's mineral-rich, environmentally fragile wilderness areas will be protected from exploitation.

As a member of the Wilderness Society, she has taken the traditional route open to conservationists, that is, attempting to sway public opinion in favor of the environment by means of writing letters to newspapers and speaking out on the matter at every possible occasion.

It is ironic, considering her ancestry, that she has never been to Alaska even though she has lived in a number of other places across the United States. "I hope to visit Alaska some day," she said, "but it's hard for a person my age, especially someone who's living on a retirement income."

That wouldn't have stopped William Henry Seward, and we'll bet it won't stop his great-great niece either.

CUISINE INQUISITOR

Villa-A-Roma

The Villa-A-Roma restaurant on South Tamiami Trail is somewhat lacking in atmosphere and professional service, but the Italian entrees we sampled were reasonably priced, generous and well-prepared.

The Villa has formica tables and chairs, which are a bit too close together, and paper place mats. Arched murals and hanging baskets of foliage decorate the room.

The ambitious menu includes a number of appetizers, 10 continental dishes, 11 American varieties and seven specialties of the house. Also, an array of pizzas, sandwiches, burgers and steaks.

We ordered the antipasto for two ($2.75), a rather colorless platter of ham, salami and cheese slices and flavorless tomatoes. I tried the boneless breast of chicken ala parmigiana ($3.65) — which was quite delicious — tender chicken bathed in a rich, tangy tomato sauce topped with mozzarella, and the spaghetti was cooked properly al dente.

My dinner partner tried veal cutlet parmigiana ($4.45) — an equally delicious preparation.

Entrees are accompanied by a tossed salad with zesty Italian dressing, and bread not quite as fresh as it should have been.

The continental dishes range from spaghetti Marinari for $1.90 to linguini with clams for $3.60.

Among other specialties are eggplant parmigiana ($3.50), stuffed peppers ($2.80) and chicken ala cacciatori ($3.25).

The management is in the process of obtaining a beer and wine license, but until they do, soft drinks, coffee, tea and expresso are available.

We sampled cheesecake for dessert (95 cents) — light and sweet though, we suspect, previously frozen.

Our meal at Villa-A-Roma was satisfactory. The service was pleasant if not expert and the dinner selections above average.

Located at 7253 South Tamiami Trail, the Villa is open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week. Visa and Master Charge are honored.

THE SEWARD HOUSE
AUBURN, NEW YORK

CATALOGUE OF PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS IN THE GALLERY

(Circa 1820–1871)

1. Archbishop John Hughes
2. General Giuseppe Garibaldi
3. Victor Emanuel II, King of Sardinia
4. Pope Pius IX
5. Cardinal Giacomo Antonelli
6. John Brown
7. Emperor Maximilian of Mexico
8. Empress Carlota of Mexico (Wife of Maximilian)
9. Franz Josef I, Emperor of Austria
10. Elizabeth, Empress of Austria (Wife of Franz Josef I)
11. Napoleon I, Emperor of France
12. Napoleon III, Emperor of France
13. Eugenie, Empress of France (Wife of Napoleon III)
14. Lord John Russell, Prime Minister of Great Britain
15. Victoria, Queen of England
16. Diplomatic Excursion Party with Secretary Seward at Trenton Falls, New York
17. Commissioners of the Treaty of Commerce Between England and France
18. Sir Richard Cobden, England
19. Lord Lyons, British Minister to the United States
20. English House of Commons
21. English House of Commons, Chart to #20
22. Prince Alexandre Gortchacow (Gortschakoff), Russian Minister

23. Prince Albert, Consort to Queen Victoria of England
24. Victoria, Queen of England
25. Diplomatic Excursion Party with Secretary Seward at Saratoga, New York
26. William H. Seward
27. Washington Library of Sir Frederick Bruce, English Minister
28. Maria Alexandrowna, Empress of Russia (Wife of Alexandre II)
29. Alexandre II, Emperor of Russia
30. Countess Madame Anna Sartiges, Wife of French Minister
31. Count Sartiges, French Minister
32. Marie Luise Auguste Katharine, Queen of Prussia (Wife of William I)
33. William I, King of Prussia
34. Prince Bismark
35. Sir Frederick Bruce, English Minister
36. Lord Napier, English Minister
37. Lady Napier and Sons
38. Count Sartiges, French Minister
39. Count Piper, Swedish Minister
40. Christian den Niende, King of Denmark
41. Louise, Queen of Denmark (Wife of Christian den Niende)
42. Prince Frederick of Sweden, King of Denmark
44. Prince Krom Hluang Wongsa, King of Siam
45. Tycoon of Japan
48. Minister Anson Burlingame and the Chinese Embassy
49. Chinese Imperial Cabinet at Peking
50. Japanese Legation at Washington
51. United States Commission to the Paris Exposition
52. William III, King of the Netherlands
53. Sophia Mathilda, Queen of the Netherlands (Wife of William III)
54. Doctor Valentine Mott
55. Doctor Eliphalet Nott, D.D., L.L.D., President of Union College
56. St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna
58. National Monument to the Forefathers, Massachusetts
59. Fetman, U. S. Consul at St. Helene
60. President Andrew Johnson
61. Madam William H. Seward
62. Honorable Thurlow Weed
63. Turkish Firman
64. Specimen of Calligraphy
65. Specimen of Calligraphy
66. President Abraham Lincoln
66½. Secretary Seward at Washington
67. Legion of Union
68. Old State Department Building at Washington
69. Jefferson Letter (written and signed by Thomas Jefferson)
70. Emancipation Proclamation considered by Lincoln and Cabinet
71. Cartoon, "Non-Intervention"
72. Bishop McIlvaine
73. Archbishop of Chile
75. Judge Aaron Goodrich
76. Resolution of Board of Directors of the Erie Railroad
77. Charlotte Cushman, Actress
78. Arthur Fletcher of the U.S. Treasury Department
80. Ali Pasha, Grand Vizier of Turkey
81. Mohammed Ali, Pasha of Egypt
82. Server Pasha, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey
84. D. A. Duekwitz, President of Bremen
85. Bey of Tunis
86. Carl XV, King of Sweden
87. Louise, Queen of Sweden (Wife of Carl XV)
88. Leopold I, King of Belgium
89. Leopold II, King of Belgium
90. Queen of Belgium, Wife of Leopold II
91. Count of Flanders
92. Benito Juarez, President of Mexico
93. Madame Juarez (Wife of President of Mexico)
94. Senor Romero, Mexico
95. Santos Degollado, Mexico
96. Sebastian Lerdo De Tejado, Mexico
97. J. Eolio, Mexico
98. Isabella, Queen of Spain
99. Alphonso, King of Spain
100. Lopez, President of Paraguay

101. Fancon, President of Venezuela
102. Gutierrez, President of Colombia
103. Manuel Murillo, President of Colombia
104. El Libertador Ramon Castilla, President of Peru
105. J. Stampfli, President of Switzerland
106. Geffrard, President of Haiti
107. Retazzi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Italy
108. Unknown
109. Retazzi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy
110. Stephen A. Benson, President of Liberia
111. J. J. Roberts, President of Liberia
112. Leopold I, King of Belgium
113. Baron Edward von Stoeckl
114. Bertinatti, Italian Minister to U. S.
115. Baron von Sleden, Minister to U. S. from Sweden
116. Dulce, Captain General of Cuba
117. Dom Pedro, Emperor of Brazil
118. Brigadier General William H. Seward, Jr.
119. Emma, Queen of the Sandwich Islands
120. Margaret, Queen of Madagascar
121. King of Siam with Son and Heir
122. Resolution from the Methodist Missionary Society
123. Marquis de Montholon, French Minister
124. Castillo
125. Asta Buruaga, Minister to the U. S. from Chile
126. Senor Molina, Minister to the U. S. from Costa Rica
127. Sir Thomas Laurence, Governor General of India
128. Chdogin
129. Signing of the Alaskan Treaty (Oil Painting by Emanuel Leutze)
130. Darien Treaty
131. Brigadier General William H. Seward with his Staff at Martinsburg, Virginia
132. Belem Castle

The name of Seward is appropriately marked on the maps of Alaska. Seward Peninsula, the town of Seward,—the port terminus of the Government Railroad,—and Fort William H. Seward, near Skagway, are visible evidences on the ground of the major part that a Union man played in Alaska history.

Unless one has seen something of that country it is impossible to realize the immensity of it. The mere figures of 590,884 square miles mean little to the average person. To say that Alaska is larger than the thirteen original States with their 325,065 square miles, that it is larger than Norway, Sweden, Finland, England, Scotland, and Ireland, with their 563,253 square miles, may mean little more unless the reader is statistically inclined. To say that it extends over one thousand miles of latitude, equal in distance from the Mexican border to the Canadian boundary, that from east to west it is over two thousand five hundred miles in longitude, may mean something to a casual reader. The island of Unalaska is almost as far west of San Francisco as San Francisco is west of the capital of the United States; and Attu Island, at the western tip of the Aleutian chain, is some 600 miles west of Unalaska. Climatically Alaska is even less understood. Looking at a map does not give one a correct idea of the climate of a country. The bulk of Alaska shows on a map to lie north of Labrador. Fairbanks, Alaska, with its mines, farms, electric lights, movies, churches, library, schools, is more than fifteen hundred miles north of New York City, and three hundred miles north of the southern tip of Greenland. However, warm ocean currents largely make climates. The Gulf Stream keeps the port of New York open, while the absence of a warm ocean current closes the port of Vladivostok, in about the same latitude, for six months of the year. The Japan Current makes Alaska habitable. Seward, on the Prince William Sound, has about the same average winter temperature as New York and St. Louis, while that of Nome, on the Seward Peninsula, and two degrees south of the Arctic Circle, has about the same average winter temperatures as Northern Minnesota and Dakota.

Article VI of the Treaty signed by Secretary of State William H. Seward and Minister Edward de Stoeckl, on March 30, 1867, reads in part:

"In consideration of the cession aforesaid, the United States agrees to pay at the Treasury at Washington, within ten months after the exchange of the ratifications of this Convention, to the diplomatic representative or other agent of His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russian, duly authorized to receive the same, seven million two hundred thousand dollars in gold."

Seward made a good bargain. Bancroft remarks of this deal: "* * * a territory which not many years ago was purchased from Russia at the rate of about two cents an acre, and was considered dear at the price." The value of the silver alone produced in Alaska since 1867 (and Alaska is not a silver country) is worth almost as much as the purchase price. The total value of Alaska's mineral products since 1867 has been $437,465,930, or some 430 millions more than what we paid Russia. Her fisheries and fish products have been worth $413,749,223. Her furs and skins have been worth $84,704,428, her reindeer and curios brought $2,005,222. To date "Seward's Folly" has brought to the United States products valued at $930,724,803 more than what his "folly" cost us in 1867. And Alaska has hardly been scratched yet.

With the Government Railroad to be completed in 1922 will come the opening up of large areas not heretofore accessible, in mining, coal, gold and other metals, and farming lands. The forests of Alaska have rather been despised in times past. What cared man for timber when he could get gold? Her forests of Southeast Alaska are destined to play an important part in the future supply of pulp and paper of the United States. These forests are Government-owned lands, located within a National Forest, and are being managed and handled so that they will always produce timber; in short, forestry is being practiced on these lands, which may be said to be the management of land so that it will produce timber forever and always. It is estimated by the federal foresters that the Alaska National Forests

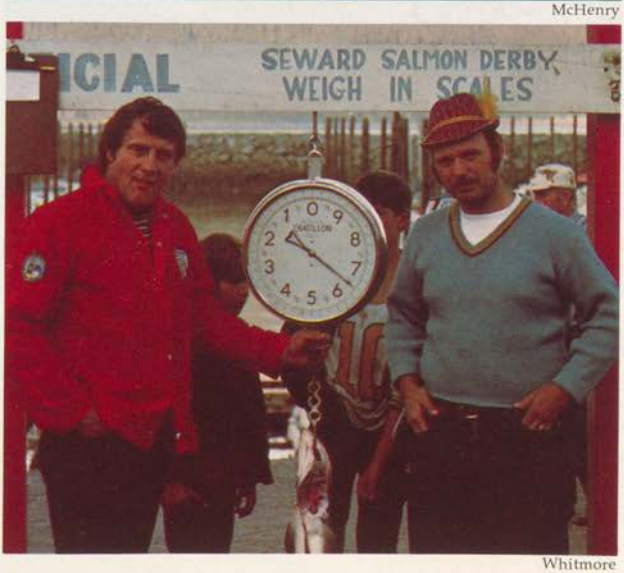
contain timber resources sufficient to produce 1,500,000 tons of paper annually in perpetuity. The despised tree may yet be the salvation of Alaska to bring to that country a safe and stable industry. Already the U. S. Forest Service has consummated a sale of pulp wood in Southeast Alaska of 100,000,000 board feet and work has been begun on a power plant to be used in the manufacture of paper and pulp. These National Forests in Alaska have been under management for fifteen years and during that time over 440,000,000 board feet of timber has been sold by the government and cut from the Forests for local development of the country. Other large pulp sales are pending, and the pulp industry of the country may shift to the Pacific Coast and to Alaska, and the Nation will then begin to realize as never before the wisdom of Seward's "folly."

1981
November

Discover Alaska's Kenai Peninsula

Seward

McHenry



Whitmore

WHAT TO SEE & DO:

Campgrounds & Accommodations

City-owned campgrounds are located in the Small Boat Harbor area with restroom, shower facilities, dump-station and telephones. About a mile from the harbor is another municipal camping area with restrooms, running water and a tennis court. A fee is collected at these facilities. Trailer parks are located within the area. The U.S. Army and Air Force maintain recreation camps for military personnel with fishing boats for their use. There are hotels, motels, laundromat and several restaurants. The grocery stores are well-stocked. Hospital and dental care are available.

Sailing Resurrection Bay — Whitmore

Fishing & Boating

Salmon, halibut and bottom fishing is a challenging sport in Resurrection Bay. Charter boats can be hired or boat launching ramp and transient dock facilities for your own boat are conveniently located. Fishing from the Small Boat Harbor floats or from the beaches can be very exciting. Fresh water fishing can be enjoyed in nearby lakes and streams which are accessible by car, walking or flying. Sailing and diving are ever increasing in popularity.

Hiking in the summer — McHenry

Hiking

U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service trails are located in the Seward area. Forest Service trail cabins can be reserved through the Seward District Ranger Office. Back-country camping is permitted in the area. Many like to "conquer" Mt. Marathon or take a pleasant walk on the Two Lakes Trail within the city limits. In the winter, cross country skiing, snow mobiling and ice skating are popular sports.

Hiking in the winter — McHenry

Sightseeing & Photography

Sightseeing and photography can be done on foot, by plane or boat. On a cruise of Resurrection Bay, expect to see marine life such as porpoise, sea lions, sea otters, whales and the bird rookeries. Take a trip by plane to visit the Harding Ice Field, the Kenai Fjords, mountain goats and sheep, the rookeries, harbor seal and sea lions.

While walking, visit the museum, a man-made waterfall, marine science center, the various shops, see the Alaskan earthquake movie and slide show and stroll through the Small Boat Harbor to see the boats and fishing catches of the day. Many species of birds can be observed.

Dall sheep — Otteson

Lost Lake Trail near Seward — McHenry

Popular fireweed — McHenry

COME TO SEWARD FOR RECREATION, SCENERY, PHOTOGRAPHY, AND MORE

Ready for the junior race — Whitmore

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Annual 4th of July Mt. Marathon Race

This race, begun in 1909, as a wager between two sourdoughs involves running up and back down the 3,022-ft. mountain. The record time is less than 45 minutes. It attracts thousands of spectators and challenges runners from many points of the globe. There is a junior and senior division with runners from teens to the seventies. Participants need to pre-register. Festivities for the celebration include a parade, kids' races, arm wrestling, soft ball tournaments, a special train from Anchorage and more. (See Mt. Marathon photo on cover.)

A familiar scene at Derby time — Whitmore

Annual Seward Silver Salmon Derby

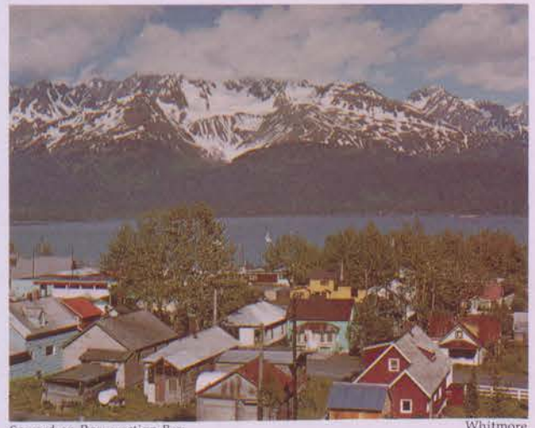
Beginning the second week-end in August and continuing for 8½ days is the largest fishing derby in the State of Alaska. Sponsored by the Seward Chamber of Commerce, it has been held annually since 1956. First prize is $4,000, with sweepstakes, daily prizes and tagged fish rewards totaling at least $40,000. People come from the world over for this derby.

HISTORY AND GROWTH:

The location of Seward, Alaska, was chosen in 1902 as the starting point for the Alaska Central Railroad (now the Alaska Railroad) because of its deep, year-round, ice-free harbor and its room for growth. In 1903 the first residents arrived by steamship and soon after the site was named to honor William H. Seward, President Lincoln's Secretary of State who arranged for the purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867.

Seward grew to a busy, hustling seaport with much freight passing over its docks on the way north by rail. Gold miners, trappers, loggers and fishermen made it the center for their supplies, mail and business transactions. Seward prospered, but it had many setbacks, too. There were two devastating fires in the business district; the 1964 Good Friday Earthquake destroyed over 90% of the town's economy. Seward has made a comeback with the state vocational training center, marine research center, lumber mill, paved airport, fisheries, shipping, many businesses and it is the home port of the State ferry, Tustemena. The new marine industrial center located on Fourth of July Creek will increase the marine related industries.

Sunny Cove McHenry



Seward on Resurrection Bay Whitmore

LOCATION & GENERAL INFORMATION:

Seward is located on the Kenai Peninsula 128 road miles south of Anchorage. It is nestled at the head of magnificent Resurrection Bay, flanked by majestic mountains. Backdrop for the community is 3,022-ft. Mt. Marathon. Seward is "home" for about 2,000 people. Its climate is milder than most of southcentral Alaska: Average summer temperature is 65°; average winter temperature is 20°; annual precipitation is about 68 inches.

For your convenience, Seward has campgrounds, hotels, motels and restaurants, boat harbor, fish for you to catch trails for you to hike, scenery for you to photograph, and friendly people to welcome you.

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTER:

Information Cache Whitmore

Information, brochures and warm hospitality over a cup of coffee can be found at the unique Information Cache open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. It is operated by the Seward Chamber of Commerce in an early day Alaska Railroad car used by President Harding when he visited Alaska in 1926 at the completion of the Alaska Railroad.

HOW TO GET THERE:

By Car

You can drive to Seward by paved highway from Anchorage or you can take the bus which makes daily runs to Seward. The scenery is beautiful. Seward is connected to the other cities on the Kenai Peninsula by a paved highway.

By Air

There is scheduled air service to Seward from Anchorage. Private charters are available also.

By Sea

The State ferry Tustemena runs from Seward to Kodiak, Seldovia, Homer and return. In the summer, it also makes a weekend trip from Seward to Valdez and Cordova and return.

Seward Chamber of Commerce
Box 756
Seward, Alaska 99664

FOR RECREATION, SCENERY, PHOTOGRAPHY AND JUST PLAIN FUN, VISIT SEWARD

This brochure is funded in part by
the Division of Tourism, State of Alaska.

1981 November

Discover Alaska's Kenai Peninsula

Seward

McHenry

Whitmore

1820

20 William H. Seward

See: Millard Fillmore
Biog. of a President
Robert J. Rayback
Buffalo Histal. Socy.

For several pages with notes

SITKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 2414 SITKA - ALASKA - 99835

October 5, 1982

UNION
Office of Public Relations
Lamont House
Schenectady, New York 12308

Dear Ms. Pease:

The Chamber of Comerce gave us your letter to answer. I am well acquainted with Sheldon Jackson and am sure that there is nothing in this area named after him except Sheldon Jackson College and Sheldon Jackson Museum.

This week The Alaska Historical Society is meeting in Valdez, Alaska and two papers are being presented regarding Sheldon Jackson, and if I hear any information which I think will be of interest to you, I will write again next week.

Very sincerely yours,

Isabel Miller

Isabel Miller, Museum Chairman

master, and deep disappointment at failing in his quest for the Presidency, he served the Civil War President loyally and brilliantly as Secretary of State. An expansionist, originally influenced by the views of John Quincy Adams whom he so greatly admired, Seward took Alaska and wanted Hawaii. In maturity he proved a responsible and broad-visioned statesman, but even this very sympathetic biography fails to make William Henry succeed as a husband. For the Sewards theirs was largely a marriage by mail.

Mr. Conrad, who in an earlier book re-created a famous murder trial in which Seward, the trial lawyer, successfully established insanity as a defense, has here performed an imaginative task of re-creating the two Sewards, their deep attachments to each other and their basic antagonisms. The husband's burning ambition and

HERALD TRIBUNE BOOK REVIEW—APRI

1821 William H. Seward

On his Thesis: "The First Whig Governor of New York, William Henry Seward, 1838-1842," Ernest G. Muntz, A. B. Wheaton College, 1948, received the degree of Ph. D. from The University of Rochester at its Annual Commencement on June 15, 1960.

1820 Died: At Auburn, on the 14th, inst. Cornelia, only daughter of Wm. H. Seward.

Daily Albany Argus, Jan. 28, 1837.

1820 William H. Seward

Lincoln's Manager- David Davis
By Willard L. King
Harvard University Press
1960

pp. 126, 131, 133-135, 138-141, 143, 144- 150,
157, 166-171, 173-175, 177-179, 188, 191
197, 204, 214, 224, 235, 241, 247.

BINGHAMTON, N.Y.
PRESS
D. 66,978 S. 67,610
MAY 27 1959

St. George Rage Cold As Alaska

By REGINALD F. TORREY
Binghamton Press Bureau

Washington — Red faces blossomed in the Post Office Department and on Capitol Hill yesterday. It's all because the department said in a nationwide news release that William H. Seward, who bought Alaska from Russia for $7,002,000 in 1867, was born in Auburn, N. Y.

Representative Katharine St. George, Tuxedo Park Republican, knew better. Flaming with indignation she told the Post Office Department:

"William H. Seward was born in Florida, N. Y., in Orange County, in my district."

Postal officials were embarrassed.

What difference does it make?

NEW STAMP SALE

The news release said the first day sale of the 4-cent 49-star flag stamp on July 4 has been transferred from Washington, D. C., to Auburn, pointing out that "Auburn is the birthplace of William H. Seward, secretary of the state in the Lincoln and Johnson Cabinets."

What, Mrs. St. George asked the department, does it intend to do about it?

The department says it can't change the first-day site again since, as it said in its release "a city-wide celebration is being held in Auburn on July 4 to honor Seward and pay tribute to Alaska, the 49th state."

But, in an attempt to conciliate a member of Congress (who also is a member of the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee), the officials looked into the prospects for staging a second-day sale in Florida, N. Y.

Auburn is the birthplace and home of Representative John Taber (Rep.), senior GOP member of the powerful Appropriations Committee.

MAY CORRECT RELEASE

The department also is considerating issuing a new news release, correcting the previous one.

The records bear out Mrs. St. George's claim. The "Biographical Director of the American Congress" says Seward was "born in Florida, Orange County, N. Y. on May 16, 1801."

According to the same source, he attended Farmers' Hall Academy in Goshen and Union College, 1816-19, left college and taught school in 1819 and 1820, returned to college and was graduated in 1820; "studied law; was admitted to the bar and commenced practice in Auburn, N. Y., in 1823."

He died in Auburn Oct. 16, 1872, and is buried in Fort Hill Cemetery there.

As Union-Star Readers See It

Russians Still Mad Over Selling Alaska

Editor Union-Star:

No wonder Khrushchev, plus all the Russian rulers between the years 1867 and 1961, have been ready to destroy the U.S. if the opportunity presented itself, as no nation since the world was created sold so much land as Russia did when they sold Alaska to Uncle Sam for $7,200,000. It happened in 1867 during the regime of President Andrew Johnson, and William Henry Seward was secretary of state. In size it is 586,400 square miles, about one-fifth of the United States, and putting it on an average basis the cost was 2 cents an acre (government computation).

Seward was born in Florida, Orange County, N.Y. in 1801, and graduated from Union College in 1820, studied for the bar and began practicing in Auburn 1923. His home still remains in an excellent state of preservation, and a bank a short distance from his home bears his name. Anyway, had he lived until now, and remained secretary of state we couldn't get into war with any country on earth, as Uncle Sam would own 'em.

V. H. SPRINGSTED
1708 Guilderland Ave.

LINCOLN & HIS EMANCIPATION CABINET (1862)*

that he published his "Heroic Soldiers of the American Armies." In later life he was afflicted first by partial and later by total deafness, but this did not check his zeal as a writer and public speaker. As late as 1873 he spoke vigorously on the "Bible in The Schools." His last appearance was at the commencement in 1876, when he delivered the address at Union College. Besides those already named, Professor Lewis wrote "Nature and the Ground of Punishment;" "Special Introduction to Genesis;" "The Light by Which We See the Light,"(1875); etc. The degree of LL.D. was conferred upon him by the University Convocation of the state of New York, and another highly appreciated was his appointment on the Bible Revision Committee. From boyhood Professor Lewis had been a member of the Dutch Reformed Church. He was married at Fort Miller, New York, in 1833, to Jane Keziah, daughter of Daniel Payn, who bore him three sons and three daughters. He died at Schenectady, New York, May 11, 1877.

1820
R. '07

HON. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, LL.D.

William Henry Seward. Secretary of State, and eleventh governor of New York, was born in Florida, Orange county, New York, May 16, 1801. The family descended from the Welsh emigrant who settled in Connecticut, and from whom came Dr. Samuel S. Seward, father of Hon. William H. Seward. On the mother's side he came from Irish ancestry. When nine years old he was sent to school at Goshen, New York. In 1816 he entered Union College, from which he graduated in 1820 with honors. He followed teaching in the South one year before he graduated. He studied law in New York city, was admitted to the bar in 1822, and the following year formed a partnership at Auburn, with Judge Elijah Miller, whose daughter he married in 1824. He at once began to gain a reputation in his profession for his originality of thought, independence of action and industry in his legal work, and secured a large paying practice. He early turned his attention to the study of political questions. In 1824 he delivered an address before a county convention in which he displayed the same fervent devotion to the cause of liberty which later marked his eventful career. July 4, 1825, he delivered the annual address, and was one of the committee to welcome Lafayette. In 1827 he appeared as the champion for the

suffering Greek, and by his eloquence secured large contributions to a fund for their defence. In 1828 he presided over the convention at Utica, New York, which favored the election of John Quincy Adams for president. The same year he declined a nomination for congress. He soon joined the anti-Masonic party. In 1830 he was elected state senator against what had been a large majority before opposed to his position. At the same time he was made *ex-officio* judge in the highest court in the state. The record of his career as a senator covers a period when the abolition of imprisonment for debt, the amelioration of prison discipline, reforms in militia matters, opposition to corporate monopolies, the extension of public franchise, all received his cordial support.

In 1832 he defended the United States Bank in an elaborate speech in the state senate, and two years later denounced the removal of the United States Bank in a speech which was both brilliant and costic. In the summer of 1833 he traveled through Europe, sending home over eighty letters which were published in the Albany papers. He was defeated for governor of New York in 1834 by William L. Marcy, and returned to the practice of law, but took an active part in the political struggle of that day. In 1838 he was again nominated for governor, on the Whig ticket, and elected by more than ten thousand majority. His administration was felt throughout the entire nation. He confronted the anti-rent troubles, which were settled during his term of office, while the courts, banking laws, and militia systems were all made the subjects of great reforms. It was at this time that he began to show more prominently his pronounced opposition to slavery and procured the passage of an act giving fugitive slaves trial by jury, and counsel to defend them at the state's expense. Over this, a controversy arose between Mr. Seward and the governors of Virginia and Georgia, in regard to the fugitive slaves from those states, and in particular regarding some colored seamen who were charged with having abducted slaves and brought them to New York. These abductors were arrested in New York and requisition papers served on Governor Seward to deliver them up to the states where the offense had been committed. This Mr. Seward refused to do, and was sustained by the

legislature, while it was Whig, but denounced when the Democratic party came into power again.

In 1843 Mr. Seward again returned to the practice of law, settling at Auburn, where he continued for six years, devoting much of his time to cases where the fugitive slave law came up, and in many of these cases he gave his time and opinions free of charge. During the campaign of 1844, Mr. Seward's speeches in favor of the tariff and against the annexation of Texas went far toward the defeat of Mr. Clay. In 1847 he delivered an oration on the "Life and Character of Daniel O'Connell," which is considered one of his most eloquent and effective efforts. In 1848 he delivered before the legislature of New York a masterly eulogy on John Quincy Adams. In 1848 he supported General Taylor for the presidency, and was among the leading speakers in that campaign. In his speech at Cleveland, Ohio, he outlined his platform, which, looked upon in the light of history, amounted almost to prophecy. It concluded with the assertion that "*Slavery must be abolished.*"

In February, 1847, he was elected to the United States senate, entering that body as the leading opponent of slavery in the Whig party. But by the unfortunate death of President Taylor the party was overthrown and shorn of its power. Mr. Seward opposed the Compromise Measure in the Thirty-first congress as against Mr. Clay, Daniel Webster and General Cass. He predicted the very ills which were finally realized in the Kansas-Nebraska troubles. During the discussion of these celebrated measures Mr. Seward uttered the memorable phrase, "The higher law." He had, in 1847, in his argument in the case of Van Zandt, accused of aiding fugitives from slavery, in the Circuit Court of the United States, declared that "Congress has no right to inhibit any duty commanded by God on Mount Sinai, or by His Son on the Mount of Olives." In his "higher law" speech he remarked that: "I feel assured that slavery must give way and will give way to the salutary instruction of economy and to the rightful influence of humanity. That emancipation is inevitable and is near; that it can neither be hastened or hindered; that all measures which fortify slavery or extend it tend to the consummation of violence—all that check its extension and abates its strength tends to its peaceful extirpation. But I will adopt none but lawful, constitutional means

to secure even that end, and none such can I nor will I forego." This speech was delivered March 11, 1850.

The presidential election of 1852 resulted in overthrowing the Whig party, and during 1853 Mr. Seward delivered two speeches of note—one at Columbus, Ohio, on the "Destiny of America," and the other before the American Institute of New York city, on "The True Basis of American Independence." In 1854 the degree of LL.D. was conferred upon him by Yale College, after an oration delivered before the literary society of that institution, on the "Physical, Moral and Intellectual Development of the American People."

Early in the Thirty-third congress he introduced a bill for the construction of a Pacific railroad; for the establishment of a steam mail ship line from San Francisco to China, Japan, and the Sandwich Islands. The Kansas-Nebraska bill, introduced by Senator Stephen A. Douglas, and which repealed the Missouri Compromise bill of 1820, met with continued opposition by Mr. Seward. In February, 1855, he was re-elected for a six-year term in the United States senate. In 1856 he supported General John C. Fremont for the presidency. He pronounced eloquent orations on the deaths of Henry Clay, Daniel Webster and John M. Clayton. He advocated a discrimination in the tariff question, demanding that duties be made to protect the industries of this country. He especially opposed any relaxation of the tariff on railroad iron and other like materials.

October, 1858, he delivered a speech at Rochester, New York, in which he made use of his famous expression, "The Irrepressible Conflict," referring to the struggle which he claimed must end in the United States being either a slaveholding or a free-labor nation. In 1857 Mr. Seward traveled in Canada for his health, and in 1859 he went to Europe, Egypt and Palestine. At the Republican National convention in Chicago, in 1860, he received one hundred and seventy-three and one-half votes on the first ballot for the presidency, while Mr. Lincoln received by one hundred and two. On the election of Lincoln, Mr. Seward was made Secretary of State. His foreign policy with all nations was diplomatic and full of good statesmanship.

In the spring of 1865, while driving, he was thrown from his carriage, sustaining a fracture of the jaw and one arm. He was in bed at his home in Washington on

the never-to-be-forgotten night of April 14, when President Lincoln was assassinated, and it was a part of the conspiracy to take Mr. Seward's life. By some means his would-be murderer gained an entrance to his room and struck him on the head and face with a knife, but his life was saved by the metallic shield which he wore until his fractured jaw-bone was fully knitted. His son, Frederick, came to his rescue, but was struck down by the assassin. He finally recovered, but ever after carried the ugly marks of both disasters.

In 1867 Mr. Seward concluded the treaty with Russia, by which we gained Alaska for the sum of seven million dollars. He opposed the impeachment of Andrew Johnson, and this act made him unpopular with many in his party. In 1868 he supported General Grant for president, and the following year made a tour of the continent, going as far north as Alaska and south to Mexico. In 1870 he began his journey round the world, accompanied by members of his family. He returned and wrote a volume on these extensive travels, which was edited by his adopted daughter, Olive Risley Seward. Three sons were born to Mr. Seward: Augustus Henry, born 1826, died 1876; graduated at West Point, served in the Mexican war and Civil war; Frederick William, born 1830; William Henry, born 1839, served in the Civil war, and finally held the rank of brigadier-general. He was wounded at Monocacy, and participated in the battle of the Wilderness.

Hon. William H. Seward died at Auburn, New York, October 10, 1872.

HON. JAMES ASHETON BAYARD.

Hon. James A. Bayard, who served as United States senator from Delaware from 1851 to 1870, another who should be enrolled as among the distinguished men who attended Union College, was born November 15, 1799, and died June 13, 1880. He was a native of Wilmington, Delaware, and the son of James Asheton Bayard, who preceded him in the United States senate. He was a student in Union College, and afterward at Princeton and Union colleges, graduating from the latter institution when nineteen years of age. He was admitted to the bar of Delaware in 1822, began to practice under auspicious surroundings, and was still a young man when his reputation led to his being elected one of the counsel for

1820 WILLIAM H. SEWARD

Jane Cazneau advocated, as an initial step, the establishment of a free zone on the island, (Santo Domingo), in a letter which indirectly reached Secretary of State William H. Seward, who was exhausted and distressed by the strain of his office during the recently ended Civil War--by illness, by the injuries received from the attempt on his life on the same day Lincoln was assinated assassinated, and by the recent death of his wife--welcomed a chance for a convalescent Caribbean trip on official business and he arrived at Santo Domingo City on January 14, 1866. The Cazneaus met Seward at the dock and never let him out of their sight, introducing him to the president and other notables, and keeping him away from uncongenial people.

The ascetic Seward, sixty-five hears old, was evidently enthralled by the vivacious and intelligent company of the fifty-eight year old Jane CazneauCazneaud, for he was completely won over to their ideas and projects. Some cynical bystanders thought that General Cazneau especially wanted to impress the new president by his intimacy with Seward in order to further some of his pet projects and in this he certainly succeeded. The United States had not as yet recognized the revivified republic and the president was most anxious for this to happen, Anyway, the Cazneaus gained considerable prestige from Seward's visit. When he returned to Washington he influenced President Andrew Johnson to nominate General Cazneau as the United States Commissioner and Consul-General to Dominica. Certain unfriendly Americans in that republic made such a protest that the Senate never confirmed this nomination, but this did not discourage the indefatigable General who continued to keep Seward informed about developments in that re-established island republic, and in the autumn of 1868 its government was formally recognixed.

The finances of the little republic, however, were in a weak state, and a loan was desperately needed..As security for American help the old plan of selling or leasing a United States naval base soon rose again. This time Joseph Warren Fabens, Cazneau's pertner in the isle of the Blest, wrote Secretary Seward trying to interest him a naval base at Monte Christi.....Secretary Seward became more and more enthusiastic but just as an agreement was reached, a revolution in the republic postponed the negotiations.

pp. 270-71

From: Destiny and Glory
Edward S. Wallace
Coward-McCann, Inc.
New York.
1957

The people Queretaro hold in grateful, indeed I may say affectionate, remembrance, the visit which the Hon. William H. Seward, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Seward, (Union '49), paid to their city, toward the close of the year 1869. It will be remembered that, soon after that gentleman's retirement from the office of Secretary of State, the Mexican authorities intimated a wish that he would at an early period favor them with his presence. Accordingly, in the autumn of the year 1869, after a brief sojourn in the City of San Francisco, he took passage on board "The Golden City" steamer, for Manzanillo on the Pacific coast, where, with his suite, he was landed in the month of October--the people turning out en masse to welcome him.

From that port to the City of Mexico his journey assumed the character of a triumphal progress. He was everywhere hailed with the most enthusiastic demonstrations of popular respect and gratitude, as "El Ilustre Americano," who had done so much to uphold the Republic when its life was menaced by foreign invasion; and to whose interposition Mexico was so largely indebted for the victory which at last crowned her struggle for independence.

The second grand ovation in his honor took place at the City of Colima, the capital of the State of the same name. Here the Governor, in a graceful and eloquent speech, welcomedhim to a grand ball and banquet.

Mr. Seward's response was worthy of his high renown as a statesman and orator. It was printed in Spanish language, and was circulated in parts of the country. The generous and lofty sentiments to which he gave utterance , in the light of subsequents events seem almost prophetic. I cannot resist the temptation to add both interest and value to my narrative by hereinserting it in its entirety. Mr. Seward spoke as follows:

Gentlemen:

I thank you with a full heart for these and all the other distinguished hospitalities and honors which have been showered upon me in this respected and ancient capital of Colima.

The experience of the 18th century indicated to mankind two important changes of society and government on the continent of America. First, that all American States must thereafter be, not dependent European colonies, but independent native American nations. Second, that all independent American nations must thereafter have, not imperial or monarchial governments, but republican governments, constituted and carried on by the voluntary agency of the people themselves.

During a large part of my own political life, these great changes of society and government have been more or less contested--in logical debate in Europe and on the battle-field throughout America. While they have often involved the American States in civil and international wars, they have never more than once provoked European intervention.

A third improvement was early found necessary to guarantee success to the two principal changes which I have already mentioned. This third improvement consists in the combination of the many or several contiguous States, which are weak of themselves, into distinct nations.

My own country, the United States, has taken the lead in these changes, so essential in the American hemisphere.

The Mexican Republic has, bravely and persistently, adopted a similar system. Central America, and nearly all the South American States, have followed the example thus set by the United States and the Mexican Republic. One additional principle remains to be adopted to secure the succes of the republican system through out the continent. If it shall become universal on the American continent, we have reason to expect that the same great system may be accepted by other nations throughout the world. That additional principle is ~~xi~~ simply this, that the several American Republics, just as they constitute themselves, while mutually abstaining from intervention with each other, shall become, more than ever heretofore, political friends through the force of moral alliance.

This, in short, is the policy ~~which~~ which I have inculcated at home, and which, with your leave, and the leave of others interested, I shall commend as far as possible to the Republic of Mexico, Central America and South America.

I sincerely trust that the severest trials of the republican system are already passed in Mexico; and I shall never cease to pray God for her continued independence, unity, prosperity and happiness.

Hving spent some time in Queretaro, Mr. Seward proceeded by slow stages to the capital. At a distance of two miles from the city he was met by President Jaurez, Senor Lerdo De Tejada, the Minister of Foreign ~~Affairs~~ Relations, Minister Romero, Hon. Thomas H. Nelson, United States Minister to Mexico, and an escort of about four hundred soldiers, The reception was enthusiastic, and the greetings extended to the distinguished American were extremely gratifying to him. He was conducted in all the pomp of military display to the capital; and was there formally installed in one of the handsomest houses in the city, which had been especially prepared for his accomodation. He was here bidden to make himself perfectly at home during his stay at the capital, and the freedom of the city was heartily extended to him.

A round of magnificient entertainments and festivities, lasting through many days, now followed each other in rapid succession. Similar ovations and honors followed him all the way to the City of Vera Cruz, where he embarked for the United States. In variety, in extent and splendor, the tributes rendered to Mr. Seward far surpassed those ever paid to any other foreigner by the people of our sister Republic.

When Mexico shall finally make up her jewels, his effigy may be assigned a place, in her National Pantheon, beside that of Washington.

Mexico and the Mexicans pp.200-205
Howard Conkling
Taintor Brothers, Merrill & Co.
New York 1883

It's in the news—It's Advertised in . . .

(REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.)

File JUL 18 1973

To: The Union College Family

From: Harold C. Martin, President

1820

Nearly 150 years after William H. Seward was graduated, Union College continues to build for the future. The advertisement reproduced here, which will appear in a forthcoming edition of TIME, makes the point vividly and clearly for readers of the nation's most prestigious news weekly.

Union College has good reason to be proud of its past, and most particularly to be proud that historically it has always responded vigorously to the spirit of the age. The commitment of Union today is the same as the commitment that prepared William H. Seward to play a magnificent role in a most critical passage of American history.

I need not belabor the fact that we live today in another period of crisis, one that infects the college campus as well as the society at large. The nation needs trained minds, and the new Science-Engineering Center now rising on the Union campus (depicted on our TIME-style cover) is one of many warrants of our determination to play a part in supplying that need. The times also require, however, that those minds be able to view the passions of the moment with mature judgment, from the long perspective of history.

We are most grateful to TIME for contributing the space to bring our message to the magazine's readers. We are also most appreciative of the efforts contributed by the team from McCann-Erickson, Inc., headed by William W. Mulvey '38, who helped us to shape our thoughts and present them effectively.

That organizations of such magnitude have lent us their support is most gratifying. But your continued support is equally important. We hope that you will, as the advertisement suggests, look ahead with us.

On March 26, at the Waldorf-Astoria, alumni in the New York City area will have an opportunity to learn more of our plans. There they will see the first area showing of a new film about the College, "Promise of the Arches," and to discuss with me the means by which Union College will realize the bright promise of a future fully worthy of a distinguished past. If you have not yet planned to attend the dinner, I hope you will do so promptly. I look forward to meeting with you March 26.

HCM

One of our graduates was the laughingstock of the nation.

And we're proud of him.

His name was William Henry Seward. Class of 1820. Union College. Respected as Lincoln's Secretary of State. Until he persuaded Congress to buy Alaska for $7,200,000.

And people laughed.

Called it Henry's Ice Box. Seward's Folly. But then the Yukon Gold Rush happened. And Seward was hailed as farsighted. Courageous. Ahead of his time. Because he looked ahead. Naturally. He was the product of a college that believed in looking ahead.

Union College.

The oldest interdenominational college in America. A 1795 idea that was way ahead of its time.

Union College was the first to break away from strict classical curriculum (1795). The first to teach chemistry to all students (1808). The first liberal arts college to teach engineering (1845).

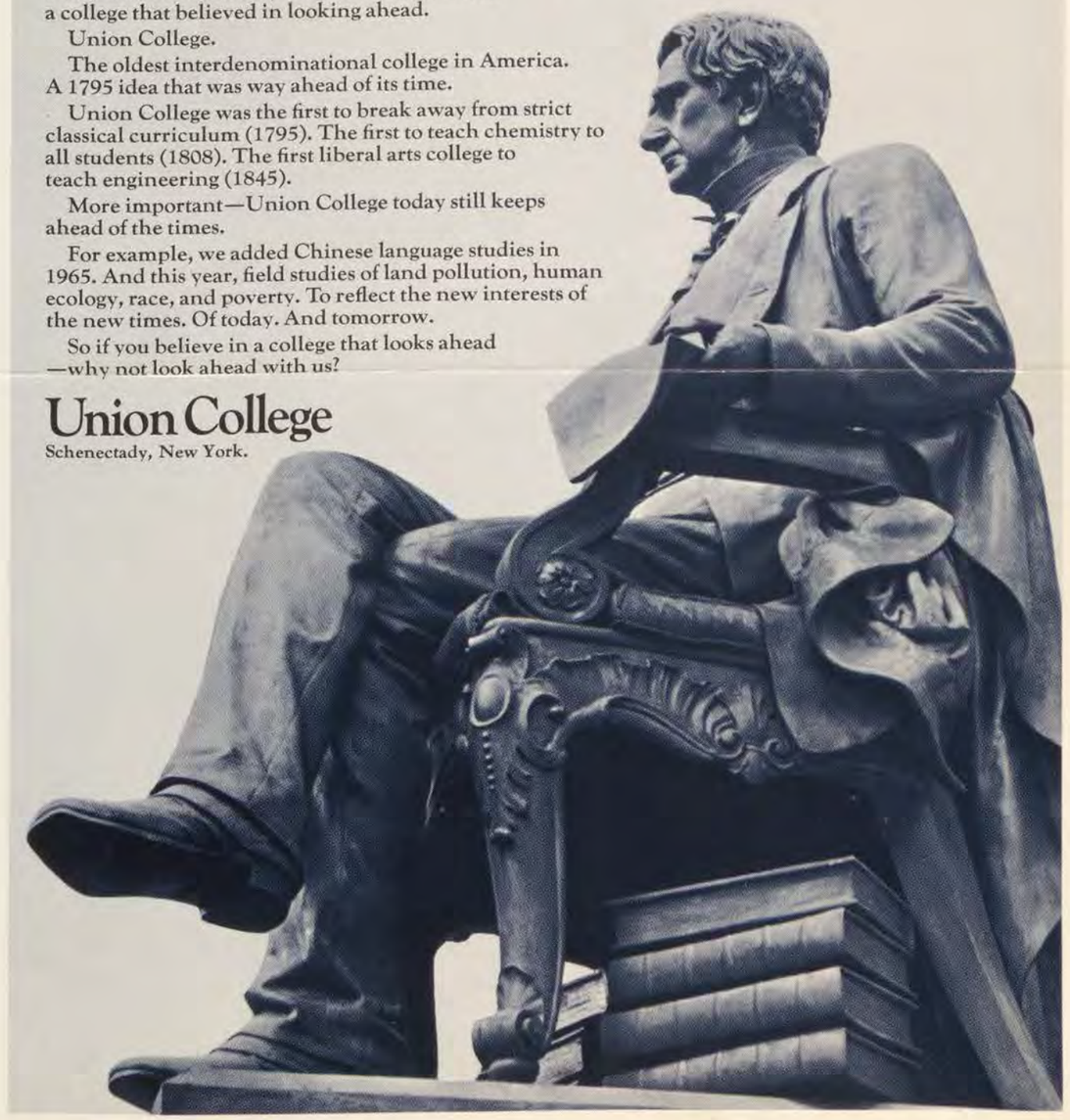
More important—Union College today still keeps ahead of the times.

For example, we added Chinese language studies in 1965. And this year, field studies of land pollution, human ecology, race, and poverty. To reflect the new interests of the new times. Of today. And tomorrow.

So if you believe in a college that looks ahead —why not look ahead with us?

Union College

Schenectady, New York.



UNION COLLEGE
Schenectady, N. Y. 12308

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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Organization
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Schenectady, N. Y.
Permit No. 215

Pete -
Seward

1820 WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

A survey of Seward's eight-year record in the Department of State leads inevitably to the conclusion that he was the greatest Secretary of State, so far as Far Eastern matters are concerned, since Daniel Webster. Indeed, we may say,at the risk of anticipating a conclusion the facts for which appear in subsequent chapters, that Seward was the only Secretary of State in the nineteenth century, until John Hay, who appears to have had a firm grip on the situation. And when compared with Hay it will be found that Seward had superior abilities to follow a policy through when beset with difficulties. In many of the stipulations of the Burlingame Treaty Americans may take honest pride, yet i in this compact the immigration question was not treated with statesmanship. The most conspicuous feature of Sweard's policy, aside from its aggressiveness, was his desire for cooperation with other treaty powers. Where other occupants of the office both before and after his time dodged and evaded the problem of cooperation, Seward met it boldly. For the sake of maintaining cooperation, he at times sacrificed American ideals. Over against the treaty with China there stands to his credit two of the most unAmerican actions, one accomplished and the other proposed, in all American history. The joint convention with Japan in 1866, and the proposed joint expedition for the coercion of Korea were not worthy, even after all possible explanations have been made and accepted, of American traditions. But in neither case was Seward acting as a free agent. He was paying the price of cooperation with states which had entirely different ideals as to the exeeution of their policies in Asia. To later administrations such cooperation was distasteful and was abandoned. There is, however, this to be said, that after 1868 American interests in Asia steadily receded until three decades later when the American Government resumed the policy of cooperation. The withdrawal of the United States from cooperation was one, though not the only, cause of this retirement of American influence.

Americans in Eastern Asia
pp. 420-421
Tyler Dennett
The MacMillan Co.
New York,
1922.

1820 WILLIAM H. SEWARD

In point of time Orange' countys next most distinguished statesman was William H. Seward, born in Florida in this county in 1801. His father; of Welsh ancestry, was a physician, a magistrate and town merchant all rolled into one. After graduating from Union College young Seward read law in New York City and began the practice of his profession in Auburn in 1833, thereafter disconnecting himself from his native county, although never forgetting, and always praising the soil of old Orange county. Under the astute management of his friend and promoter, Thurlow Weed, Seward was made successively State Senator, Governor of this State, and United States Senator, and might have received the presidential nomination if his anti-slavery views had not been so compromising. In the Senate, however, he rose to leadership and was most punctilious in his senatorial obligations. Secretary of State under Lincoln and Johnson, upon retirement from executive responsibility he traveled two years, visiting among other countries and places Alaska, which he had brought under our flag. In his last days he was at work on his autobiography and penning an account of his late travels. With no warning of the approaching end, except a gradual decline of health, he laid down his pen on the morning of October 10, 1872, only to rest entirely from his earthly labors in the afternoon.

Southeastern New York
vol. 2 pp. 581-2
Lewis Historical Pub. Co.
New York 1946.

1820

William H. Seward, class of 1820, is without question one of the most illustrious of the alumni that has ever gone forth from the halls of Old Union during her progress of over a century. Soon after his graduation he was admitted to the bar and in his profession quickly won an enviable reputation for originality of thought, independence of action, and industry in his legal work. Early in his career he turned his attention to the political questions and problems of the day. He showed pronounced opposition to slavery and devoted much of his time, often free of charge, to the cause of its abolition.

During his political career Seward was elected to the senate of New York State, and was the youngest man that had ever been elected to that office. He was governor of the State for four years, a member of the United States Senate for twelve years, and Secretary of State under Lincoln for two terms. This office he filled with almost unparalleled industry, energy and success. Only such a man as Seward could have piloted the ship of State through such perilous times.

A magnificent tribute has been paid to Seward and to Union College by Charles Emory Smith in his speech at the Centennial Anniversary in 1895. He said:

"It is almost a proverb that in earlier years Union had a larger proportion of representatives in public life than any other institution" And then he continues," William H. Seward was at once the most conspicuous and most characteristic product of the federal Union; in the galaxy of American statesmen he was a star of the first magnitude."

Truly Seward was an alumnus who has reflected lasting credit on his Alma Mater. Old Union has had glorious days in the past and her prospects are now daily growing brighter. So there is reason for the hope her best days are not in the years gone by but in the future just ahead.

C. Nov. 9, 1907

Concordiensis

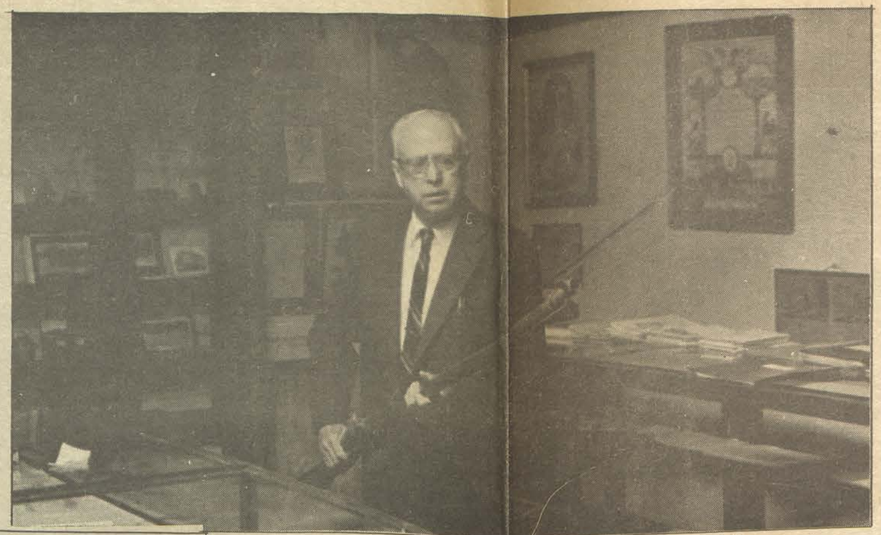
Seward family and their workers are shown in this early photograph.

Historical Treasures at the Goshen Library

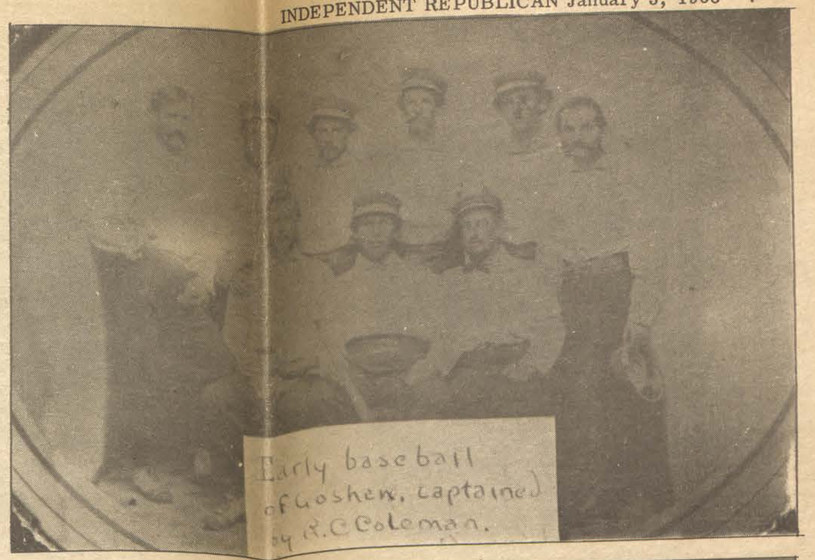
Harry Smith, Orange County Historian, is curator of a very interesting display and historical record of Orange County history, housed in the basement of the Goshen Library.

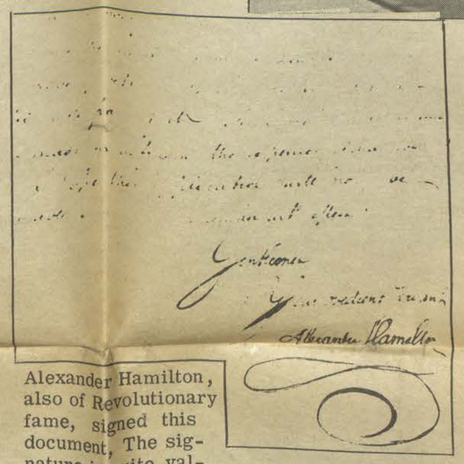
In the display are records and articles, donated or loaned to the Historical Society, which had a part or bearing on the history and events which made Orange County as it is today. Families have given their heirlooms, so that others who visit the Library may enjoy them.

The display is open by appointment, but if you are interested in Orange County history... it is well worth a visit.

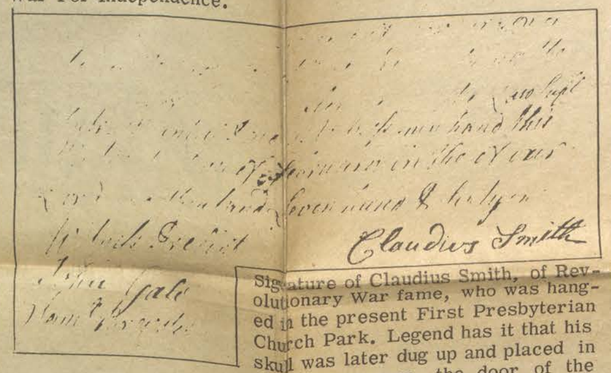


Harry Smith shows one of the historically significant firearms in the display. This one was carried by his ancestors in the War For Independence.



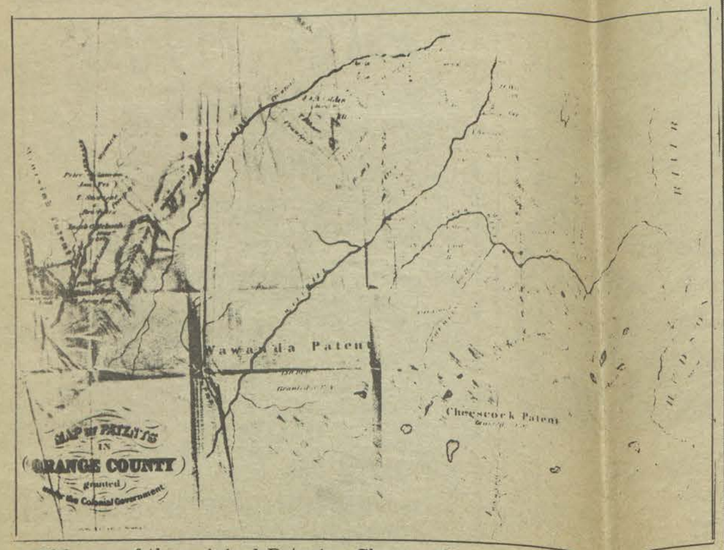


Alexander Hamilton, also of Revolutionary fame, signed this document. The signature is quite valuable.

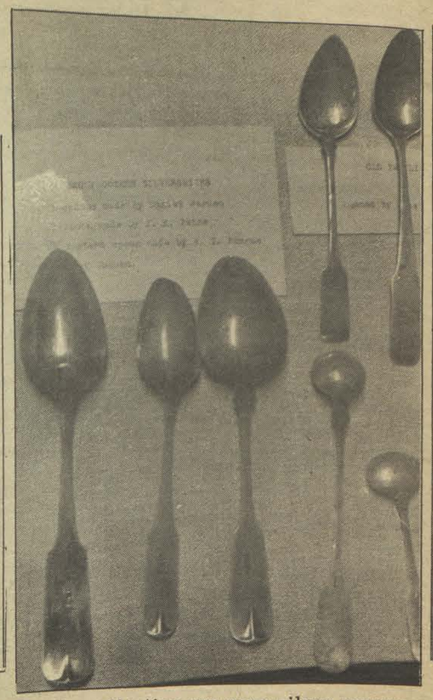


Signature of Claudius Smith, of Revolutionary War fame, who was hanged in the present First Presbyterian Church Park. Legend has it that his skull was later dug up and placed in the masonry over the door of the present Court house.

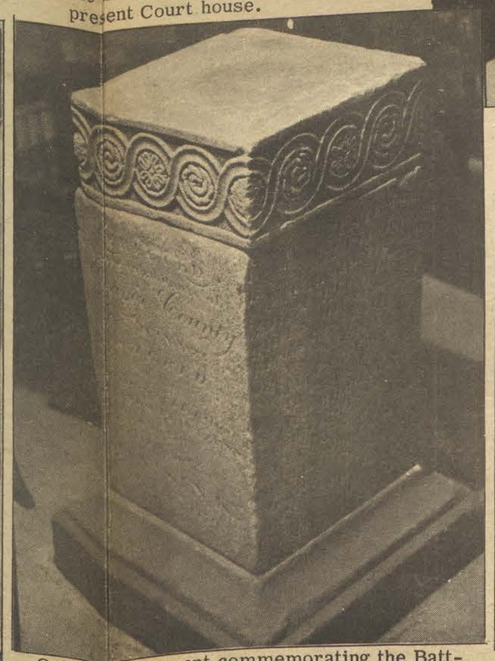
Revolutionary War firearm shows ornate engraving on the flintlock firing mechanism.



Old map of the original Patents, Cheescock and Wawanda, that made up the present Orange County area.



In the collection are rare silver spoons.



Original monument commemorating the Battle of the Minisink, lists the names of those settlers who lost their lives.

Many come to do historical research or to check old records that are available to the public.

W. H. Seward
Union 1824 -

UCSLaf 1820 seward-w-01

Lorant also found this photograph: Carpenter, posing as Seward would appear in the painting.

William H. Seward - Union College - Class of

Taken from "Saturday Evening Post" July 19, 1947

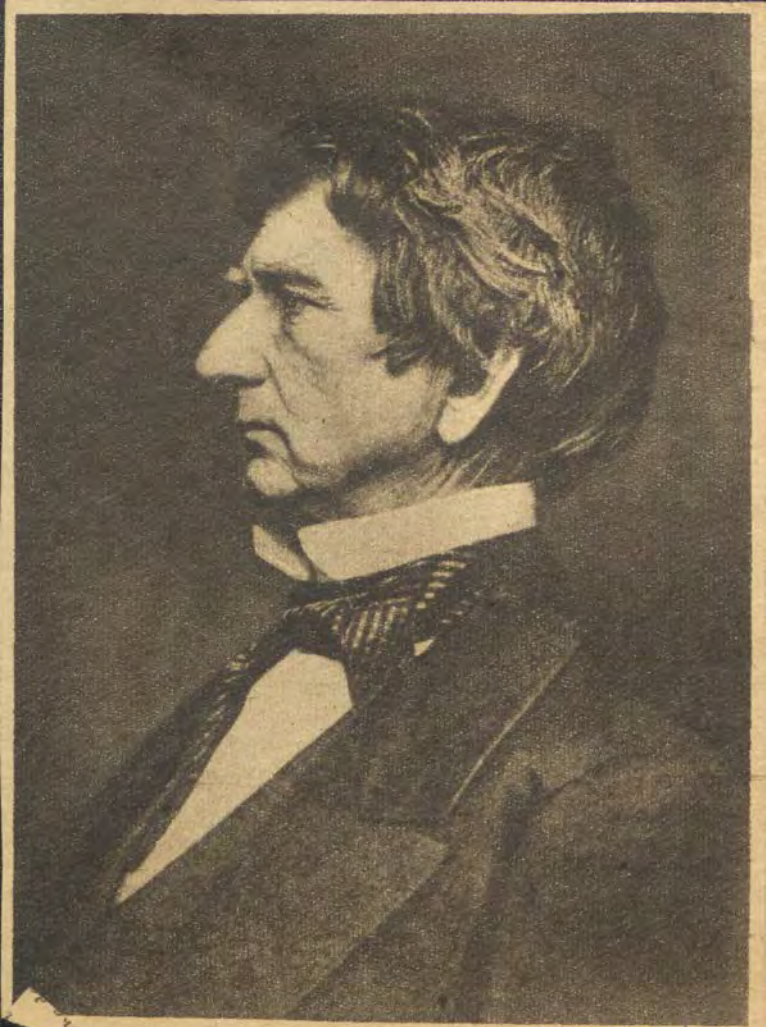
From my Article on a "Rare New Find" by Stefan Lorant

Seward as Posing here for the Painting of the Emancipation Proclamation by Francis B. Carpenter, the artist

These sketches and dishes of Carpenter were found in a country house near Pawling, New York. Carpenter died in 1926.

There were two children - a boy and a girl. Florence died in 1900, same year as her father, and Herbert the son in 1926, same year as his mother.

Florence married Albert C. Ives - who were connected with both the N.Y. Herald "Tribune" (abroad). Albert C. Ives son, Emerson Carpenter Ives Brooks (born 1882) - a country home at Quaker Hill, near Pawling. Here these documents were found by Mr. Lorant.



William Henry Seward.

The College Life of Secretary Seward at Union

In the fall of 1817, Wm. H. Seward, then a green looking country boy of 15, presented himself for admission to Union College. His examination was conducted by the Rev. Thomas McCauley, Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. Seward's preparation for college was so thorough and abundant that he was able to pass the examinations for admission to the Junior Class.

His age, however, compelled him to enter the Sophomore class, as 16 years was the minimum at which men could be admitted to the Junior Class.

At the time of his Matriculation Union, under the wise and careful administration of Dr. Nott, had about reached the summit of prosperity and influence.

With one of the best faculties in America, and the excellent reputation Dr. Nott had established in the religious and political worlds, it drew men from Yale, Harvard and all the great eastern colleges, who came here, either to take a post graduate course or to enter one of the upper classes, and have the fame of being a Union man.

Seward, himself, said many years later, that the college discipline was based on the soundest and wisest principles. "There was an absence of anything inquisitorial or suspicious. Every young man had his appointed recitations and attendance at prayers, and demeanor was required that should not disturb the quiet or order of the institution."

Although well prepared for his college work, Seward found many things to trouble and vex him. When he rose to deliver the first chapel oration, a ripple of laughter ran around the assembled students which developed into an uproar of merriment at his expense before he finished. The reason, as he found afterwards, was that he spoke with a very pronounced drawl, and his clothes were very ill-fitting, being the product of the tailor of his native village.

Seward was a careful and earnest student, and had a desire to get a better knowledge of some of his text books than he was able to, alone and unassisted. So it was his practice to go to the tutor during his study hours and receive help. This finally involved him in trouble with his class-mates. The boys in this especial recitation desired the tutor to give them shorter lessons and more, what, in this day, are called "bolts." Failing in this, they manifested their displeasure very much, as the men to-day do, when the faculty displease them; only in place of putting sulphur in a furnace, and exploding cannon crackers under recitation doors, they put asafaetida on the heated wood stove and pulled the tutor's long hair when he was not looking.

Of course the guilty ones were discovered and punished. They suspected an informer, and as Seward had not joined in their protests against the lessons, and had been often seen going to this tutor's house, he was suspected, and until he could convince his class-mates otherwise, was in "very hot water."

During his first year occurred Seward's first and only act of insubordination to the college authorities. The tutor in Greek was Mr. Wayland, afterwards the Rev. Dr. Wayland, President of Brown University.

The class was so large that the tutor could hear only about one-third of the class in a recitation. As he always kept the same order in calling men up, the boys were in the habit of taking novels, etc., into the class-room to amuse them on the days they were not to recite. The next man to Seward was a dull, simple-minded fellow, who depended on Seward to help him through. The tutor was desirous of breaking up so objectionable a practice as novel reading in his class-room, and so one day he deviated from his usual custom and called Seward's friend up, out of his turn. The fellow was totally unprepared and whispered to Seward, asking him what he should do. "Tell him you are not prepared," answered Seward. The fellow did so, but the tutor insisted. "Don't recite," cautioned Seward in an audible voice. The tutor was firm and the fellow was obliged to stumble through the best he could. "Mr. Seward, next," said the instructor. "I decline to recite," answered Seward. "What is the reason?" "I do not know that I am prepared. " "I thought that you might assign that reason," said the tutor, "and therefore I have called you to recite today from the book, the very lesson which you recited yesterday from memory, without any book." "I shall not recite to-day," replied Seward, firmly. "Then, sir," said the instructor, "you will please leave the room."

That evening Seward was summoned to apologize to his teacher, which he refused to do. Thereupon he was suspended. After two weeks time he was summoned to Dr. Nott, who asked him why he was absent from college. Seward explained matters, after which the

good doctor said, "Why then don't you apologize, my son?" "I think that the tutor did me the first wrong and he ought to apologize the first," replied Seward. "If the tutor will apologize to you, will you apologize to him" asked the Doctor? "Ah, yes," answered Seward, "I am convinced I was wrong, but he was wrong before me."

"Well, my son, rejoined the Doctor, suppose that I should apologize to you for him, would you be willing to apologize to me for his benefit?"

"Certainly."

Thereupon mutual apologies were exchanged, and after giving him some honest, manly advice, Doctor Nott reinstated Seward, and sent him back to work.

College honors in those days were awarded on very much the same basis as to-day, the highest grade for the course. Seward looked at first upon this system with much distrust, as he thought it involved a servile, unmanly compliance with the caprices of the faculty, that it destroyed the cordial sympathy and brotherly spirit which should exist among the men, and that by making them put all their energy and time in class-room work, it gave them a more contracted view of subjects of general interest.

He determined not to strive to excel, but an event occurred that changed his views and set him to working harder. That was the institution of a chapter at Union of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. Chapters were already in existence at Yale, Harvard, and Dartmouth, but Union's greatness decided them to institute the "Alpha of New York," at this institution. Accordingly a charter was granted in May, 1817, and men were elected on the basis of scholarship at the close of the junior year. The membership of this society comprised then, as now, the greatest thinkers of the day, the great statesmen, and scholars and professional men of the highest rank. Desirous of connecting himself with an organization which could boast of such men as Dr. Nott, Chancellor Kent, and Governor Clinton, Seward applied himself with great diligence and untireing perseverance, and had the high honor when his junior year expired of being elected a Phi Beta Kappa man. Toward the close of the Junior year an event of great interest had occurred. Daniel D. Tompkins, of this State, then Vice-President of the U. S., was running for Governor against DeWitt Clinton, who was seeking re-election. "In swinging around the circle," Tompkins came to Schenectady and was tendered a reception by the students. Seward's home training had made him an ardent admirer of Tompkins, and to him was accorded the high honor of delivering the address of welcome, which he did in a manner highly creditable to himself and to his college.

Seward had the same trouble to keep his expenses within his income that many fellows experience to-day. The ridicule which assailed him when he first entered college, caused him to become indebted to the tailors of Schenectady, for the purchase of more suitable clothing. His debts increased until at the beginning of his Senior year, they amounted to $100 which his father refused to pay. Thereupon Seward resolved upon a bold stroke, which, if successful, would make him henceforth independent. A class-mate of his had secured a situation as principal of an Academy in Georgia, and was to start about the beginning of the year (1819). Although within a few months of the time in which he was to graduate, Seward left college and accompanied his friend. He arrived at Savannah very nearly penniless, but made his way at once to Putman Co., where he had heard of an Academy to which a principal was wanted.

He made application at once, and although at this time but 17 years of age, his mature appearance, pleasing manners, and winning address, secured to him the situation at a salary of $800 per annum.

The local papers, publishing accounts of the flattering prospects of the new Academy and of its Principal, Wm. H. Seward, of New York, he sent copies of the papers to his father. By this means, Seward Sr., learned of his wherabouts, and as Seward was a minor, the trustees received notice that if they hired him they would be prosecuted for harboring a runaway.

Although the trustees expressed perfect willingness to abide by their contract and run the risk of being prosecuted, Seward, on hearing of the deep sorrow with which his mother had been plunged, when she heard greatly exaggerated accounts of his conduct, desires to return home. He did so, after procuring a successor.

It was desired that he should return to college the next year. During the intervening months, he studied law.

When Seward returned to college, he found that a great change had taken place. During the year that he was absent the Missouri Compromise had been debated.

causing the feeling between the Northern and Southern men of the college to run very high.

The two literary societies then in existence, were the Philomanthean and Adelphic, between whom great rivalry had always existed.

Most of the Southerners had joined the Philomatheans, but this sectional feeling caused a split in that society, the Southerners seceding and taking the name of "Delphian Institute." The Adelphics rejoiced in the discomfiture of their old rivals, and sympathized with the seceders. This brought on a fierce dispute between them and the Philomatheans. Seward having been in the South was sought for to give his opinion as to the rights of the Southerners to secede. The Adelphics expected the decision because he belonged to that society, while the Philomatheans claimed it from his known independence and fairness. The latter society was not mistaken in their opinion of him, as he decided that the Southern men did wrong to secede and form a new society. This decision, of course, greatly angered his associates in the Adelphic Society, and a charge was trumped up against him and he was indicted and brought to trial with the intent of expelling him from that society. Seward appeared before them and defended his action in a speech of such eloquence and power, that he was unanimously acquitted, and as an atonement for the injustice of the trial, he was elected by the Adelphics as one of the class managers. At that time the college was entirely run by these literary societies, and they were powerful instrumentalities for good, until superceded by the Greek Letter Secret Societies.

In later years, speaking of the benefit he had received from them, Seward said, "If I was required to say now from what part of my college education I derived the greatest advantage, I should say from the exercises of the Adelphic Society."

In July, 1820, Seward was graduated. His commencement was made noted because of the split in the class. The Philomathean and Adelphics composed of Northern men, now united against the Delphian Institute, made up of Southerners. The feeling was so great that the class separated on the stage, showing thus early that the elements of discord were already in existence, that forty years later plunged our country into a bloody civil war.

Such were some of Seward's experiences here at Union. Reading the story of his life, studying his noble character, and observing the part he took in the preservation of our country, every loyal son of old Union must feel themselves bound closer to an Alma Mater that has sent forth such men as Governor, Senator, Secretary, Wm. H. Seward.

John Van Schaick, Jr. C. March 19, 1892.

can be due to increased difficulty in the courses, or a higher standard. The explanation, we should say, must be sought elsewhere.

Scholarship Report

Percentage Table

	Class	Passing in all subjects	Below Passing: One Subject	Two Subjects	Three or More Subjects
FRESHMAN					
Nov.	1928 (as freshmen)	64.3	20.8	10.2	4.7
	1929	55.24	27.82	11.7	5.24
Dec.	1928 (as freshmen)	64.45	24.61	8.2	2.74
	1929	62.19	21.14	12.20	4.47
Jan.	1928 (as freshmen)	72.98	16.53	7.66	2.83
	1929	61.98	25.62	8.27	4.13
March	1928 (as freshmen)	61.8	22.6	13.8	1.8
	1929	59.2	25.3	10.4	5.1
SOPHOMORE					
Nov.	1927 (as sophomores)	55.	24.6	16.	4.4
	1928	47.81	26.83	17.07	8.29
Dec.	1927 (as sophomores)	47.48	35.86	10.6	6.06
	1928	52.45	26.47	13.24	7.84
Jan.	1927 (as sophomores)	55.67	30.95	11.34	2.06
	1928	58.21	26.37	9.45	5.97
March	1927 (as sophomores)	63.27	23.89	10.1	2.74
	1928	60.7	29.9	6.7	2.7

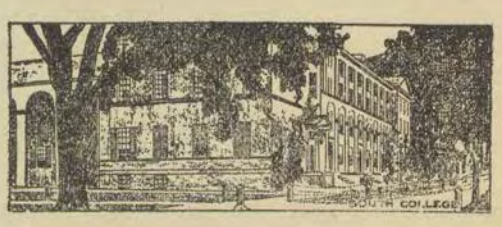
* * *

W. A. M. April 1926

Union men in New York, whether merely for a visit or for a longer period, will be interested in the following note sent us by the Rev. W. N. P. Dailey '84: "In Madison Square Park, in New York City, are two life size bronze figures of Union College men—President Chester Alan Arthur '48 and Secretary of State William H. Seward '20. Arthur's imposing figure is the work of George Edwin Bis-

sell and was given to the city in 1898. It represents the President standing before an armchair, beneath which is an oriental rug that flows over the plinth, the whole resting on a granite pedestal. Arthur's statue is close to the junction of Madison Avenue and 24th Street, where was formerly the Madison Square Garden.

The Statue of Seward is at the junction of Fifth Avenue and 23rd Street, diagonally opposite the Flat Iron Building. It is the work of Randolph Rogers and was given to New York in 1876, half a century ago, a few years after Seward died. It shows the Secretary of State seated in an arm chair, beneath which are books and manuscripts. There is also in the City Hall a painting of the Governor in the Governor's Room, the work of Henry Inman, N. A. This was done in 1848, and is eight feet high and five and a half feet wide.



BOOK REVIEW

1820 #6

Mr. Seward—Statesman

By EDWARD P. DOUGHERTY

The Governor and His Lady, a portrait of William H. Seward and his wife, Frances; written by Earl Conrad, published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. Price $5.95.

The Village of Florida in Orange County lays claim to William H. Seward, secretary of state under Lincoln, as its native son. The upstate City of Auburn claims him as its adopted son. Earl Conrad's vivid portrait of the "red-head" would indicate, however, that Mr. Seward belonged to the whole United States—at home wherever he hung his hat whether it was Florida, Auburn, Westfield (where he had a law office) Albany or Washington.

William Henry Seward saw little of Orange County after he left Florida to enter Union College in Schenectady. He saw little of Auburn after he once got into politics and took off on journeys to the major cities of the United States and to Europe.

But Frances Adeline Miller Seward, the Auburn girl whom he married while still a struggling young lawyer, was not with him on most of these trips. She remained in her father's home in Auburn—a semi-invalid—and carried on her romance with her husband by letter. She was there most of the time while her husband occupied the executive mansion in Albany; she was there during two of his three trips to Europe; and she remained in upstate New York during most of the Civil War while her husband was serving as secretary of state for President Lincoln.

Mr. Conrad, who has done a remarkable job of presenting a dual biography in "The Governor and His Lady", leaves no doubt about the influence which Frances Seward had over her husband despite the fact that she was unable—sometimes unwilling—to accompany him on his many trips. Her strong convictions against slavery erased thoughts of compromise from her husband's mind and it was he with Mr. Lincoln, who signed the Emancipation Proclamation. It was her reluctance to leave her widowed father's home that sent William Henry looking for another love . . . and he found it in politics.

There were others who influenced the life of this great statesman, not the least of whom was his father, "Judge" Samuel S. Seward of Florida. But for the judge, young William may have spent his life as a teacher in Georgia, a job he took after fleeing from Union College before graduation. His father sought him out, sent for him, threatened to have him jailed—and finally got him to return to Union to complete his education.

Father and son did not see eye to eye in those college days nor during the early years when William (his wife called him Henry) was practicing law with his father-in-law, Judge Elijah Miller of Auburn. Samuel lived, however, to see his "wastrel" son grow into a leading figure of American history and at the time of Samuel's death he was convinced that his son, then a member of the Senate, would become the next President of the United States.

William Henry Seward never did become president. He lost the nomination at Chicago GOP convention of 1860 to Abraham Lincoln after one of his staunchest supporters—Horace Greeley, by name—turned against him and swayed the delegates away from him. It was a bitter pill for Mr. Seward who had led in the early balloting by a considerable margin. But he went to work for Abe Lincoln's election, became secretary of state, counseled the President during the Civil War, purchased Alaska for the United States and negotiated some forty important treaties for the United States.

Mr. Conrad's book is more a history of an era than a dual biography of the Sewards, because Mr. Seward was involved some way or another in every important historical event in the United States during his 50 years in public life. This is the story of Horace Greely, the newspaperman; of Thurlow Weed, the first political kingmaker; of James Fenimore Cooper; of the abolitionist movement.

The author does not go deeply into the Civil War itself—for that would detract too much from his main theme. But he uses the letters of Frances Seward (they supplied much of the information for the book) to show the progress of the War. There is a vivid description of the assassin's attempt on Seward's life the same evening on which Abraham Lincoln was killed. Seward survived but his wife who saw the assassin knife her husband, her sons and household employes, was so shaken that she never recovered. She was truly the assassin's real victim.

Mr. Conrad's book is good reading. It should appeal to everyone, whether or not he may be a "Seward fan." Those from this area will find especial delight in the sections devoted to Florida, New York, the grocery store of Samuel Seward, the home (still standing), the barns and the customs of the day.

Clipped from
N.Y. Herald Tribune
Apr. 13, 1961
by
Joseph R. Brown, Jr. '03
Date: Wm. H. Seward

John C. Grier, Partner in Law Firm

A funeral service for John C. Grier, a partner in the law firm of Camp & Grier, 135 Broadway, will be held at 10 a. m. today at the Church of the Messiah and Incarnation, 78 Greene Ave., Brooklyn. Mr. Grier died Sunday — his seventy-eighth birthday and forty-eighth wedding anniversary—at his home at 126 Greene Ave.

He was a junior warden and member of the vestry of the Church of the Messiah and Incarnation.

Mr. Grier, who was a descendant of William H. Seward, Secretary of State from 1861 to 1869, formed a law partnership with the late Charles Martin Camp in 1925.

Mr. Grier was a grandson of the late John Cowdry, former Surrogate of Orange County.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Kathleen Webster Grier; two daughters, Mrs. Frederick L. Dill and Mrs. Eugene Wheeler; a son, John C. Grier jr.; three sisters, Miss Julia C. Grier, Mrs. John J. Van Vliet and Mrs. Hawley T. Webster, ten grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

The Lives of the Sewards

THE GOVERNOR AND HIS LADY. By Earl Conrad. *433 pp. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. $5.95.*

Reviewed by
RICHARD B. MORRIS

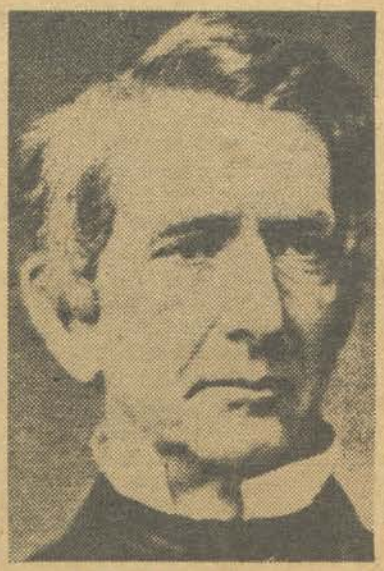
DUAL biographies are tricky pieces of business to manipulate. Mr. Conrad's story of William Henry Seward and his wife Frances demonstrates the hazards of such an enterprise. The story revolves mostly about the Governor and very little about his lady. Frances Seward appears very early to have retired from the scene of battle. Never able or willing to sever her exceptionally close ties with her father, she took to her upstairs bedroom, had headaches and other neurotic symptoms.

Seward was a charming extrovert, his wife a whining introvert. Despite Mr. Conrad's researches of the archives at the University of Rochester Library, including the Frances Seward letters, Mrs. Seward fails to emerge in these pages either as a vital or an intellectually interesting person. True, she was more ardent in her humanitarianism than her husband and more extreme in her advocacy of anti-slavery, but it is suggested rather than demonstrated that she was Seward's conscience and that it was she, rather than expediency or principle, that moved Seward to a more radical course.

From the evidence it would appear that Seward made what seemed like a suitable marriage when it was entered into, that he was never passionately attached to his wife, and that his real mistress was politics. If Mrs. Seward does not emerge from the shadows, William Henry is painted in bold strokes. We see a major American statesman who first attained popularity in upstate New York by exploiting the overwrought and basically bogus issue of anti-Masonry. Drifting with his region from moderate Whiggism toward Free Soil, Seward became the spokesman in Congress for the extremist forces and coined that unfortunate and unstatesmanlike phrase, the "irrepressible conflict." Then, having done as much as any man to light the fires of civil war, he tried to put them out with his outrageous proposal to President Lincoln that the United States embark upon a foreign war in order to unite the divided nation.

the wife's perpetual frustration run through the story like theme and counter-theme. If the husband comes alive and the wife seems like a relative one keeps in an upstairs bedroom, that is because the author has been essentially faithful to the documents and tells a convincing story.

Richard Morris, Professor of History, Columbia University, is Editor of "The Encyclopedia of American History."



William Henry Seward and his wife Frances Adeline Seward

"Sometimes a third man appeared at the fireside--another protege of Weed's. He was the rising state senator and popular lawyer from Auburn, William H. Seward. Seward, unlike Greeley, did not refuse Weed's wine and cigars. On the contrary, he had a warm liking for both--as he had for the paternal Weed. Short and scrawny, advancing under a shock of red hair and behind a hawklike, searching beak, Seward would stalk in, abruptly throw himself down in an easy chair, toss his feet up at the hearth, puff furiously, talk, gesticulate, jump up, flop down again, pour himself another glass of wine, and go on talking. Weed enjoyed it. Greeley listened.

The two upstate men stood out in contrast; Weed, bluff, lantern-jawed and composed, as against the wiry, nervous Seward. With the hard frame and heavy hands of a man brought up on country labor. Boss Weed now wore well-groomed black clothes and a shrewdly cultivated, worldly air; State Senator Seward, however, a college man and proud of his learned attainments, stuck to wrinkled clothes and to the bantering, noisy manner of the up-country. Both appearances, though, were calsulated; both answered their owner's needs. Seward wanted office. Weed wanted power--the power, that is, of bestowing office on others and receiving a patron's and partner's rewards in return. Specifically, Seward wanted the governorship of New York. Weed was out to get it for him, knowing that if he did, he would win virtual control of stste patronage, along with a perquisite for himself in the post of State Printer, which would probably net him and his Evening Journal together upward of $20,000 a year. The two men often broke a second and a third bottle of wine together as they discussed these possibilities. Greeley sat by and learned.

There was another difference between Weed and Seward of which Greeley was aware. The impetuous, intellectual Seward was moved by humanitarian feelings and a vigorous dislike of special privilege and slavery; he had said so in many speeches and had even won radical "Workie" support in his first campaign for state office. Thurlow Weed, however, was largely unmoved by such appeals. Yet the bond between the two was firm. It had begun taking form as long ago as fourteen years ago when Seward, at the moment of recoiling against the state's Democratic leaders, had encountered Weed under unusual circumstances. A coach in which Seward had been riding through the streets of Rochester had lost a wheel and overturned. "Among a crowd, which quickly assembled" (thus Seward described the moment), "one taller and more effective, while more deferential and sympathizing, than the rest, lent the party his assistance. This was the beginning of my acquaintance with Thurlow Weed,"

Deferential, sympathizing, yet authoritative and strong--that was Weed. Soon he placed himself in command of young Seward's political fortunes. Even then, sometimes, Weed remained deferential. He wrote his Auburn protege a letter in which he congratulated himself on having "the happiness to secure your good opinion"--although he then added, with a quick, commanding twist after they had disputed some minor political favor, "I have concluded to only half forgive you for thinking me weak enough to grasp for a paltry office.

Greeley knew their linkage as well as their differences, and before long found himself linked to both. While running the Jeffersonian, he found time also to ghostwrite articles and speeches for Seward. "I pray you," wrote Seward to Weed of one of these efforts in mid-1838, "make my warmest acknowledgements to H-----G----- for that beautiful article in the Fredonia Censor. I have never seen anything better timed, or in better temper, or more discreet. I started from my chair as I read it and said to myself, 'No man could believe that this was written by anybody but myself.' ". Evidently Greeley knew Seward's mind well, too. He enjoyed working with it; it was mobile, tense, and close to his own in range and principle--far closer, in fact, than that of the skeptical Weed. Of the two partners, Greeley wrote, Weed was "of coarser mould and fibre--tall, robust, dark-featured, shrewd, resolute and not over-scruplous." As between them, then, one should have thought that Greeley wo would have altogether preferred Seward. Yet he never did. Seward had conscience and character; but it was Weed who had personality and style. Seward, speaking so often as the voice of conscience, also had overweening personal ambitions which frequently put that conscience to rout.

From: Horace Greeley-Voice of the People pp. 50-52
William Harlan Hale
Harper & Brothers
New York 1950.

Other references to Seward: pp. 52-54; 56, 57, 75, 91, 132,140,143, 165, 193, 207,207,220-225, 353.

Seward and Greeley: 51-52, 144,151,166-167, 208

Seward as Secy. of State:234, 239-241,260,269,280, 285

For compromise: p. 241

WILLIAM H. SEWARD (Reference from ABRAHAM LINCOLN BY Carl Sandburg)

"Swiftly, on Jeff Davis's walking out forever, Senator Seward moved to admit Kansas, "Bleeding Kansas," as a Free S tate member of the Union. Twelve years she had knocked for admittance and the South said No. Now it was so ordered that Kansas be a state."

V 1 14

"That a man of the brains and experience of Seward was Prime Minister, Adams considered a piece of luck for the country, while on the other hand he held the opinion that from the birth of the United States Government no other 'experiment so rash had ever been made as that of elevating to the head of affairs a man with so little previous preparation for his task' as Mr. Lincoln had."

V 1 157

"Sewad as at this time a psychic maze. His young and affectionate friend Henry Adams could not tell when Seward wore face or mask. And Henry's brother saw Seward grow ten years older that winter. Night and day he had conferred and negotiated, become weary and rusty, vulgar and profane beyond his old habits, worn and frazzled as a castoff garment. Until Lincoln was nominated for the Presidency, Seward had been the conceded Republican-party leader, its pre-eminent mind, and he was now credited in many circles with having a disproportionate influence over the President, which Welles and Chase believed or suspected at all hours. Seward to these critics was a personal schemer, no patriot at all, and his toils and sleepless hours that winter trying to stave off war, his broken physical and mental health, were little known and seemed to have been understood only by the Adamses.

"'Last night I broke down, and sent for Dr. Miller,' Seward wrote his wife at Auburn, New York, on March 8. 'I have kept my chamber today, except an hour, when I went on a necessary errant to the White House. ..... The Commissioners from the Southern Confederacy are here. These cares fall chiefly on me.'"

V 1 179

"Then came the unraveling of a tangled affair. In Welle's hands were two papers signed by Lincoln, who after reading them said he was surprised he had sent such a document to the Secretary of the Navy; he had signed the papers without reading them, he told Welles; Seward with two or three young men had been at the White House through the day on a subject Seward had in hand. 'It was Seward's specialty, to which he, the President, had yielded, but as it involved considerable details, he had left Mr. Seward to prepare the necessary papers.'

Thus Welles heard Lincoln's explanation. 'These papers he had signed, many of them without reading—for he had not time, and if he could not trust the Secretary of State he knew not whom he could trust. I asked who were associated with Mr. Seward. "No one," said the President, "But these young men were here as clerks to write down his plans and orders." I then asked if he knew the young men. He said one was Captain Meigs, another was a naval officer named Porter....He seemed disinclined to disclose or dwell on the project, but assured me he never would have signed that paper had he been aware of its contents, much of which had no connection with Mr. Seward's scheme.....The President reiterated they were not his instructions, and wished me distinctly to understand they were not, though his name was appended to them---said the paper was an improper one--

that he wished me to give it no more consideration than I thought proper--
treat it as canceled--as if it had never been written.'
The next day the tangle of orders and countermands became worse.
Near midnight of April 6 Seward and his son came to Welles's room at
Willard's bringing a telegram from Captain Meigs concerning the POW-
HATAN, the flagship of the 'expedition to move by sea' which had been
ordered by President Lincoln to relieve Fort Sumter. Seward and Welles
fell into an argument abou the POWHATAN, Seward saying that Lieutenant
David D. Porter commanded it, Welles saying Seward was mistaken. So
the three men went from Willard's to the White House.
On the way Seward told Welles that old as he was, he, Seward, had
learned a lesson from this affair; he had better tend to his own business and
keep in his own department. Welles said in his polite way it would be a
good idea.
'The President had not retured...although it was nearly midnight,'
wrote Welles as to what he heard and saw. 'On seeing us he was surprised,
and his surprise was not diminished on learning our errand. He looked first
at one and then at the other, and declared there was some mistake, but after
again hearing the facts stated, and again looking at the telegram, he asked
if I was not in error in regard to the POWHATAN.'
Welles then want to his office in the Navy Department and brought
back and read to Lincoln the confidential instructions giving Mercer com-
mand of the POWHATAN. Lincoln then told Seward the flagship of the Sumter
expedition must be given back to Captain Mercer. Seward asked if the other
expedition... ...wasn't quite as important. Lincoln said the Pickens expedition,
could wait, but no time must be lost as to Sumter. He told Seward to
telegraph without delay and return the POWHATAN to its first commander, Mercer.'"

V 1 197-98

"'You are commander-i -chief of the ar y and navy,' put in Seward,
'and this is a case where it is necessary to issue direct orders without
passing them through intermediaries.'
'But what will Uncle Gideon say?' inquired the President. 'Oh, I will
make it all right with Mr. Welles,' was the assurance of Seward.
However, Seward couldn't make it right with Welles. The bad feeling
between them ran too deep. Lincoln had already sensed. it. Porter wrote
that in the discussions of the Fort Pickens relief plan and the overlapping
authority of the State and Navy departments, Lincoln remarked: 'This
looks to me very much like the case of two fellows I once knew; one was
a gambler, the other a preacher. They met in a stage coach, and the gambler
induced the preacher to play poker. And the preacher won all the gambler's
money. "It's all because we have mistaken our trades," said the gambler.
"You ought to have been a gambler and I a preacher, and, by ginger, I
intend to turn the tables on you next Sunday and preach in you church.".
Which he did.("

V 1 199

"Three Commissioners from the Confederate Government had arrived in
Washington before Lincoln was inaugurated, instructed to 'play with'
Seward, which they did! And Seward had 'played with' them. Seward's
incessant activity across this period would require heavy volumes to record;
his many spider-web proceedings, his masked assumptions and murmuring
fadeaways, his bold assumption that he spoke for Lincoln and knew the
intentions of the Government, his diplomatic maneuverings kept to himself
alone, which he justified to hi self by his view that what he was doing
would either bring peace and Union or would achieve delay in which the
Lincoln Administration could get ready for war. He had been more familiar

than any other man with the group of Southern Senators in Washington in January who had met secretly and formulated plans looking toward Secession. He had sat at the sickbed of Jefferson Davis, the leader of that group, and grasped their intentions, though he could not believe they would finally follow through on those intentions, and though, also, he had earned the lifelong ill regard of Varina Howell Davis that while he was outwardly the pervectly courteous gentleman he was inwardly a snake in the grass. The Confederate Commissioners wrote and telegraphed their Government that the Lincoln Administration would give up Sumter. Their Alabama friend, Associate Justice John A. Campbell of the United States Supreme Court, who like Alexander H. Stephens was no thorough nor original secessionist, held conferences with Seward, and also went to the New Yorker Associate Justice Samuel Nelson of the Supreme Court, following which Nelson called on Seward with Chase and Bates. Justice Nelson as a loyal Union man told Seward that a policy of force in retaking forts would mean 'very serious violation of the Constitution.' Seward said in confidence that he was embarrassed by the demand of the Southern Commissioners for recognition of their Government. Nelson suggested that he should bring Campbell to Seward, went away and came back with Campbell and the two of them argued with Seward for peace, conciliation, forbearance. Seward got up from his chair gesturing. 'I wish I could do it. See Montgomery Blaid, see Mr. Bates, see Mr. Lincoln himself; I wish you would: They are all Southern men. Convince them! If Jefferson Davis had known the state of things here he would have sent those Commissioners; the evacuation of Sumter is as much as the administration can bear.' Campbell rejoiced to hear Seward say this last about Sumter, and passed on to the Confederate Commissioners assurances of Seward that Sumter would be evacuated. Assuming that Seward spoke for Lincoln, Justice Campbell gave one of the Commissioners on March 15 a note reading in part, 'I feel entire confidence that Fort Sumter will be evacuated in ten days.'
The ten days or more passed with the United States flag still flying from Fort Sumter. Justice Campbell went to Seward with a telegram from Governor Pickens, who believed he had heard Lamon say when leaving Charleston that he hoped to return in a few days to arrange for the removal of Anderson and the Sumter garrison. Beauregard had written his chief at Montgomery that Lamon had left 'saying that Major Anderson and command would soon be withdrawn from Fort Sumter in a satisfactory manner.' Both Fox and Lamon had given Major Anderson the impression, which he referred to in communications, that Sumter would probably be evacuated, that defense would probably not be ordered. And on March 30 the Governor of South Carolina was telegraphing the Confederate Commissioners in Washington asking why Sumter was still flying the Stars and Stripes.
Seward lost no time in showing this telegram of March 30 to Lincoln. And on April 1 Seward told Justice Campbell that 'the President was concerned about the contents of the telegram--there was a point of honor involved; that Lamon had no agency from him, nor title to speak, nor any power to pledge him by any promise or assurance.'"

"Lincoln asked that Campbell should question Lamon. This Campbell said he didn't wish to do. However, Seward and Campbell held two conferences on this day of April 1. Seward came to the second conference from an interview with Lincoln, and he wrote on a piece of paper which he handed to Campbell, 'I am satisfied the government will not undertake to supply Fort Sumter without giving notice to Governor Pickens.' Campbell asked: 'What does this mean? Does the President design to supply Sumter?' And Campbell said Seward's reply was: 'No, I think not. It is a very irksome thing to him to surrender it. His ears are open to everyone, and they fill his head with schemes for its supply. I do not think that he will adopt any of them. There is no design to reinforce it.'
"The next day, April 2, the Confederate Commissioners telegraphed their Government: 'The war wing presses on the President; he vibrates to that side...Their form of notice to us may be that of the coward, who gives it when he strikes.'"

V 1 201-03

"Schleiden the next day proposed to Seward that he, Schleiden, should journey to Richmond and hold confidential discussions with Vice-President Stephens there. Seward favored Schleiden's plan on condition that 'neither the President nor the entire Cabinet could expressly authorize' such discussions nor offer terms for an armistice. Later the same day Schleiden conferred with Lincoln and Seward."

V 1 258

....."Had Lincoln been familiar with the fine points of international and maritime law which he learned through this affair, he would not have fallen in with Seward's claim that the United States alone had the power to define as a pirate a privateer on high seas that belong to all nations, and particularly to the British fleet.".....

V 1 287

"At six o'clock came Seward, pale, worn, hoarse, asking Nicolay and Hay, 'Where is the President?' He had gone to drive, they told Seward, showing telegrams indicating victory, one from Editor Hanscomb of the NATIONAL REPUBLICAN very positive of victory.
'Tell no one,' came the words from Seward. 'That is not true, The battle is lost.' He had news that McDowell's army was retreating and calls were coming for General Scott to save Washington."

"The old General complained of disrespect, of obedience wanting, and the President in early October met in General Scott's rooms opposite the War Office several of his key men. The question arose of the number of troops in and about Washington. According to Welles, 'Cameron could not answer the question; McClellan did not; General Scott said no reports were made to him; the President was disturbed.' Seward then read from a small paper how many regiments were in the various commands, including newly arrived troops, and a total. On Seward's appealing to McClellan, McClellan said Seward's figures were approximately correct. General Scott, with a frowning rampart of a face, considered it a remarkable state of things: 'I am in command of the armies of the United States, but have been wholly unable to get any reports, any statement of the actual forces, but here is the Secretary of State, a civilian, for whom I have great respect but who is not a military man nor conversant with military affairs, though his abilities are great, but this civilian is possessed of facts which are withheld from me. Military reports are made, not to these Headquarters but to the

State Department. Am I, Mr. President, to apply to the Secretary of State for the necessary military information to discharge my duties?' Seward explained that he got his information by vigilance, attention, tabulating arriving regiments, and so on, Scott with a grim smile agreeing that the labors of the Secretary of State were arduous and he had not known the whole of them: 'If you in that way can get accurate information, the Rebels can also, though I cannot.' Cameron, half in earnest and half ironical, said all knew tha Seward was meddling in all departments with what was none of his business and he thought 'we had better go to our duties,' which Welles considered 'a pleasant way of breaking up an unpleasant interview.'"

V 1 320-21

"Seward without a doubt was feeling extra good that evening. 'We will wrap the whole world in flames!' he told W. H. Russell, the Prince de Joinville, and others. 'No power so remote that she will not feel the fire of our battle and be burned in our conflagration.' Russell asked one of the guests if Seward was showing fight. 'That's all bugaboo talk,' was the explanation. 'When Seward talks that way, he means to back down. He is most dangerous and obstinate when he pretends to agree a good deal with you.' And the young French princes, and the young and pretty Brazilian and American ladies, danced and were happy."

V 1 363

"Atter one of the Cabinet meetings that December, Lincoln asked Seward to write a reply to England giving reasons whyMason and Slidell should be given up. 'I have a mind to try my hand at stating why they ought not to be given up; we will compare points.' Thus the younger Seward heard it. And when later Lincoln and the Cabinet approved Seward's note, the two had quiet words, Seward asking,' you thought you might frame an argument for the otherside?' Lincoln smiled with a shake of the head. 'I found I could not make an argument tha would satisfy my own mind. And that proved to me your ground was the right one.'

V 1 365

"Others in the Cabinet, Chase emphatically, agreed with Welles that Seward was meddlesome, not particularly scrupulous, ready to exercise authority until challenged, then becoming timid and 'inventive of schemes to extricate himself.' While Stanton and Chase were circulating the paper against McClellan, Seward kept away from Cabinet meetings, Welles noting of Seward: 'Has met with us but once in several weeks.' Seward, having been among the first to urge McClellan for General in Chief, was now dodging the issue of McClellan's removal. Welles could only explain his absences by 'a reluctance to discuss and bring to a decision any great question.' And when Seward did come to a Cabinet meeting, he would get familiar with the President in a way the others did not like. ('The President, thought he observes this ostentatious presumption, never receives it otherwise than pleasantly, but treats it as a weakness inone... whose ready shrewdness he finds convenient and acceptable.' Also Seward seemed to be on hand alongside the President too often when other Cabinet members came to the White House. 'As each consulted with the President, Seward, from daily, almost hourly, intercourse with him, continued, if not present at these interviews, to ascertain the doings of each and all, though himself imparting but little of his course to any.' All other members favored regular Cabinet meetings on fixed days. 'The Secretary of State alone dissented, hesitated, doubted, objected, thought it

inexpedient, said all had so much to do we could not spare the time; but the President was pleased with the suggestion, if he did not prompt it, and concurred with the rest of the Cabinet.'
These regular meetings on fixed days went on, and Seward as a former United States Senator and Governor of New York 'was allowed, as was proper, to take the lead in consultations, and also to give tone and direction to the proceedings. The President, if he did not actually wish, readily acquiesced in this..Mr. Seward was not slow in taking upon himself to prescribe action and doing most of the talking, without much regard to the modest chief, but often to the disgustof his associates, particularly Mr. Bates, who was himself courteous and respectful, and to the annoyance of Mr. Chase, who had, like Mr. Seward, experience as a chief magistrate.'
Cabinet discussions went on without order or system, noted Welles, 'but in the summing-up and conclusions the President, who was a patient listener and learner, concentrated results, and often determined questions adverse to the Secretary of State, regarding him and his opinions, as he did those of his other advisers, for what they were worth and generally no more.'
One advantage of Seward was resented. Like the President, he was a storyteller. While other secretaries were toiling at their duties the Secretary of State 'spent a considerable portion of every day with the President patronizing and instructing him, hearing and telling anecdotes, relating interesting details of occurrences in the Senate, and inculating his political party notions.' And amid these Cabinet jealousies had come one deep cleavage. 'Between Seward and Chase there was perpetual rivalry and mutual but courtly distrust. Each was ambitious. Both had capacity. Seward was supply and dexterous; Chase was clumsy and strong. Seward made constant mistakes, but recovered with a facility that was wonderful and most always without injury to himself; Chase committed fewer blunders but persevered in them when made.'
As Welles saw it, such was the Cabinet, the closet council that Lincoln met with for help and light in the September days just after Second Bull Run. Sometimes other matters pressed on Lincoln so hard that he could not meet them, and Welles recorded of one day: 'At the Executive Mansion the Secretary of State informed us there was to be no Cabinet-meeting. He was authorized by the President to communicate the fact. Smith said it would be as well, perhaps, to postpone the Cabinet-meetings altogether and indefinitely--there seemed no use latterly for our coming together. Others expressed corresponding opinions. Seward turned off, a little annoyed.'
Faces wore gloom and suspicion. It was a dark hour. 'An unfavorable impression is getting abroad in regard to the President and the Administration, not without reason, perhaps, which prompted Smith and others to express their minds freely. There is really very little of a government here at this time, so far as most of the Cabinet are concerned..Seward, when in Washington, spends more or less of each day with the President , absorbs his attention, and I fear to a certain extent influences his action not always wisely. The President has good sense, intelligence,and an excellent heart, but is sadly perplexed and distressed by events.He, to an extent, distrusts his own administrative ability and experience. Seward, instead of strengthening..him, encourages this self-distrust..The President has, I believe, sincere respect and regard for each and every member of the Cabinet, but Seward seeks, and has at times, influence, which is sometimes harmful. The President would often do better without him, were he to follow his own instincts, or were he to consult all his advisers in council... Chase is much chafed by these things, and endeavors, and to some extent succeeds, in also getting beside the President, and obtaining information of what is going forward. But this only excites and stimulates Seward, who has the inside track and means to keep it. The President is unsuspicious, or apparently so; readily gives his ear to suggestions from anyone.'" V 1/ 540-43

"An international world opinion favoring the North was Seward's steady objective. Often he brought to Lincoln's desk designs and schemes for approval on matters of broad policy. The President and his State Minister spent more and more time together, grew in respect and affection. 'The President is the best of us,' Seward had written to his wife. Often on Sunday mornings they had long talks, came nearer being cronies than any other two of the Cabinet.
Raymond wrote in his diary of a dinner and smoking party at Seward's house: 'Of President Lincoln he spoke in the strongest terms of praise. With all his defects, he said, he seemed just the man for the crisis. Patient, capable of endurance, just and tolerant beyond example, he said that Providence had raised him up for this emergency as signally as He raised up Washington for the necessities of our struggle for independence.'"

V 11 69

"Seward was widely and repeatedly quoted in the opposition press as having remarked to the British Minister in Washington: 'I can touch a bell on my right hand and order the arrest of a citizen in Ohio. I can touch the bell again and order the imprisonment of a citizen of New York, and no power on earth but that of the President can release them. Can the Queen of England, in her dominions, say as much?'
Seward denied this remark, but his friends knew it sounded like a flash, from Seward after several fingers of old brandy. 'Arrest Charles W. Adams he telegraphed the New York chief of police. 'Secure his papers and send him to Fort Lafayette.' The arrests, usually at night, had secrecy, a weird anonymous reach, and spread fear and hate among many not saying Yes to the Government."

V 11 154-55

"A note of Seward to the French Government intimated that Lincoln believed Napoleon III was scattering seed for bitter fruit. Of rumors that the Emperor was allied in various schemes with the insurgent cabal at Richmond, Seward wrote: 'The President apprehends none of these things. He does not allow himself to be disturbed by suspicions so unjustified at France and so unjustifiable in themselves; but he knows, also, that such suspicions will be entertained more or less extensively by this country, and magnified in other countries equally unfriendly to France and to America; and he knows also that it is out of such suspicions that the fatal web of national animosity is most frequently woven.' Seward's note warned, 'In no case are we likely to neglect such provision for our own safety as every sovereign state must always be prepared to fall back upon when nations with which they have lived in friendship cease to respect their moral and treaty obligations.'
The French Government advised the American Minister in Paris that the sooner the American Government showed a willingness to recognize the Government of Archduke Maximilian, set up in Mexico by French armies, the sooner would those armies be ready to leave Mexico. Seward replied that the determination of President Lincoln was to err on the side of neutrality, if he erred at all, as between France and Mexico. 'The French Government has not been left uninformed that, in the opinion of the United States, the permanent establishment of a foreign and monarchical government in Mexico will be found neither easy nor desirable.'"

V 11 395

"The crowd didn't feel it was much of a speech. They went next door with the band and blared for Seward. He spoke so low that Hay could not

near him, but he opened the stopgaps of patriotic sentiment, saying in part, 'I thank my God for the hope that this is the last fratricidal war which will fall upon the country which is vouchsafed to us by Heaven--the richest, the broadest, the most beautiful, the most magnificent, and capable of a greater destiny than has ever been given to any part of the human race.' What more could a holiday crowd ask for on a fair night of moonlit November? Seward gave them more and closed: 'Fellow citizens, good night.' It was good night for him but not for them. They serenaded five other speakers."

V 11 463

"Seward arranged secret understandings with Russia so momentous that he must have consulted with Lincoln about them. In America perhaps only Seward and Lincoln knew what conditional assurances were given the Russian Government as to the purchase of the peninsula of Al-ay-es-ka, shortened by Seward to the name of Alaska, a wilderness and 'polar bear garden' where a narrow strip of water drew a line between North America and Asia. Estimates ran that it was worth from $1,400,000 to $10,000,000. The United States was to buy it as soon as convenient, the purchase price to include certain naval expenses of the Russian Government--some such understanding was worked out between the Washington and St. Petersburg governments."

V 11 521

"As among them he saw the Secretary of State in neglected attire, he noted 'Seward looked very much like a molting barnyard fowl among peacocks.'"

V 11 534

"Seward worried Carpenter by remarking, 'I told the President the other day that you were painting your picture upon a false presumption.' To Carpenter's surprise Seward went ahead to say that slavery was rung out when Lincoln was elected President; the subject for a painting should be the Cabinet meeting when the news of the firing on Fort Sumter came; that was the crisis. 'If I am to be remembered,' Seward went on with more excitement than pleased Carpenter..'let it not be as having loved predominantly white men or black men, but as one who loved his country.' Carpenter argued that slavery was the cause and root of the war and no act compared with emancipation. 'Well,' said Seward, 'you think so, and this generation may agree with you; but posterity will hold a different opinion.'

Seward explained on another day that no great man should be put on a horse as in equestrian statues; it was all wrong; the horse always got the best of it and degraded the man. Bates too had views on art for Carpenter and was sarcastic about sculpture around the Capitol, especially the rearing and snorting wonder horse on which Andrew Jackson sat across from the White House. 'Genius conceives; talent executes,' said Bates.

Carpenter learned that the speech of the President receiving a foreign Minister was carefully written by the Secretary of State. Such a text was handed the President one day when a half-dozen Senators and Congressmen sat around on chairs and sofas. The clerk in a low voice: 'The Secretary has sent the speech you are to make to-day to the Swiss minister.' Lincoln laid down a pen, took the manuscript: 'Oh, this is a speech Mr. Seward has written for me, is it? I guess I will try it before these gentlemen, and see how it goes.' He read it with waggery and ended: 'There, I like that. It has the merit of originality.'

V 11 597

"..This would make a starting-point from which to overrun Texas and set up the United States flag as a warning to the French imperial army across the Mexican border, where the Austrian Archduke Maximilian had been put on a throne by Napoleon 111. Seward wanted this last objective very much...."

V 111 13

"And while Sumner laid his undercover mine by which he hoped to hoist Seward out of the Cabinet, what was Seward doing? Could anyone who knew Seward picture him unaware and uninformed of the foot tracks of Sumner over the landscape and what the game was that Sumner stalked?

"Did Seward and Lincoln, the two leading masters of political art in the Republican party, talk it over and garnish with anecdotes the entry of Sumner into the deals, dickers, and combinations of candidate-makings? They talked it over probably; it was fantastic; but the hour was too dark for any merriment about such realities. They had some sort of an understanding about running Andy Johnson for the Vice-Presidency, probably, and there were several indications that delegates asked Seward who was the man and heard Seward say Johnson was the man and without asking Seward if he spoke for the President, delegates assumed that he did. Seward was joined as with steel to Lincoln on the policy of gentling the South back into the Union through reconstructed States theoretically in law never out of the Union. Johnson incarnated that idea as did no other candidate proposed."

V 111 94

"'The President was very amiable, and seemed inclined to grant the request, but said he would consult Secy Seward, and see what his views were,' noted Browning. 'He sent for Seward. We waited a half hour, and he (Seward) did not come. The President then asked me to go over and see him.' Seward on hearing an argument that Shiff as a surgeon was a noncombatant became 'excited, boisterous and profane,' saying that Shiff was one of the 'd m d rebel belligerents' who could be thankful he was allowed to go away to Paris with his head on his shoulders. To Browning the next day the President said Seward had been over to see him, and had urged objections to granting the request, 'that he did not see that any injury could result from it, but as Seward objected he believed he would do nothing' This closed the incident. But all the numerous past incidents of trust, affection, and benefits bestowed on him did not bring out Browning in favor of Lincoln for President. He said nothing for nor against a second term for Lincoln. To that extent Browning helped the McClellan ticket and cause."

V 111 279

"The serenaders then crossed Lafayette Square to the home of Secretary Seward, who spoke from a second-story window. Not in a long time had he been feeling so good. The humor, the play of fancy and imagination, that Lincoln had come to love in his Secretary of State shone this evening in an opening fable, in a spirit of goodwill and fellowship welcoming the Southern States back into the old Union in a warmth of affection for everything human. Seward began:

Fellow citizens-You remember that once Paul, in his own country, took an appeal to Caesae, and went from Judea across the Mediterranean to follow out his appeal to Caesar. After being shipwrecked, and after having encountered all manner of dangers at Malta and elsewhere- dangers by sea and land- he at last reached the coast of Italy, landing at the Hot Springs, near Naples. From there he proceeded up towards Rome, And when he got within the suburbs of the city, came out to meet him. Thereupon Paul thanked God and took courage. So I think that, having been tossed about on this tempest of secession and revolution for three and a half years, I have at last got to Appii Forum-(Laughter.)-The Place of the Three Taverns. Although there is not a hotel on this street-(Laughter.)-at all events I am sure the brethren have come out to meet me-(Laughter.)-and thereupon I do now here to-night, with all my heart, and in all reverence and humility, thank God. Amen. We all of us thank Him, and I hope you will all take courage for the rest of the way, which I think will be a short journey.

Seward mentioned the many Tories in the country during the War of the Revolution. As a boy he heard his father and mother talk about those numerous Tories. As a boy he hoped to meet a Tory and have a good look at one. 'What surprised me above all things was, that at the expiration of thirty years there was not a Tory to be found in the whole United States. (Laughter.)' Seward spoke his judgment 'that we will all come together again; that when the Stars and Stripes wave over Richmond the rebellion will go down; and that within one, two, three and four years after that, you will have to look mighty sharp to find a man who was everya secessionist or an aider of rebellion. (Cheers.)' He was certain that with slavery removed 'the only element of discord among the American people will have ceased to work its mischievous fruits.' He saw 'our proud career among the nations' advancing. And a touch of austerity moved the Secretary of State:

'I know that it will not be the fault of the Administration if we do not have an era of peace and harmony. The election has placed our President beyond the pale of human envy or human harm, as he is above the pale of human ambition. Henceforth all men will come to see him, as you and I have seen him, a true, loyal, patient, patriotic and benevolent man. (That's so,' and cheers. Having no longer any motive to malign or injure him, detraction will cease, and Abraham Lincoln will take his place with Washington and Franklin, and Jefferson and Adams and Jackson, among the benefactors of the country and of the human race.'

The serenaders cried 'Go on!' Seward said he had spoken more than intended. 'I wish you would go around and see the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of War, and keep them in good humor,' he went on in a vein no other Cabinet member could have taken, 'for if the Secretary of the Treasury fails us in funds we may come to grief, and if the Secretary of War does not get better within a few days than he is now, I shall begin to be concerned for what is to happen to us all. And while you are about it, you could not do anything better than to call and see my excellent friend and compatriot, Gideon Welles (Laughter.) and tell him that if it is possible for him to close up Wilmington I shall have a great deal less trouble in my foreign relations.'" VIII.. 566

"'What is Seward's object?' he asked Welles. 'He never in such matters acts without a motive, and Weed would not have been called here except to gain an end.' The nearest Morgain could figure it was that Seward wanted to be President and hoped ~~Morgan could~~ to line up Morgan for him. So Welles wrote in his diary, noting that he heard Weed 'expressed great dissatisfaction' that Morgan would not go along, adding: 'The selection, I think, was the President's, not Seward's, though the latter readily fell in with it.'"

V 1V 107-08

"Seward wrote to Bigelow that the President's foreign policy consisted of two propositions: 'We shall attack nobody' and 'We shall defend ourselves if assailed.' Nor did the Secretary of State lack words about how any imaginable situation in foreign affairs would be met. He wrote to Bigelow, 'All conjectureandcollateral questions arising out of the war are left by us to the arbitrament of reason under the mutations of time.' This came suitably from the only member of Lincoln's Cabinet having a gift for drollery.

V 1V 111- 12

"Seward was among those who mainly favored the President's policy of goodwill, of being generous and taking chances on double-dealing. Through differentprocesses of thought, 'we frequently arrived at the same conclusion,' Seward described their joint operations; on the large questions 'no knife sharp enough to divide us.' In their four years together once only were they seriously at odds. 'His "colonization" scheme (for gradual emancipation of Negroes by purchase and sending the freed slaves to colonies removed from American soil) I opposed on the self-evident principle that all natives of a country have an equal right in its soil.'"

V 1V 234

"Seward, eight years older than Lincoln, had been, until Lincoln's nomination and election, the leader of the Republican party. His words on 'the higher law' and 'the irrepressible conflict' had gone far to lose him the nomination won by Lincoln. As a New York man close to the controlling financial and commercial interests of the country, he sponsored protective tariffs, steamship subsidies, a bill for a railway to the Pacific. He analyzed canals, railroads, trade balances, tariffs, new factors in commerce, the stream of surplus capital and labor arriving from Europe, and foretold their economic role with a surer grasp than Lincoln. Although a Protestant, an Episcopalian, he had for years been close to Archbishop John Hughes of New York, themost influential Roman Catholic prelate in America; his start in politics was with the Anti-Masonic party, which elected him State senator in 1830; his recommendation as Governor of New York that public school funds be divided between Protestants and Catholics had brought the American or Know-Nothing faction clamoring against him within the Republican party. He had read history widely and often tried to meet a modern situation with an ancient solution, as if history were a series of repetitions.

During the winter since Lincoln's election Seward had been taken by many men of the North and South as the spokesman of the new Administration. As such, he had used the watchwords 'moderation,' 'forbearance,' and 'conciliation.' At a dinner in New York before leaders in finance and politics he had made a speech with humorous and flippant expressions, almost as though logic and laughter could restore the broken Republic. His long-awaited January 12 speech in the Senate had rambled among many topics, sounded no slogan, cleared no foggy air. 'Great God! how are the mighty fallen!' Zach Chandler had cried. In that month of January, Seward was playing desperately at the role of peacemaker.

His cordial acquaintance with Senator Jefferson Davis grew into more than acquaintance as he went for one hour a day to the home at F and Fourteenth Streets where Davis lay racked with the pain of an inflamed left eye soon to go blind. He sat at the bedside and told Davis of the daily events in House and Senate, Mrs. Davis saying: 'Mr. Seward inquired about every symptom, and one day when our hopes of saving the eye were small, as he went downstairs he suddenly said, with moist eyes, "I could not bear to see him maimed or disfigured, he is a splendid embodiment of manhood, he must not los his eye." There was an earnest, tender interest in his manner which was unmistakably genuine.' His friendshi for the Davis family had begun two winters befo e. As Mrs. Davis told it: 'Mr. Seward heard that I was at the point of death, and that a near neighbor of his, who was nursing me, could not get a carriage to bring her to our door....Though he did not know us, he had his own fine horses harnessed to a sleigh, and brought her to me-but with broken harness and at some peril.'
Thus in the seething of that winter Seward was receiving confidential messages from Abraham Lincoln and sitting at the bedside of Jesserson Davis. He was trying to do what Henry Clay had done in 1850, hold the Union together by negotiation and compromise. The Public Man wrote in his diary, 'Much of Mr. Seward's work must necessarily be done in the dark and through agencies not appreciable by the public at all.' He had traveled far since his speech as a Senator in 1848 when he told an audience in Cleveland, Ohio as to slavery, 'It must be abolished, and you and I must do it.' Once Sewa d had told Wendell Phillips, 'You make opinion and we use it.' He seemed now, to amny, rea y to surren er an y point or principle to hold the Union together. A baffling manipulator, he was said to be 'politically the uncleanest politician in the United States, but personally the cleanest.' When he was joined with corrupt forces in politics, he asked of them only political advancement-not money.
His large audience over the country had been won partly through his understanding of how to use the press. In the Senate he would as soon speak to empty seats, he told Jefferson Davis. 'I speak to the papers; they have a larger audience than I, and can repeat a thousand times what I want to impress on the multitude outside.' Buchanan had observed This gift and said of Seward: 'He understood the art of preparing in his closet and uttering before the public, antithetical sentences, well calculated both to inflame the ardor of his anti-slavery friends and to exasperate his pro-slavery opponents. He thus aroused passions, probably without so intending, which it was beyond his power to control.' Of his shifts in viewpoint that winter, William Lloyd Garrison remarked, 'He aims to be axiomatic and oracular, but it is evident that his moral nature is quite subordinate to his intellect.'
It was long ago that Seward had been Governor of New York and brought on the statute books laws requiring jury trials for fugitives slaves, with defense-counsel fees paid by the State. Opinions of him ranged from that of E. L. Godkind, saying he was 'perhaps the greatest Constitutional lawyer in American, the clearest-headed statesman, and of all public men perhaps the least of a demagogue and the most of a gentleman,' to that of Horace Greeley writing in a letter to Schuyler Colfax, 'Seward is a poor worthless devil and old Abe seems to have a weakness for such.'
He was Welsh-Irish slouching, slim, middle-sized, stopped, white-haired, 'eyes secret but penetrating, lively with twinkling, a subtle, quick man, rejoicing in power.' He had traveled in Europe, Egypt, Palestine. He had been a struggling lawyer and built a practice tha pai ell, though he was as careless about fees s Lincoln; he won for a convict, and again for a Negro, cases that brought them freedom and him no fees; as Governor of New York he had led n abolishing the law and cust m of putting men in jail for not aying their debts.

He had quit snuff and now smoked cigars by the box. His beautiful Arabian horses were pictured in Harper's Weekly. His five-course dinners at his Washington apartment were a topic of smart society, and one of his loyal friends, Charles Francis Adams, Jr., noted: 'When it came to drinking, Seward was, for a man of sixty, a free liver; at times his brandy-and-water would excite him, and set his tongue going with dangerous volubility; but I never saw him more affected than that-never anything approaching drunkenness. He simply liked the stimulus, and was very fond of champagne; and when he was loaded,his tongue wagged.'
The historian George Bancroft wrote his wife: 'I talked with Seward, who looked dirty, rusty, vulgar, and low; used such words as hell and damn, and spoke v ry loud. I think better of Mrs. Lincoln for her excessive dislike to him.'"
Walking from the Capitol with Douglas one day some years back, he had mentioned Douglas's reference that day to 'nigger-worshipers,' and said, 'Douglas, no man will ever be President of the United States who spells "negro" with two G's.' On the one hand Seward was referred to by Mrs. Lincon as 'that dirty abolitionist sneak,' while one the other hand the abolitionist Senator Benjamin Wade was saying, 'If we follow such leadership, we will be in the wilderness longer than the children of Israel under Moses,' and Senator Sumner now held him 'demented,' 'a mere politician,' and worse. It seemed that Seward as an antislavery man was never known to blame the Southerners personally for slavery. His door was open to Southern representatives always. The personal hatreds and guttural disgusts of so many of the abolitionists for Southern men and Southern culture were lacking in Seward. Though Southerners hated him for predicting 'the irrepressible conflict,' for declaring. 'There is a higher law than the Constitution,' he refused to lash beck at them.
When a Louisiana Senator had poured out on him a series of accusations of bad faith, he had remarked, 'Benjamin, give me a cigar and when your speech is printed send me a copy.' Another time when an opponent had spattered him with odious epithets, he stepped over to the excited and denunciatory Senator's desk and, reaching for a little silver box, said, 'Senator, will you give me a pinch of snuff?'"
He had through the winter exchanged letters with Lincoln about a Southern man for a Cabinet place, Lincoln writing that they could safely ~~for predicting 'the irrepressible~~
take 'not more than one who opposed us in theelection, the danger being to lose the confidence of our own friends.' Seward had sought such a Southern man, written hopes and misgivings to Lincoln, and given it up. Of his own selection for the State Department Lincoln wrote him: 'I am happy to find scarcely any objection to it. I shall have trouble with every other Northern cabinet appointment, so much so that I shall have to defer them as long as possible to avoid being teased to insanity to make changes.' The same sort of ridicule Lincoln met for saying at Columbus 'nothing is going wrong' had fallen on Seward for saying at a big dinner in January that the trouble would all be over and everything settled in sixty days. Seward later replied to a party critic: 'When I made that speech theelectoral vote was not counted, and I knew it never would be if Jeff Davis believed there would be war. We both knew that he was to be President of the Southern Confederacy, and that I was to be Secretary of State under Mr. Lincoln. I wanted the vote counted and Mr. Lincoln inaugurated. I had to deceive Davis and I did it. That's why I said it would be all settled in sixty days'

Now Seward was writing his wife that after he had withdrawn from the Cabinet and Lincoln asked him back, 'I did not dare to go home, nor to England,' so he had gone back into the Cabinet. To John Bigelow in Europe he wrote: 'Charitable obituaries are pronounced over our remains. We think we shall excite an agreeable surprise when we pronounce in the ears of the mourners the soothing assurance that we still live.'
As the national crisis took higher strides, Seward told of an Irish soldier rushing into the Captain's tent, gun in hand, crying, 'What shall I fire at, Captain? I don't see no one.' The Captain smiled: 'Fire at the crisis. Didn't you know there was a crisis in this country?'
Young Henry Adams sketched Seward as having 'unorderly hair and clothes; hoarse voice; offhand manner; free talk, and perpetual cigar,' a double type, political and personal, 'complex because the political had become nature, and so one could tell which was the mask and which the features.' Both among friends and before the public 'he chose to appear as a free talker, who loathed pomposity and enjoyed a joke; but how much was nature and how much was mask, he was himself too simple a nature to know. Politicians thought it unconventionality. Bostonians thought it provincial. Henry Adams thought it charming.'
Between this man and Lincoln was a friendship that might grow deeper. Seward wrote his wife of his first day in Washington with Lincoln: 'We rode an hour (in the morning). I met him again at half-past one. He is very cordial and kind toward me-simple, natural, and agreeable.' To his son Fred he remarked that he had found under the Lincoln exterior ' a curious vein of sentiment.' He was pleased to find this, as though he and Lincoln would work better together if both had a streak of sentiment underlying their logic and solemnity. 'The temper of your Administration,' he advised Lincoln, 'whether generous and hopeful of union or harsh and reckless, will probably determine the fate of our country.'"

V 1 141-45

"The President, Chase told friends and callers, 'seldom lost an opportunity to entertain himself and others in this direction.' In letters and personal talks, steadily and systematically for months, Chase had been undermining opinion as to Lincoln. In his letters and diary records of his conversations ran a curious thread of dislike for the President and of fear and hatred of Seward. Chase spoke or wrote to Generals Cochrane, Hooker, Shields, Butler, and to John Sherman words that could only nurse suspicion and breed bad feeling. When he met Thurlow Weed, the New York Republican leader, he knew there was something of the attachment meant by Seward's once saying, 'Seward is Weed and Weed is Seward.' For Chase told Weed that while he did not doubt Seward's fidelity to progress and freedom, 'his influence encouraged the irresolution and inaction of the President in respect to men and measures.' Chase was aware that Weed would carry his words to Seward. His brief and most charitabl judgment of Seward was 'He is too much of a politician for me,' and of Lincon,'I feel that I do not know him.' Always a prominent distinction between Chase as against Seward and Lincoln was that they dropped into the nonsensical and preposterous when they felt that way. This was to Chase a barrier.
When Chase told Senator Feesenden there was 'a back-stairs influence' controlling the President, he knew that Fessenden understood no one else was meant than Seward. That Seward with his cigars, cynicism, wit and nonsense, was the most companionable human being in the Cabinet had no bearing. That Seward had held the leadership of the Republican party until Lincoln was nominated for President and was a past master of political science also had no bearing.

Joseph Medill of the Chicago Tribune was writing to Schuyler Colfax: 'Seward must be got out of the Cabinet. He is Lincoln's evil genius. He has been President de facto, and has kept a sponge saturated with chloroform to Uncle Abe's nose all the while, except one or two brief spells, during which rational intervals Lincoln removed Buell, issued the Emancipation Proclamation, and discharged McClellan. There must be a reorganization of the Cabinet.'

The Republican Senators held a secret caucus in the reception room of the Senate chamber on the afternoon of December 15, 1862. They discussed a letter written by Seward to Minister Adams six months before. Senator Sumner had taken the letter to Lincoln and asked him if he had approved it. Lincoln told Sumner that he had never seen the letter before. The newspapers got hold of this and raked Seward. The radicals claimed one more proof that Seward was a backstairs influence paralyzing the President's best intentions. Seward's offending letter had these words:

'It seems as if the extreme advocates of African slavery and its most vehement opponents were acting in concert together to precipitate a servile war-the former by making the most desperate attempts to overthrow the Federal Union, the latter by demanding an edict of universal emancipation as a lawful and necessary, if not, as they say, the only legitimate way of saving the Union.'

The New York Times alleged that Seward never sent a dispatch to a foreign Minister without the President's seeing it. Judge James W. White of New York City, however, publicly stated that Seward had never laid the letter before Lincoln's eyes. Also White had written to Trumbull asking for more information on the subject, Trumbull answering that he did not have time to investigate, though it was clear that Seward was not voicing the President's policy. The letter under discussion was only one instance of the malign ways of Seward. So said speakers at the caucus. Disasters one after another were laid to Seward.

Senator Fessenden's memorandum of the meeting noted: 'Silence ensued for a few moments, when Mr. Wilkinson (of Minnesota) said that in his opinion the country was ruined and the cause lost; that the Senate might save it but would not for the reason that Republican senators would not adopt any united and vigorous course. In his judgment the source of all our difficulties and disasters was apparent. The Secretary of State, Mr. Seward, exercised a controlling influence upon the mind of the President. He, Mr. Sewar , had never believed in the war, and so long as he remained in the Cabinet nothing but defeat and disaster could be expected.' Ben Wade followed, 'particularly censuring the Executive for placing our armies ~~found the~~ under the command of officers who did not believe in the policy of the government and had no sympathy with its purposes.' Senator Collamer found the difficulty in the fact that the President had no Cabinet in the true sense of the word. 'It was notorious that the President did not consult his Cabinet councilors, as a body, upon important matters. Indeed, he, Mr. Collamer, had understood the President to have expressed the opinion that it was best to have no policy and let each member of the Cabinet attend to the duties of his own department. Mr. Collamer believed this to be unsafe and wrong, and he thought measures should be taken to bring about a different state of things.'

Fessenden said a duty was upon the Senate in the crisis at hand. It should, however, proceed cautiously and with unanimity or its action would alarm the country and weaken the hands of the Executive without effecting any ultimate good. 'We should make an effort to see whether anything can be proposed which will receive receive unanimous concurren e.' Fessenden said he had been told by a member of the Cabinet (not naming Chase) that there was 'a back-stairs influence' which often controlled the apparent conclusions of the Cabinet itself. The same official had tol hi , within a day or

two, that until within a few days he had supposed the Banks expedition was to co-operate with General Burnside, and was astonished when he found that was not the case.
Mr. Howard interrupted Mr. Fessenden and inquired if the name of that backstairs influence was WillaimH. Seward. Mr. Fessenden replied that no name was given; Senators might draw their own conclusions.
Browning noted in his diary a point not set down in Fessenden's memorandum, that 'old Ben Wade made a long speech in which he declared that the Senate should go in a body and demand of the President the removal or dismissal.of Mr. Seward. He advocated the creation of a Lieutenant Genl. with absolute and despotic powers, and said he would never be satisfied until there was a Republican at the head of our armies.'
Senators Dixon and Howe said they could not single out Seward or any other Cabinet member for censure. 'We should not proceed upon mere rumor. First as ertain the fact whether Mr. Seward did exercise an injurious influence upon the mind of the President. At present there was no proof of the fact.'
Senator Grimes of Iowa, speaking to his resolution of want of confidence in the Secretary of State, said Seward should be removed from the Cabinet. Doolittle of Wisconsin believed that any vote would be unwise in the present state of affairs, and that a committee should be appointed to take up the whole subject and perhaps ask an interview with the President. Several Senators made the point that the Grimes resolution was merely intended to test the opinion of those present; it was not designed for the President or for the public eye. Fessenden again made it clear that unless the meeting was unanimous in action it might produce evil. 'Other conversation followed, in which it was said that any vote we might pass would be known to the public, as experience had always proved.' Browning rose to say that if Seward was for compromise instead of war he ought not to retain his place, 'but I have no evidence the charges are true, and could not, therefore, vote for the resolution,' said Browning. He asked for harmony instead of strife. 'War between Congress and the President' was not desirable. By a vote of 16 to 13 the secret caucus adjourned to the next day.
Senator Harris opened the next day's caucus by offering a substitute for Grime's resolution: 'that in the judgment of the Republican members of the Senate, the public confidence in the present administration would be increased by a reconstruction of the Cabinet.' This seemed to others no definite action. 'The committee, if raised, would not know how far the Republican senators were agreed; any resolution was not, necessarily, to be communicated to the President, or any one else, but would be simply an expression of opinion among ourselves (the Senators).' Sherman of Ohio suggested the Harris resolution might be construed as meaning all members of the Cabinet should go out. He presumed this was not desired. 'No one wished Mr. Chase to leave the Treasury, which he had managed so ably!'
Mr. Sherman doubted whether changing the Cabinet would remedy the evil. The difficulty was with the President himself. He had neither dignity. order, nor firmness. His course would be to go directly to the President and tell him his defects. It was doubtful if that would do any good.
Senator Sumner now offered a substitue for Harris's resolution: that a committee be appointed to wait upon the President 'and urge upon him changes in conduct and in the Cabinet which shall give the administration unity and vigor.' After conferences and conversation this Sumner resolution and the two others were rearranged, slightly modified, and passed by a unanimous vote, except for King, not voting. A committee of nine was appointed.
Senator Collamer read to the committee a paper he had prepared which he believed embodied its views. This with a few changes was adopted and was to be carried by the committee and laid before the President. Each

member of the committee, however, would be free to express to the President on his own responsibility any individual opinion. Also it was understood that should changes be made in the Cabinet, no member of the committee would accept a place.

The secret caucus was not yet over when Senator Preston King stepped out and hurried to Seward's house, found his old colleague sitting in the library, and remarked: 'Seeing how things were going, I did not stay for the last vote, but just slipped out to tell you, for I thought you ought to know. They were pledging each other to keep the proceedings secret, but I told them I was not going to be bound.'

Seward chewed a cigar and said, 'They may do as they please about me, but they shall not put the President in a false position.' He called for pen and paper and wrote to the President: 'Sir, I hereby resign the office of Secretary of State, and beg that my resignation be accepted immediately.' Five minutes later King put the note in the hand of Lincoln, who read it, looked up with surprise, and said, 'What does this mean?' King told the story of the day. Later in the evening Lincoln stepped over to Seward's house, spoke his regrets to Seward, who remarked that it would be a relief to be free from official cares. 'Ah, yes, Governor,' said Lincoln, 'that will do very well for you, but I am like the starling in Sterne's story, "I can't get out."'

An informal House committee of three called, Congressman Charles B. Sedgwick, a Syracuse, New York, lawyer writing to his wife: 'I went to the President's with Thad. Stevens & Conklin to urge him to accept Seward's resignation. With his usual adroitness & cunning Seward, soon as he had tendered his resignation, began to send in his friends to the President to frighten him into refusing to accept it & I wanted to do what I could to counteract it....I fear the President needs strengthening....I think you had better not show this letter at present.'

Browning called at the White House the next evening. The doorman said the President had left word he could not be seen. Browning sent a boy up to tell the President he wished to see him a moment. Lincoln soon came. Browning introduced a Mr. Wise, who would like to have some items of information for a biography he was writing. But the President was in no mood for talking to biographers that night. 'I saw.....that he was in distress,' wrote Browning-'that more than usual trouble was pressing upon him....We took our leave. When we got to the door the President called to me saying he wished to speak to me a moment. Mr. Wise passed into the hall and I returned. He asked me if I was at the caucus yesterday. I told him I was and the day before also. Said he "What do these men want?" I answered "I hardly know Mr. President, but they are exceedingly violent towards the administration, and what we did yesterday was the gentlest thing that could be done. We had to do that or worse." Said he "They wish to get rid of me, and I am sometimes half disposed to gratify them." I replied, Some of them do wish to get rid of you, but the fortunes of the Country are bound up with your fortunes, and you stand firmly at your post and hold the helm with a steady hand-To relinquish it now would bring upon us certain and inevitable ruin. Said he "We are now on the brink of destruction. It appears to me the Almighty is against us, and I can hardly see aray of hope." I answered "Be firm and we will yet save the Country. Do not be driven from your post. You ought to have crushed the ultra, impracticable men last summer. Youcould then have done it, and escaped these troubles. But we will not talk of the past. Let us be hopeful and take care of the future Mr. Seward appears now to be the especial object of their hostility. Still I believe he has managed our foreign affairs as well as any one could have done. Yet they are very bitter upon him, and some of them very bitter upon you." He then said "Why will men believe a lie, an absurd lie, that could not impose upon a child, and cling to it and

repeat it in defiance of all evidence to the contrary." I understood this to refer to the charges against Mr. Seward.'
The committee of Senators was to call on him at seven o'clock that night, Lincoln told Browning-and added, 'Since I heard last night of the proceedings of the caucus I have been more distressed than by any event of my life.'
The committee came to the White House at seven o'clock that December night of '62, Collamer, Wade, Grimes, Fessenden, Trumbull, Sumner, Harris, Pomeroy, and Howard. 'The President,' Fessenden noted, 'received us with his usual urbanity.' Though Browning had seen Lincoln only a few minutes earlier wearing a troubled face and saying he was 'more distressed' than on any other day in his life, he had now rallied an expression of ease, so much so that Fessenden took particular notice that Lincoln 'received us with his usual urbanity.'
The Senators were seated. Collamer rose and read his carefully prepared paper. Its main points were that the war for the Union must go on; the President should employ the combined wisdom and deliberation of his Cabinet members, who in turn should be unwaveringly for the war; it was unwise and unsafe to commit military operations to anyone not a cordial believer and supporter of the war as patriotic and just, rendered necessary by 'a causeless and atrocious rebellion.' These conclusions were redprvyfully presented for executive consideration and action, by Republican Senatos 'entertaining the most unqualified confidence in the patriotism and integrity of the President.'
Ben Wade stood up, stocky, deep-chested. He said the war had been left in the hands of men who had no sympathy with it or with the cause. He commented on the late election returns from the Western States, implying that the appointment of Democrats to command the army had brought Republican defeat. 'To this,' noted Fessenden, 'the President made no response.' Grimes and Howard rose to say confidence in Seward was gone. Fessenden began with saying the Senate believed in the patriotism and integrity of the President, disclaiming any wish to dictate to him as to his Cabinet. They claimed, however, the privilege, as his constitutional advisers, to tender him their friendly counsel. He dwelt on the public belief that the Secretary of State was not in accord with a majority of the Cabinet. Again, in the conduct of the war almost every officer known as an antislavery man had been disgraced. He instanced Fremont, Hunter, and others. It was time to change this condition of affairs. The war should be conducted by its friends. The Administration must protect itself. The Democrats were using General McClellan for party purposes. McClellan was now busy making an attack upon the Government, which had the power to show the falsity of his statements, and it was due to the country and the party that the Government should make known the facts.
'At this point the President rose, said the explanation was very simple, produced a large bundle of papers and read several letters to McClellan, showing that McClellan had been sustained by the government to the utmost of its power. A half hour was thus spent, and Fessenden did not resume his remarks.'
Sumner rose to say to the President that Seward in official correspondence at home and abroad had subjected himself to ridicule, had made statements offensively disrespectful to Congress, and had written dispatches which the President could not have seen or assented to. Sumner gave an instance. The President replied that it was Seward's habit to read the dispatches to him before they were sent, but they were not usually submitted to a Cabinet meeting. He did not recollect the letter to which Sumner referred.

'Some three hours were spent in conversation with the President,' Fessenden noted, 'but no definite action was discussed. The President said he would carefully examine and consider the paper submitted, expressed his satisfaction with the tone and temper of the committee, and we left him in apparently cheerful spirits, and so far as we could judge, pleased with the interview.'

The actions against Seward had now taken three days. Tuesday and Wednesday the Republican Senators had caucused. Thursday their committee had organized and had gone to Lincoln for their evening interview. Lincoln called a Cabinet meeting for half-past ten Friday morning, December 19. All the members came except Seward. The President told them that what he had to communicate should not be the subject of conversation elsewhere. He then informed them that a positive and pointed opposition to Seward had shown itself in a caucus of Republican Senators, who were unanimous, with one exception, for Seward's removal. Senator King, a personal friend of Seward, had felt it his duty to inform the Secretary, who had at once sent to the White House his resignation to the President. A committee of Senators had called to interview him on Wednesday evening. Welles in his diary tried to reproduce in substance the remarks of the President on what took place between him and the committee: 'The President says the evening was spent in a pretty free and animated conversation. No opposition was manifested towards any other member of the Cabinet than Mr. Seward. Some not very friendly feelings were shown towards one or two others, but no wish that any one should leave but the Secretary of State. Him they charged, if not with infidelity, with indifference, with want of earnestness in the War...with many things objectionable, and especially with too great ascendency and control of the President and measures of administration. This, said the President, was the point and pith of their complaint.'

Welles recorded in his diary no touch of humor or irony in the President's report. But one of Lincoln's secretaries noted his telling the Cabinet of the Senate committee members: 'While they seemed to believe in my honesty, they also appeared to think that when I had in me any good purpose or intention Seward contrived to suck it out of me unperceived.' The President wished the Cabinet to know that he had told the committee he was shocked and grieved at 'this movement.' He had selected his Cabinet in view of impending difficulties and of all the responsibilities upon himself; he and the members had gone on harmoniously, whatever had been their previous party feelings and associations. There had never been serious disagreements, though there had been differences. In the overwhelming troubles of the country, which had borne heavily upon him, he had been sustained and consoled by the good feeling and the mutual and unselfish confidence and zeal that pervaded the Cabinet.

He hoped there would be no combined movement on the part of other members of the Cabinet to resist this assault. The movement was uncalled for. Admitting all that was said, there was no such charge as should break up or overthrow a Cabinet. Nor was it possible for him to go on with a total abandonment of old friends.

After various remarks from Cabinet members, the President requested that the Cabinet should, with him, meet the committee of Senators. "This", noted Welles, "did not receive the approval of Mr. Chase, who said he hadno knowledge whatever of the movement, or the resignation, until since he had entered the room. Mr. Bates knew of no good that would come of an interview. I stated that I could see no harm in it, and if the President wished it, I thought it a duty for us to attend. The proceeding was of an extraordinary character. Mr. Blair thought it would be well for us to be present, and finally all acquiesced." The President named half-past seven that evening for the interview.

Meanwhile on that Friday the big outside world knew nothing of this movement which had already shaken the Cabinet and threatened to wreck it. Rumors were spreading, however, that Seward had resigned. "On Thursday morning," wrote Fessenden, "I received information from a sure quarter that this rumor was well founded, but the fact was not generally known. The President, my informant stated, was much troubled about it."

Old Francis P. Blair came that Friday to a Senate lobby, sent for Senator Browning, and told the Senator that Preston Kind was the best man in the country for Secretary of War and that McClellan ought to be at the head of the army, that the President had ruined himself by his proclamations, that he (Blair) had used his influence with the President to prevent the issuing of the proclamations, but to no avail. Afterwards there came to Browning's seat in the Senate the Baltimore Unionist, a lawyer of national reputation, Reverdy Johnson. He "told me Mr. Seward had resigned," wrote Browning, "and said we would go to the Devil unless a new cabinet was formed of the best material in the Country and the reins of government were held with a steadier hand than they had been. Said the cabinet must be constructed anew, as no one fit for the place would go into it with the Secretaries who remained."

Browning spoke regrets over Seward's resigning, said he did not know who could fill his place. Reverdy Johnson replied that Seward was the best man in America for the place, but he had resigned; "now there must be an entire reconstruction, and (he) urged that I should go up immediately and talk with the President upon the subject" They talked about proper men for the new Cabinet Browning suggesting Collamer for Secretary of State, Ewing of Ohio for Secretary of the Treasury, General Banks for Secretary of War. Reverdy Johnson agreed except that he would prefer General John A. Dix for War Secretary.

"I did not wish to thrust my opinions unsolicited upon the President, and did not go," wrote Browning, "but in the course of the afternoon I met him between the White House and the War Department, and remarked to him that I had heard that Mr. Seward had resigned, and asked him if it ws so. He replied that he didnot ~~know who could fill his place. Reverdy~~ want that talked about at present, as he was trying to keep things along. This was all that passed He cant 'keep themalong.' The cabinet will go to pieces." And Browning talked that evening with Thomas Ewing, and old-line Whig, former Secretary of the Treasury and one-time United States Senator from Ohio. Ewing said he had no doubt that Chase was at the bottom of all the mischief, and was setting the radicals on to assail Seward. "He also suggested Mr. Winthrop as a proper person for Secretary of State," wrote Browning.

Seward was no longer to be found at his desk in the Department of State. Visitors at his house saw him packing up books and papers preparing to go home to Auburn, New York. This was the second time he had resigned, but the other time the President had not yet been inaugurated.

When the committee of Senators came to the White House that Friday night they did not know that Lincoln had arranged for them to meet the Cabinet. They did not know that they were to sit face to face in a three-cornered session with the President and the counselors from whom, it was so gravely alleged, he never took counsel.

The committee, with all but Wade, and the Cabinet members went up to the President's office at half-past seven. He told them that he had invited the Cabinet, with the exception of Seward, to meet the committee for a free and friendly conversation in which all, including the President, should be on equal terms. He wished to know if the committee had any objection to talking over matters with the Cabinet. "Having had no opportunity for consultation, the committee had no objection," noted Fessenden.

The President opened with a speech admitting that Cabinet meetings had not been very regular, excusing that fact for want of time. He believed that most questions

of importance had received reasonable consideration, was not aware of any divisions or want of unity. Decisions, so far as he knew, had general support after they were made. Seward, he believed, had been earnest in prosecution of the war, had not improperly interfered, had generally read to him the official correspondence, had sometimes consulted with Mr. Chase. The President then called on members of the Cabinet to say whether there had been any want of unity or of sufficient consultation.

Secretary Chase now protested earnestly, a little hotly, that he certainly would not have come to the meeting if he had known he was going to be arraigned before a committee of the Senate. He went on to say that questions of importance had generally been considered by the Cabinet though perhaps not as fully as might be desired, that there had been no want of unity in the opposed a measure but a general acquiescence on public measures; nomember opposed a measure once decided on.

Fessenden was listening. He saw that Chase was not now saying in the three-cornered conference what he had been saying in private chats with Senators nor what he had been writing in letters. So Fessenden rose to repeat what he had two nights before told the President, that the Senators came with a desire to offer friendly advice and not to dictate to the President. In answer to Mr. Chase's remark about being arraigned, Fessenden reported what had taken place between the President and the committee as to Cabinet meetings. Fessenden believed that all important questions should be discussed with the Cabinet, though the President was not bound by an Cabinet decision and could act on his own judgment. What the Senators were doing had not originated with them. "'t was no movement of ours, nor did we suspect or come here for that purpose"--meaning ~~of ours, nor~~ for the purpose of dictating to the President.

Collamer said united counsels were needed. Blair filed the opinion that the Cabinet ought to have no voice except when the President called for it. Grimes said again he had lost confidence in Seward. Sumner dragged out Seward's foreign correspondence again. Trumbull pointed to the President's own admissions that important questions were decided without full consideration. Bates cited the Constitution to show that the President need not consult his Cabinet unless he pleased. Incidentally Bates referred to himself as "a garrulous old man," which Fessenden felt was quite so.

More talk followed. The hours were passing. "The President made several speeches in the course of the evening," wrote Fessenden, "and related several anecdotes, most of which I had heard before." Welles noted: "The President managed his own case...and showed great tact, shrewdness, and ability, provided such a subject were a proper one for such a meeting and discussion. I have no doubt he considered it most judicious to conciliate the Senators with respectful deference, whatever may have been his opinion of their interference."

After hours of threshing over the issues and getting better acquainted, the President asked the Senators to give him their opinions as to whether Seward ought to leave the Cabinet, and to advise him what their constituents thought about it. Collamer said he did not know how his constituents felt and he would not go beyond the paper he had handed the President. Grimes, Trumbull, Sumner, said Seward should go. Harris said No, that Seward's removal would be a calamity to the Republican party of New York, Pomeroy said he had once studied law in Seward's office but his confidence in Seward was gone. Howard said he had not spoken during the evening and would not. Fessenden told the President: "I am not instructed to answer for my constituents. Nor do I think it proper to discuss the merits or demerits of a member of the Cabinet in the presence of his associates--especially when I am not informed how far our opinions may be regarded."

Chase suggested, "The members of the Cabinet had better withdraw." They did so. It was midnight. Senators Collamer and Harris took their hats and also went away. Fessenden then noted this conversation:

Fessenden. You have asked my opinion about Seward's removal. There is a current rumor that Mr. Seward has already resigned. If so, our opinions are of no consequence on that point.

The President. I thought I told you last evening that Mr. Seward had tendered his resignation. I have it in my pocket, but have not yet made it public or accepted it.

Fessenden. Then, sir, the question seems to be whether Mr. Seward shall be requested to withdraw his resignation.

1820 William H. Seward

References in

Czars and Presidents
Alexander tarsaidze
McDowell/ Obolensky
New York 1958

pp. 182, 184, 187, 191, 192, 208, 214, 233-236, 238-240 260.

William H. Seward -1820

References in : Czars and Presidents
by Alexandre Tarsaidze
McDowell/Obolensky/
New York 1958

pp 182
Another dispatch from Gorchakov to Stoekl states even more clearly the firmness of the Russian intention not to see the Union permanently dissolved. This dispatch, which Stoekl read to Secretary Seward, was made public in a speech in Boston by Edward Everett. "The American Union is not merely, in our eyes, an element essential to the universal equilibrium. It constitutes also a nation to which our August Emperor and all Russia have pledged the most friendly interest. These two countries, placed at the extremities of the two worlds, and both in the ascending scale of their development, appear called to a natural community of interests and sympathies of which they have already given mutual proofs to each other".

pp184
He did not shrink even from war, though he voiced it inversely, as is the habit of politicians. "I fear," he wrote, "that from foolish and incalculating arrogance and self-sufficiency, or from personal calculations, M r. Seward may bring on a war with us."

pp 187
Stoekl performed a great many services for the United States which were not required of him. He saved Seward from a serious blunder, In 1856, the United States had refused to adhere to a provision of the Treaty of Paris which would have outlawed privateers, because in the event of war with England, the United States would have been helpless without privateers, Russia had supported the American position. But with the outbreak of the Civil War, the South stood a good chance of breaking the blockade with privateers which the United States itself had wanted legalized. So Seward informed Great Britain, France, and Russia that the United States now was willing to accept the privateer provision in the Treaty. Britain and France refused.

Chancellor Gorchakov then suggested that the anti-privateering clause be put into a separate Russian-American treaty, to which Seward agreed. This treaty was drafted and already before the Russian Senate when Stoekl arranged a hurried conference with Seward. "In the case of war between the United States and France of England," asked Stoekl, "would the United States use privateers?"

"Yes, as a matter of course," replied Seward.

But Russia controls the north Pacific ports. We should have to seize your ships there as pirates."

The Treaty was immediately dropped, and Seward thanked Stoekl warmly.

pp 191
Secretary Seward was informed that French troops in Mexico were pressing northward

pp 192
In an effort to drive a wedge into the Russian-American Entente, the United States was even asked to join Britain and France in a demonstration against Russia. The United States Secretary of State, Seward, firmly rejected this invitation. "In regard to Russia, the case is a plain one. She has our friendship in preference to any other European power, simply because she always wishes us well and leaves us to conduct our affairs as we think best."

pp 208
picture of William H. Seward and the Diplomatic Corps at Trenton Falls, N.J.

pp 214 (See page 2a.)
But whether or not Seward, and pe rhaps President Lincoln, knew of the proposed visit and its object, it is certain that no one else had an inkling of the plans.

pp 233-236
There was sadness in many diplomatic quarters when it was learned that the telegraph line was being abandoned. "I would not have the Atlantic cable become dumb again to secure the success of your enterprise," United States Secretary of State Seward wrote to Hiram Sibley, "but I must confess to a profound disappointment in the suspension of the enterprise." The Russian Marine Ministry which was always encountering difficulties in communication with the Pacific Squadron and with Alaska, was also deeply disappointed.

All projects since that time to link America with Russia have been unsuccessful. At the end of the Nineteenth Century a plan was submitted to the Russian Embassy in Washington to bore a tunnel under the Bering Straits. In 1901 a company was formed to build a railroad across the Straits. All these projects failed.

The doomed telegraph project stimulated American interest in Alaska and provided extensive geographical knowledge of the Artic. One American in particular, Seward, a man of keen but sometimes wayward imagination, who, during the Civil War, had urged Lincoln to declare war on England and France because he felt it would reunite the country, fixed his eyes upon Alaska and vowed that he would do everything within his power to make that vast territory fly the Stars and Stripes. As early as September, 1860, he had declared in St. Paul, Minnesota, "I see the Russians establishing seaports and towns and fortifications on the verge of this continent, and I can say, 'Go on, build your outposts all along the coast, even to the Arctic Ocean; they will yet become the outposts of my own country!'"

The Russian Minister, Stoekl, left the United States, he thought forever, and arrived in St. Petersburg, where he was approached by the Grand Duke Constantine. The Russian-American Company was in such desperate straits that it had been forced to sublet its chartered privileges to the Hudson Bay Company. Stoekl told them bluntly that he believed Russia had made a serious error by not selling Alaska in 1858. He was not even sure the United States would still be interested, the aftermath of the Civil War, having, for the time being, dampened enthusiasm for territorial expansion. At a conference with the Emperor, a decision was made to sell Alaska. Alexander II asked Stoekl to return to the United States and conduct the sale. He was told not to accept less than $5,000,000. Those were his complete instructions.

Stoekl arrived in New York on February 1, 1867, where he was stricken ill and in bed for six weeks. The time was not wasted, however, as he used it to drop hints and spread rumors that Russia was considering the sale of Alaska. He was aided by several other events. For nearly a year pressure had been exerted on the Johnson Administration by the Pacific Coast settlements to secure trading rights in Alaska, or failing in that, to purchase the territory.

pp 212-213-214

.....Not until July 23, 1863, did Chancellor Gorchakov, at the request of Admiral Krabbe, send a dispatch to Stoekl "to ascertain the attitude of the Federal Government in case Russian ships arrive into American ports for the purpose of repairs and taking on supplies." Stoekl never knew of the impending arrival of the Russians until informed in the middle of August by Captain Crown who was secretly sent ahead of the Fleet* On September 23, 1863, Stoekl wrote to Chancellor Gorchakov that the Federal Government had granted permission to Lessovsky to anchor in American waters and enclosed a letter from the Secretary of the Navy, Gideon Welles, placing the Brooklyn Navy Yard at the disposal of the Russian Fleet.

It is safe to presume that the arrival of the Russian Fleet was therefore unannounced to the United States Government. John W. Foster, later Secretary of State, asserted that the Fleet came "without any previous notice." If any man in the American Government did have secret information, it was Seward, who habitually conducted all his negotiations direct with Stoekl, the Russian Minister at Washington.

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*Captain Crown was the grandson of an Englishman who entered Russian Naval Service during Catherine the Great's reign. Captain Crown was chosen for the mission because he knew America well and spoke English. As an officer of Admiral Putiatin's expedition to Japan, he visited the United States in 1853, returning to New York in 1857, where he supervised the construction of several warships.

Also, a group of Californians, aware that the Russian-American Company lease would expire in June 1867, had conceived the idea of forming a company to take over the charter on a twenty-five year lease. Moreover, the citizens of the Washington Territory had requested the United States government to attempt to obtain Alaskan fishing rights and privileges for them.

Secretary Seward took up the various proposals with Stoekl. Stoekl replied that the Russian Government must refuse them. "Very well," said Seward. "Will Russia sell the whole territory?"

"Such a solution might offer advantages to both Russia and the United States," replied Stoekl.

Seward announced that he would take the matter up with President Johnson.

The President, who was not enthusiastic, agreed to leave the matter to his Cabinet. On their urgent advice, he authorized Seward to negotiate. A few days later Seward and Stoekl met and proceeded directly to the matter of price. Seward offered five million, which Stoekl refused. "five and a half million," said Seward. "That's our final offer!"

"I'm afraid I couldn't consider less than seven million," replied Stoekl, who later that same day made out a report to his government that negotiations had begun and that he had high hopes of obtaining $6,000,000, a million more than he had been instructed to obtain.

But as Seward continued to reveal eagerness in subsequent interviews, Stoekl decided he could risk holding to his $7,000,000 declaration. Seward came up to it, a little at a time, complaining bitterly that he was exceeding his instructions and would probably never be able to get it approved by Congress. Stoekl was aware that there was truth in this, because Seward was regarded as a crack-pot by many Senators and Representatives. He cautioned Seward, therefore, that if they did reach an agreement, it would be better to have a member of the Senate claim the initiative for having made the purchase. Congress would then be more kindly disposed. Seward, however refused to consider such a thing. It was his duty as United States Secretary of State to carry out the negotiations, and he had no intentions of being stripped of the honor of presenting the Nation with a new important territory.

The next day, Stoekl cabled the joyful news to St. Petersburg that the United States had agreed to pay seven million dollars. Chancellor Gorchakov, seeing that the United States was anxious to acquire Alaska, or at least that Seward was, decided to try to tempt the United States Government into taking over the debts of the Russian-American Company, to have the money deposited in London, and to pay the incidental gold-exchange fees.

But this time Seward balked. Seven million had been the price, and the United States had met it. "I consider the price too high as it is," said Seward. "I have gone far beyond the wishes of my Government in order to prevent unnecessary bickering. But the obligations incurred by the chartered company. And my Government will not clear the transaction in London. We had our bellyfull of London in the late war."

Stoekl, who personally felt that his task of trying to wheedle a few more concessions was unpleasant and unfair, agreed to drop these. Seward then admitted that there might be some justice in the Russian Government's objection to paying exchange fees, and said that his government would add a couple of hundred thousand dollars to cover it. Thus the final figure of $7,200,000 was reached, the price for Alaska "free and unencumbered by any reservations, franchises, etc."

It is a small wonder that the world, to this day, believes that when the United States deals with European diplomats, it is like a sheep going to the shearing. It may seem strange in the light of Alaska's present value that there could have been so much more strange that Congress ratified the purchase, and in four hurried days. The ratification of "Seward's Icebox" took place in a kind of hands-thrown-in-the-air manner, with Congress playing the role of a resigned father paying the gambling bills of an irresponsible son.

Actually Alaska was nearly as indefensible in American hands as it had been in Russian hands. It could not be reached by land without crossing foreign territory, and British naval power was in a position, in the event of a war, to wrest it from the United States.

pp 238-240

A Soviet Marxist historian analyzes the situation fairly accurately: "The Czar of Russia knew perfectly well what he was selling, and the U. S. knew just as well what they were buying." This should perhaps be amended by adding that at least those Americans who wanted to buy Alaska knew what they were buying.

Seward and Stoekl reached an agreement just as Congress was on the verge of its annual spring recess. Seward, who knew that on such occasions Congress was prone to passing bills and treaties which they did not like in order to get away from frenetic Washington, was so anxious to have the sale ratified by the Emperor he told Stoekl to cable the draft of the treaty to St. Petersburg at America's expense, a mere $9,000. On Friday evening, March 29th, Stoekl went to Mr. Seward's residence where he found him playing whist with his family.

"I have a dispatch from my government," he said. "The Emperor gives his consent. Tomorrow, if you like, I will come to the Department."

"Tomorrow"? said Seward. "Why wait until tomorrow?"

"But the Department is closed. You have no clerks, and my secretaries are scattered about town."

Seward called for his hat and coat. "You muster your Legation," he said. "You'll find me waiting at the Department at midnight!"

At four o'clock on the morning of March 30, 1867, the treaty lay on Mr. Seward's desk - signed, sealed, and ready for delivery to the Senate.

The Senate at first refused to have anything to do with a measure sponsored by the Johnson Administration. It required all the power and prestige that Senator Sumner possessed to keep the debate open until there was some chance of success. Sumner personally did not care about Alaska, but as Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, he supported the purchase partly for Seward's sake, and partly to cement Russian-American relations. Then, as the pressure mounted, Sumner finally urged Stoekl to withdraw the treaty. He feared that it would not be approved and that it might cause political damage to his own career. Stoekl refused. "The honor of the United States is involved, for it was not Russia who took the initiative," said Stoekl. "Refusal of the Senate to ratify a treaty which my Government made in good faith can only be regarded as an insult."

Sumner returned in despair to the floor of the Senate. Then, without warning, the Senate opposition vanished, and the treaty was ratified on April 4th by the comfortable majority of 37 to 2. This feat of magic has always been graciously attributed to Sumner's oratorical powers. But in 1912 Professor William A. Dunning accidentally discovered among the papers of President Johnson a memorandum that quoted Seward to the effect that the Russian Envoy, Stoekl, had paid fairly large sums to important Washington figures-to Thaddeus Stevens, $10,000; to Nathaniel Banks, Chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee, $8,000; to John Farney, $30,000; to R. J. Walker and F. P. Stanton, $20,000 each.

Other evidence reveals that Stoekl reported to his Government that the greater part of the $200,000 which had been added to the sale price of Alaska had been used for "Secret expenses." Also, Riggs Bank paid to Mr. Stoekl during this crucial period various sums in gold $26,000; $18,000; $35,000; $45,000 and $41,000. In his request to be transferred, Stoekl wrote, "I urgently need a rest. Do not tell me to stay here in Washington because there is no other post to give me. Give me a chance to breathe for a while an atmosphere purer than that of Washington -and after that do whatever you wish with me."

In the House of Representatives, where no on knew anything about Alaska and no one wanted to, the margin of approval of the purchase was narrower. One Congressman made the comment, "That Alaska was created for some purpose I have little doubt. But our information is so limited that conjectures can assign no use to it, unless it is to demonstrate the folly which those in authority are capable of in the acquisition of useless territory." Another quoted the comment of Captain Gordon, "I would not give the most barren hills of Scotland for all I see around me."

Despite opposition in the Senate and the House, in the press and public opinion, ratification came with unparalleled speed. Little more than a fortnight passed between the first Stoekl-Seward interview and the final action of Congress. In its celerity this peaceful exchange of territory is without parallel in history. It was the first considerable part of the vast Russian Empire ever to be alienated permanently and voluntarily. Moreover, it was the first acceptance of sovereignty by the United States over any territory separated geographically from the rest of the nation. Without doubt, had it not been the current belief of most Congressmen that Canada, too, would soon be annexed, the treaty would never have been ratified.

No one understood the tremendous change in American foreign policy that the acquisition of Alaska portended. From this moment on, American hands stretched farther beyond their native shores- Hawaii, the Phillipines, the Canal Zone, the Virgin Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, Yap and other bits here and there, until finally, the United States even laid claim to part of Antarctica.

Senator Sumner, on the floor of the Senate, when asked why Russia wanted to sell, said that he had no information, but that he recalled Napoleon's reasons for selling Louisiana: "Napoleon, first, needed money for his Treasury. Secondly, he was unwilling to leave this distant, unguarded territory a prey to Great Britain. Thirdly, he was glad 'to establish forever the power of the United States and give to England a maritime rival destined to humble her pride.'"

In the case of Russia, however, the reasons for sale belong in a different order: (1) unguarded territory; (2) to establish United States power; (3) need of money. The usual explanation that Russia sold Alaska because of dire financial difficulty contains only a few grains of truth. Even the Soviet Marxist historians discount it, pointing out that Russia could have gotten twice that sum from Great Britain. Moreover, seven million dollars could hardly save a nation whose yearly expenses amounted to more than three hundred million dollars. Of that seven million, the Russian-American Company received $700,000. $72,000 a year was sent to build and maintain the Russian Church in the United States, and $1,000,000 was used to liquidate maritime debts.

pp 259-260

.....The Grant Administration resembled the rutting season among animals, "with the decencies and amenities of civilization entirely forgotten." .....

.....

Allan Nevins called the Perkins claim "perhaps the most malodorous of the many claims upon which lobbyists, shysters, and political harpies fed." Captain Benjamin Perkins, a buccaneer and blockade-runner, had supposedly made a contract with Stoekl, the Russian Minister, to supply Russia with 150 tons of gunpowder. He also contracted, a year later, in 1856, with Captain Otto Lilienfeldt, a Russian agent, to deliver 35,000 muskets to Sevastopol. The arms and powder, according to Captain Perkins, had been delivered to the Russians, but he was unable to collect. The Russian Government insisted that it knew of no such contracts, and demanded to see them before paying the claim.

During the Buchanan Administration the State Department asked the Russian Government to submit the matter to a Court of Arbitration. Chancellor Gorchakov refused, stating that the claim was fraudulent. During the Civil War, Seward took up the matter again, stating that Perkins' claims were not destroyed by the refusal of the Russian Government to recognize them. Gorchakov replied angrily that Russia would go to war before she paid a kopeck.

The wretched Perkins claim continued to reappear at inopportune times. There was little doubt that it was fraudulent. When the Russian Government asked for copies of the contracts, Captain Perkins admitted that there had been nothing in writing. Secretary Seward, however, perhaps because he could not believe in a fraud of such magnitude, or because he was familiar with the Gowen case, in which Russia had been at fault, took the claim seriously.

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Seward and a Modern Counterpart

To the Editor: I don't know whether to be flattered or discomfited by the many letters that have come to me since my recent epistle to The Times-Union concerning the consistent arrogance of Russian leadership over the past century.

One correspondent asks me how come I think I know so much about Alaska and Secretary of State William Henry Seward. Well, the fact of the matter is that Seward's roots were right in this Mohawk-Hudson Valley. Born in the Village of Florida and graduated from Union College in 1820, he practiced law in Auburn before entering politics and lived right here in Albany from 1851 to 1861 when part owner and publisher of The Albany Evening Journal.

Which brings me to the issuance of a new assignment for my young readers who profess an interest in history . . . a trip to the New York State Library and perusal of the several excellent books on the life and works of William H. Seward.

They will be startled, I am sure, by the similarity between Seward, a former Governor of this state, and Nelson Rockefeller, our present chief executive. A hesitant vacilator, Seward never could make up his mind in a crisis. He should have been the Republican nominee for the presidency in 1856 and 1860. He really was the "father" of the new Republican party, you know, after having been a Whig and an anti-Mason. Like Rockefeller he waited for a draft that never came! 1852

In the election of 1952, Seward supported General Winfield Scott, but campaigning against the very platform upon which Scott stood. Doesn't that suggest the Rockefeller approach to Nixon and the GOP Old Guard compromises by Nelson? Scott, had he been of the compromising personality of Nixon, could have had the platform planks watered down with meaningless, glib phraseology concerning moral and civil right issues of the day, in which event history would have recorded that Seward "dictated" the party platform of the Whigs. He did nothing of the kind, but neither did Rockefeller do any dictating at Chicago.

So much for Seward. Another correspondent asks why I did not point out that the man who discovered what is now Alaska was a Dane, not a Russian. So he was Danish, having been born at Horsens, Jutland, in 1681. But he ENLISTED in the RUSSIAN navy and served in the war against Sweden . . . and Czarist Russia was the deadly enemy of Norwegians, Swedes and DANES. Vitus Jonassen Bering was an unscrupulous adventurer and few tears are shed over the disgraceful treatment accorded him by jealous Russians in the service of Catherine the Great.

Well, students, there's your September assignment. Let's hear from you.

JAMES T. HEALEY

Albany.

Clipped from
Knickerbocker News
Class 1820
by
Joseph R. Brown, Jr. '03
Date: Oct. 6, 1955

Union College Greets Alaska As 49th State

Gazette 7/4/59

Union College has welcomed its "grandchild" Alaska into the union as the 49th state.

A letter sent by Carter Davidson, Union president, to Governor William E. Egan of Alaska, notes Union was the "academic parent of William H. Seward, who graduated from Union in 1820 and subsequently was largely responsible for the purchase of the Territory of Alaska (Seward's Folly) from Russia in 1867.

Davidson also informed the governor of the new state that Union will honor another of its alumni who played an important role in the early development of Alaska in next year's Founders' Day exercises—Sheldon Jackson, class of 1855.

Jackson, Davidson wrote, was the person responsible for the introduction of domestic reindeer in 1891 and the founding of the Alaskan public education system in 1885.

"All associated with the college join me in wholeheartedly welcoming Alaska to the union. We hope that the ties that have existed between Union College and Alaska for the past century may continue," Davidson concluded.

Seward Mansion To Be Museum

Auburn (AP)—The Seward House, home of Wiliam H. Seward, secretary of state in the cabinet of President Lincoln, will be opened to the public as a museum next week.

The Foundation Historical Association Inc., which supervised the four-year restoration of the historic mansion, announced the doors would open Monday.

The house will be open daily from 10 a. m. until 5 p. m. A 25-cent admission fee will be charged, the association said.

The house was left to the Emerson Foundation of Auburn by William H. Seward, 3d, grandson of the man who negotiated the purchase of Alaska from Russia, on his death in 1951.

The Foundation Historical Association was formed to put the house on public display.

Clipped from
Times-Union
Clan 1820
by
Joseph R. Brown, Jr. '03
Date: May 17, 1959

Clipped from
Albany Times-Union
Clan 1820
by
Joseph R. Brown, Jr. '03
Date: Jan. 21, 1960

Harbor fo
tinent.

INDEPE

Auburn Will Salute Alaskan Statehood

Auburn — on Owasco Lake — will observe Alaskan Statehood Celebration Day July 4, 1959. It will be an appropriate and timely tribute to one of its most famous residents: William H. Seward, Secretary of State in the Cabinets of Presidents Lincoln and Johnson.

It was through Secretary Seward's persstence in the purchase of Alaska from Russa — ridiculed by many as "Seward's Folly" — that a Treaty of Purchase was signed on March 30, 1867, making6 Alaska a U. S. territory.

In salute to Alaska, welcoming it as the 49th state of the union, the new 49-star flag of the United Staates of America, which will become official on Independence Day 1959, will be raised in dedication ceremonies at the historic Seward Mansion in Auburn.

FLOWN BY JET

This flag will haeve been flown over the capital at Washington and jet-flown to Auburn. In addition, Auburn will be the scene of gala celebrations such as parades, pageantry, barbecue picnics, band concerts and fireworks, marking its welcome to Alaska as the final fruition of its native son's foresight.

Hospitable Auburn extends a cordial invitation to all tourists and vacationers in New York State to visit its picturesque city and to participate in the celebration festivities.

Gruening Saves Seward Desk

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20 (AP)—They were about to junk an old desk in the State Department, but Sen. Ernest Gruening (D-Alaska) saved it.

The Senator discovered that Secretary of State William H. Seward had used the desk in 1867, the year he negotiated the purchase of Alaska from Russia for $7,200,000.

Sen. Gruening plans to send the desk to Alaska for exhibition in the state's historical museum.

The Hempstead Volunteer

The Company H, 119th New York Volunteer Newsletter

Harry E. Howe, Editor April 1989 Volume XI - Number IV

Meeting Notice!

The next meeting of Co. H, 119th New York Historical Association will be held at Old Bethpage Village - Restoration on April 12, at 8:00 P.M. SHARP.

Round Swamp Road
Old Bethpage, N.Y.
(Ext. 48 L.I.E.)
Phone: 420-5281

Apr. 14	John C. Campagne School
Apr. 30	250th Inaugural Celebration
May 6-7	Co. H Recruiting Campaign Old Bethpage Village
May 26-29	125th Wilderness Anniversary Event
Jun. 4	Long Beach Historical Assn. (Rain date-June 11)
Jul. 7-9	Monocacy event.
Aug. 11,12 13	Batso, N.J. event.

* * * * * * *

As the new campaign season is about to gin an appeal is made to all members return all borrowed company and personal materials to their rightful owners.

Notes From the Last Minutes

Pledges for the Regimental flag paid to date amount to $475.00

The slide orientation committee will meet at 7:30 P.M. prior to the regular meeting in April.

ELECTIONS: The slate for officers were; Pres. Glenn Sitterly, VP-Gary Hammond, Sec.-Claudia Easley, Treas.-Fred Lamond. Since all are incumbent one vote was cast by the Secretary for the slate of officers.

Results of vote for Historical Assn. Trustees: Harry Howe, Mark Adler, Dennis Harrington, Jim McKenna, Guy Smith.

Motion made by Glenn to purchase biography of Wladimir Kryzanowski for Co. Second Gary Hammond. Passed.

If you wish to order a copy of this biography for your library bring $16/18 to the April meeting, last chance.

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DIRECTORY - Change of address:
Mike Sebor
193 Hawthorne Ave.
Apt. 90
Central Islip, N.Y. 11722
516-234-6546

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

Did you know that Gary Hammond is a DELTIOLOGIST? Should we hurry to the doctor's office for vaccinations? No, a deltiologist is a post-card collector and Gary has quite an extensive collection concentrated on scenes of Long Island and vicinity.

Excerpts from
"For Liberty and Justice"

The Life and Times of
WLADIMIR KRZYZANOWSKI

CHANCELLORSVILLE-The Agony and the Infamy.

Chapter # 7

By 5:00 P.M. Jackson completed his movement. Out beyond the exposed Union flank he formed 31,690 men into three parallel lines that stretched for a mile on either side of the turnpike. Seventeen regiments stood in the first line, supported by nineteen in the second: a total of over 17,000 men about to strike 9,000 isolated troops of the XI Corps. Behind these two lines, in reserve, stood 11,751 men of A.P. Hills division. Two hours of daylight remained as seventy-four southern regiments moved slowly into position for their attack on twenty three ill-prepared blue units.

Along the turnpike, men of the Eleventh Corps lay about with stacked arms. Here and there they played cards, slept, or cooked their evening meals. Horses and beeves grazed lazily behind the lines The sound of laughter rose from around the campfires. At the Hawkins Farm Colonel Krzyzanowski supervised the movement of two of his regiments, the 58th N.Y. and the 26th Wisconsin. He put them into position facing west, a move ordered by Gen'l Schurz despite Howard's earlier refusal of his request to do so. At the Dowdall Tavern Gen'l Schimmelfennig nervously scanned the terrain with his field glasses. "If they should come in our flank", he confided to his aides, "We will be in a Hell of a fix".

Suddenly the report of a musket echoed through the woods. Then another. Before anyone had time to move a volley of thunder burst from the underbrush, spreading death before it. Thousands of high-pitched, wavering yells punctuated the rattle of musketry as Dole's Georgians and O'Neal's Alabamans sprang from the woods to engulf Von Gilsa's hopelessly outnumbered regiments. Caught endon, the Northern units had no chance of making a meaningful defense. Agaihst a hurriedly prepared front of one or two regiments at a time, 30,000 Confederates overlapped the beleaguered Federals so far that they threatened imminent encirclement to any who attempted a stand. All along the line Federal regiments found themselves stacked up like so many dominoes.

In front of the advancing Confederate line surged a swirling, howling, cursing mass of non-combatants unwittingly caught up in the fight. The Turnpike, the only avenue of escape, bulged with horses, wagons, mules, and all other paraphenalia of an Army Corps in the field. Near Dowdall Tavern this mass of hysterical animals and befuddled civilians tore into the 119th New York, smashing apart it's neatly arranged ranks. Colonel Peissner, the old professor whose scholarly defense of Northern principles placed him in the forefront of Abolitionism rushed about trying to restore order amid the chaos. Miraculously he reestablished his line in time to meet the Southern onslaught. Lethal volleys swept the clearing from both directions. The Colonal (Peissn fell from his horse with two fatal bullets imbedded in his lifeless body. Lt. Colonel Lockman took command as shot and shell dealt death and destrution on all sides. A fatal bullet found Captain Henry Schwerin.A shell fragment struck Private Adolph Stahl in the head, causing him to suffer epilepsy for the rest of his life.

(to be continued)

Capt. Henry Schwerin R. Co. C. 119th.
Pvt. Adolph Stahl Co. B. 119th.

Joe Bilardello
Co. Historian
(a.k.a. Pvt. Barney Kelly

* * * * * * * *

SOLDIER PROFILE

Private John Henry

Next to nothing is known of this soldier. No pension was ever filed and our records only listed him as deserting on October 9, 1862 at Fairfax Court House. With the receipt of his military records we can now present a slightly different version.

Born circa 1812 in Dayton, Mass. John Henry was listed as a farmer on his enlistment papers. He was described as being 5' 41/2" tall, grey eyes,light hair, brown complexion. On August 22, 1862 he enlisted in Company H as a drummer. On September 5, 1862 2nd Lieutenant Alfred Foote, 14th U.S. Infantry, the mustering officer, rejected John Henery as being unfit for duty. Apparently no record of this was transmitted to the regimental clerk and subsequently he was listed as a de serter on October 9, 1862.

The company books finally were corrected to show that drummer John H ry never came to the field with the regiment, and and we can finally set the record straight after 127 years.

Ralph Whitehead,
Company Historian

* * * * * * *

Birthdays in April:

Ed. Specht	April 10
Dennis Harrington	April 17
Robert Valentine	April 23
Ulysses S. Grant	April 27

Anniversary in April:

Glenn and Gail Sitterly

April 22

* * * * * * *

At Auction: Lee's Letter to Grant

By George DeWan

LATE IN THE morning of Palm Sunday in 1865 — it was April 9, one of the most important dates in American history — Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee gave in to the inevitable as he and Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant were only miles apart near Appomatox, Va. Since he was not sure where Grant actually was located, Lee sent duplicate surrender messages to the camps of both Gen. George Meade and Gen. E. O. C. Ord, whose forces had Lee's Army of Northern Virginia in a deathlike grip. Both original surrender notes are in the National Archives.

What has turned up recently, however, is a heretofore unknown second copy of a follow-up note sent by Lee, asking for "suspension of hostilities" pending his meeting with Grant. One copy is also in the Archives. The second, which may be worth $100,000, is to be sold at auction tomorrow at Sotheby's in New York. The Lee letter is the most valuable of the auction's print and manuscript Americana, including signatures and letters of a number of presidents going back to George Washington.

The Lee letter was discovered by 33-year-old Ervin Jordan, who is apparently the only black man to have written a history of a Confederate regiment (the Nineteenth Virginia Infantry). As an archivist at the Alderman Library at the University of Virginia, Jordan was assigned to process the collection of papers loaned to the library in 1985 by descendants of William S. Hillyer, a friend of Grant's who served for a time as an officer on his staff. The owners have not further identified themselves.

"While sorting out the papers one day, I opened up this old letter, and this paper fell out," Jordan said in a recent telephone interview. "My first thought was that it can't be the real thing. It cannot be the real thing. These sorts of things don't happen every day. It would be like opening an envelope and finding another draft of the Declaration of Independence in Thomas Jefferson's own hand."

What Lee wrote — or rather, signed, since the text was dictated to and written by Charles Marshall, his aide — was a little more mundane. "I ask a suspension of hostilities pending the discussion of the terms of surrender of this army in the inter-

Newsday - Tuesday October 25, 1988

Civil War recalled at Durham

DURHAM — When a Confederate and Union general met on a dusty road near Durham to work out a solution to the Civil War, a yeaoman farmer provided a shelther for the peace talks.

James and Nancy Bennett, in the spirit of southern hospitality, allowed the two adversaries to use their farmhouse for negotiations.

In the little farmhouse on Hillsborough Road, Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston and Union General William T. Sherman met three times.

On April 26, 1865 the Bennett's farmhouse became the site of the largest troop surrender of the Civil War.

"Sherman agreed to meet with Johnston at an equal distance between Durham and Hillsborough," Harold Mozingo, the site manager for Bennett Place State Historic Site, said. "Hillsborough Road happened to run through the Bennett farm."

The negotiations may have had a different twist had the Bennett family not been home for that first meeting on April 16, 1865. For everyone involved it was a matter of "being in the right place at the right time," Mozingo says.

Today, the peace talks are remembered at Bennett Place, which was designated a state historic site July 1, 1961, with the reenactment of the surrender and other "living history" programs.

The state site is more than a scrapbook of times past. Bennett Place offers a glimpse of the people who shaped the event. For example, during the negotiations, the Bennett's three children were sent to the "outbuildings."

Also, in 1868 Bennett wrote the federat government saying that Sherman and Johnston had agreed to pay him $10 and a horse for the use of his table during the negotiations. It is unclear whether Bennett received the horse or the $10.

The visitior will also discover that as a yeoman farmer, Bennett cultivated corn, wheat, oats and potatoes on the 325 acre farm. He also was a tailor, sold horses and distilled liquor. And Bennett's sons, Alphonso and Lorenzo, died during the Civil War.

Another aspect of the surrender was the effect it had on the economy of the state and especially on Durham. While the military surrender ended the Civil War in North Carolina, Georgia and Florida — it also marked the beginning of post-war prosperity in Durham.

During the peace conferences, the Confederate and Union soldiers got their first taste of "bright leaf" tobacco. And during the next few years the Durham post office received countless from former soldiers inquiring about the "bright leaf" tobacco.

This was a "terrific boom to the economy," Mozingo said.

Bennett Place is located two miles west of Durham off Interstate 85. Now through March 31, the site is open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Beginning April 1, Bennett Place will be open Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information on other interesting sites in the state, write the North Carolina Division of Travel and tourism, 430 N. Salisbury St., Raliegh, N.C. 27611. Call toll-free in the United States 1-800-VISIT NC; in Raleigh call 919-733-4171.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Lee's Letter - continued

view which I requested in my former communication of today." It was signed, "R. E. Lee, Gen."

The note was folded in six, and on one outside panel, Ord wrote: "The within read — acted on — my troops and Genl Sheridan's being south and west of Appomatox covering exits that way — and men at rest — firing stopped —"

Mary-Jo Kline, Sotheby's chief Americana manuscripts expert, said that Lee's Civil War message has special interest and value because no one previously knew it existed. She said that the two surrender letters and the first "suspension of hostilities" letter ended up in the U.S. Archives because they probably were sent directly to the War Department by Grant's staff. She said she could only guess that the copy sent directly to Ord was eventually forwarded to Grant's headquarters, where it was given, either by Grant or one of his aides, to Hillyer as a souvenir.

Archivist Jordan said he did not know why the letter was being sold, but if it were his, it wouldn't be at Sotheby's today. "If I owned the document, I'd frame it. I'd keep it in my apartment or at my desk. I wouldn't want to let it out of my sight." / ■

Scientists seek means to save rot-prone cargo

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE — Preserving tons of wood, leather, cloth and paper being retrieved from the cargo hold of the Civil War-era steamship *Maple Leaf* will be an enormous challenge, state archaeologists say.

"There are going to be things that are brought up that no one has any experience in preserving," said Jim Miller, the state archaeologist in the Historic Resources Division of the Department of State. "We are going to be trying to answer the question of how to preserve them before they deteriorate.

"In addition to that, the sheer volume of the items that will have to be preserved after they are recovered is almost overwhelming."

Jacksonville dentist Keith Holland and his crew have begun excavating the artifacts from the shipwreck site.

The Union ship struck a Confederate mine and sank in the St. Johns River off Mandarin Point on April 1, 1884.

Holland expects to locate letters, diaries and even military documents from the steamship.

CLARA BARTON

A COMPARISON OF TWO CLARISSAS

She was named "Clarissa Harlowe" for an aunt, who had herself been named after the heroine of Samuel Richardson's greatest novel, *Clarissa Harlowe*, published in 1748 and widely popular for decades thereafter. By the age of twenty, she signed herself "Clara H."—and soon thereafter plain "Clara"—Barton.

Nevertheless, Clara and Clarissa Harlowe of fiction had much in common. Each was a shining example of the virtues of her sex. Each stayed single. Each had natural dignity, true nobility, and great staying power under prolonged adversity. And each inspired deep emotion in all sorts and conditions of people: nearly a century after the novel appeared, Lord Macaulay confessed that he nearly cried his eyes out as he read its final chapters; while the real lady's warm admirers ranged from emperors to sharecroppers.

There is one striking difference. Miss Clarissa Harlowe was finally tricked by Lovelace, whose very name soon became one of the standard designations for a profligate male. But although she had some setbacks during her more than 90 crowded years of widely varied achievement, no man, woman, or child ever really got the better of Miss Clara Barton.

"Clara Barton" by Marshall W. Fishwick

Fig. b: Fancy paletot for the country; costume could be made of wool or silk and either mohair or silk can be used for the braiding (7/63).

"Godey's Lady's Book"

• • •

Whether in permanent camp or on the field, the agents of the Sanitary Commission were always present with the armies, having ready some of the easily transported, yet invaluable hospital supplies of which the surgeons were so likely to run short. Many of the agents were accompanied by their wives, who often did good service in the hospitals. Nurses were also attached to the Commission officially or unofficially, and their service should be fully recognized. There were temporary shelters for invalid soldiers and members of the Sanitary Commission, their purpose being to furnish them with clean bedding and wholesome food and keep them out of the hands of sharpers or thugs who might otherwise prey upon them in their enfeebled condition. Here soldiers might await the coming of their relatives or the gaining of strength to enable them to travel to their homes. Aid was always given to secure pay, correcting papers which prevented them from receiving the same, and in a dozen other ways looking after their welfare. In all there were about forty of these lodges. The convalescent camps at Alexandria, Virginia, intended for the care of those soldiers discharged from the hospitals but not yet able to resume their places in the ranks, was a special charge of the Commission, though not directly under its control. Other camps were established at Memphis, Cairo, and various other points in the West.

"Review of Reviews" 1911

The Union encampment on Hempstead Plains

DEATH OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Lincoln is dead! and all the land
  In mourning symbols is attired;
Struck by the vile assassin's hand,
  Our noble President expired.

April fourteenth—'twas near eleven,
  When through his brain the ball had passed,
And minutes twenty-two past seven,
  Next morn our chieftain breathed his last.

The people's hope, the wide world's praise.
  Lies cold and silent in the earth,
Just at the time the world would raise
  Its songs of triumph to his worth.

For nations now beyond the tide,
  Own and revere his matchless fame,
And waft o'er seas and oceans wide,
  Distinguished honors to his name.

God's chosen one—and in his care.
  Truth, love, and mercy were combined,
"For malice unto none we bear,
  But charity to all mankind."

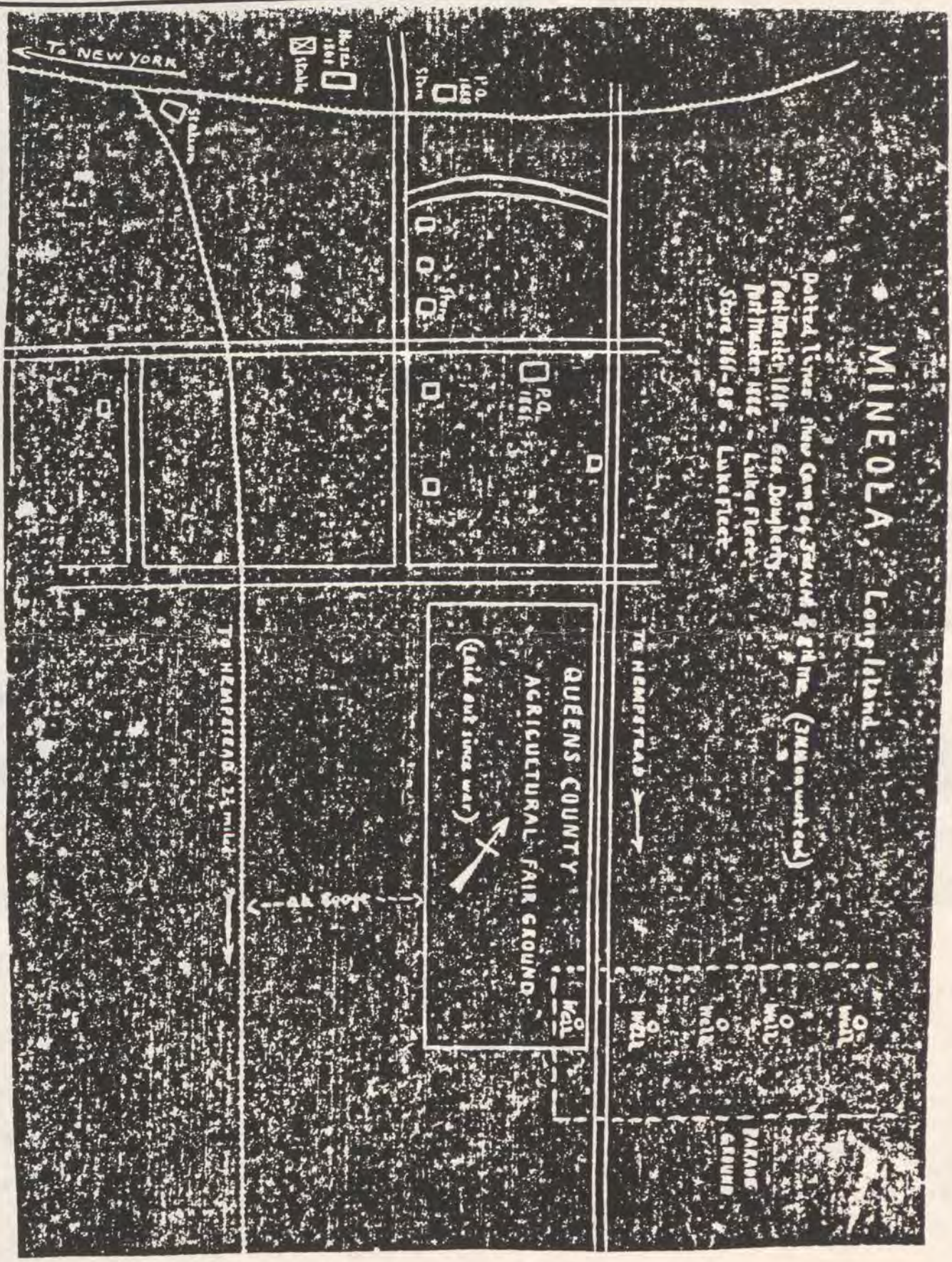
Among the great and mighty deeds
  That cluster round his scroll of fame,
The one that others all exceeds,
  And will through time exalt his name,

Is that which swept away the stain
  Of Slavery from our land, and broke
Its bonds and fetters, stocks and chain,
  And crushed for aye its iron yoke.

When asked descendants of the slave,
  One only answer there will be,
Who to your people freedom gave?
  " 'Twas Abraham Lincoln made us free."

And that loved name will ever live,
  In all the glories it has won:
Honors to him the world will give,
  The same as to our Washington.

And even more than Washington's
  Have been our noble Lincoln's gains,
One crushed the pride of Britain's sons,
  The other, Slavery's cursed chains.



THE HEMPSTEAD VOLUNTEER
HARRY B. HOWE, EDITOR
164 HOME STREET
VALLEY STREAM, N.Y. 11580

Joseph Bilardello
388 No. Service Rd.
Manorville, N.Y. 11949

The College Life of Secretary Seward at Union

In the fall of 1817, Wm. H. Seward, then a green looking country boy of 15, presented himself for admission to Union College. His examination was conducted by the Rev. Thomas McCauley, Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. Seward's preparation for college was so thorough and abundant that he was able to pass the examinations for admission to the Junior Class.

His age, however, compelled him to enter the Sophomore class, as 16 years was the minimum at which men could be admitted to the Junior Class.

At the time of his Matriculation Union, under the wise and careful administration of Dr. Nott, had about reached the summit of prosperity and influence.

With one of the best faculties in America, and the excellent reputation Dr. Nott had established in the religious and political worlds, it drew men from Yale, Harvard and all the great eastern colleges, who came here, either to take a post graduate course or to enter one of the upper classes, and have the fame of being a Union man.

Seward, himself, said many years later, that the college discipline was based on the soundest and wisest principles. "There was an absence of anything inquisitorial or suspicious. Every young man had his appointed recitations and attendance at prayers, and demeanor was required that should not disturb the quiet or order of the institution."

Although well prepared for his college work, Seward found many things to trouble and vex him. When he rose to deliver the first chapel oration, a ripple of laughter ran around the assembled students which developed into an uproar of merriment at his expense before he finished. The reason, as he found afterwards, was that he spoke with a very pronounced drawl, and his clothes were very ill-fitting, being the product of the tailor of his native village.

Seward was a careful and earnest student, and had a desire to get a better knowledge of some of his text books than he was able to, alone and unassisted. So it was his practice to go to the tutor during his study hours and receive help. This finally involved him in trouble with his class-mates. The boys in this especial recitation desired the tutor to give them shorter lessons and more, what, in this day, are called "bolts." Failing in this, they manifested their displeasure very much, as the men to-day do, when the faculty displease them; only in place of putting sulphur in a furnace, and exploding cannon crackers under recitation doors, they put asafaetida on the heated wood stove and pulled the tutor's long hair when he was not looking.

Of course the guilty ones were discovered and punished. They suspected an informer, and as Seward had not joined in their protests against the lessons, and had been often seen going to this tutor's house, he was suspected, and until he could convince his class-mates otherwise, was in "very hot water."

During his first year occurred Seward's first and only act of insubordination to the college authorities. The tutor in Greek was Mr. Wayland, afterwards the Rev. Dr. Wayland, President of Brown University.

The class was so large that the tutor could hear only about one-third of the class in a recitation. As he always kept the same order in calling men up, the boys were in the habit of taking novels, etc., into the class-room to amuse them on the days they were not to recite. The next man to Seward was a dull, simple-minded fellow, who depended on Seward to help him through. The tutor was desirous of breaking up so objectionable a practice as novel reading in his class-room, and so one day he deviated from his usual custom and called Seward's friend up, out of his turn. The fellow was totally unprepared and whispered to Seward, asking him what he should do. "Tell him you are not prepared," answered Seward. The fellow did so, but the tutor insisted. "Don't recite," cautioned Seward in an audible voice. The tutor was firm and the fellow was obliged to stumble through the best he could. "Mr. Seward, next," said the instructor. "I decline to recite," answered Seward. "What is the reason?" "I do not know that I am prepared. " "I thought that you might assign that reason," said the tutor, "and therefore I have called you to recite today from the book, the very lesson which you recited yesterday from memory, without any book." "I shall not recite to-day," replied Seward, firmly. "Then, sir," said the instructor, "you will please leave the room."

That evening Seward was summoned to apologize to his teacher, which he refused to do. Thereupon he was suspended. After two weeks time he was summoned to Dr. Nott, who asked him why he was absent from college. Seward explained matters, after which the

good doctor said, "Why then don't you apologize, my son?" "I think that the tutor did me the first wrong and he ought to apologize the first," replied Seward. "If the tutor will apologize to you, will you apologize to him" asked the Doctor? "Ah, yes," answered Seward, "I am convinced I was wrong, but he was wrong before me."

"Well, my son, rejcined the Doctor, suppose that I should apologize to you for him, would you be willing to apologize to me for his benefit?"

"Certainly."

Thereupon mutual apologies were exchanged, and after giving him some honest, manly advice, Doctor Nott reinstated Seward, and sent him back to work.

College honors in those days were awarded on very much the same basis as to-day, the highest grade for the course. Seward looked at first upon this system with much distrust, as he thought it involved a servile, unmanly compliance with the caprices of the faculty, that it destroyed the cordial sympathy and brotherly spirit which should exist among the men, and that by making them put all their energy and time in class-room work, it gave them a more contracted view of subjects of general interest.

He determined not to strive to excel, but an event occurred that changed his views and set him to working harder. That was the institution of a chapter at Union of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. Chapters were already in existence at Yale, Harvard, and Dartmouth, but Union's greatness decided them to institute the "Alpha of New York," at this institution. Accordingly a charter was granted in May, 1817, and men were elected on the basis of scholarship at the close of the junior year. The membership of this society comprised then, as now, the greatest thinkers of the day, the great statesmen, and scholars and professional men of the highest rank. Desirous of connecting himself with an organization which could boast of such men as Dr. Nott, Chancellor Kent, and Governor Clinton, Seward applied himself with great diligence and untireing perseverance, and had the high honor when his junior year expired of being elected a Phi Beta Kappa man. Toward the close of the Junior year an event of great interest had occurred. Daniel D. Tompkins, of this State, then Vice-President of the U. S., was running for Governor against DeWitt Clinton, who was seeking re-election. "In swinging around the circle,"Tompkins came to Schenectady and was tendered a reception by the students. Seward's home training had made him an ardent admirer of Tompkins, and to him was accorded the high honor of delivering the address of welcome, which he did in a manner highly creditable to himself and to his college.

Seward had the same trouble to keep his expenses within his income that many fellows experience to-day. The ridicule which assailed him when he first entered college, caused him to become indebted to the tailors of Schenectady, for the purchase of more suitable clothing. His debts increased until at the beginning of his Senior year, they amounted to $100 which his father refused to pay. Thereupon Seward resolved upon a bold stroke, which, if successful, would make him henceforth independent. A class-mate of his had secured a situation as principal of an Academy in Georgia, and was to start about the beginning of the year (1819). Although within a few months of the time in which he was to graduate, Seward left college and accompanied his friend. He arrived at Savannah very nearly penniless, but made his way at once to Putman Co., where he had heard of an Academy to which a principal was wanted.

He made application at once, and although at this time but 17 years of age, his mature appearance, pleasing manners, and winning address, secured to him the situation at a salary of $800 per annum.

The local papers, publishing accounts of the flattering prospects of the new Academy and of its Principal, Wm. H. Seward, of New York, he sent copies of the papers to his father. By this means, Seward Sr., learned of his wherabouts, and as Seward was a minor, the trustees received notice that if they hired him they would be prosecuted for harboring a runaway.

Although the trustees expressed perfect willingness to abide by their contract and run the risk of being prosecuted, Seward, on hearing of the deep sorrow with which his mother had been plunged, when she heard greatly exaggerated accounts of his conduct, desires to return home. He did so, after procuring a successor.

It was desired that he should return to college the next year. During the intervening months, he studied law.

When Seward returned to college, he found that a great change had taken place.

During the year that he was absent the Missouri Compromise had been debated,

causing the feeling between the Northern and Southern men of the college to run very high.

The two literary societies then in existence, were the Philomanthean and Adelphic, between whom great rivalry had always existed.

Most of the Southerners had joined the Philomatheans, but this sectional feeling caused a split in that society, the Southerners seceding and taking the name of "Delphian Institute." The Adelphics rejoiced in the discomfiture of their old rivals, and sympathized with the seceders. This brought on a fierce dispute between them and the Philomatheans. Seward having been in the South was sought for to give his opinion as to the rights of the Southerners to secede. The Adelphics expected the decision because he belonged to that society, while the Philomatheans claimed it from his known independence and fairness. The latter society was not mistaken in their opinion of him, as he decided that the Southern men did wrong to secede and form a new society. This decision, of course, greatly angered his associates in the Adelphic Society, and a charge was trumped up against him and he was indicted and brought to trial with the intent of expelling him from that society. Seward appeared before them and defended his action in a speech of such eloquence and power, that he was unanimously acquitted, and as an atonement for the injustice of the trial, he was elected by the Adelphics as one of the class managers. At that time the college was entirely run by these literary societies, and they were powerful instrumentalities for good, until superceded by the Greek Letter Secret Societies.

In later years, speaking of the benefit he had received from them, Seward said, "If I was required to say now from what part of my college education I derived the greatest advantage, I should say from the exercises of the Adelphic Society."

In July, 1820, Seward was graduated. His commencement was made noted because of the split in the class. The Philomathean and Adelphics composed of Northern men, now united against the Delphian Institute, made up of Southerners. The feeling was so great that the class separated on the stage, showing thus early that the elements of discord were already in existence, that forty years later plunged our country into a bloody civil war.

Such were some of Seward's experiences here at Union. Reading the story of his life, studying his noble character, and observing the part he took in the preservation of our country, every loyal son of old Union must feel themselves bound closer to an Alma Mater that has sent forth such men as Governor, Senator, Secretary, Wm. H. Seward.

John Van Schaick, Jr. C. March 19, 1892.

The Columbia Encyclopedia, Sixth Edition. 2001.

Seward, William Henry

1801–72, American statesman, b. Florida, Orange co., N.Y. 1

Early Career

A graduate (1820) of Union College, he was admitted to the bar in 1822 and established himself as a lawyer in Auburn, N.Y., which he made his lifelong home. He was active in the Anti-Masonic party and later joined the Whig party. Seward and his close personal and political friend, Thurlow Weed, became the two most influential Whigs in New York state. A state senator from 1830 to 1834, he ran unsuccessfully for the governorship in 1834. In 1838, however, he won that office, and he was reelected in 1840. As governor, Seward worked for educational reforms and internal improvements; he also secured legislation to better the position of immigrants and to protect fugitive slaves. He returned to his law practice in 1843. 2

Senator

Seward was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1849. Reelected in 1855, he was one of the Senate's most prominent members in the troubled years preceding the Civil War. A genial, gregarious man with intellectual interests, he was generally well liked, even by his political opponents. 3

Seward was an uncompromising foe of slavery, and, although he apparently tempered his public expressions so as not to alienate votes, he nevertheless made two remarks that became catchphrases of the antislavery forces. Voicing his opposition to the Compromise of 1850 in the Senate, he said (Mar. 11, 1850), "there is a higher law than the Constitution which regulates our authority over the domain." In a speech at Rochester on Oct. 25, 1858, he declared that there would exist "an irrepressible conflict" until the United States became either all slave or all free. 4

With the disintegration of the Whig party, Seward and Weed joined (1855) the new Republican party. Prominent as he was, Seward, despite (or possibly because of) the 5

efforts of Weed's machine, was never able to secure the Republican presidential nomination. His friendship toward immigrants, especially the Irish, alienated members of the former Know-Nothing movement within the Republican party.

Secretary of State

In 1861, Seward became Secretary of State under Abraham Lincoln, and many expected him to be the real power in the administration. He revealed his own desire to dominate the President in a peculiar memorandum (Apr. 1, 1861) to Lincoln in which he proposed waging war against most of Europe so as to unite the nation. Seward also did some unwarranted meddling during the Fort Sumter crisis. After the Civil War broke out, however, he showed himself an able statesman, although it took all of Lincoln's ingenuity to keep both Seward and his rival, Salmon P. Chase, eternally ambitious for the presidency, in the same cabinet. Seward's handling of delicate matters of diplomacy with Great Britain, particularly in the Trent Affair, was notably adept. He also protested French intervention in Mexico and after the Civil War helped bring an end to it. 6

The plot of John Wilkes Booth to assassinate Lincoln also included a stabbing attack on Seward, but he recovered from his wounds and retained his cabinet position under the new President, Andrew Johnson. He supported Johnson's Reconstruction policy and, like the President, was roundly denounced by the radical Republicans. Seward's most important act in this administration was the purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867. His foresight was not generally acknowledged, however, and Alaska was long popularly called "Seward's folly." He also tried to purchase the two most important islands in the Danish West Indies (the Virgin Islands), but the Senate refused to approve his action. 7

Bibliography

See G. E. Baker, ed., *The Works of William H. Seward* (5 vol., 1853–84); F. W. Seward, ed., *Autobiography ... and Selections from His Letters* (3 vol., 1891); biographies by F. Bancroft (1900, repr. 1967) and G. G. Van Deusen (1967). 8

UCSLaf1820seward-w-0220

Public Law 85-508
85th Congress, H. R. 7999
July 7, 1958

AN ACT

72 Stat. 339.

To provide for the admission of the State of Alaska into the Union.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, subject to the provisions of this Act, and upon issuance of the proclamation required by section 8 (c) of this Act, the State of Alaska is hereby declared to be a State of the United States of America, is declared admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the other States in all respects whatever, and the constitution formed pursuant to the provisions of the Act of the Territorial Legislature of Alaska entitled, "An Act to provide for the holding of a constitutional convention to prepare a constitution for the State of Alaska; to submit the constitution to the people for adoption or rejection; to prepare for the admission of Alaska as a State; to make an appropriation; and setting an effective date", approved March 19, 1955 (Chapter 46, Session Laws of Alaska, 1955), and adopted by a vote of the people of Alaska in the election held on April 24, 1956, is hereby found to be republican in form and in conformity with the Constitution of the United States and the principles of the Declaration of Independence, and is hereby accepted, ratified, and confirmed. Alaska, statehood.

SEC. 2. The State of Alaska shall consist of all the territory, together with the territorial waters appurtenant thereto, now included in the Territory of Alaska. Territory.

SEC. 3. The constitution of the State of Alaska shall always be republican in form and shall not be repugnant to the Constitution of the United States and the principles of the Declaration of Independence. Constitution.

SEC. 4. As a compact with the United States said State and its people do agree and declare that they forever disclaim all right and title to any lands or other property not granted or confirmed to the State or its political subdivisions by or under the authority of this Act, the right or title to which is held by the United States or is subject to disposition by the United States, and to any lands or other property (including fishing rights), the right or title to which may be held by any Indians, Eskimos, or Aleuts (hereinafter called natives) or is held by the United States in trust for said natives; that all such lands or other property, belonging to the United States or which may belong to said natives, shall be and remain under the absolute jurisdiction and control of the United States until disposed of under its authority, except to such extent as the Congress has prescribed or may hereafter prescribe, and except when held by individual natives in fee without restrictions on alienation: *Provided*, That nothing contained in this Act shall recognize, deny, enlarge, impair, or otherwise affect any claim against the United States, and any such claim shall be governed by the laws of the United States applicable thereto; and nothing in this Act is intended or shall be construed as a finding, interpretation, or construction by the Congress that any law applicable thereto authorizes, establishes, recognizes, or confirms the validity or invalidity of any such claim, and the determination of the applicability or effect of any law to any such claim shall be unaffected by anything in this Act: *And provided further*, That no taxes shall be imposed by said State upon any lands or other property now owned or hereafter acquired by the United States or which, as hereinabove set forth, may belong to said natives, except to such extent as the Congress has prescribed or may hereafter prescribe, and except when held by individual natives in fee without restrictions on alienation. Compact with U.S.

GPO : 1958 O - 27985 (313)

Title to property.

SEC. 5. The State of Alaska and its political subdivisions, respectively, shall have and retain title to all property, real and personal, title to which is in the Territory of Alaska or any of the subdivisions. Except as provided in section 6 hereof, the United States shall retain title to all property, real and personal, to which it has title, including public lands.

Selection from public lands.

SEC. 6. (a) For the purposes of furthering the development of and expansion of communities, the State of Alaska is hereby granted and shall be entitled to select, within twenty-five years after the date of the admission of the State of Alaska into the Union, from lands within national forests in Alaska which are vacant and unappropriated at the time of their selection not to exceed four hundred thousand acres of land, and from the other public lands of the United States in Alaska which are vacant, unappropriated, and unreserved at the time of their selection not to exceed another four hundred thousand acres of land, all of which shall be adjacent to established communities or suitable for prospective community centers and recreational areas. Such lands shall be selected by the State of Alaska with the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture as to national forest lands and with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior as to other public lands: *Provided*, That nothing herein contained shall affect any valid existing claim, location, or entry under the laws of the United States, whether for homestead, mineral, right-of-way, or other purpose whatsoever, or shall affect the rights of any such owner, claimant, locator, or entryman to the full use and enjoyment of the land so occupied.

(b) The State of Alaska, in addition to any other grants made in this section, is hereby granted and shall be entitled to select, within twenty-five years after the admission of Alaska into the Union, not to exceed one hundred and two million five hundred and fifty thousand acres from the public lands of the United States in Alaska which are vacant, unappropriated, and unreserved at the time of their selection: *Provided*, That nothing herein contained shall affect any valid existing claim, location, or entry under the laws of the United States, whether for homestead, mineral, right-of-way, or other purpose whatsoever, or shall affect the rights of any such owner, claimant, locator, or entryman to the full use and enjoyment of the lands so occupied: *And provided further*, That no selection hereunder shall be made in the area north and west of the line described in section 10 without approval of the President or his designated representative.

(c) Block 32, and the structures and improvements thereon, in the city of Juneau are granted to the State of Alaska for any or all of the following purposes or a combination thereof: A residence for the Governor, a State museum, or park and recreational use.

(d) Block 19, and the structures and improvements thereon, and the interests of the United States in blocks C and 7, and the structures and improvements thereon, in the city of Juneau, are hereby granted to the State of Alaska.

Fish and wildlife resources.

(e) All real and personal property of the United States situated in the Territory of Alaska which is specifically used for the sole purpose of conservation and protection of the fisheries and wildlife of Alaska, under the provisions of the Alaska game law of July 1, 1943 (57 Stat. 301; 48 U. S. C., secs. 192–211), as amended, and under the provisions of the Alaska commercial fisheries laws of June 26, 1906 (34 Stat. 478; 48 U. S. C., secs. 230–239 and 241–242), and June 6, 1924 (43 Stat. 465; 48 U. S. C., secs. 221–228), as supplemented and amended, shall be transferred and conveyed to the State of Alaska by the appropriate Federal agency: *Provided*, That the administration and management of the fish and wildlife resources of Alaska shall be retained by the Federal Government under existing laws until the

first day of the first calendar year following the expiration of ninety legislative days after the Secretary of the Interior certifies to the Congress that the Alaska State Legislature has made adequate provision for the administration, management, and conservation of said resources in the broad national interest: *Provided*, That such transfer shall not include lands withdrawn or otherwise set apart as refuges or reservations for the protection of wildlife nor facilities utilized in connection therewith, or in connection with general research activities relating to fisheries or wildlife. Sums of money that are available for apportionment or which the Secretary of the Interior shall have apportioned, as of the date the State of Alaska shall be deemed to be admitted into the Union, for wildlife restoration in the Territory of Alaska, pursuant to section 8 (a) of the Act of September 2, 1937, as amended (16 U. S. C., sec. 669g–1), and for fish restoration and management in the Territory of Alaska, pursuant to section 12 of the Act of August 9, 1950 (16 U. S. C., sec. 777k), shall continue to be available for the period, and under the terms and conditions in effect at the time, the apportionments are made. Commencing with the year during which Alaska is admitted into the Union, the Secretary of the Treasury, at the close of each fiscal year, shall pay to the State of Alaska 70 per centum of the net proceeds, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior, derived during such fiscal year from all sales of sealskins or sea-otter skins made in accordance with the provisions of the Act of February 26, 1944 (58 Stat. 100; 16 U. S. C., secs. 631a–631q), as supplemented and amended. In arriving at the net proceeds, there shall be deducted from the receipts from all sales all costs to the United States in carrying out the provisions of the Act of February 26, 1944, as supplemented and amended, including, but not limited to, the costs of handling and dressing the skins, the costs of making the sales, and all expenses incurred in the administration of the Pribilof Islands. Nothing in this Act shall be construed as affecting the rights of the United States under the provisions of the Act of February 26, 1944, as supplemented and amended, and the Act of June 28, 1937 (50 Stat. 325), as amended (16 U. S. C., sec. 772 et seq.).

55 Stat. 632.

64 Stat. 434.

Public school support.

(f) Five per centum of the proceeds of sale of public lands lying within said State which shall be sold by the United States subsequent to the admission of said State into the Union, after deducting all the expenses incident to such sales, shall be paid to said State to be used for the support of the public schools within said State.

(g) Except as provided in subsection (a), all lands granted in quantity to and authorized to be selected by the State of Alaska by this Act shall be selected in such manner as the laws of the State may provide, and in conformity with such regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe. All selections shall be made in reasonably compact tracts, taking into account the situation and potential uses of the lands involved, and each tract selected shall contain at least five thousand seven hundred and sixty acres unless isolated from other tracts open to selection. The authority to make selections shall never be alienated or bargained away, in whole or in part, by the State. Upon the revocation of any order of withdrawal in Alaska, the order of revocation shall provide for a period of not less than ninety days before the date on which it otherwise becomes effective, if subsequent to the admission of Alaska into the Union, during which period the State of Alaska shall have a preferred right of selection, subject to the requirements of this Act, except as against prior existing valid rights or as against equitable claims subject to allowance and confirmation. Such preferred right of selection shall have precedence over the preferred right of application created by section 4 of the Act of September

27, 1944 (58 Stat. 748; 43 U. S. C., sec. 282), as now or hereafter amended, but not over other preference rights now conferred by law. Where any lands desired by the State are unsurveyed at the time of their selection, the Secretary of the Interior shall survey the exterior boundaries of the area requested without any interior subdivision thereof and shall issue a patent for such selected area in terms of the exterior boundary survey; where any lands desired by the State are surveyed at the time of their selection, the boundaries of the area requested shall conform to the public land subdivisions established by the approval of the survey. All lands duly selected by the State of Alaska pursuant to this Act shall be patented to the State by the Secretary of the Interior. Following the selection of lands by the State and the tentative approval of such selection by the Secretary of the Interior or his designee, but prior to the issuance of final patent, the State is hereby authorized to execute conditional leases and to make conditional sales of such selected lands. As used in this subsection, the words "equitable claims subject to allowance and confirmation" include, without limitation, claims of holders of permits issued by the Department of Agriculture on lands eliminated from national forests, whose permits have been terminated only because of such elimination and who own valuable improvements on such lands.

Mineral leases, permits, etc.

48 USC 432, passim.

(h) Any lease, permit, license, or contract issued under the Mineral Leasing Act of February 25, 1920 (41 Stat. 437; 30 U. S. C., sec. 181 and following), as amended, or under the Alaska Coal Leasing Act of October 20, 1914 (38 Stat. 741; 30 U. S. C., sec. 432 and following), as amended, shall have the effect of withdrawing the lands subject thereto from selection by the State of Alaska under this Act, unless such lease, permit, license, or contract is in effect on the date of approval of this Act, and unless an application to select such lands is filed with the Secretary of the Interior within a period of five years after the date of the admission of Alaska into the Union. Such selections shall be made only from lands that are otherwise open to selection under this Act, and shall include the entire area that is subject to each lease, permit, license, or contract involved in the selections. Any patent for lands so selected shall vest in the State of Alaska all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to any such lease, permit, license, or contract that remains outstanding on the effective date of the patent, including the right to all rentals, royalties, and other payments accruing after that date under such lease, permit, license, or contract, and including any authority that may have been retained by the United States to modify the terms and conditions of such lease, permit, license, or contract: *Provided*, That nothing herein contained shall affect the continued validity of any such lease, permit, license, or contract or any rights arising thereunder.

Mineral land grants.

(i) All grants made or confirmed under this Act shall include mineral deposits. The grants of mineral lands to the State of Alaska under subsections (a) and (b) of this section are made upon the express condition that all sales, grants, deeds, or patents for any of the mineral lands so granted shall be subject to and contain a reservation to the State of all of the minerals in the lands so sold, granted, deeded, or patented, together with the right to prospect for, mine, and remove the same. Mineral deposits in such lands shall be subject to lease by the State as the State legislature may direct: *Provided*, That any lands or minerals hereafter disposed of contrary to the provisions of this section shall be forfeited to the United States by appropriate proceedings instituted by the Attorney General for that purpose in the United States District Court for the District of Alaska.

Schools and colleges.

(j) The schools and colleges provided for in this Act shall forever remain under the exclusive control of the State, or its governmental

subdivisions, and no part of the proceeds arising from the sale or disposal of any lands granted herein for educational purposes shall be used for the support of any sectarian or denominational school, college, or university.

Confirmation of grants.

(k) Grants previously made to the Territory of Alaska are hereby confirmed and transferred to the State of Alaska upon its admission. Effective upon the admission of the State of Alaska into the Union, section 1 of the Act of March 4, 1915 (38 Stat. 1214; 48 U. S. C., sec. 353), as amended, and the last sentence of section 35 of the Act of February 25, 1920 (41 Stat. 450; 30 U. S. C., sec. 191), as amended, are repealed and all lands therein reserved under the provisions of section 1 as of the date of this Act shall, upon the admission of said State into the Union, be granted to said State for the purposes for which they were reserved; but such repeal shall not affect any outstanding lease, permit, license, or contract issued under said section 1, as amended, or any rights or powers with respect to such lease, permit, license, or contract, and shall not affect the disposition of the proceeds or income derived prior to such repeal from any lands reserved under said section 1, as amended, or derived thereafter from any disposition of the reserved lands or an interest therein made prior to such repeal.

Repeals.

Internal improvements.

(l) The grants provided for in this Act shall be in lieu of the grant of land for purposes of internal improvements made to new States by section 8 of the Act of September 4, 1841 (5 Stat. 455), and sections 2378 and 2379 of the Revised Statutes (43 U. S. C., sec. 857), and in lieu of the swampland grant made by the Act of September 28, 1850 (9 Stat. 520), and section 2479 of the Revised Statutes (43 U. S. C., sec. 982), and in lieu of the grant of thirty thousand acres for each Senator and Representative in Congress made by the Act of July 2, 1862, as amended (12 Stat. 503; 7 U. S. C., secs. 301–308), which grants are hereby declared not to extend to the State of Alaska.

Submerged lands.

43 USC 1301 note.

(m) The Submerged Lands Act of 1953 (Public Law 31, Eighty-third Congress, first session; 67 Stat. 29) shall be applicable to the State of Alaska and the said State shall have the same rights as do existing States thereunder.

Certification by President.

SEC. 7. Upon enactment of this Act, it shall be the duty of the President of the United States, not later than July 3, 1958, to certify such fact to the Governor of Alaska. Thereupon the Governor, on or after July 3, 1958, and not later than August 1, 1958, shall issue his proclamation for the elections, as hereinafter provided, for officers of all elective offices and in the manner provided for by the constitution of the proposed State of Alaska, but the officers so elected shall in any event include two Senators and one Representative in Congress.

Election of officers; date, etc.

SEC. 8. (a) The proclamation of the Governor of Alaska required by section 7 shall provide for holding of a primary election and a general election on dates to be fixed by the Governor of Alaska: *Provided*, That the general election shall not be held later than December 1, 1958, and at such elections the officers required to be elected as provided in section 7 shall be, and officers for other elective offices provided for in the constitution of the proposed State of Alaska may be, chosen by the people. Such elections shall be held, and the qualifications of voters thereat shall be, as prescribed by the constitution of the proposed State of Alaska for the election of members of the proposed State legislature. The returns thereof shall be made and certified in such manner as the constitution of the proposed State of Alaska may prescribe. The Governor of Alaska shall certify the results of said elections to the President of the United States.

(b) At an election designated by proclamation of the Governor of Alaska, which may be the general election held pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, or a Territorial general election, or a special

election, there shall be submitted to the electors qualified to vote in said election, for adoption or rejection, by separate ballot on each, the following propositions:

"(1) Shall Alaska immediately be admitted into the Union as a State?

"(2) The boundaries of the State of Alaska shall be as prescribed in the Act of Congress approved _____ (date of approval of this Act) and all claims of this State to any areas of land or sea outside the boundaries so prescribed are hereby irrevocably relinquished to the United States.

"(3) All provisions of the Act of Congress approved _____ (date of approval of this Act) reserving rights or powers to the United States, as well as those prescribing the terms or conditions of the grants of lands or other property therein made to the State of Alaska, are consented to fully by said State and its people."

In the event each of the foregoing propositions is adopted at said election by a majority of the legal votes cast on said submission, the proposed constitution of the proposed State of Alaska, ratified by the people at the election held on April 24, 1956, shall be deemed amended accordingly. In the event any one of the foregoing propositions is not adopted at said election by a majority of the legal votes cast on said submission, the provisions of this Act shall thereupon cease to be effective.

Certification of voting results by Governor.

The Governor of Alaska is hereby authorized and directed to take such action as may be necessary or appropriate to insure the submission of said propositions to the people. The return of the votes cast on said propositions shall be made by the election officers directly to the Secretary of Alaska, who shall certify the results of the submission to the Governor. The Governor shall certify the results of said submission, as so ascertained, to the President of the United States.

Proclamation by President.

(c) If the President shall find that the propositions set forth in the preceding subsection have been duly adopted by the people of Alaska, the President, upon certification of the returns of the election of the officers required to be elected as provided in section 7 of this Act, shall thereupon issue his proclamation announcing the results of said election as so ascertained. Upon the issuance of said proclamation by the President, the State of Alaska shall be deemed admitted into the Union as provided in section 1 of this Act.

Until the said State is so admitted into the Union, all of the officers of said Territory, including the Delegate in Congress from said Territory, shall continue to discharge the duties of their respective offices. Upon the issuance of said proclamation by the President of the United States and the admission of the State of Alaska into the Union, the officers elected at said election, and qualified under the provisions of the constitution and laws of said State, shall proceed to exercise all the functions pertaining to their offices in or under or by authority of the government of said State, and officers not required to be elected at said initial election shall be selected or continued in office as provided by the constitution and laws of said State. The Governor of said State shall certify the election of the Senators and Representative in the manner required by law, and the said Senators and Representative shall be entitled to be admitted to seats in Congress and to all the rights and privileges of Senators and Representatives of other States in the Congress of the United States.

Laws in effect.

(d) Upon admission of the State of Alaska into the Union as herein provided, all of the Territorial laws then in force in the Territory of Alaska shall be and continue in full force and effect throughout said State except as modified or changed by this Act, or by the constitution

of the State, or as thereafter modified or changed by the legislature of the State. All of the laws of the United States shall have the same force and effect within said State as elsewhere within the United States. As used in this paragraph, the term "Territorial laws" includes (in addition to laws enacted by the Territorial Legislature of Alaska) all laws or parts thereof enacted by the Congress the validity of which is dependent solely upon the authority of the Congress to provide for the government of Alaska prior to the admission of the State of Alaska into the Union, and the term "laws of the United States" includes all laws or parts thereof enacted by the Congress that (1) apply to or within Alaska at the time of the admission of the State of Alaska into the Union, (2) are not "Territorial laws" as defined in this paragraph, and (3) are not in conflict with any other provisions of this Act.

Definitions.

House of Representatives membership.

SEC. 9. The State of Alaska upon its admission into the Union shall be entitled to one Representative until the taking effect of the next reapportionment, and such Representative shall be in addition to the membership of the House of Representatives as now prescribed by law: *Provided*, That such temporary increase in the membership shall not operate to either increase or decrease the permanent membership of the House of Representatives as prescribed in the Act of August 8, 1911 (37 Stat. 13) nor shall such temporary increase affect the basis of apportionment established by the Act of November 15, 1941 (55 Stat. 761; 2 U. S. C., sec. 2a), for the Eighty-third Congress and each Congress thereafter.

National defense withdrawals.

SEC. 10. (a) The President of the United States is hereby authorized to establish, by Executive order or proclamation, one or more special national defense withdrawals within the exterior boundaries of Alaska, which withdrawal or withdrawals may thereafter be terminated in whole or in part by the President.

(b) Special national defense withdrawals established under subsection (a) of this section shall be confined to those portions of Alaska that are situated to the north or west of the following line: Beginning at the point where the Porcupine River crosses the international boundary between Alaska and Canada; thence along a line parallel to, and five miles from, the right bank of the main channel of the Porcupine River to its confluence with the Yukon River; thence along a line parallel to, and five miles from, the right bank of the main channel of the Yukon River to its most southerly point of intersection with the meridian of longitude 160 degrees west of Greenwich; thence south to the intersection of said meridian with the Kuskokwim River; thence along a line parallel to, and five miles from the right bank of the Kuskokwim River to the mouth of said river; thence along the shoreline of Kuskokwim Bay to its intersection with the meridian of longitude 162 degrees 30 minutes west of Greenwich; thence south to the intersection of said meridian with the parallel of latitude 57 degrees 30 minutes north; thence east to the intersection of said parallel with the meridian of longitude 156 degrees west of Greenwich; thence south to the intersection of said meridian with the parallel of latitude 50 degrees north.

Jurisdiction.

(c) Effective upon the issuance of such Executive order or proclamation, exclusive jurisdiction over all special national defense withdrawals established under this section is hereby reserved to the United States, which shall have sole legislative, judicial, and executive power within such withdrawals, except as provided hereinafter. The exclusive jurisdiction so established shall extend to all lands within the exterior boundaries of each such withdrawal, and shall remain in effect with respect to any particular tract or parcel of land only so long as such tract or parcel remains within the exterior boundaries of such a

withdrawal. The laws of the State of Alaska shall not apply to areas within any special national defense withdrawal established under this section while such areas remain subject to the exclusive jurisdiction hereby authorized: *Provided, however*, That such exclusive jurisdiction shall not prevent the execution of any process, civil or criminal, of the State of Alaska, upon any person found within said withdrawals: *And provided further*, That such exclusive jurisdiction shall not prohibit the State of Alaska from enacting and enforcing all laws necessary to establish voting districts, and the qualification and procedures for voting in all elections.

(d) During the continuance in effect of any special national defense withdrawal established under this section, or until the Congress otherwise provides, such exclusive jurisdiction shall be exercised within each such withdrawal in accordance with the following provisions of law:

(1) All laws enacted by the Congress that are of general application to areas under the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States, including, but without limiting the generality of the foregoing, those provisions of title 18, United States Code, that are applicable within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States as defined in section 7 of said title, shall apply to all areas within such withdrawals.

62 Stat. 683.

(2) In addition, any areas within the withdrawals that are reserved by Act of Congress or by Executive action for a particular military or civilian use of the United States shall be subject to all laws enacted by the Congress that have application to lands withdrawn for that particular use, and any other areas within the withdrawals shall be subject to all laws enacted by the Congress that are of general application to lands withdrawn for defense purposes of the United States.

(3) To the extent consistent with the laws described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection and with regulations made or other actions taken under their authority, all laws in force within such withdrawals immediately prior to the creation thereof by Executive order or proclamation shall apply within the withdrawals and, for this purpose, are adopted as laws of the United States: *Provided, however*, That the laws of the State or Territory relating to the organization or powers of municipalities or local political subdivisions, and the laws or ordinances of such municipalities or political subdivisions shall not be adopted as laws of the United States.

(4) All functions vested in the United States commissioners by the laws described in this subsection shall continue to be performed within the withdrawals by such commissioners.

(5) All functions vested in any municipal corporation, school district, or other local political subdivision by the laws described in this subsection shall continue to be performed within the withdrawals by such corporation, district, or other subdivision, and the laws of the State or the laws or ordinances of such municipalities or local political subdivision shall remain in full force and effect notwithstanding any withdrawal made under this section.

(6) All other functions vested in the government of Alaska or in any officer or agency thereof, except judicial functions over which the United States District Court for the District of Alaska is given jurisdiction by this Act or other provisions of law, shall be performed within the withdrawals by such civilian individuals or civilian agencies and in such manner as the President shall from time to time, by Executive order, direct or authorize.

(7) The United States District Court for the District of Alaska shall have original jurisdiction, without regard to the sum or value of any matter in controversy, over all civil actions arising within such withdrawals under the laws made applicable thereto by this subsection, as well as over all offenses committed within the withdrawals.

(e) Nothing contained in subsection (d) of this section shall be construed as limiting the exclusive jurisdiction established in the United States by subsection (c) of this section or the authority of the Congress to implement such exclusive jurisdiction by appropriate legislation, or as denying to persons now or hereafter residing within any portion of the areas described in subsection (b) of this section the right to vote at all elections held within the political subdivisions as prescribed by the State of Alaska where they respectively reside, or as limiting the jurisdiction conferred on the United States District Court for the District of Alaska by any other provision of law, or as continuing in effect laws relating to the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed as limiting any authority otherwise vested in the Congress or the President.

Mount McKinley National Park.

SEC. 11. (a) Nothing in this Act shall affect the establishment, or the right, ownership, and authority of the United States in Mount McKinley National Park, as now or hereafter constituted; but exclusive jurisdiction, in all cases, shall be exercised by the United States for the national park, as now or hereafter constituted; saving, however, to the State of Alaska the right to serve civil or criminal process within the limits of the aforesaid park in suits or prosecutions for or on account of rights acquired, obligations incurred, or crimes committed in said State, but outside of said park; and saving further to the said State the right to tax persons and corporations, their franchises and property on the lands included in said park; and saving also to the persons residing now or hereafter in such area the right to vote at all elections held within the respective political subdivisions of their residence in which the park is situated.

Military, naval, etc. lands.

(b) Notwithstanding the admission of the State of Alaska into the Union, authority is reserved in the United States, subject to the proviso hereinafter set forth, for the exercise by the Congress of the United States of the power of exclusive legislation, as provided by article I, section 8, clause 17, of the Constitution of the United States, in all cases whatsoever over such tracts or parcels of land as, immediately prior to the admission of said State, are owned by the United States and held for military, naval, Air Force, or Coast Guard purposes, including naval petroleum reserve numbered 4, whether such lands were acquired by cession and transfer to the United States by Russia and set aside by Act of Congress or by Executive order or proclamation of the President or the Governor of Alaska for the use of the United States, or were acquired by the United States by purchase, condemnation, donation, exchange, or otherwise: *Provided*, (i) That the State of Alaska shall always have the right to serve civil or criminal process within the said tracts or parcels of land in suits or prosecutions for or on account of rights acquired, obligations incurred, or crimes committed within the said State but outside of the said tracts or parcels of land; (ii) that the reservation of authority in the United States for the exercise by the Congress of the United States of the power of exclusive legislation over the lands aforesaid shall not operate to prevent such lands from being a part of the State of Alaska, or to prevent the said State from exercising over or upon such lands, concurrently with the United States, any jurisdiction whatsoever which it would have in the absence of such reservation of authority and which is consistent with the laws hereafter enacted by the Congress pursuant to such reservation of authority; and (iii) that such power of exclusive legislation shall rest and remain in the United States only so long as the particular tract or parcel of land involved is owned by the United States and used for military, naval, Air Force, or Coast Guard purposes. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to lands within such special national defense with-

USC prec. Title 1.

Civil and criminal Jurisdiction.

drawal or withdrawals as may be established pursuant to section 10 of this Act until such lands cease to be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction reserved to the United States by that section.

Judicial and criminal provisions.

SEC. 12. Effective upon the admission of Alaska into the Union—

(a) The analysis of chapter 5 of title 28, United States Code, immediately preceding section 81 of such title, is amended by inserting immediately after and underneath item 81 of such analysis, a new item to be designated as item 81A and to read as follows:

"81A. Alaska":

(b) Title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting immediately after section 81 thereof a new section, to be designated as section 81A, and to read as follows:

"§ 81A. Alaska

"Alaska constitutes one judicial district.

"Court shall be held at Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Nome.";

(c) Section 133 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting in the table of districts and judges in such section immediately above the item: "Arizona * * * 2", a new item as follows: "Alaska * * * 1";

(d) The first paragraph of section 373 of title 28, United States Code, as heretofore amended, is further amended by striking out the words: "the District Court for the Territory of Alaska,": *Provided*, That the amendment made by this subsection shall not affect the rights of any judge who may have retired before it takes effect;

(e) The words "the District Court for the Territory of Alaska," are stricken out wherever they appear in sections 333, 460, 610, 753, 1252, 1291, 1292, and 1346 of title 28, United States Code;

(f) The first paragraph of section 1252 of title 28, United States Code, is further amended by striking out the word "Alaska," from the clause relating to courts of record;

(g) Subsection (2) of section 1294 of title 28, United States Code, is repealed and the later subsections of such section are renumbered accordingly;

(h) Subsection (a) of section 2410 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking out the words: "including the District Court for the Territory of Alaska,";

(i) Section 3241 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking out the words: "District Court for the Territory of Alaska, the";

(j) Subsection (e) of section 3401 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking out the words: "for Alaska or";

(k) Section 3771 of title 18, United States Code, as heretofore amended, is further amended by striking out from the first paragraph of such section the words: "the Territory of Alaska,";

(l) Section 3772 of title 18, United States Code, as heretofore amended, is further amended by striking out from the first paragraph of such section the words: "the Territory of Alaska,";

(m) Section 2072 of title 28, United States Code, as heretofore amended, is further amended by striking out from the first paragraph of such section the words: "and of the District Court for the Territory of Alaska";

(n) Subsection (q) of section 376 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking out the words: "the District Court for the Territory of Alaska,": *Provided*, That the amendment made by this subsection shall not affect the rights under such section 376 of any present or former judge of the District Court for the Territory of Alaska or his survivors;

(o) The last paragraph of section 1963 of title 28, United States Code, is repealed;

(p) Section 2201 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking out the words: "and the District Court for the Territory of Alaska"; and

(q) Section 4 of the Act of July 28, 1950 (64 Stat. 380; 5 U. S. C., sec. 341b) is amended by striking out the word: "Alaska,".

Continuation of suits.

SEC. 13. No writ, action, indictment, cause, or proceeding pending in the District Court for the Territory of Alaska on the date when said Territory shall become a State, and no case pending in an appellate court upon appeal from the District Court for the Territory of Alaska at the time said Territory shall become a State, shall abate by the admission of the State of Alaska into the Union, but the same shall be transferred and proceeded with as hereinafter provided.

All civil causes of action and all criminal offenses which shall have arisen or been committed prior to the admission of said State, but as to which no suit, action, or prosecution shall be pending at the date of such admission, shall be subject to prosecution in the appropriate State courts or in the United States District Court for the District of Alaska in like manner, to the same extent, and with like right of appellate review, as if said State had been created and said courts had been established prior to the accrual of said causes of action or the commission of such offenses; and such of said criminal offenses as shall have been committed against the laws of the Territory shall be tried and punished by the appropriate courts of said State, and such as shall have been committed against the laws of the United States shall be tried and punished in the United States District Court for the District of Alaska.

Appeals.

SEC. 14. All appeals taken from the District Court for the Territory of Alaska to the Supreme Court of the United States or the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, previous to the admission of Alaska as a State, shall be prosecuted to final determination as though this Act had not been passed. All cases in which final judgment has been rendered in such district court, and in which appeals might be had except for the admission of such State, may still be sued out, taken, and prosecuted to the Supreme Court of the United States or the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit under the provisions of then existing law, and there held and determined in like manner; and in either case, the Supreme Court of the United States, or the United States Court of Appeals, in the event of reversal, shall remand the said cause to either the State supreme court or other final appellate court of said State, or the United States district court for said district, as the case may require: *Provided*, That the time allowed by existing law for appeals from the district court for said Territory shall not be enlarged thereby.

Transfer of cases.

SEC. 15. All causes pending or determined in the District Court for the Territory of Alaska at the time of the admission of Alaska as a State which are of such nature as to be within the jurisdiction of a district court of the United States shall be transferred to the United States District Court for the District of Alaska for final disposition and enforcement in the same manner as is now provided by law with reference to the judgments and decrees in existing United States district courts. All other causes pending or determined in the District Court for the Territory of Alaska at the time of the admission of Alaska as a State shall be transferred to the appropriate State court of Alaska. All final judgments and decrees rendered upon such transferred cases in the United States District Court for the District of Alaska may be reviewed by the Supreme Court of the United States or by the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in

72 Stat. 350.

the same manner as is now provided by law with reference to the judgments and decrees in existing United States district courts.

Succession of courts.

SEC. 16. Jurisdiction of all cases pending or determined in the District Court for the Territory of Alaska not transferred to the United States District Court for the District of Alaska shall devolve upon and be exercised by the courts of original jurisdiction created by said State, which shall be deemed to be the successor of the District Court for the Territory of Alaska with respect to cases not so transferred and, as such, shall take and retain custody of all records, dockets, journals, and files of such court pertaining to such cases. The files and papers in all cases so transferred to the United States district court, together with a transcript of all book entries to complete the record in such particular cases so transferred, shall be in like manner transferred to said district court.

SEC. 17. All cases pending in the District Court for the Territory of Alaska at the time said Territory becomes a State not transferred to the United States District Court for the District of Alaska shall be proceeded with and determined by the courts created by said State with the right to prosecute appeals to the appellate courts created by said State, and also with the same right to prosecute appeals or writs of certiorari from the final determination in said causes made by the court of last resort created by such State to the Supreme Court of the United States, as now provided by law for appeals and writs of certiorari from the court of last resort of a State to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Jurisdiction of District Court. Termination date.

SEC. 18. The provisions of the preceding sections with respect to the termination of the jurisdiction of the District Court for the Territory of Alaska, the continuation of suits, the succession of courts, and the satisfaction of rights of litigants in suits before such courts, shall not be effective until three years after the effective date of this Act, unless the President, by Executive order, shall sooner proclaim that the United States District Court for the District of Alaska, established in accordance with the provisions of this Act, is prepared to assume the functions imposed upon it. During such period of three years or until such Executive order is issued, the United States District Court for the Territory of Alaska shall continue to function as heretofore. The tenure of the judges, the United States attorneys, marshals, and other officers of the United States District Court for the Territory of Alaska shall terminate at such time as that court shall cease to function as provided in this section.

Federal Reserve System.

SEC. 19. The first paragraph of section 2 of the Federal Reserve Act (38 Stat. 251) is amended by striking out the last sentence thereof and inserting in lieu of such sentence the following: "When the State of Alaska is hereafter admitted to the Union the Federal Reserve districts shall be readjusted by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System in such manner as to include such State. Every national bank in any State shall, upon commencing business or within ninety days after admission into the Union of the State in which it is located, become a member bank of the Federal Reserve System by subscribing and paying for stock in the Federal Reserve bank of its district in accordance with the provisions of this Act and shall thereupon be an insured bank under the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, and failure to do so shall subject such bank to the penalty provided by the sixth paragraph of this section."

48 Stat. 168. 64 Stat. 873. 12 USC 1811 note.

72 Stat. 351.

Repeal.

SEC. 20. Section 2 of the Act of October 20, 1914 (38 Stat. 742; 48 U. S. C., sec. 433), is hereby repealed.

Immigration and nationality.

SEC. 21. Nothing contained in this Act shall operate to confer United States nationality, nor to terminate nationality heretofore lawfully acquired, nor restore nationality heretofore lost under any law of the United States or under any treaty to which the United States may have been a party.

SEC. 22. Section 101 (a) (36) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (66 Stat. 170, 8 U. S. C., sec. 1101 (a) (36)) is amended by deleting the word "Alaska,".

SEC. 23. The first sentence of section 212 (d) (7) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (66 Stat. 188, 8 U. S. C., sec. 1182 (d) (7)) is amended by deleting the word "Alaska,".

SEC. 24. Nothing contained in this Act shall be held to repeal, amend, or modify the provisions of section 304 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (66 Stat. 237, 8 U. S. C., sec. 1404).

SEC. 25. The first sentence of section 310 (a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (66 Stat. 239, 8 U. S. C., sec. 1421 (a)) is amended by deleting the words "District Courts of the United States for the Territories of Hawaii and Alaska" and substituting therefor the words "District Court of the United States for the Territory of Hawaii".

SEC. 26. Section 344 (d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (66 Stat. 265, 8 U. S. C., sec. 1455 (d)) is amended by deleting the words "in Alaska and".

Transportation by water. 41 Stat. 999.

SEC. 27. (a) The third proviso in section 27 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1920, as amended (46 U. S. C., sec. 883), is further amended by striking out the word "excluding" and inserting in lieu thereof the word "including".

(b) Nothing contained in this or any other Act shall be construed as depriving the Federal Maritime Board of the exclusive jurisdiction heretofore conferred on it over common carriers engaged in transportation by water between any port in the State of Alaska and other ports in the United States, its Territories or possessions, or as conferring upon the Interstate Commerce Commission jurisdiction over transportation by water between any such ports.

Mines and mining. 38 Stat. 744.

SEC. 28. (a) The last sentence of section 9 of the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the leasing of coal lands in the Territory of Alaska, and for other purposes", approved October 20, 1914 (48 U. S. C. 439), is hereby amended to read as follows: "All net profits from operation of Government mines, and all bonuses, royalties, and rentals under leases as herein provided and all other payments received under this Act shall be distributed as follows as soon as practicable after December 31 and June 30 of each year: (1) 90 per centum thereof shall be paid by the Secretary of the Treasury to the State of Alaska for disposition by the legislature thereof; and (2) 10 per centum shall be deposited in the Treasury of the United States to the credit of miscellaneous receipts."

41 Stat. 450.

(b) Section 35 of the Act entitled "An Act to promote the mining of coal, phosphate, oil, oil shale, gas, and sodium on the public domain", approved February 25, 1920, as amended (30 U. S. C. 191), is hereby amended by inserting immediately before the colon preceding the first proviso thereof the following: ", and of those from Alaska 52½ per centum thereof shall be paid to the State of Alaska for disposition by the legislature thereof".

Separability clause.

SEC. 29. If any provision of this Act, or any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or individual word, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of the Act and of the application of any such provision, section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or individual word to other persons and circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

Repeals.

SEC. 30. All Acts or parts of Acts in conflict with the provisions of this Act, whether passed by the legislature of said Territory or by Congress, are hereby repealed.

Approved July 7, 1958.

SEWARD, William Henry, a Senator from New York; born in Florida, Orange County, N. Y., on May 16, 1801; attended Farmers' Hall Academy in Goshen, N. Y., and Union College 1816–1819; left the college and engaged in teaching in 1819 and 1820; returned and was graduated in 1820; studied law, was admitted to the bar, and commenced practice in Auburn, N. Y., in 1823; member of the State senate 1830–1834; unsuccessful Whig candidate for governor in 1834; Governor of New York 1838–1842; elected as a Whig to the United States Senate in 1849; reelected as a Republican in 1855, and served from March 4, 1849, to March 3, 1861; was one of the most prominent aspirants for the Republican nomination for President in 1860; Secretary of State in the Cabinets of Presidents Lincoln and Johnson, and served from March 5, 1861, to March 3, 1869, and while holding that office concluded the convention with Great Britain for the settlement of the *Alabama* claims and the treaty with Russia for the purchase of Alaska; made a tour of the world and was received with the highest honors at all foreign courts; died in Auburn, Cayuga County, N. Y., October 16, 1872; interment in Fort Hill Cemetery.

1820.

Congressional Biographical Directory p. 1509.

U.A.M. 1820 Nov. 1933

Dexter Perkins of the University of Rochester delivered an address on three governors of New York State which included WILLIAM H. SEWARD at the annual meeting of the New York State Historical Society held at Ticonderoga, September 14, 15, and 16.

The purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867 cost us $7,200,000. Secretary Seward (*seated*) signed treaty with Russian Ambassador Edward de Stoeckl (*by globe*). Russia was only great power which gracefully yielded its holdings in Western Hemisphere.

Albany Times-Union - June 25, 1944

Tattletales of Old Albany

By Edgar S. Van Olinda

THE aquisition of Russian America, or what we know now as Alaska in 1867, but designated by reactionaries as "Seward's Folly" and "Seward's Frog Pond," purchased for the trifling sum of $7,200,000, has in the light of the present war, become one of the potential bulwarks against any future aggression from the Land of Hirohito.

And it was a former resident of Albany (while he was governor of the state) who, as Secretary of State in Lincoln's cabinet, negotiated its purchase from Russia.

William H. Seward was born in the small town of Florida, in Orange county and graduated from Union college, after which he moved to Auburn, and became one of the most distinguished lawyers in the country.

Governor in '38

"His classic face and sprawling form" were familiar in the local courts, the State Senate and in the Executive mansion when he was elected governor in 1838. In 1860, he was prominent enough to be a contender for the presidential nomination won by Lincoln. He then became Lincoln's Secretary of State, and an attempt on his life was made on the same day Lincoln was assassinated, but ni spite of injuries received before that when he was thrown from his horse, and the stabbing by a man in his Washington home, his tremendous physical powers enabled him to survive Mr. Lincoln by 11 years.

When Mr. Seward was Governor of New York state, the Executive mansion was the former James Kane mansion in Ash Grove place, later the site of the Ash Grove Methodist church, the block being now given over to the Philip Schuyler Junior High school, a part of the public school system of Albany. And in passing, it is significant that one of the pet projects of Mr. Seward was the education of the youth of the state through a series of free schools.

Kane Mansion

The Kane mansion, an early drawing of which is shown today, was the home of one of the city's most beloved and successful merchants. The source of his fortune was a large general store on the banks of the Mohawk, just east of Canajoharie. Charles Kane lived in Schenectady; Oliver in New York city; Elias in Philadelphia; Archibald in the West Indies; and James in Albany. During one of the periodic financial panics, the Albany man lost his fortune, but not his friends, with the result that he lived in a garret in this city, but was always a welcome guest in the homes of Albany's most prominent families. Through the influence of Thurlow Weed, who, incidentally, lived in 1860 at 34 Beaver street, when he was publisher of the Albany Evening Journal on the present location of the editorial and mechanical departments of The Times-Union.

Oliver Kane, the New York representative of the family during a card game in which Gen. James S. Wadsworth of Geneseo was one of the players, became involved in an argument, resulting in a duel held in back of the Kane store in which Mr. Kane received a slight wound.

Meet on Street

Many years later, the General and his son were walking along one of the streets of New York city when they passed Oliver Kane, neither giving any sign of recognition. The son, who knew the circumstances of the former conflict, asked his father:

"Governor, don't you know Mr. Kane?" to which the General replied: "Yes, I met him, casually, many years ago."

The present Senator James E. Wadsworth of Washington—and Geneseao—is undoubtedly a direct descendent of the same man. Nothing of importance in world history has occurred in which Albany has not had a part.

THE OLD James Kane mansion, former home of Governor William H. Seward, later Secretary of State in Lincoln's cabinet, who negotiated the Alaskan Purchase. The house was torn down 80 years ago and the Ash Grove Methodist church erected on the site. The Philip Schuyler Junior High school now occupies the original Kane mansion grounds.

1820 WILLIAM H. SEWARD:

The following advertisement is copied from the Milledgeville (Ga.) Journal, of the 2d of March, 1819. If the people of the South were such wretches as Seward says they are, why did he not teach them better manners?

"The friends of science are respectfully informed that a private academy has been established in the neighborhood of Mr. Wm. Alexander, Mr. Wm. Walker and Col. Wm.E. Adams, in Putnam County, on a site obtained from Francis Ward, Esq., not far from Garner's Ferry; and will go into operation the 19th of April. The Academy edifice, which will be ready for the reception of students by that day, will be spacious and commodious, adapted to the accommodation of 80 to 100 scholars. The rector, Mr. Wm. H. Seward, is late of Union College, New York, from which institution he comes highly recommended as a young gentleman of good moral character and distinguished industry and literary acquirements. He will teach the Latin and Greek languages, theoretical and practical Mathematics, Logic, Rhetoric, Natural and Moral Philosophy, Chemistry, Geography, English Grammar, and such other branches of education as are usually taught in Northern Colleges. The common branches of education, spelling, reading, writing, etc., will, of course, be taught in this institution.

Communications directed through the medium of the post office, in Eatonton, to Wm. H. Seward, Rector of Union Academy, or to Wm. Turner, Secy.,,or to Wm. Alexander, Treas., the postage being duly paid, will receive prompt attention.

Wm. Turner, Sec.

By order of the Trustees.,

FROM: Albany Atlas & Argus
February 14, 1860.

McGowan first learned of Union's part in the Alaska Purchase when he was a student at Juneau-Douglas High School in Juneau, Alaska. Jonathan R. Pearson III, admissions director at the college, mentioned the information to McGowan in correspondence.

The high school student, having been accepted at Union, approached the Alaska Centennial Commission to ask if Union College might be recognized for its service to our northern-most state.

The president of the commission replied favorably and designated McGowan as his official representative.

The medallion has on one side Seward's profile and on the other the official Centennial seal.

Union College's stake in the development of Alaska does not stop with Seward. An 1855 graduate of the college, the Rev. Dr. Sheldon Jackson, was called the "Apostle of Alaska."

Rev. Jackson, a Presbyterian minister, is credited with bringing civilization to that territory. He introduced both public schools and reindeer to Alaska. A college in that state bears his name.

-30-

NEWS BUREAU: Area Code 518 346-8751 Ext. 209

NEWS RELEASE

10/17/67
Richard L. Sine
1/2/3/4/spec

from UNION COLLEGE

SCHENECTADY, N. Y. 12308

For Release 6:30 P.M., October 18, 1967

Alaska Centennial Commission Honors Union College

SCHENECTADY, N.Y.---Exactly 100 years, to the minute, after the Alaska Purchase agreement was signed, Union College received a commemorative medallion for the indirect part it played in the purchase.

The man who engineered the purchase was graduated from Union in 1820. He was William H. Seward, secretary of state in both the Lincoln and Andrew Johnson administrations, who obtained the 586,000 square miles of Alaskan territory from Russia for $7,200,000.

The purchase became final at precisely 6:30 p.m., Oct. 18, 1867.

Dr. Harold C. Martin, Union College president, received the special medal from Colin C. McGowan of Juneau, Alaska, a member of the freshman class at Union. The presentation was made at ceremonies in Union's Schaffer Library, where the college's portrait of Seward now hangs.

Also on hand at the presentation was Dr. Fred Seward, a member of Union's Class of 1926 and a great-grandnephew of the former secretary of state, and Mrs. Jean Uppman of New York City, a great-great-granddaughter of W. H. Seward. Her husband, Theodore Uppman, is a baritone at the New York Metropolitan Opera Company.

-more-

William H. Seward to Miss Mary Teller.

Union College, March 26th, 1820

Dear Friend Mary,

A leisure hour and more than usual elevation of feeling induce me to answer immediately yours of March 18th. 'Compliments you have well observed are cold things.' I will not therefore tell you of the rapturous satisfaction your letter afforded, nor thank you for your goodness. In the present state of public feeling at this place I were unpardonable to place anything before the matter of religion. Know then that the great work has progressed with the most astonishing rapidity. It is said that tomorrow forty new converts from the City with 30 more from the College will for the first time make a public profession of their faith. The arrows of conviction have prostrated their victims around me in every direction. Wisner Hickok and Seward were called the 'desperate and hopeless Trio' but the Spirit has entered even our firm phalanx and Wisner and myself only remain to combat in the cause of Satan. But it has not only intruded and desolated my company but it has even entered my room and strikingly illustrated the text that 'two men shall be labouring in the field the one shall be taken and the other left'. Among the converts of the City are the whole squad — Misses Marselis, Willard, Teller &c &c, all the Milliners except Miss Cowan, the two Post office Misses and a number more too tedious to mention. Tomorrow they come forward. God help them to keep their vows.

If your volatility is equal to mine you can now accept a few observations about the Commencement Ball &c &c. Excuse my vanity in telling you that your humble servant and unworthy friend has received the two most honorable appointments at the disposal of the Class, those of Society Orator and Manager for the Ball. As to the last I have some news which will please you. When first the subject was agitated we were almost disposed to allow the members of the Delphian Institute an equal number with the other Society but we accidentally got information that they were about giving a Ball at the expiration of this Session without honouring us with any notice or invitation. We then determined on retaliation and accordingly at the election chose three Philomatheons, three Adelphios, and two Institutes Viz.

Wisner	Seward	L. Hall
Cuttice	Starkweather	Rembert
Kane	McDonell	

They were outrageously offended and have withdrawn from the Committee and mean to try an opposition. The contest is now between us and we shall next Session put the question to the Ladies of Schenectady whether they will fawn around and flatter and court the upstart imposters of the South or whether they will continue to encourage and honor the virtue, talents, scholarship, and politeness of their own native North. Kane's family is with us, the Yates family is with us and Duane's durst not gratify their mean dispositions by joining the other party. You are too good a republican and Patriot not to honor with your company the Legitimate Ball. Their money will run out nearly as soon as ours and I have no fear as to the result.

What kind of a manager do you think I will make? Don't laugh up your sleeve. You will be surprised at the figure which I shall cut. To be candid (as usual) I would never have accepted it had I not foreseen this difficulty with the gentry of the South and I know I can manage a quarrel as well as the best. Let me manage the controversy to a complete victory and who will may manage the Ball. You know I was not rocked in the cradle of fashion nor shaped in the mould of elegance yet I have one advantage-I know my own defects.

You ask the number of my conquests. Alas none! I have however been thinking for a whole week of falling in love with Miss Cobb. What do you think of the plan, or do you rather think that so much thinking in so deliberately a thinking manner is quite incompatible with so unthinkable a subject or unthinking a passion. But you will of course allow me to ask the same question and request also that you will not inflict on the poor swain of Lebanon wounds which cannot be healed. In charity to poor weak human nature do not excite the thrilling hope, the rising passion which your absence must blast.

For your politeness and more than all your kindness in congratulating me on the happy catastrophe with my charmer. I must thank you though you are quite in the dark. No reconciliation (as you understand it) has taken place. She still keeps me at a distance because I am no Christian. God knows if it will not be forever. And I have only acknowledged the justice of her motives.

You have said more about Mr. Givens than I wished or expected. I know you believe me when I reassure you that no unworthy motives induced me to notice it. No I despise the man who wantonly sports with anothers feeling or meanly ferrets out his secret. But believe me I am outraged when the friend of my bosom feelings is injured, abused, or insulted and no principle of fear or of diffidence shall prevent me from giving them timely notice. As to this particular case I do not know that the evil will be great. But I only repeat that if as Mr. Betts says he is the confidant he most shamelessly breaks his confidence and if he is not he deserves old as he is chastisement for his wanton falsehoods. That there would be no harm in loving Mr. G. is true. That there would be no harm in his writing to you is true. But at the same time the very fact of concealing it proves that there is an impropriety in that old dotard's publishing it. Rest assured that not one serious idea is in my mind on the subject. If you love him I approve it. I have seen the two dearest friends which ever shared my heart united in the bonds of matrimony. I view those bonds as the security of happiness and therefore would be happy to see such a result. Or if it is but a correspondence of friendship I blame no one for participating in the same happy feelings which are my pride and my pleasure.

Your sister Ann Maria is yet at Albany and I have not seen her Ladyship since my last. If she should not return to this place before the end of the Session I

shall call on her there. You will not then leave Lebanon before April. I am sorry. I should like to [hear] you play one tune on the piano before I go to Orange. Mary will you not forget me while I am off, or will you answer this scrawl by directing to Florida, Orange County. Be particular about the County. You see I use the freedom of friendship. Oh how I do regret that these happy days must be spent in the cloisters. I am now looking from the fourth story, My window up, the Sun pouring his most benignant ray on surrounding nature. If ever there is a season for tranquility for happiness it is the present. I saw Mrs. Alexander last evening. She gave me your compliments &c. Jane says little about you. Giles is as curious as ever. I met your old Beau Doct. Wendell this morning. I had a great wish to push him from the walk. The writing is possibly legible and therefore as good for all useful purpose as if adorned with the festoons of fancy or elegance of penmanship. I rejoice that your situation is so pleasant. But it is at best a poor compensation for being burned out of your old residence. I am glad you bear it like a Stoic. Mrs. Dunlap closed her existence last week. The poor Doctor's comforts are cut quite short in this world. I have no more information, only that you will lose much by being absent from the Delphian Institute Ball next Thursday week.

In sincere friendship I am your

W. H. Seward

P. S. I have been one hour trying to imitate the manner of folding your letter.

And you see my success. *

* The Ms. is creased with a number of diagonal lines showing the results of his attempt. The deeper right-angled creases show that Seward finally gave it up and mailed the letter folded in the conventional manner. — J.P.B.

10

[addressed: To] Miss Mary Teller
New Lebanon
Columbia Co
N.Y.

Schenectady
March 27

January 9, 1967

Mr. Harold Lawson
Director of Forensics
The Ohio State University
Department of Speech
154 North Oval D ive
Columbua, Ohio 43210

Dear Mr. Lawson:

The letter addressed to the Registrar at Union College has been transmitted to the Alumni Office for reply. We are pleased to enclose a copy of Union Worthies, Issue Number 6 the subject of which was William H. Seward. The series Union Worthies is based on the Founders Day programs and in 1951 the Founder chosen for presentation was William H. Seward. Professor Douglas W. Campbell spoke on Mr. Seward's undergraduate days and his is the first of the three talks given during the program.

William H. Seward was a member of the Adelphic Society during his undergraduate years. From the consitution, I quote "form ourselves in a society for the promotion of the following three great objects: Literature, Friendship and Morality". A requirement of the members was an oration or read an essay each semester (3 per year); and a prime occupation of the group was to debate. A second group formed for debating called the Philomathean did not list William H. Seward as a member in the catalogue of 1820 but as an honorary member in the catalogue printed in 1846.

Evidently the academic records of Mr. Seward were destroyed by fire but we can tell you the courses pursued by undergraduates of his day: Cicero, Horace and Latin Prosody, Herodotus and Thucydides (with composition and declamation); Xenophon's Cyro'a and Anabasis, Roman Antiquities, Livy (with composition and Declamation); Sallust, algebra, Lysias, Isocrates and Demosthenes (with composition and declamation).

As a sophomore: Tacitus' History, Xenophon's Mem. and Plato, Algebra; Aristotle, Dyonisius and Longinus, Tacitus (Cont.) and Plane Geometry; Homer's Odyssey, Solid Geometry, Logic

As a junior: Trigonometry and Applications, Hesiod and Sophocles, Rhetoric; Cicero de Oratore, Conic Sections, Natural Philosophy (Statics); Political Economy, Medea, etc., Natural Philosolphy (Dynamics, Hydros)

as a senior: Intellectual Philosophy, Lectures on Electricity and Magnetism and Biot's Optics, Elements of Criticism (Kames); Astronomy, Moral Philosophy, Kames and Lectures on Chemistry; Hebrew, Greek Testament, with Lectures on Biblical Literature; Lectures on Elements of Criticism, Chemistry, Botany and Mineralogy.

Please some of this information will be of assistance in preparing your dissertation. Perhaps you will favor us with a copy for our permanent records here. We hope so.

Sincerely yours,

Henry J. Swanker
Director of Alumni Relations

HJS:mvl

One of our graduates was the laughingstock of the nation.

And we're proud of him.

His name was William Henry Seward. Class of 1820. Union College. Respected as Lincoln's Secretary of State. Until he persuaded Congress to buy Alaska for $7,200,000.

And people laughed.

Called it Henry's Ice Box. Seward's Folly. But then the Yukon Gold Rush happened. And Seward was hailed as farsighted. Courageous. Ahead of his time. Because he looked ahead. Naturally. He was the product of a college that believed in looking ahead.

Union College.

The oldest interdenominational college in America. A 1795 idea that was way ahead of its time.

Union College was the first to break away from strict classical curriculum (1795). The first to teach chemistry to all students (1808). The first liberal arts college to teach engineering (1845).

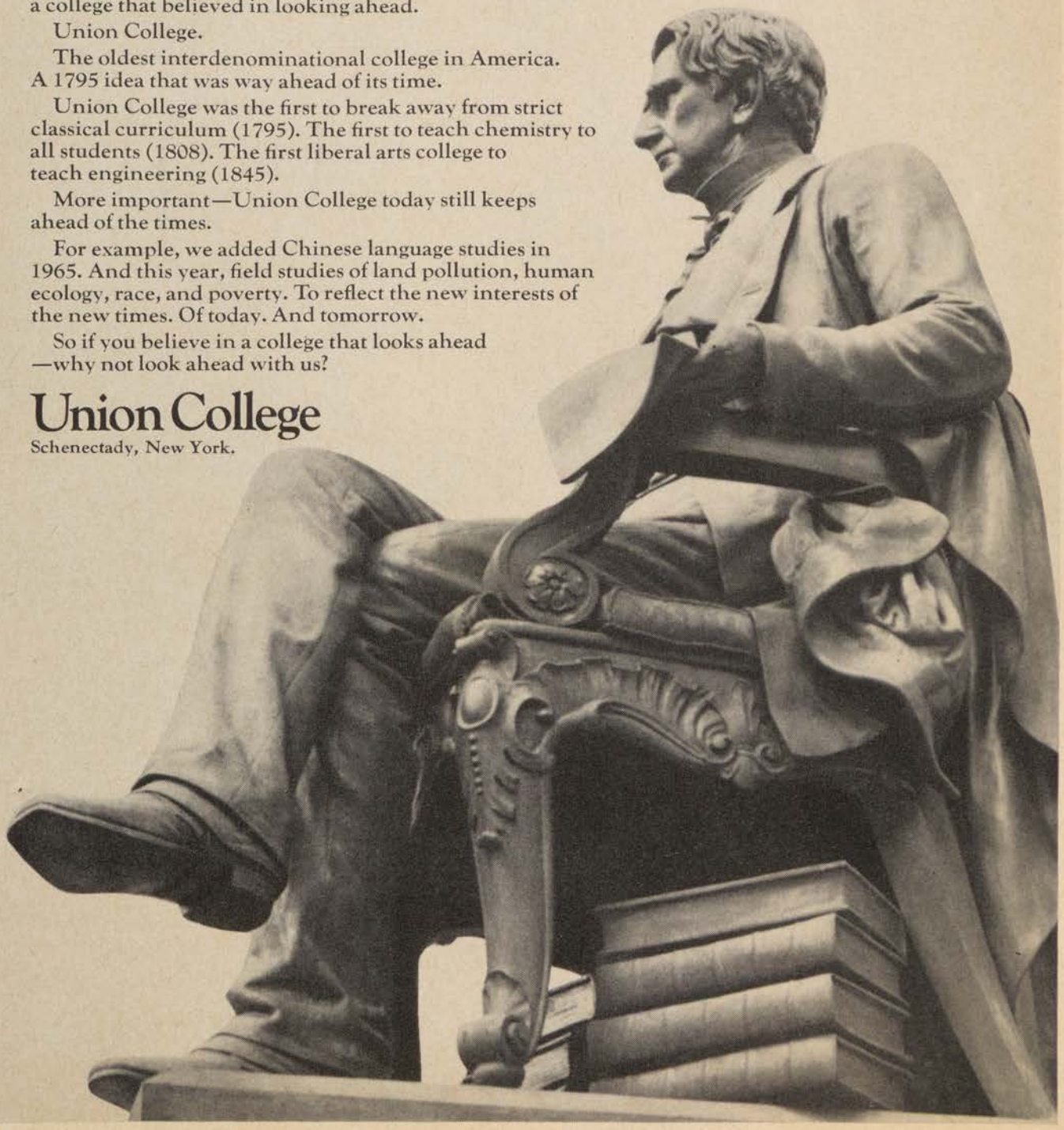
More important—Union College today still keeps ahead of the times.

For example, we added Chinese language studies in 1965. And this year, field studies of land pollution, human ecology, race, and poverty. To reflect the new interests of the new times. Of today. And tomorrow.

So if you believe in a college that looks ahead —why not look ahead with us?

Union College

Schenectady, New York.



Clipped from
Albany Times Union
Centennial Ed.

Class 1820

by

Joseph R. Brown, Jr. '03

Date: Apr. 22, 1956

Wiv
Boy
Girl
And

RODE IN BAGGAGE CARS:

Seward's Travel Modes 'Queer Notions' in 1856

A familiar figure in Albany in the 1850s was William H. Seward, who had been Governor of the State and was now a U. S. Senator. His name looms big in the pages of history as Abraham Lincoln's Secretary of State and author of The Purchase of Alaska from Russia.

Seward's home was in Auburn. In the summer of 1856, soon after its founding, the Albany Morning Times reported a stop-over he made here:

"William H. Seward arrived in town on Monday. He came down from Auburn, where he has been spending a few days with his friends.

"Mr. Seward has some queer notions. He always travels in the baggage cars. By doing this, he gets rid of two bores—bar-room politicians and coxcombs bound to the springs. Mr. Seward is an inveterate smoker. By travelling with the baggage he can enjoy this luxury without giving offense to the conductor or the two Miss Glitters, who reside on the Fifth Avenue, New York.

"The Senator looks fresh and takes to fun with as much zest vigorous, and has a heart which as it did 20 years ago. Sen. Seward has his faults, but want of cheerfulness is not one of them."

College Cites W. H. Seward

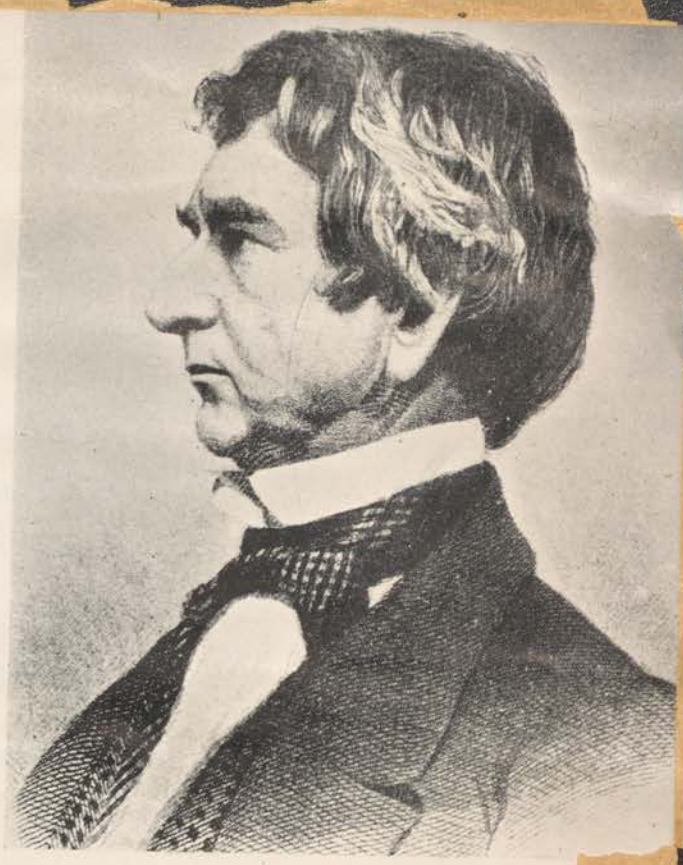
SCHENECTADY — Union College has published a historical pamphlet honoring William H. Seward, class of 1820, as the sixth edition in the annual series, "Union Worthies" it was announced by Dr. Harold Larrabee, Ichabod Spencer professor of Philosophy and editor of the publication.

"UNION WORTHIES," a series of historical pamphlets dealing with the lives and accomplishments of distinguished or eminent persons who have been intimately connected with the College during its first 150 years, consists of brief biographical or critical e[illegible] scholars.

Please send me a copy

Uak - 12/45

William Henry Seward, 1820, was Secretary of State under Presidents Lincoln and Johnson from March 5, 1861 to March 3, 1869. He had been Governor of the State of New York and United States Senator. As Secretary of State, Seward settled the Alabama claims with Great Britain and concluded the treaty with Russia for the purchase of Alaska. He also tried to purchase the Danish West Indies, but Congress withheld its approval. Soon after the close of the Civil War, he informed Napoleon III that the United States would no longer tolerate a French army in Mexico, which resulted in the withdrawal of the troops and the overthrow of Maximilian.



WILLIAM H. SEWARD, 1820

One Hundred Years Ago in the New York Tribune

GOV. SEWARD, accompanied by his wife and his eldest son, Augustus H. Seward, who has recently graduated at West Point, arrived here on Saturday. This is Gov. S.'s first visit to the North-West. We hope that he may have time to extend his visit into the country. From his position, abilities and great name, he will be welcomed among our people—differing, as we believe a majority of them do, with him in politics. But his history makes every New-Yorker proud of him, as their historian. (Milwaukee Wisconsin.)

ON. RUFUS CHOATE, of Massachusetts, is to deliver an Oration at Coventry, Conn. on the 22d of September, on the anniversary of the death of Hale, who was hanged by the British, as a spy, during the Revolution.

N.Y. Herald Tribune
July 21, 1947

William H. Seward.

All illustrations from "Mr. Lincoln's Contemporaries."

UCSLa-ff820sewardwh-b

Clipped from
Albany Times-Union
Class 1820
by
Joseph R. Brown, Jr. '03
Date: April 15, 1950

Alaska Sold by Albanian

By EDGAR S. VAN OLINDA

THE territory of Alaska is pretty much in the public eye these days and may prove to be our nearest outpost in the event of a shooting war with Russia. But how many realize that it was a former resident of Albany, William H. Seward, who sold Congress, back in the Civil war days, the idea of the purchase of Alaska?

Seward, statesman-economist, whose fame rests largely upon the part he played in Lincoln's cabinet, was a native of Florida, down in Orange county. At 21 he was admitted to the bar, and in 1823, was elected to the State Senate. As a legislator he won distinction by his industry and ability in advocating internal improvements, support of the common schools and reforms of various kinds. In 1838 he was elected Governor of New York state where his term was marked by the anti-rent troubles growing out of the revolt of tenants in a number of New York counties against feudal landlordism.

GOING TO THE United States Senate in 1849, Seward was thereafter a national figure. Defeated for the Republican presidential nomination in 1860, on the election of Abraham Lincoln, he became one of the great secretaries of state serving in the Lincoln cabinet throughout the Civil War and after. An attempt was made on his life the day that Lincoln was assassinated, and though grievously wounded, he carried on for seven years.

While William H. Seward occupied the Governor's chair, he lived in the Executive Mansion which then stood on the present site of the Philip Schuyler High school, which, in turn, succeeded the Ash Grove Methodist church. It was a two-story brick house with wings, painted yellow, standing amidst extensive grounds. It was razed in 1864.

FORMERLY KNOWN as the Kane mansion, it was the home of James Kane, one of several brothers. Uncle Jimmy Kane, as he was known to hundreds of Albanians, amassed a tremendous fortune while in Albany, but died penniless in this city, in 1851 at the age of 80.

In 1830, the Kane fortune was estimated at $100,000. His home was one of the show places of Northern New York. The tree-lined "Kane's Walk" ran along what is now South Pearl street (Then Washington street). It was surrounded by a fence and had a pillared gateway at the entrance to the grounds.

"KANE'S WALK" was the meeting place of fashionable young men and women of that day, but all its so-called beauty and romance were lost in the march of progress. Reduced to the merest necessities of life after his fortune was wiped out, "Uncle Jimmy" was never forgotten by his former friends who were more fortunate in holding on to their worldly possessions. To the day of his death, he was a welcome guest at the dinner tables of those who knew him during his affluent days.

His father, James O'Kane, came from Ireland in 1752 with a consignment of linens for sale. He married Sybil Kent, daughter of the famous Chancellor Kent. He dropped the "O" and became Kane. He and his

2 to Receive Union Honor Degrees

Dr. Philip C. Jessup, United States ambassador-at-large, and Dr. Dexter Perkins, chairman of the Department of History at the University of Rochester, will receive honorary degrees Friday at Union College's annual Founder's Day ceremony.

The program will honor William S. Seward, Class of 1820, who was secretary of state during the Lincoln administration and the 11th governor of New York. It will begin at 11 a. m. in Memorial Chapel.

Dr. Jessup, who will be awarded his honorary degree of doctor of civil law, will speak on "The Present and Future of American Foreign Policy" at the ceremony.

The honorary degree of doctor of laws will be presented to Dr. Perkins. He is an authority on the Monroe Doctrine and Pan-American relations.

Representing Union College on the rostrum will be Prof. Douglas Campbell, chairman of the Division of Social Studies. He will speak on "William Henry Seward and Union College."

SCHENECTADY, N. Y.
UNION-STAR
Circ. D. 33,169
OCT 10 1951

Clipped from
N.Y. Herald Tribune
1820-Wm. H. Seward
by
Joseph R. Brown, Jr. '03
Date: Feb. 17, 1951

William H. Seward III

Banker Was Grandson of Lincoln's Secretary of State

AUBURN, N. Y., Feb. 16 (AP).—William H. Seward 3d, eighty-seven, grandson of President Lincoln's Secretary of State, died at his home today.

Mr. Seward was an attorney and president of the William H. Seward & Co. banking house, a private institution founded by his grandfather in 1860. He also was president of the Auburn Savings Bank.

Potpourri—Savory Or Otherwise

DURING AN INTERMISSION IN ITS BROADcast of a "live" concert by the Boston Symphony Sunday night, a Boston radio station told its audience not to listen but to relax. For eight minutes all they could hear was the murmur of talk in the lobby of the hall where the concert was being given. * * * The William H. Seward & Co. bank at Auburn, N. Y., one of four private banking institutions still operating in the state, will be taken over by the Auburn Trust company, a dispatch from that city reports. The private bank was established 80 years ago by William S. Seward, member of Lincoln's cabinet, and has been owned by the family ever since. * * * Twenty-two schools in the Central Square, N.Y., district have been closed as a precaution against polio.

Civil War Record

WILLIAM H. SEWARD, ΦBK, LL.D., CLASS OF 1820.

He was United States Secretary of State through the war period. The evening that Lincoln was shot Seward was savagely attacked at his home, and his son, Frederick W. Seward, ΦBK, LL.D., of the Class of 1849, who was Assistant Secretary of State, was seriously hurt when trying to prevent the assassins entering his father's room.

Sept. Oct. Nov. 1920

THE ALUMNI

1820

Union alumni will be interested to know that the Seward mansion at Auburn, New York, which was built in 1816, contains many relics of WILLIAM H. SEWARD and is preserved as a memorial to him.

1820

There is an interesting marble slab about a yard square in the New York Historical Society which reads as follows:

Erected
by the
Whigs and Conservatives
To Commemorate
Their Glorious Triumph
in 1838
Wm. H. Seward Govn. Elect
104,211 Majority
New York, Dec. 20, 1838

C. Feb. 4, 1911

1820

A monument to the memory of WILLIAM H. SEWARD was unveiled September 24th, at Florida, N. Y., by William H. Seward, 4th, of Auburn, N. Y.

U.a.M. Nov. 1930.

1820.

U.U.Q. Aug. '04

The life of William H. Seward, by Edward E. Hale, Jr., of Union College, will be one of the American Crisis Biographies.

Alumni

U.A.M. Dec. 1929

1820

A fund is being raised to build a memorial to WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State under President Lincoln. The memorial is to be erected at his old home village, Florida, in Orange County, a few miles from Middletown, N. Y.

1820.

A passage in Carl Shurz's "Memoirs" in *McClure's* contains this characterization of WILLIAM H. SEWARD: "There was to me something mysterious in the small, wiry figure, the thin, sallow face, the overhanging eyebrows and the muffled voice of Seward. I had read some of his speeches and admired especially those he had delivered on the compromise of 1850.

"The broad sweep of philosophical reasoning, and the boldness of statement and prediction I found in them as well as the fine flow of their language, had greatly captivated my imagination. I had pictured him to myself, as one is apt to picture one's heroes, as an imposing personage of overawing mien and commanding presence.

"I was much disappointed when I first saw that quiet little man who, as he moved about on the floor of the Senate chamber, seemed to be on as friendly terms with the Southern senators as with the Northern—his speeches were always personally polite to everybody—and whose elocution was of dull sound, hardly distinct, and never had a resonant note of personal attack or defiance in it.

"But he made upon me, as well as upon many others, the impression of a man who commanded hidden, occult powers which he could bring into play if he would. Indeed, I heard him spoken of as a sort of political sorcerer who knew all secrets and who commanded political forces unknown to all the world except himself and his bosom friend, Thurlow Weed, the most astute, skillful and indefatigable political manager that had ever lived."

U. U. Q. Nov. 1906

City's Hall of Fame to Immortalize Seward

1820

William Henry Seward, secretary of state under President Lincoln and a graduate of Union College in 1820, will be included in the Schenectady Hall of Fame to be opened this summer by the public library in one of the upstairs reading rooms.

Seward was born in Florida, N. Y., and in 1838 was elected the first Whig governor of New York. He remained in the cabinet of President Johnson until the end of the term in 1869, when he returned to private life. He died in 1872.

FLORIDA, N. Y., UNVEILS BUST OF W. H. SEWARD

Union

His Life as Farm Boy in Town of His Birth Is Pictured by J. Hamilton Fish.

9/25/30

Special to The New York Times.

GOSHEN, N. Y., Sept. 24.—Five hundred persons gathered in the village of Florida today for the unveiling of the monument erected in memory of William H. Seward, Secretary of State under Abraham Lincoln. A bronze bust of Mr. Seward on a marble pedestal was unveiled by William H. Seward 4th of Auburn, N. Y.

Seward as a farm boy was pictured in the principal address of the day, delivered by Representative J. Hamilton Fish Jr.

Mr. Seward was born and received his early education in Florida. He attended the academy in Goshen, later entering Union College. He served two terms as Senator from New York State and was a candidate for President in the Republican convention in 1860, when Lincoln was nominated.

The fund for the memorial was raised by public subscription and was sponsored by the W. H. Seward Chapter, Daughter of the Union. George F. Baker of Tuxedo and New York City, who attended the ceremonies, was one of the largest contributors.

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNION COLLEGE
Schenectady, N. Y.
General News Bureau
Howard A. Simons, Director
Telephone 2-3384
February 15, 1951

Feder

SCHENECTADY, N. Y., Feb --William H. Seward, the first United States statesman to successfully negotiate with Russia, will be honored by Union College at its annual Founder's Day ceremony.

Mr. Seward, who was secretary of state of the United States during the Lincoln Administration, and eleventh governor of New York State, was born in Florida, Orange County, on May 16, 1801. This year marks the anniversary of the 150th year of Mr. Seward's birth.

At the age of 15 he entered Union College, then under the presidency of Eliphalet Nott. He graduated with honors and was admitted to the bar in 1822 at Utica. Two years later, he was married. In the same year he became interested in politics and allied himself with the partisans of John Quincy Adams.

Seward's friendship with Thurlow Weed, founder of the "Albany Evening Journal", led to his election as State Senator in 1830 and re-election in 1832. In 1834, he was defeated for the governorship on the Whig ticket. However, four years later, he moved into the governor's mansion at Albany as the state's 11th governor.

He was already formulating an humanitarian view towards the question of abolition, and in 1840, he was returned to the governor's chair.

(MORE)

At the expiration of his term of office in January, 1843, Seward returned to his law practice in Auburn, New York. In February, 1847, he was elected as United States senator from New York, and entered the senate as leading opponent of slavery in the Whig party. He was re-elected senator for another term of six years in 1855.

On the election of Mr.Lincoln, and his assumption of the office of president of the United States, he appointed Mr. Seward Secretary of State. He served in this capacity during both Lincoln administrations. On the evening President Lincoln was assassinated, Mr.Seward was in bed under treatment for injuries received in an accident. One of the conspirators gained entrance to his room, and attempted to kill the Secretary by striking him upon the head and face with a knife.

However, Mr. Seward regained his health, and succeeded in completing the treaty with Russia by which Alaska was ceded to the United States in 1867 for the sum of $7,000,000.

The "Boston Herald", in an editorial of January 11, entitled "Seward's Plot", discussed the purchase of Alaska by Mr. Seward in the following manner:

"They found us out. The United States bought Alaska in order to conquer Asia. People called the purchase 'Seward's Folly' at the time, but that was a blind. That aggressive imperialist, President Johnson, and his secretary of state, William H. Seward, the capitalist war monger, put the thing across as part of a diabolical conspiracy to make slave states out of Japan and Russia.

"This has been revealed by the Moscow publication, the

(MORE)

Literary Gazette, which goes on to say that old E.H.Harriman schemed an Alaska-Siberian railroad with a tunnel under Bering Straits to reduce Northeast Russia to economic slavery.

"Well, so it's out at last. Well, since the Reds have part of the big conspiracy, we may as well let them in on the rest.

"Sure, we're planning a tunnel under the Bering Straits, but that isn't all of it. We're pushing the same bore right under the length of Siberia, as a kind of secret subway. At secret stations along the way, we'll collect Russian slave laborers and ship them to the United States to work in the coal mines as minions of John L. Lewis. Then we'll infiltrate the American miners and John L. Lewis into Siberia.

"Gee! Are we the mean subversives!

"We've got an even more hideous plot for when the secret subway gets to Moscow. We're going to kidnap Molotov and put Senator McCarthy, disguised, in his place. That'll keep the Politburo in such a ferment that nothing will get done.

"There you have it, boys, the whole of Seward's plot in a nutshell."

After his term of office as a public servant ended, he returned to Auburn and resided in that city until his death on October 10, 1872.

Without question, William H. Seward is one of Union's most illustrious alumni.

The ceremonies honoring Seward will be held at the Union College Memorial Chapel on Friday, February 23, at 11 a.m.

(MORE)

The fourteenth annual Founder's Day program will include addresses by Mr. Philip C. Jessup, United States Ambassador-at-large; Professor Dexter Perkins, Watson Professor of History, and chairman of History at the University of Rochester; and Professor Douglas W. Campbell, chairman of the division of social studies at Union College.

#HW51#

Florida won't forget famous native son

1820

Seward's birthplace still stands

By PETER SCHOENBERG
Warwick Bureau Chief

FLORIDA — Tucked away behind a funeral home in the Village of Florida is an old barn that was the boyhood home of a governor, U.S. secretary of state and victim of the Lincoln assassination conspiracy.

No plaque adorns the building, now a storage shed, where the man most responsible for the purchase of Alaska was born on May 16, 1801.

A blue and orange sign printed by the state Education Department stands in front of the Garfield Vandenburgh Funeral Home at 35 N. Main St. It marks the site where William H. Seward was born. The old barn barely can be seen from the sign because the building partially is obscured by trees and shrubbery.

Just down the street, a few concrete benches and a statue form a monument to the man who nearly defeated Rep. Abraham Lincoln for the Republican presidential nomination in 1860. The monument is connected by a well-worn path to the S.S. Seward Institute, the now-public high school named for William's father, Dr. Samuel Swezy Seward, who helped endow the private academy in 1845.

That the monument and high school are named for different Sewards is confusing. Furnishing an example of the confusion, Timmy Andryshak, a 16-year-old student of S.S. Seward Institute, pointed to the statue of William H. Seward and said, "He's the guy that bought Alaska, and that's why the school was named after him."

It's probably no accident that S.S. Seward has a school named for him while William H. Seward is left with a relatively small monument. Seward left the village as a young man to establish a law practice in Auburn. Despite intermittent residency in Washington, Seward considered Auburn his home town. He is buried there.

S.S. Seward, on the other hand, worked as a physician and storekeeper in Florida. He became a prosperous merchant. He established roots in Florida and contributed $20,000 for the establishment of an academy in 1845. Under terms of the original endowment, the school always was to be known as the S.S. Seward Institute.

Yet, the more famous William H. Seward's picture greets visitors entering the high school today. And on the wall in the high school office is the bronze builders plate from the S.S. William H. Seward, an American liberty ship operated by the Merchant Marine until it was dismantled in August 1942.

But, for the most part, William H. Seward is just another figure covered in history lessons at S.S. Seward Institute. The school used to have an annual ceremony honoring the famous native son, but it was dropped years ago.

Seward is not officially ignored in the village. Florida Mayor John C. Harter said William H. Seward's birthday is observed each May 16 by the placing of a wreath at the base of the monument on Main Street. A wreath also is placed there each Memorial Day.

The monument and bust of William H. Seward was unveiled at a ceremony on Sept. 25, 1930. The biggest testimonial to Seward's historical significance, however, was held here on Aug. 10, 1958, as the nation welcomed its 49th state to the union — Alaska.

"We the people of Florida ... dedicate ourselves to the promotion of friendship and loyalty to the people of Alaska, the land of the midnight sun, and all freedom loving Americans to preserve and cherish the memory of our native son, William H. Seward. In tendering our tribute to William H. Seward, let us bring into focus his contribution to this country, the purchase of Alaska from Russia. Gratefully, the people from his birthplace of Florida, N.Y., acknowledge his accomplishments, as part of the record of American independence, his hard struggle out of which emerged the 49th state of Alaska," read the declaration issued before a crowd of hundreds gathered on Main Street for the occasion.

While the Alaska purchase now is regarded as a major foreign policy coup, the action was ridiculed as "Seward's folly" back in 1867 when the U.S. bought the land from Russia for $7.2 million. Back then, the area was called Russian America rather than Alaska.

The Cincinnati Daily Gazette called the purchase a dodge by Seward and President Andrew Johnson to distract the nation from domestic problems. The New York Tribune also editorialized that the motive for the purchase was to cover up failure at home. "Why buy Russian icebergs when the U.S. has enough territory?" the newspaper asked.

Supporters argued Alaska would provide a naval base, harbors for traders and a port for the whaling fleet. It also was thought that the purchase of Alaska later might pave the way for the acquisition of Canada. Nobody anticipated the subsequent discovery of gold in Alaska and the state's value in the 20th century as a supplier of oil.

Seward saw the purchase of Alaska as a way to expand American power and prestige. He also saw it as having strategic value and as a means of bolstering the power of the Johnson administration, which was being upstaged by Congress.

As for Russia, it wanted to sell Alaska because it needed the money. It also wanted to avoid possible trouble with the United States over the territory. Russia feared that Mormons from Utah would be migrating to Alaska.

Seward's place in history is assured by the Alaska deal. But a tragic event two years earlier came close to making Seward, like Lincoln, a martyr to the assassination conspiracy hatched by John Wilkes Booth.

Seward, who was Lincoln's secretary of state, also had been marked for death by the assassination conspirators. While in bed recovering from a carriage accident, Seward was slashed on the cheek and neck by a knife wielded by an ex-Confederate soldier who had become an ally of Booth. The incident occurred at about the same time that Booth was assassinating the President. Seward was seriously injured, but recovered after several months.

Seward served in the New York state Senate from 1831-1834, as New York governor from 1839-42, in the U.S. Senate from 1849-61 and as secretary of state from 1861-69.

After receiving his elementary education in Florida, Seward was sent at the age of 9 to the Farmers Hall Academy in Goshen, where Noah Webster of dictionary fame had taught earlier. The Goshen Town Hall now stands on the site of the old Farmers Hall Academy.

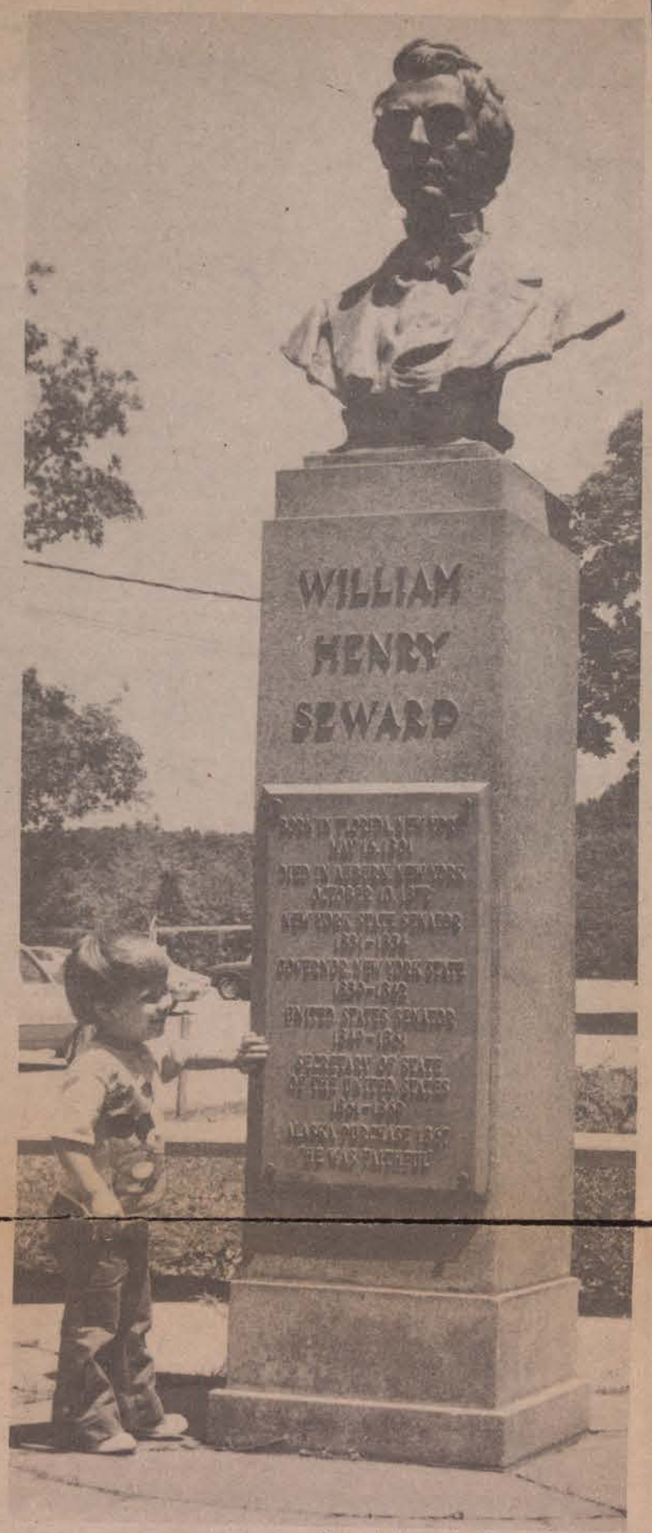
In 1816, Seward entered Union College in Schenectady and, in 1820, he went to New York to study law. He returned to Orange County in 1821 where he resumed his law studies in Goshen. He was admitted to the bar im Goshen in 1822 and soon afterwards moved to Auburn to begin his law practice.

Today, the Seward connection forms a bond between Auburn and Florida. Occasionally, when one or the other community holds a ceremony to honor Seward, officials from the other community are invited to take part.

The guardian of the birthplace is Alvin D. Higgs of the Garfield Vandenburgh Funeral Home. Higgs was delighted to act as unofficial tour guide when a visitor inquired about the old Seward home. He said the reconstructed building was moved 100 feet from the street but still contains the original staircase.

"He must have gone up and down those original steps hundreds of times," Higgs said, running his hand aong the ornate contours of the staircase railing.

The original kitchen of the Seward home now is used as a storage room for empty caskets. But even these reminders of death do not detract from the architectural artifacts that help give life to the memory of a famous American who left this village 157 years ago to carve out a place in history for himself — and Florida.



Record photos by Peter Schoenberg

An unidentified youngster looks at the monument to William H. Seward on Main Street in Florida.

Partially hidden by bushes and trees, the birthplace of William H. Seward stands near Florida's Main Street. A state highway marker describes the site.

WILLIAM HENRY SEWARD
1801-1872
A BIBLIOGRAPHY

WILLIAM HENRY SEWARD

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Esther M. Swanker
State University of New York
College of Education at Albany
Department of Librarianship
May 10, 1960

PREFACE

William Henry Seward, 1801-1872, presents a rewarding field for study. His career was long and interesting, and provided a great deal of material for a biographer.

In this bibliography, I have attempted to present a picture of Seward as seen through his own writings and speeches and through the material written about him. Inclusive dates of the material are 1820 (letter written by Seward) to 1960. All material available in the Union College Library having any connection with Seward was examined. To supplement this, the resources of the New York State Library were explored, but was found to contain little additional material.

The task of breaking the subject down into sections was the greatest faced in this study. Any organization scheme necessarily presents overlapping. Finally, it was decided to take his outstanding accomplishments and use these as sections. The first section contains general material and complete biographies. Following this we see Seward as a lawyer, an orator, a politician and finally as a statesman.

It was suggested that book reviews not be used in this bibliography, but some of the reviews of Seward's biographies were

written by historians and contain additional light on the man himself. These have been left in the bibliography. Others, containing straight reviews and adding nothing to our knowledge or understanding of Seward have been omitted.

Thanks is hereby expressed to Mr. Helmer Webb and the staff of the Union College Library for their great help and cooperation in the preparation of this bibliography.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

Library Symbols

U.C.	...	Union College, Nott Memorial Library
N.Y.S.	...	New York State Library, Albany, New York
P.C.	...	Personal Copy
A.F.	...	Alumni File, Wells House, Union College
V.F.	...	Vertical File, Nott Memorial Library

WILLIAM HENRY SEWARD: HIS PLACE IN HISTORY

William Henry Seward is one of the most controversial figures in the history of the United States. In his own time and on to the present day, the battle rages as to whether he was a great man or a political popinjay. Actual street fights between pro-Seward and anti-Seward factions were waged in Auburn, Seward's home town.

Current writers evaluate him as a power-hungry, self-assured little man whose short-comings may be overshadowed by his statesmanship in days of national crisis and expansion. In a eulogy of Seward, his friend Charles Francis Adams said of him, "He felt in himself a capacity to play a noble part on the more spacious theatre of State affairs. His aspiration was for the fame of a statesman, and, in indulging this propensity, he committed no mistake."[1] Today the purchase of Alaska looms his outstanding contribution and most people thereby rank him as one of the most outstanding statesmen of the United States.

In the course of his own life, he ranged from the extremely popular Governor of New York State to the almost despised

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[1]Adams, C. F., Memorial address of Charles Francis Adams on the life, character and services of William H. Seward, p. 6.

"premier" of Lincoln's cabinet. But while decrying him as a "self-elected premier" historians in the next sentence, admit that the Senate, the Cabinet and the people felt that the power he coveted should be and was his. In a review of his policies as Secretary of State a Seward Critic referred to Seward's review of State papers on the Senate floor, "There is no precedent for it, at home or abroad. Self-glorification, a greed for literary or political laurels, is at any time a poor motive."[2]

Seward felt called upon to assume the executive power because in his estimation, and the estimation of many others, Lincoln was a raw country bumpkin, unfit to govern a country about to split in two. Much to Seward's surprise, the tall figure of a president to whom nobody dictated rose to stand between Seward and his usurpation of power. In a private talk with Seward, in a manner as kindly as that of a school principal dealing with a first-time juvenile offender, Lincoln let it be known that he was willing and able to shoulder the burden of the executive office. He expressed appreciation of Mr. Seward's willingness to accept this burden but he, Lincoln, had, by election, been designated for the task.

2Reed, W. B., A Review of Mr. Seward's Diplomacy, p. 4.

In a later test of strength, members of his own party in the Senate, incited by Treasury Secretary Salmon Chase, demanded that Lincoln remove Seward from the Cabinet. Lincoln did not accede to their wish. Whether he stood by Seward because of his high regard for the man or because he believed Congress should not dictate to the President on matters of Cabinet officials, we will probably never know.

Seward must have possessed a great deal of charm. In his Autobiography we find the following regarding his election to the Governorship for a second term. "Governor Seward and Lieutenant-Governor Bradish were unanimously renominated by acclamation."[3] He was certainly not a handsome man, judging from his portraits and from contemporary writings, but his ability to be elected and to be highly regarded by the people, even after some of his most crushing defeats speak well for his persuasiveness of manner.

He was adored, almost idolized by his wife, although an habitual shyness and lingering semi-invalidism kept her from his side throughout most of their married life. She could, at times, be his most severe critic, but always tempered her

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[3]Seward, W. H., Autobiography, p. 500.

criticism by her love for him. An ardent abolitionist, she decried his compromise attitude which he adopted before the secession of the Southern states actually took place.

His support of President Johnson through the impeachment proceedings, plus his well-known attempts to explode the continental limits of the United States cost him the regard and popularity he had attained through his earlier years in office. In Bancroft's biography of Seward we find these two statements which sum up the general feeling for Seward during the Johnson administration. "It was a sad fact that Seward's popularity had gone and was never to return, to any considerable extent, while he remained in public life. Considering that Seward had no special responsibility in regard to President Johnson's acts he has been too severely judged for his part in reconstruction. If Lincoln had lived he and Seward would probably have developed their plans gradually and tentatively."[4]

Seward retired from public life at the end of the Johnson administration, and old, tired and extremely unpopular man. Charles Francis Adams, son of John Quincy Adams, and Thurlow Weed, Seward's long-time friend and political mentor, remained true to him, but it was well accepted that he would never again try for the people's confidence.

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[4]Bancroft, Frederic, The Life of William Henry Seward, pp. 463, 468.

Following a trip around the world, where he was greeted as a still-powerful United States diplomat, he retired to his Auburn home where he died in 1872.

As mentioned earlier the battle still rages. It is difficult, almost impossible, to find a biographer, historian or commentator who will take a stand on Seward's place in history. Some shudder to think what might have happened to our country if Horace Greeley had not diverted the tide from Seward to Lincoln in that controversial Republican convention of 1860. All believe, if Seward, as President, had the same ideas as Seward, Secretary of State, our history would have been considerably altered. Our Seward critic, William Reed says of him, "The gentlest judgement we can pass on the Secretary is, that in the prime of his official existence, he was haste to strife, little thinking of the end thereof."[5]

In this year of the centennial of the Civil War, many writers are reviving the days of that conflict, and with it the life of William Henry Seward. It will be interesting to see whether or not he finally becomes a great statesman, one hundred years too late.

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[5]Reed, W. B., op. cit., p. 47.

SEWARD, THE MAN

1. Seward, W. H. An autobiography. New York, Derby and Miller, c1877. 3v. ports.

UJ6
S514

U.C.

v.1 from 1801-1834 with a memoir of his life and selections from his letters by Frederick Seward. Seward wrote the 1801-34 part before his death. He wrote it as a letter to his children. Quotes at length from letters written and received. In this section he details not only his accomplishments but his feelings and impressions. i.e. his "trial" by his literary society while a senior at Union College on the grounds of his opposition to slavery. His rhetorical ability showed even then and he was "acquitted" and awarded highest commencement honors.

v.2 1846-1861. This volume and the one following were published as companions to the first volume written by Seward himself. His son, Frederick, was the compiler of the last two volumes. This volume covers the period of Seward's political rise, from the events following the Freeman trial to his first year as Secretary of State.

v.3 1861-1872. Covers the crucial and most interesting aspects of Seward's career. Describes in great detail his part in the Civil War, Emancipation Proclamation, a dramatic description of the night of Lincoln's assassination. Very little is said about Lincoln's assassination as an attempt was made on Seward's life the same night. Accounts of his interests in acquisition of parts of the West Indies, his displeasure with the Mexican situation, his acquisition of Alaska and a description of his last days and his death. An appendix contains speeches at "Exercises at the unveiling of the Seward Memorial Statue" at Auburn on Nov. 15, 1888.

2. Seward, W. H. Autobiography of William H. Seward; from 1801 to 1834. With a memoir of his life and selections from his letters from 1831 to 1846 by Frederick W. Seward. New York, Appleton, c1877. 572p. ports.

UJ6
S514a

U.C.

An abridgement of the 3 volume autobiography and memoir printed by Derby and Miller.

3. Seward, W. H. Letter to Miss Mary Teller. 6 p.

A.F. Seward refers to the difficulties he has in college with the men from the South (who eventually seceded and formed their own literary society). He had evidently invited Miss Teller in an earlier letter to accompany him to the Commencement Ball. She had evidently replied that she was unable to attend. He informed her via this letter that he had been named Society Orator and Manager for the Commencement Ball.

4. "Story of a journey to New England in 1831." (In magazine of American History, v.26, p. 376-80, Nov. 1891.)

U.C.

Extracts from the Seward biography edited by his son Frederick W. Seward. A diary account of a journey taken from New York to Boston and descriptions of Norwich and Providence. Described a visit to John Quincy Adams while in Boston.

5. Seward, W. H. William H. Seward's travels around the world. Edited by Olive Risley Seward. New York, D. Appleton, c1873. xii, 730 p. illus, ports.

UT S514t

A travelogue, diary form, giving "political, social, moral and philosophical observations and reflections" was plainly heavily edited by Miss Seward (daughter). It lacks the free style and readability of his other works.

U.C.

6. Seward, W. H. The works of William H. Seward. Edited by George E. Baker. New York, Redfield, c1853. 5v (v.5 lacking).

UT S514

v.1. Contains a Biographical Memoir written by the editor. Speeches in the Senate of New York. Speeches in the Senate of the United States. Debates in the Senate of the United States. Forensic arguments.

U.C.

v.2. Notes on New York. State Papers. Official Correspondence. Pardon Papers.

v.3. Orations and Discourses. Occasional speeches and addresses. Executive speeches. Political writings. General correspondence. Letters from Europe. Speeches in the Senate of the United States (con't. from Vol. I.).

v.4. (pub. 1861) Memoir, Biographical and Historical. Orations and addresses. Biography of the DeWitt Clinton. Political speeches. Speeches in the Senate of the United States.

7. Adams, Charles. The memorial address of Charles Francis Adams of Massachusetts, on the life, character and services of William H. Seward. New York, Appleton, 1873.

UJ6
S514
A21a

Delivered by invitation of the legislature of the State of New York in Albany, April 18, 1873.

U.C.

Mr. Adams was supposed to have been the Presidential candidate of the Liberal Republicans and Democrats, in 1872 with Seward's support. The plan backfired, but Adams Eulogy of his friend was stirring and highly complimentary.

UJ6
S514
A21

Another copy, this published by Weed, Parsons of Albany, gives legislative proceedings including resolutions to express sorrow at Seward's death. Each page is bordered in black. Extremely interesting work.

8. Barrows, Samuel. Personal reminiscences of William H. Seward. I. The experience of a private secretary. (In Atlantic Monthly. v.63, p.379-397, March, 1889.)

U.C.

Barrows, Isabel. II. Two months with Mr. Seward. (In above.)

Mr. Barrows joined Seward in 1867 as Secretary. He gives us some insight into the personality and personal habits of Seward. He found him kind, but undemonstrative. During an illness of Barrows, his wife, Isabel, took over as secretary to Seward. Her impressions are also given.

9. Conrad, Earl. The Governor and his lady: the story of William Henry Seward and his wife Frances.
P.C. New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons, c1960. 433 p.

A well written biography of Seward and his wife. Frances Seward has been a shadowy figure in history, but Mr. Conrad's book brings her out more forcefully than her life actually was. A semi-invalid, she preferred her father's home in Auburn to the Executive Mansion in Albany or the home Seward made in Washington. Conrad's book gives us more intimate glimpses of Seward's life than have been available heretofore.

10. Dictionary of American Biography. Under the Auspices of the American Council of Learned Societies.
920.073 Edited by Thomas Malone. New York, Scribners, c1935.
D554 p. 615-621. Written by Dexter Perkins.

U.C. Honest, political biography. Shows Seward to be blustering and overly concerned with public opinion. However, points out his advancing prestige and ability as he matured. Compliments him highly in the Shadow of Lincoln.

11. Foundation Historical Association, Auburn. The Seward House, published by The Foundation Historical
974.768 Association, Auburn, New York, c1955. 32 p. ports.
F771 photos.

N.Y.S. A brief biography of Seward, followed by photographs and description of the house. Sketch of Seward's political career by Dexter Perkins, authority on Seward.

12. Hale, E. E., Jr. William H. Seward. Philadelphia, George W. Jacobs & Co., c1910. 388 p. fronts.
UJ6 (American Crises Biographies)
S514
H16 Another political biography, with, however, a different stress. This one explores Seward's career as
U.C. an officer and politician in New York State. The remainder of Seward's life and career are mentioned, but this is sketchy compared to the New York period.

13. Hale, E. E. "Review of William H. Seward." (In The Nation v.92, p.578-80, June 8, 1911.)

U.C.

This anonymous reviewer finds Hale's biography of Seward treads the middle ground between those who admired and idolized him and those who display only his faults. "Even Professor Hale admits that it was a little strange for Seward to propose as he did on April 1, 1961 that Lincoln should make him (Seward) dictator. . ."

14. Lamb, M. J. "A great public character; 1801-1872." (In magazine of American History, v.25, p.349-71, May, 1891.)

U.C.

A brief biography by Mrs. Martha Lamb who deals with the man, Seward, his relations with his family, his friends and his associates in government. She relates one or two interesting personal sidelights not covered in more formal biographies.

15. "Light on historic events by a participant." (In New York Times Magazine, Sept. 17, 1916, p.2-3.)

V.F.

F. W. Seward, son of the Civil War Secretary of

U.C. State, writes interesting reminicences of Washington and Albany.

Seward's son, who was Assistant Secretary of State under his father writes about the man, Seward, rather than the statesman and politician.

16. Lathrop, T. K. William Henry Seward. Boston, Houghton Mifflin Co., c1896. 446 p. (American

UJ6 Statesmen)

S5141

A political biography, dealing in great part with

U.C. the service of Seward as a Senator. His last four years in office are lumped into one chapted entitled "Secretary of State under Johnson" even though it was during this time that Seward negotiated for the purchase of Alaska. Lathrop was much more interested in him as a Senator, probably the importance of Alaska and expansion was not then known.

17. Memoir. (Title page and back of book missing.) 410 p.

UJ6
S514A
1316

An abridgement of the 3 volume Works of William H. Seward, edited by George E. Baker. Contains extracts from most of his Addresses and Orations, his Executive Messages, his Forensic Arguments, and his speeches in the Senate.

U.C.

18. New York (State) Legislature. Seward monument and Seward day. (In its Report of the Legislative Committee from the State of New York to the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, 1909. Albany, J. B. Lyon, 1910. p. 119-78.)

UJ6
S514
N53

A report of speeches on Seward Day at above exposition, including "Seward and his message," "Seward's Home Life," "Seward and the purchase of Alaska." Major address by Gen. William H. Seward (Son), recounted the circumstances and incidents of the Alaska purchase.

U.C.

19. Schrevelii, Cornelii. Lexicon Manuale, Graeco-Latinum et Latin-Graecum: Edinburgh, C. Stewart, c1805. Unpaged.

UX5
S514
S3781

This yellowed, faded Latin-Greek dictionary contains Wm. H. Seward's doodles and his autograph on front and back inside covers, and title page. A few scrawls on other pages.

U.C.

20. Seward, F. A. "I have supped full on horrors." (In American Heritage, v.10, p.60-65, 96-101, October, 1959.)

U.C.

Seward's daughter Frances, called Fanny, relates in her diary the blood-filled night on which Lincoln was assassinated and an attempt was made on Seward's life. Her brother, Frederick, was also attacked as was the nurse attending William Seward.

21. Tuckerman, C. K. "Personal recollections of William H. Seward." (In magazine of American History, v.19, p.499-503, June, 1888.)

U.C.

Jottings of personal impressions of Mr. Tuckerman. They show Seward as brusque with office seekers, cold toward those who breach diplomatic laws and warm toward those he considered his personal friends. In the latter class Tuckerman describes a visit to Seward during his final illness in 1872.

22. Union College. Schenectady, New York. Union Worthies, Number Six: William H. Seward, Class of 1820, c1951. 26 p. bibliog.

UJ6
S514
U581
C1

U.C.

Consists of three essays. "William H. Seward and Union College," by Douglas W. Campbell, Chairman of Division of Social Studies at Union. Describes Seward's student life. "William H. Seward as Secretary of State," by Dexter Perkins, Head of History Department, University of Rochester. He still maintains Seward is second in rank as Secretary of State of the United States. Gave his reasons for so placing him. Third essay by Philip C. Jessup had nothing to do with Seward, directly. Titled "The present and future of American foreign policy: The fallacy of preventive war."

23. White, R. G. "William Henry Seward." (In North American Review, v.124, p.213-228, March, 1877.)

U.C.

An appraisal of Seward, very close to his own time (d. 1872) in which the author finds a great man in Seward. He is called by Mr. White, "a true statesman."

SEWARD, THE ATTORNEY

24. Seward, W. H. Argument of William H. Seward, in defence of Abel F. Fitch and others, under an indictment for arson. Delivered at Detroit, on the 12 and 13 and 15th days of September, 1851. Phonographically reported by T. C. Leland. Auburn, New York, Derby and Miller, 1851. 68 p.

UT
S5142r
U.C.

An impassioned defence of 40 residents of Leoni, Michigan, accused of burning the Detroit freight depot. Seward went over all the points of the trial.

25. Seward, W. H. Argument of William H. Seward in defence of William Freeman, on his trial for murder, at Auburn, July 21st and 22nd, 1846. Reported by S. Blatchford. Auburn, New York, H. Ohiphant, 1846. 31 p.

UT
S5142f
U.C.

William Freeman, a negro, was accused of slaying an entire family. As his defence attorney, Seward and Freeman freely admitted that he did kill them, but Seward proved to the jury that Freeman was insane at the time of the crime and still is at time of trial. (One of first insanity defenses for murder.)

26. Conrad, Earl. Mr. Seward for the defense. New York, Rinehart, c1956. 306 p.

UJ6
S514
C75
U.C.

A dramatized account of the famous defense of Freeman for murder on grounds of insanity. Trial records and Seward's papers were used as background material for this book, so in spite of dramatization and manufactured conversations the trial account is true.

27. Parry, E. A. Concerning William Henry Seward. (In his What the Judge Thought. New York, Knopf, c1923. p.266-83.)

340.9
P264

A "legal" biography, written by a judge showing Seward as a lawyer. Great emphasis is placed on what was probably his most famous case, the defense of William Freeman charged with murder. Seward employed the defense of insanity. The jury failed to free him, but an appeal was granted to the Supreme Court. Freeman died before this second trial.

U.C.

28. Swaine, R. T. The Cravath firm and its predecessors. New York, Ad Press, Ltd. c1946. 3v.

UJ4
S971c

The law firm of Miller and Seward was one of the predecessors of the Cravath firm. A brief biography of Seward appears, with emphasis on his relationships in Auburn. His wife was the daughter of his first law partner.

U.C.

29. "William H. Seward." (In Illustrated Magazine of Art, April, 1854, p.280-284.)

V.F.

A contemporary article, carefully laudatory. Dwells chiefly on his conduct of the Freeman case. Concludes with the sentence ". . . took his seat in the U. S. Senate. His action in that body is so recent that we forbear to pass any judgement upon it."

U.C.

SEWARD, THE ORATOR

30. Seward, W. H. Address delivered by William H. Seward at the commencement of the Auburn and Owasco Canal, October 14, 1835. With the proceedings of the celebration. Auburn, New York, H. Ivison & Co., c1835. 28 p.

UT S5142

U.C.

Seward congratulates the members of the Canal Co. on their foreisghtedness and initiative. Feels that this canal will rank Auburn high among the inland cities of the Union.

31. Seward, W. H. The Army of the United States not to be employed as a police to enforce the laws of the conquerors of Kansas. Speech of William H. Seward, on the Army bill. In the Senate of the United States, August 7, 1856. No publisher given. 9 p.

UT S5142d

U.C.

The question here revolves around the legality of the legislature of the territory of Kansas. If the legislature is invalid and its laws void, then Congress should not authorize the Army to enforce those laws. (Seward's position.)

32. Seward, W. H. The destiny of America. Speech by William H. Seward at the dedication of Capital University, at Columbus, Ohio, September 14, 1853. Albany, New York, Weed, Parsons, c1853. 26 p.

UT S514d

U.C.

An exposition of Seward's views on the expanding empire of the United States. He visualized it from Northern Canada well down through Central America, and into Atlantic and Pacific islands.

33. Seward, W. H. Duty on railroad iron. Speech of William H. Seward. Senate of the United States, February 28, 1853. Washington, D.C., Buell and Blanchard, c1853. 16 p.

UT S514dv

U.C. Seward speaks eloquently against removing the duty from imported railroad iron from Russia and England. Sees no reason why we should buy iron from them to build railroads right over our unopened iron mines.

34. Seward, W. H. The Elements of Empire in America. New York, C. Shepard, c1844. 39 p.

UT S514dd

This address was delivered before the Phi Beta Kappa Society at Union College and before the Literary Society of Amherst College.

U.C.

He states that "the passion for Territorial aggrandizement is universal as well among nations as individuals." The future is far away, uncertain, beyond the reach of our footsteps and INFINITE. In 1844, he felt that the slave states would give up slavery to acquire territory for the nation.

35. Seward, W. H. Freedom in Kansas. Speech by William H. Seward, in the Senate of the United States, March 3, 1858. Washington, Buell and Blanchard, c1858. 15 p.

UT S5142d

U.C. Seward gives history of the balance of power between slave and free states, now 16 to 15 in favor of free. Strongly urges that Kansas he admitted as a free state.

36. Seward, W. H. Issues of the conflict - terms of peace. Speech of William H. Seward on the occasion of the Fall of Atlanta, at Auburn, Saturday, September 3, 1864. Washington, D.C., McGill and Witherow, c1864.

UT
S514i

U.C.

A flag-waving speech on the right of the Northern cause. Urges citizens to volunteer for the army. Denounces slavery and lauds President Lincoln.

37. Seward, W. H. John M. Clayton and the Nicaragua Canal Treaty. Speech of William H. Seward in Senate of the United States, January 10, 1853. Washington, D.C., Buell and Blanchard, c1853. 8 p.

A.F.

A defense of John Clayton, ex-secretary of state, in his handling of a treaty with Great Britain over the Central American Canal. Both the United States and Britain agreed never to claim territory or mount fortifications in the (contested) area. Britain thought British Honduras exempt, but Congress did not think so in ratifying the treaty.

38. Seward, W. H. Life and public services of John Quincy Adams, sixth president of the United States, with the eulogy delivered before the legislature of New York. Auburn, New York, Derby, Miller, c1849. 404 p. front.

UT
S5141

U.C.

A well written biography of the recently deceased ex-president (Adams died in 1848). Seward started immediately upon the biography but the press of duties of the governorship forced him to turn most of the writing over to a professional writer (unnamed). The eulogy, of course, is flowery.

eul

39. Seward, W. H. Oration by William H. Seward at Plymouth, December 21, 1855. Washington, D.C., Buell and Blanchard, c1856. (Authorized publication of the Republican Association of Washington City.) 15 p.

UT
S5142d

U.C.

A discourse by Seward on "The Pilgrimes and Liberty." Gave a history of oppressions and liberty achieved. Praised the Puritans for having given the "highest and most beneficent illustrations of that conservative heroism which the world has yet witnessed."

40. Seward, W. H. Oration on the death of John Quincy Adams, delivered before the Legislature of the State of New York, at Albany, on the 6th day of April, 1848. Albany, New York, Charles Van Benthuysen, c1848. 36 p.

UT
S514ad

U.C. Vividly written, beginning is almost poetic. Gives a brief biography of John Quincy Adams, tells first of the effect of events upon Adams, then the effect of Adams upon events. One of his best-written speeches, but he still managed a few remarks against slavery. Compares Adams to Cicero.

41. Seward, W. H. The reaper: Argument of William H. Seward, in the circuit court of the United States, October 24, 1854. Auburn, New York, William L. Finn, c1854. 29 p.

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U.C. Mr. Seward undertakes to prove that Messrs. Seymour and Morgan, are fraudulently profiting from the reaper designed by Cyrus McCormick. In his speech, Seward tells the detailed workings of the reaper as well as proving conclusively that Messrs. Seymour and Morgan had admitted, in fact, had sold their reaper with public assurance that it was invented by McCormick. Seward asked for damages for McCormick of $35,000. Was awarded $7,750. (Seward was a member of the United States Senate at this time.)

42. Seward, W. H. Remarks of William H. Seward in memory of Thomas J. Rusk, Deceased, Late Senator from Texas, in the Senate of the United States, January 19, 1858. Washington, D.C., Buell and Blanchard, Printers, c1858. 8 p.

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U.C.

A nice, impassionate eulogy. Neither political, nor expansionist. Just sincere sorrow at the death of a friend.

43. Seward, W. H. Seward's Address on Alaska. At Sitka, August 12, 1869. Boston, Massachusetts. Directors of the Old South Work, Old South Meeting-house. 16 p.

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U.C. For eight pages Seward extols the beauties and resources of Alaska, compliments its people, promises them a territorial governor. Followed by the Alaska Treaty, then an excerpt from Bancroft's life of Seward.

44. Seward, W. H. The Slaveholding class dominant in the republic. Speech of William H. Seward, at the mass Republican Convention, held at Detroit, October 2, 1856. (No publisher given.) 10 p.

UT S514ad

U.C. Seward shows that the Slaveholding class of the United States is "systematically and successfully perverting the administration of the government, especially in regard to the Territories, so as to change the Constitution, and endanger the stability, welfare, and liberty of the Union." Asks the people to wake up and prevent this happening.

45. Seward, W. H. Speech of William H. Seward for the immediate admission of Kansas into the Union. Senate
A.F. of the United States, April 9, 1856. Washington, D.C., Buell and Blanchard, c1856. 14 p.

Seward urges the immediate admission of Kansas as a state so that claims, counterclaims, marauders etc., can be dealt with. The slavery people are holding out for slave, and the North for a free state. An impasse has been reached and Seward urges its resolution.

46. Seward, W. H. Speech of William H. Seward on the Admission of California. Delivered in the Senate of
Ut the United States, March 11, 1850. Washington, D.C.,
S514ad Buell and Blanchard, c1850. 46 p.

U.C. A logical presentation of the claims and petition of California to be admitted as a state. Seward would vote for admission of California, even if she came in as a slave state, but abhors all possibility of compromise on the slavery question. Last part is an exchange between Webster, Foote and Seward on the power of Congress to decide whether a state shall be slave or free.

47. Seward, W. H. Speech of William H. Seward on The Claims of American merchants for indemnities for French
UT spoliations. Delivered in the Senate of the United
S514ad States, January 21, 1851. 16 p.

U.C. American merchants suffered heavy losses in trade with France during French Revolution, French seized ships and goods. United States confiscated property of French. United States should now pay claims of American merchants which France will not pay. One of Seward's dullest speeches. Almost entirely commercial.

48. Seward, W. H. Speech of William H. Seward on the Kansas and Nebraska Bill. Senate of the United States, May 26, 1854. 7 p.

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An eloquent speech for freedom for the states of Kansas and Nebraska. Expressing his anti-slavery sentiments, Seward argues for free territory in these two states.

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49. Seward, W. H. Speech of William H. Seward on the proposed protest of the United States against the armed intervention of Russia in the Hungarian revolution, in the Senate of the United States, March 9, 1852. Washington, D.C., Buell and Blanchard, c1852. 16 p.

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U.C.

Seward wished to have the United States protest against the subjugation of Hungary by Russia. He cites cases from earlier United States history to uphold his plea.

50. Seward, W. H. The State of the Country. Speech of William H. Seward, in the United States Senate, February 29, 1860. No publisher given. 8 p.

A.F.

A long and impassioned plea for unity. Seward professes belief that only under a Republican administration can strife be avoided. At this date Seward was still convinced that secession and war could be avoided.

51. Seward, W. H. The true basis of American Independence: A lecture before the American Institute, New York, October 20, 1853, in the Broadway Tabernacle. New York, Fowler and Wells, c1853. 20 p.

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U.C.

First part is a eulogy of Dr. Tallmadge. He makes his request for expansion. An outspoken speech against the institution of slavery.

52. Seward, W. H. The true greatness of our country. A discourse before the Young Catholic Friends' Society at Baltimore, December 22, 1848. Washington, D.C., J. and G. S. Gideon, c1848. 24 p.

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U.C.

This has the same ring as many of his other speeches, in fact many of the same sentences or quotations. "The greatness of our land and people" is his theme. Touches briefly on the possibility of secession. Mentions religion only in broadest sense (his mother violently anti-Cathlic), and this in connection with establishment of government.

53. Seward, W. H. The usurpations of slavery. Speech by William H. Seward, in the Senate of the United States, on the Bill to Protect Officers of the United States, February 23, 1855. Washington, D.C., Buell and Blanchard, c1855. 7 p.

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U.C.

Seward here argues against a law which will allow federal officers to remove from State courts to Federal courts for their trial. Thus any representative of the federal government (soldiers, revenue men), may flaunt state laws knowing he will not be tried by the state. An attempt to strengthen and enforce the fugitive slave law.

54. Seward, W. H. The Whale fishery, and American commerce in the Pacific Ocean. Speech of William H. Seward, in the Senate of the United States, July 29, 1852. Washington, D.C., Buell and Blanchard, c1852. 8 p.

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U.C.

Brief history of the whaling industry. Talks of the new whaling grounds in the Seas of Ochotok and Anadis, south of the Bhering (sic) Straits. Area is imperfectly charted, and men and ships are lost at a great rate. Wants Congress to authorize money to explore these areas.

55. Cherry Valley, Otsego County, New York. The Centennial celebration at Cherry Valley, Otsego Co., New York, July 4, 1840. The addresses of William W. Campbell, Esq., and Governor W. H. Seward with letters, toasts, etc. New York, Taylor and Clement, c1840. 59 p.

Seward referred briefly to the history of Cherry Valley as given by Mr. Campbell, then talked of hopes for the future, forms of government, transportation, education.

56. Hubbell, J. B. "Lincoln's first inaugural address." (In American Historical Review, v.36, p.50-52, April, 1931.)

A discussion of the closing paragraph of the above work. Seward has long been credited as the author of the paragraph (slight modifications by Lincoln) but Hubbell suggests that Seward was strongly influenced by an article in The Federalist written by Madison.

SEWARD, THE POLITICIAN

57. Alexander, D. A. S. Seward elected governor; Seward splits the Whig Party; Seward's bid for the presidency; Seward defeated at Chicago; Lincoln, Seward and the Union. (In his A Political History of the State of New York, New York, Holt, c1906. p.15-30, 145-159, 256-269, 281-293, 367-387.)

U.C.

Written purely from the political side these glimpses of Seward are sympathetic, even admitting his extremely close relationship to Thurlow Weed. In the Chicago convention Seward led Lincoln for two ballots before the withdrawal of Cameron transferred 48 votes to Lincoln.

58. Bancroft, Frederic. The life of William H. Seward. New York, Harpers, c1900. 2v. ports.

A political biography, showing little of the man, much of the politician. According to Bancroft, Seward was our outstanding Secretary of State, eclipsing even Sumner, Adams, Chase and Stanton (note date 1900). Bancroft admired him exceedingly.

59. Lodge, H. C. "William H. Seward." (In Atlantic Monthly v.53, p.682-700, May, 1884.)

A long biography of Seward, with an attempt by Lodge to fit him to the pattern called for by a political party (Whig) later (Republican). Might almost be called a biography of Thurlow Weed also, as this biography makes much of the association between the two men.

60. "Minnesota as seen by travellers; Campaigning with Seward in 1860." (In Minnesota History, v.8,
U.C. p.150-71, June, 1927.)

A diary-like account kept by Charles Francis Adams of Sewards' strenuous campaign for Lincoln in the Northwest. The natives of Minnesota seem surprised that Seward considered this area of importance in the election.

61. Nevins, Allan. Sunrise in Chicago. (In his The emergence of Lincoln, New York, Charles
973.6 Scribner's, c1950. p.233-60.)
N527e
v.2 A description of the Chicago Convention of 1860. Seward did not attend the convention because
U.C. he thought it unseemly for the nominee to appear too eager. The events of the convention are here described in which Mr. Lincoln emerged as nominee.

62. Perkins, Dexter. William H. Seward. Read before the New York State Historical Association,
A.F. Ticonderoga, September 15, 1933. Published in New York History, April, 1934. p. 160-74.

A political biography of the New York State governor. (Does not go beyond this point.) Shows the strong influence Thurlow Weed had upon the Governor. Seward was interested in bringing all education in the state under the supervision of a state superintendent to be appointed by the Legislature. (New York City schools were then run independently of the state by a highly sectarian board.)

63. Schurz, Carl. "Reminiscences of a long life; The campaign of 1860." (In McClure's magazine, v.28, p.410-419, February, 1907.)

U.C.

In his "Reminiscences, Schury describes in detail the machinations of the 1860 campaign and convention which saw the defeat of Seward's hopes for the Presidency and the nomination of Lincoln.

64. Van Deusen, G. G. Editor "Thurlow Weeds' Analysis of William H. Seward's defeat in the Republican Convention of 1860." (In Mississippi Valley Historical Review, v.34, p.101-04, June, 1947.)

U.C.

A letter from Weed to Seward immediately following Lincoln's nomination to the Presidency. History has agreed with Mr. Weed that Horace Greeley was the man responsible for losing the nomination for Seward.

SEWARD, THE STATESMAN

65. Seward, W. H. Communication of Hon. William H. Seward, Secretary of State, upon the subject of an intercontinental telegraph connecting the Eastern and Western Hemispheres by way of Bhering's (sic.) Strait, in reply to Hon. Z. Chandler, Chairman of the Committee on Commerce of the United States Senate to which was referred the memorial of Perry McDonough Collins. Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, c1864. 52 p.

P. M. Collins, having obtained agreements from Russia and Great Britain for the construction of the telegraph asks Congress to grant "right of way" over public lands and a contract to transmit government messages. Seward, ever mindful of expansion urges the Congressional committee to adopt the measure.

66. Seward, W. H. Correspondence relative to the case of Messrs. Mason and Slidell. 15 p.

A voluminous correspondence is examined relative to the forceful capture of Messrs. Mason and Slidell from the British Mail Ship "Trent". The British opinion seems to have been that the Captain of the San Jacinto (American) had acted without authorization from his government. This supposition is supported in Mr. Seward's letter to Mr. Adams (Minister to the Court of St. James).

67. An address to the electors of the State of New York. New York, c1838. 15 p.

A speech by an unnamed elector regarding the suspension of specie payments. Seward, as Governor, pressed for a resumption of the policy of allowing specie payments. Contains petitions presented to the legislature to this effect.

68. Bancroft, Frederic. "Lincoln and Seward and their latest biographies." (In Political Science
U.C. Quarterly, v.6, p.711-724, December, 1891.)

An analysis of some contemporary biographies of the two men. Bancroft feels that Nicolay and Hay (Abraham Lincoln: A history - 10 vols.) are very unfair to Seward giving Lincoln most of the credit for Seward's diplomacy. He finds Frederick Seward's (son) biography of Seward extremely well done. Following this analysis he concludes that almost everybody takes sides regarding these two men. Admirers of one belittle the other and vice versa. He concludes that "the service of each was so great, and each so nobly supplemented the other, that it will never be necessary to depreciate the one in order to do justice to the other.

69. Bancroft, Frederic. "Seward's attitude toward compromise and secession, 1860-1961." (In Atlantic
U.C. Monthly, v.74, p.597-608, November, 1894.)

This well-known and well-informed biographer of Seward states Seward's position on these issues. Seward would compromise to any reasonable degree to save the Union. He did not want secession, and worked tirelessly to prevent it.

70. Bancroft, Frederic. "Seward's ideas of territorial expansion." (In The North American Review, v.167,
U.C. p.79-89, July, 1898.)

An article by Seward's most prolific biographer on Seward's policy of manifest destiny. Bancroft quotes from Seward's speeches and writings showing his belief in expansion. An account of the transaction for the Islands of St. Thomas and St. John, which ended because of Seward's unpopularity due to his support of Johnson.

71. Bancroft, Frederic. "Seward's Proposition of April 1, 1861, For a foreign war and a dictatorship."
U.C. (In Harper's, v.99, p.781-91, October, 1899.)

An account of Seward's attempt to become dictator. Seward suggested to Lincoln that in order to unify the North and South, the United States engage in war against an outside power (England or France). To relieve Lincoln of the responsibility for these actions, Seward generously offered to take over and direct the government in these wars. Offer declined.

72. Barber, D. R. and Bonham, M. L., Jr. "Fort Sumter Again." (In Mississippi Valley Historical
U.C. Review, v.28, p.63-73, June, 1941.)

Seward told Morehead, governor of Kentucky, "let me once hold the reins of power in my hands and if I don't settle this matter to the entire satisfaction of the South in 60 days, I will give you my head for a foothold." Seward, acting upon his presumptive authority made promises which he then was unable or unwilling to keep.

73. Bigelow, John. "Mr. Seward and Mr. Motley." (In International Review, v.5, p.544-56, July, 1878.)
U.C.

A discussion of an affair in which Seward played a leading role and acquired a very poor reputation. An American citizen, travelling abroad, criticized our Minister in Vienna (Motley) for his un-American remarks and comments about the President. Asked to comment on these remarks, Motley offered his resignation. The President, in all haste, accepted the resignation, and Motley was forced out. Seward was blamed for the action.

74. Black, J. S. "Mr. Black to Mr. Adams." (In Galaxy, v.17, p.107-121, January, 1874.)

U.C.

Here an anti-Seward man speaks up. He states that "to misrepresent (Seward's) life is a falsification of public history." Black takes Seward's career apart from his earliest days as a lawyer right through the Secretaryship. Black is a strong Lincoln man.

75. Blinn, H. E. "Seward and the Polish Rebellion of 1863." (In American Historical Review, v.45, p.828-33, July, 1940.)

U.C.

Napoleon wished to enlist the support of the United States to mediate in the Polish rebellion. (He had previously wished to mediate the Civil War but had little support on the continent.) Seward tactfully informed him that while we had great sympathy for the Poles, we would be overstepping if we were to meddle in this situation (thus saving our strong friendship with Russia).

76. Brown, W. G. "The Tenth decade of the United States; II; The new outlook." (In Atlantic Monthly, v.95, p.766-80, June, 1905.)

U.C.

An account of Secretary Seward's handling of the Secretaryship during Johnson's administration. Deals extensively with the handling of the French intervention in Mexico and the various dealings for expansion of the country.

77. Bradford, Gamaliel. "Union Portraits. VI. William H. Seward." (In Atlantic Monthly, v.116, p.322-34, September 1915.)

U.C.

A sympathetic biography, dealing mainly with Seward's diplomacy. Bradford refutes the theory that Seward was a blusterer by pointing to his handling of the French in Mexico which he did with great tact, prejudicing neither side.

78. Bruce, A. H. "The Romance of American Expansion," by H. Addington Bruce, Seventh paper, "William Henry
U.C. Seward and the Alaska cession." (In Outlook, v.89, p.687-97, July 25, 1908.)

A step-by-step description of the transfer of "Russian America" as Alaska was then called from Russia to the United States. Bruce credits Seward with great foresight and business ability in arranging the Alaska purchase.

79. Cohen, V. H. "Charles Sumner and the Trent Affair." (In Journal of Southern History, v.22,
U.C. p.205-19, May, 1956.)

A discussion of the rights and wrongs of the capture of Mason and Slidell. The British knowing of Seward's desire to cure internal troubles with external wars, felt that this event was an invitation to hostilities.

80. Dennett, Tyler. "Seward's Far Eastern Policy." (In American Historical Review, v.28, p.45-62, October,
U.C. 1922.)

Seward's far eastern policy was one of cooperation. According to Dennett, Seward made the outstanding contribution of the 19th century secretarys of state regarding Far Eastern policy. A bold politician, backed by a nation at war, Seward was willing to take far greater risk than the others to win friends for the United States.

81. Dunning, W. A. "Paying for Alaska; Some unfamiliar incidents in the process." (In Political
U.C. Science Quarterly, v.27, p.385-98, September, 1912.)

A note (or memorandum) found among President Johnson's papers relates a talk with Seward during which the latter disclosed that over $68,000 was paid to various members of Congress to influence the passage of the Alaska Treaty (paid by Russian envoys). Johnson says in his memorandum, "that the incorruptible Thaddeous (sic.) Stevens received as his 'sop' the moderate sum of $10,000." The remainder of the article is concerned with pros and cons "did they get the money or not." Concludes that Seward probably had a lavish hand in dispensing the favors.

82. Letcher, Carol. "The man who bought Alaska." (In American Mercury, v.77, p.81-84, October, 1953.)
U.C.

A capsule biography, with the purchase of Alaska as the crowning achievement. In the eyes of 1953, his governorship, senatorship and years as Secretary of Statue, during the Civil War, pale into insignificance next to the purchase of Alaska.

83. Guthrie, J. D. "Union College and Alaska; Seward's Folly." (In Union Alumni Monthly, February, 1921,
A.F. p.128-131.)

Guthrie gives a verbal picture of the beauties and commercial usefulness, and, of course, extends his chest a bit to say Seward bought it. (Guthrie and Seward are both Union College Alumni.)

84. Handlin, Oscar. "Mr. Seward's bargain; Chance or destiny." (In The Atlantic Monthly, v.195, p.63-8, April, 1955.)
U.C.

A history of the exploration and settlement of Alaska up to and including its purchase by the United States. Seward wanted (according to Handlin) one crowning achievement to his career before retiring and Alaska was to be it.

85. Hart, A. B., "New Light on Seward." (In Political Science Quarterly, v.15, p.536-46, September, 1900.)
U.C.

An extremely favorable review of Bancroft's biography of Seward. Hart criticizes one section in which Bancroft, with the true clarity of hindsight, advises what Seward should have done in the crisis of 1860-61. Otherwise a favorable review.

86. Hendrick, Burton. William Henry Seward: "Prime Minister." (In his Lincoln's War Cabinet. Boston, Little, Brown, c1946. p.125-216.)
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Hendrick presents Seward in the unflattering light of a member of Weed's (Thurlow Weed) political machine. This sketch makes it quite clear that Seward intended to receive the nomination for president in 1860, and having failed still intended to run the country.
U.C.

87. Koht, Nalodan. "The Origin of Seward's plan to purchase the Danish West Indies." (In American Historical Review, v.50, p.762-7, July, 1945.)
U.C.

The origin of Seward's interest was the defeat of Denmark by Austria-Prussia. Part of the lands ceded to Austria-Prussia was Northern Slesvig which contained 200,000 Danes. It was thought at the time that Denmark would try to trade the Danish West Indies for Northern Slesvig. The American consuls to Denmark (2 at 2 different times) kept writing to Seward to interest him in purchasing.

88. Marshall, Edison. Seward's folly. Boston, Little, Brown, c1924. 312 p.

A highly fictionalized account of Seward's "supposed" blocking of the English and Russian Treaty of 1839. According to Marshall this made the purchase of Alaska possible for the United States.

89. Reed, W. B. (supposed author). A review of Mr. Seward's diplomacy by a Northern man. (No publisher given, no date.) 60 p.

Mr. Reed writes (evidently in 1863) that Mr. Seward's diplomacy has all the delicacy of a bull in a china shop. One fears an international embroilment from the tone of Mr. Reeds' review.

90. Rothschild, Alonzo. The power behind the throne. (In his Lincoln, master of men; a study in character, Boston, Houghton, Mifflin, c1906. p.121-56.)

According to Rothschild, Seward never did give Lincoln credit for his intelligence or ability to govern, and attempted many times to bulldoze things through, over or around him. He concludes with "the respect which the Secretary had early learned to show his chief, became mingled with a warmth of personal devotion. Lincoln's defense of Seward in the Senatorial cabal helped to strengthen ties and they developed warm respect and liking for each other.

91. Seward, F. W. Reminiscences of a war-time statesman and diplomat; 1830-1915. New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons, c1916. 489 p. ports. illus.

Written by Seward's son, who was assistant Secretary of State during the administrations of Lincoln, Johnson, and Hayes, the book gives an intimate history of Seward during his most fruitful years. Described by a member of his family, he comes alive as a statesman and diplomat.

92. Seward, F. W. (nephew). Lincoln and Seward; united in purpose, patriotism and mutual regard.
V.F. 13 p.

Presented by Seward's nephew at the Goshen Presbyterian Church in observance of the Lincoln Centennial observance.

An interesting presentation, based on memory and Seward's letters. Related an incident in which Mr. Seward found the President blackening his own boots. "We do not blacken our own boots in Washington, Mr. President," said Seward. "Indeed, whose boots, then do you blacken?" was Lincoln's reply.

93. Tarsaidze, Alexander. Czars and presidents. McDowell/Obolensky, New York, c1958. Extracts from
A.F. book found in file. pp.182, 184, 187, 191, 192, 208, 214, 233-36, 238-40, 260.

These excerpts deal mainly with the purchase of Alaska from Russia. They show Seward, overly eager, willing to pay two million dollars more than Russia had expected to get. Congressional opposition was strong, sode Stockl, the Russian representative, advised Seward to let a member of Congress claim credit for the purchase. He replied that he had no intention of being stripped of the honor of presenting the nation with a new and important territory. This book paints Seward as blustering, tactless, and far too concerned with personal advancement.

94. U.S. Dept. of State. The assassination of Abraham Lincoln, late president of the United States of America, and the attempted assassination of William H. Seward, Secretary of State and Frederick W. Seward, Assistant Secretary, on the evening of the 14th of April, 1865; expressions of condolence and sympathy inspired by these events.

At head of title: Appendix X diplomatic correspondence of 1865.

Title on cover: Messages and documents. Dept. of State. Part A. 1865-66.

Naturally most of the letters and newspaper articles quoted are concerned with the successful attempt on Lincoln's life, but many of them also mention the attempt on Seward's life.

95. Weisburger, B. A. How to keep a secret. (In his Reporters for the Union, Boston, Little, Brown, c1953. p.85-91.)

Seward is severely criticized for his tight rein of censorship on all telegrams from Washington. It was presumed that he felt this power would allow him to turn his Secretary's job into a Prime Minister's. When war became positive, he settled for Lincoln's leadership, but continued to annoy reporters by his tight hold on censorship.

96. Welles, Gideon. "The Diary of Gideon Welles, III, The Cabal against Seward, and the Emancipation Proclamation." (In Atlantic Monthly, v.103, p.471-85, April, 1909.)

An exciting account from Welles diary of the attempt to remove Seward from office by a committee of Republican congressmen in late 1862. When informed of this, Seward offered his resignation. The President did not wish to accept it on principle. (Dangerous precedent of Congress removing Cabinet members when they chose) and some Cabinet members stood with Lincoln. Chase also offered his resignation. Both were rejected by Lincoln.

97. Welles, Gideon. "The Diary of Gideon Welles IV, The Mistakes of Seward." (In Atlantic Monthly, v.103, p.658-72, May, 1909.)

U.C.

Welles (as Secretary of Navy) suffers from Seward's actions regarding "the mails" captured in merchant vessels suspected or proved to carry contraband. Also Welles condemns his actions in the Mason and Slidell episode. Welles does not argue with the removal of Mason and Slidell, but feels the entire ship (Trent) should have been seized.

98. Welles, Gideon. Lincoln and Seward. Remarks upon the memorial address of Charles Francis Adams, on the late William H. Seward, with incidents and comments illustrative of the measures and policy of the administration of Abraham Lincoln and views as to the relative positions of the late President and secretary of State. New York, Sheldon and Co., c1874. 215 p.

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Mr. Welles takes strenuous exception to some of Mr. Adams assertions regarding the relative positions of Lincoln and Seward. Feels Adams has left country in error of Lincoln's value in diplomacy, as Adams has claimed all credit for Seward.

99. Welles, Gideon. "Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Seward. Remarks on the Memorial address of Charles Francis Adams on the late William H. Seward." (In Galaxy, v.16, p.518-30, 687-700, 793-804, October, November, December, 1873.)

U.C.

Mr. Welles, Secretary of the Navy in the Lincoln administration, reflects on the relationship between Lincoln and Seward. In Adam's address Seward is extolled to the detriment of his chief. Welles reviews the whole relationship in an attempt to show that each was greater through the help of the other.

100. White, Horace. Review of "Seward and the Declaration of Paris" by Charles Francis Adams. (In Political
U.C. Science Quarterly, v.28, p.512-15, September, 1913.)

Mr. Adams (son of War-time Minister to the court of St. James) feels that Seward was incompetent to handle foreign relations during his early years in office. Mr. Adams paper vindicates Earl Russell, the British Foreign Secretary during our Civil War of any part in duplicity or unfriendliness.

101. Williams, Sherman. William H. Seward and the purchase of Alaska. (In his New York's part in his-
974.7 tory, New York, Appleton, c1915. p.314-26.)
W727m

A brief biography of Seward. The Alaska purchase
U.C. story starts on page 323. Hence little information on this phase. "Russia wished to sell Alaska and offered it to us. Seward fairly jumped at the offer. The treaty was signed on the 30th of March, 1867. . ." In three sentences the opposition in Congress, the deals and counterdeals are disposed of.

AMERICA AND RUSSIA: PART VI

SEWARD'S WISE FOLLY

In Alaska a much-abused Secretary of State saw a fabulous bargain, and what might have been a Russian beachhead became instead our forty-ninth state

By ROBERT L. REYNOLDS

America does not greatly love nor long remember her Secretaries of State. Upon this melancholy fact William Henry Seward of New York had more reason than most to reflect. In 1860 he stood at the pinnacle of a brilliant political career, and when the Republican party gathered in Chicago early that summer to choose a candidate for President, he was not alone in believing that the choice would fall upon him. It went instead to an obscure lawyer from Illinois, and Seward, pocketing his hopes, accepted Abraham Lincoln's offer of the top post in his Cabinet.

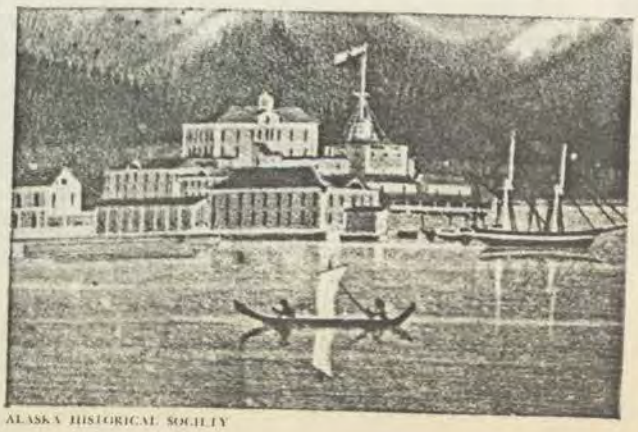
There he served with distinction, staying on under Andrew Johnson following Lincoln's tragic death. But he became the target of bitter abuse, particularly after helping to persuade Johnson to adopt Lincoln's moderate Reconstruction policy. One after another, friends of long standing within Seward's own party deserted him until, toward the end of his second term, he found himself almost alone. Even Seward, eternal optimist that he was, knew he had come to the end of the road.

"Grey, bent, and weary," in the words of his son, he stood in the parlor of his Washington home one evening in 1868, musing pensively before the portraits of the world's rulers which covered the walls. To his guests he pointed out those who, during his brief eight years in the State Department, had passed from the scene. Death had taken Leopold of Belgium and Frederick of Denmark; Isabella of Spain, "fat and fair," had been dethroned and exiled; Pope Pius IX, "gentle old man," had been shorn of his temporal domains by Italian nationalists and now was a lonely prisoner in the Vatican; Medjid of Turkey had been assassinated and poor Maximilian of Mexico shot before the eyes of his army, his empress left to wander the earth.

"It is a sermon on the instability of human greatness," said one of Seward's listeners.

"Perhaps so," he answered with a wintry smile. "I can only hope that they all enjoyed the prospect of getting out of office as much as I do."

Yet his country has many reasons to remember William Seward with gratitude, and among them one seems likely to make the gratitude endure: in 1867, alone and in the face of public apathy and political opposition, he negotiated the purchase of Alaska from Russia, acquiring a fabulously wealthy area about one-fifth the size of the continental United States, and more than twice the size of Texas, for the equivalent of two cents an acre. The deal was borne to conclusion



ALASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The photograph of William Henry Seward at right was taken at Woodside, his summer home at Auburn, New York, shortly before he died of paralysis in 1872 at the age of 71. After leaving office in 1869 he had visited Sitka—seen at left in a water color of about 1860 by an unknown Russian naval officer. To his delight, the Indians he met called Seward "The Great Tyee" (chief).

THE SEWARD HOUSE, AUBURN

on a flood tide of Russian-American friendship: "Well, we have sold to you too cheaply," a Russian said to Cassius Clay, our minister at St. Petersburg, "but it's all in the family." The sentiment today has the ring of irony: one need only contemplate the present implications of Alaska as a strong Russian beachhead in North America—instead of as the Union's forty-ninth state—to realize how history has justified, in a way and to a degree even he could not have foreseen, the bold action of that "grey, bent, and weary" man.

The territory which Russia sold so cheaply she had won at the cost of much hardship, but for a time it had brought her rich rewards. Her original impulse toward America had come during the reign of Peter the Great (1682–1725), who in 1725 dispatched Vitus Bering, a forty-four-year-old Danish veteran of the Russian Navy, to seek the answer to a question then puzzling the academic world: Were Asia and America joined?

Bering's first voyage, in 1728, was inconclusive, but on a subsequent expedition in 1741, one of his ships sighted land on July 15 near Cape Addington off southeastern Alaska, and on the following day Bering himself glimpsed through suddenly clearing clouds the rugged coast line of Kayak Island and a soaring, snow-capped mountain which he named Mount St. Elias after the saint of the day. Bering had found America.*

He never returned to Russia to claim what fame and fortune his journeys may have won. On the way back, lashed by Arctic storms and ice that rotted his ship's rigging and turned her sails to boards, he anchored off a bleak island in the Commander group; there, on December 8, 1741, Vitus Bering, huddled in a pit scooped out of the sandy shore and fighting off a swarm of vicious blue foxes, died of scurvy.

The survivors—forty-six of a crew of seventy-seven—struggled back to Kamchatka the following September, having lost their ship and been forced to build another to bring them home. Hoping to salvage something from the voyage, they managed to bring back nearly one thousand peltries, among them many sea-otter skins, which at the great Russian-Chinese trading post at Kiachta brought the modern equivalent of seventy-five to eighty dollars apiece.

If it was scientific curiosity that had impelled the Russians eastward, the lure of riches now turned the impulse into an obsession. Like New France, whose great era would soon close at one end of the continent, Russian America, whose star was about to rise at the other, was built upon the fur trade. And where New France had its *coureurs de bois*, bold adventurers who served as advance agents for the merchants, Russia had her *promishleniki*, fur hunters who had been following the sable and the fierce Siberian tiger eastward for over a century. It was these men who, when they heard about the cargo brought back by Bering's men were suddenly seized by ambition.

At once the wealthier and more enterprising among them began fitting out expeditions which leapfrogged eastward along the Aleutian chain chasing the seal, the sea otter, and the fox. In the islands and on the Alaskan mainland beyond, the next sixty years was a period of rugged, pell-mell competition in which many Russians went broke and many died, but in which a single ship, after a successful two-year voyage, might bring back furs worth, at today's prices, $2,500,000.

The chief victims of this scramble for riches, in addition to the animals, were the cheerful, peace-loving Aleuts who inhabited the islands, a people whom the Russians turned into virtual slaves to do their hunting for them. Clarence L. Andrews, one of the historians of Alaska, says of the Aleuts:

> Hunting was with them a passion. . . . When one of them saw the head of a sea otter on the sea he trembled with excitement as a setter dog trembles at the scent of a bird, and he could hardly be made to take his eyes off the coveted prize. In [their] wonderful little skin boats they searched the sea, and when the head of an otter was sighted it was almost equivalent to a death warrant for the animal, for one seldom escaped.

In addition to enslaving the men, the bearded *promishleniki* took the Aleut women for their own and lived like sultans with their harems. "Heaven is high," the saying among them went, "and the Czar is far away." Finally aroused to action, in 1762 the natives all along the Aleutian chain rose up against their masters, but their revolt was put down at once with such violence that, according to Andrews, "the never after made any resistance to wrongs."

Few of the *promishleniki* stopped to realize that intensive hunting in one location year after year might eventually exterminate all the fur-bearing animals in the vicinity. That is exactly what happened: by the end of the eighteenth century the sea otter was virtually extinct all along the Aleutian chain, and the Russians found themselves forced to travel farther and farther eastward to make a profitable catch. About this time one among them, more enterprising and far-seeing than the rest, began to realize that if the cut-throat competition continued unchecked, there would

* But he was not the first Russian to do so. It seems probable that "Bering" Strait had been penetrated by Simon Dezneff in 1648; and between Bering's first and second voyages an army officer named Michael Gvozdev sailed to within sight of Alaska. Probably other voyages were launched unofficially and never recorded, but Bering's was the official one, and brought him enough hardship and grief to merit the credit.

be no livelihood for any of them. Grigori Ivanovich Shelekhov was foresighted enough to realize something else, too: that organized operations so far from home would require bases closer to the Alaskan mainland. Accordingly, he began to consolidate some of the smaller fur companies, and appealed to the Empress Catherine the Great (1762–96) for a monopoly. In 1794, to give his venture the color of permanence, he brought over to Kodiak Island just off the mainland coast some thirty families of settlers, together with missionaries of the Orthodox Church.

The following year Shelekhov died, but in 1799 his son-in-law, Nikolai Petrovich Rezanov, who shared his vision, organized the Russian-American Company and finally succeeded in obtaining from Catherine's successor, Czar Paul I (1796–1801), a twenty-year charter to "use and profit by everything which has been or shall be discovered" in the Russian domains in America. It was in effect a private monopoly especially favored by the state, and during the next sixty-eight years it was to represent the czars in America, carry the Imperial double eagle down the Pacific coast as far as Spanish California, and with England and the United States turn the drive for supremacy in the Northwest into a three-cornered race whose outcome was for a long time uncertain.

Considering the stubborn nature of the country, the international rivalry for the area, and the company's weaknesses, it seems a minor miracle that it was able to accomplish any of these things. Its first manager, Alexander Baranov, set up headquarters at Sitka on what is now Baranov Island in Norfolk Sound, where there was an excellent harbor girdled with virgin forests and ringed round with snow-crowned peaks. But before the colony could put down roots, disaster struck. The *promishleniki* had been treating the Kolosh Indians of Kodiak Island and the mainland with the same lordly air they had assumed toward the Aleuts; the bolder Kolosh rose up at once and in June of 1802 wiped out Sitka, killing all but forty-two of its two hundred people.

Baranov's troubles with the Indians were aggravated by the presence in Alaskan waters of free-lance Yankee traders who ignored the Russian-American Company and bought furs from the natives on their own, which they then took to market in Canton, China. Among the goods they gave in exchange were guns and powder—with which the Kolosh armed themselves against the Russians. In vain did Baranov remonstrate with the American skippers. "I said to them again and again," he wrote, "that these goods were not suitable things to sell to an uncivilized people. . . . But they paid little attention, saying, 'We are a commercial people;

CONTINUED ON PAGE 105

Four who made the purchase possible

Without the efforts of these four men, Alaska might never have come into American possession. At top left is Robert Kennicott, explorer and naturalist, whose reports on Alaska helped Senator Charles Sumner (lower right) convince the Senate that the territory was worth buying. After negotiating the treaty with Seward, Edouard de Stoeckl (upper right), then Russia's minister to Washington, helped him lobby it through Congress. There a key ally was Representative Thaddeus Stevens (lower left) from Pennsylvania.

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THE GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Georgia Historical Society, founded in 1839, publishes the *Georgia Historical Quarterly*, which is distributed to its members without cost. The objects of the Society are to collect, preserve, and diffuse information relative to the State of Georgia in particular, American history generally, and to maintain an historical library for the use of its members and others. The Society is also glad to do for its members, and for kindred organizations, so far as its equipment, resources, and organization will permit and without charge, a reasonable amount of investigation and research.

The Society is without endowment; but in 1966, the State of Georgia agreed to grant it financial aid in return for the Society's associating its Library, in Hodgson Hall, Savannah, with the Department of Archives and History, in Atlanta. Membership in the Society and the aid that such membership gives to the transaction of its work, should appeal to everyone interested in its objects and purposes, and particularly to all who have special need for information which the Society can furnish.

From time to time the Society receives requests for individual research on questions which in the main are of special interest only to the inquirer. Of course it cannot undertake to do such work for non-members, but it cordially invites all who are sufficiently interested to make such inquiry, to become members.

It is an honor as well as a privilege to be a member of the Georgia Historical Society, ad we beg that you will consider this an invitation to become a member.

Classes of Membership in the Society, which include subscription to the *Quarterly*, are: Regular Membership, $5 annually, or $2.50 after July 1; Contributing or Family Membership, $10 annually; Sustaining Membership, $25 annually; and Life Membership, $150 without further dues. Membership should be sent to the treasurer, J. Ferris Cann, Jr., Box 8751, Savannah. 31402. Single numbers of the *Quarterly* are $1.50 each.

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Georgia Congressmen and the First Hundred Days of the New Deal

By Thomas H. Coode*

WHEN Franklin D. Roosevelt became President of the United States on March 4, 1933,[1] the country was suffering through its severest economic depression. In answering the popular demand for legislation that would ease the terrible suffering, the new President summoned Congress into special session on March 9. The hundred days that followed constituted one of the most remarkable periods of legislative action in the nation's history.

Nine Georgia Congressmen—all Democrats—answered the President's call when the House of Representatives convened on March 9.[2] The senior member of the delegation was Carl Vinson of the sixth district, who had served in Congress since 1914. Perhaps the most active and influential member of the group was Eugene Cox of the second district, a veteran of nine years' service in the House. Other experienced Georgians included Homer C. Parker of the first district, Malcolm C. Tarver of the seventh, and John S. Wood of the ninth. Braswell D. Deen, Bryant T. Castellow and Emmett M. Owens of the eighth, third, and fourth districts, respectively, were the freshmen members of the delegation. With the exception of Robert Ramspeck of Atlanta, all of the Georgia Congressmen represented farm constituencies and had rural interests foremost in mind when the unprecedented session began.

In answering the nation's needs President Roosevelt and Congress gave top priority to the crisis in banking. On March 4 the President declared a bank holiday and embargoed the export of gold, resting his authority to do both on the Trading with the Enemy Act of 1917. At the same time Roosevelt instructed the Secretary of the Treasury to draft an emergency banking bill to present to Congress when the special session began. Freshman Congressman Deen, who had engaged in the banking business

*Professor of History in California State College, California, Pennsylvania.

[11]Miscellaneous article, Braswell D. Deen Papers (Braswell Deen, Sr., Alma, Georgia). Hereinafter cited as Deen Papers.
[12]*Congressional Record*, 73 Cong., 1 Sess., 826-28.
[13]*Public Papers*, II, 67-74.
[14]Cox was among the most popular and influential members of the House. Besides his position on the Rules Committee, he served on the Steering Committee and the Committee on Committees, which outlined party policy and determined the legislative program in the House. In addition, Cox was on a special five-man House Committee which was organized to advise the President on proposed legislation.
[15]*Congressional Record*, 73 Cong., 1 Sess., 670.
[16]Miscellaneous article, Cox Papers.
[17]Joseph W. Martin, *My First Fifty Years in Politics* (New York, 1960), 75.
[18]Deen Interview; *Congressional Record*, 73 Cong., 1 Sess., 667, 669, 693, 766.
[19]*Congressional Record*, 73 Cong., 1 Sess., 1680, 2888, 3124.
[20]*Ibid.*, 4555, 4557. [21]*Ibid.*, 4059.
[22]William E. Leuchtenburg, *Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal* (New York, 1963), 53.
[23]*Congressional Record*, 73 Cong., 1 Sess., 2384, 3600.
[24]*Ibid.*, 2130.
[25]Letter from former Congressman Robert Ramspeck to the author, November 25, 1964.
[26]*Public Papers*, II, 81.
[27]*Congressional Record*, 73 Cong., 1 Sess., 890, 897, 955-58, 876, 995.
[28]Deen Interview; *Atlanta Constitution*, April 6, 1933.
[29]Raymond Moley, *After Seven Years* (Yew York, 1939), 186.
[30]*Atlanta Constitution*, April 16, 1933.
[31]*Ibid.*, May 24, 1933; *Congressional Record*, 73 Cong., 1 Sess., 4188-98.
[32]*Congressional Record*, 73 Cong., 1 Sess., 3044-51, 4206, 4325-28.
[33]*Ibid.*, 3051. [34]*Ibid.* [35]*Ibid.*, 4325.
[36]*Ibid.*, 4225-27. [37]*Ibid.* [38]*Ibid.*, 3048.
[39]*Atlanta Constitution*, May 6, 1933.
[40]*Congressional Record*, 73 Cong., 1 Sess., 2911, 2919-20, 2938-39.
[41]*Ibid.*, 4945-46. [42]*Ibid.*, 4950-51. [43]*Ibid.*, 4941-42.
[44]George T. Davis, *A Navy Second to None* (New York, 1940), 357; Ray V. Peel and Thomas C. Donnelly, *The 1932 Campaign: An Analysis* (New York, 1935), 136-37.
[45]Armin Rappaport, *The Navy League of The United States* (Detroit, Michigan, 1962), 157.
[46]*Ibid.*, 158.
[47]Davis, *Navy Second to None*, 359; *Atlanta Constitution*, June 4, 1933.
[48]*Congressional Record*, 73 Cong., 1 Sess., 4785-86.
[49]*Ibid.*, 240, 1240, 1007; Deen Interview.
[50]*Atlanta Constitution*, May 3, May 4, May 8, June 10, 1933.
[51]*Congressional Record*, 73 Cong., 1 Sess., 154, 2103-2104; Deen Interview.
[52]*Congressional Record*, 73 Cong., 1 Sess., 152, 1938; *Atlanta Constitution*, June 17, 1933.
[53]Since he had first come to Warm Springs to recuperate from polio, Roosevelt often called Georgia his "adopted state."
[54]*Atlanta Constitution*, March 24, 1933.
[55]Eric Goldman has described the session as "the most controlled, directed, overpowered period in all the history of Congress." See Goldman, *Rendezvous With Destiny* (New York, 1952), 255.

Seward and the South: His Career as a Georgia Schoolmaster

By E. MERTON COULTER*

WILLIAM H. Seward had a Southern exposure when seventeen-eighteen, which he never forgot. Students of American history remember him as governor of New York, a United States Senator, and as Secretary of State in the Cabinet of Abraham Lincoln and also in the Cabinet of Andrew Johnson. Seward was born on May 16, 1801, and died on October 10, 1872. He saw the light of day in the little village of Florida in the interior of Orange County, which bordered on the Hudson River. When ready for college he was sent to Union College in Schenectady, passing through Albany, which he thought must be the finest city in the world. It was found that he was so well prepared that he could enter the Junior Class but for his age; so, his youth required that he be lodged as a Sophomore.

His college career was somewhat different from the ordinary student's life there. The country-village cut of his clothes was not up to the style that prevailed on the campus and caused some merriment if not ridicule. To remedy this defect in his standing he proceeded to the best tailors in town to obtain the most up-to-date wardrobes. He added further to his expenses by being liberal with loans to his schoolmates who too often considered them gifts and he could not resist the appeals of charities. His father, whose domineering attitude had already driven two of his older sons from home, now resolutely told Harry, as he was now called, that he would not pay these debts.[1] This was in 1816.

Young Seward had some fixed principles of his own, one of which was a strong feeling of independency and a determination to go on his own as far as he could. He had been thinking things over for some time in regard to his relations with his father, and he had reached a decision. He had been talking the matter over with a classmate who had secured a position as headmaster of a

*Regents Professor Emeritus of History, University of Georgia.

new academy which was about to be opened in Georgia, and he was willing to leave now at any time. So, they agreed to start on January 1, 1819, Seward telling nobody, family or college, that he was leaving or where he was going; but probably thinking that word might have got out through his classmate that they were going to New York to catch a boat for Georgia, Seward was careful to make himself as inconspicuous as possible in passing through Newburg, and also when reaching New York; for he feared his father might be following to pick him up. When he reached New York he immediately inquired for the next boat going to Savannah and he took lodging on it and did not venture off until the night before sailing, though some days were awaited for a favorable wind. He would have liked very much to see New York's "curiosities and wonders" but he was afraid he was being pursued and he dared not be caught. The last night before sailing, he did risk going to the theatre, buying the cheapest seat in the house, twenty-five cents, and so wrapped up in the show was he, that he did not notice where he had seated himself, until a colored man tapped him on the shoulder and told him that he was in the Negro part and must get out—he then realized why people had been laughing and pointing at him. He could not understand why all this commotion about sitting with Negroes. He later learned that his father had gone to New York looking for him, and only by his own good luck that he had escaped.[2]

After a seven-day voyage, Seward and his classmate (at no time does he identify him) reached Savannah; but they did not tarry in this small attractive city, even though its streets were sandy, but they were lined with palm trees—something new to Seward. He was still fearful that his father somehow might have detectives searching for him. So off they went for Augusta, about 150 miles up the Savannah River, traveling by "stage-wagon," as Seward put it, meaning, no doubt, one day by stage and another day or two by catching wagons, and, probably requiring another day by stage. Reaching Augusta, certainly not before the third or fourth day out of Savannah, where they lingered around long enough to see the sights, now that Seward must have thought

he was too far away from his pursuing father's detectives to be found. His classmate soon learned about the Academy of Richmond County being located there, which was one of the most prestigious secondary institutions of learning in all the South, having been charted in 1783, and founded in 1785, and thus was older than the Republic. He soon made his acquaintance, applied for a position; was employed, resigned the position he had originally accepted while still at Union College, of the academy which had not then been opened; and he now obligingly sent to the trustees a letter of recommendation of Seward to fill the position he was vacating.

Seward thus bereft of his traveling companion but heartened by the prospect of a teaching position at the end of the line, set out for Eatonton, the county-seat of Putnam County, about ninety miles to the westward, where the new academy was located. Seward now hired a gig, as he remembered all of these early Georgia experiences when he wrote his autobiography in his last years when he was in his early seventies, and proceeded on his way. He probably reached Mount Zion that day, which would have been a hard drive—possibly he might have spent the night somewhere at a tavern or at a private dwelling, as people along the roads were always hospitable to travelers. Be that as it may, he reached Mount Zion, where he gave up his gig, and spent two days, enjoying the hospitality of the Mount Zion community, which was presided over by the Rev. Nathan S. S. Beman, then well known, and later more so, as a preacher, educator, and abolitionist, in New York. This community was largely New Yorker in origin and Presbyterian. Beman was head of an academy and a church here, both of which were well known as of great excellence. In fact, Beman had been elected president of the University of Georgia the year before Seward's arrival, but after a time had been forced by circumstances to decline the appointment before serving.

Being short of money, Seward left his wardrobe, light as it was, at Mount Zion, and set out walking to Eatonton, almost thirty miles on to the westward. Now and then he caught a wagon

ride, and apparently reached Eatonton that night.[3] Tallying up the time he consumed from Schenectady, New York, to Eatonton, Georgia, it should go something like this: From Schenectady to New York City and in the city and ready to sail for Savannah, 7 days; at sea, 7 days;—making 14 days; probably 4 days from Savannah to Augusta;—total 18 days; 2 days in Augusta;—making 20 days; Augusta to Mount Zion, 2 days;—total, 22 days; in Mount Zion, 2 days;—total 24 days; to Eatonton, 1 day;—total, 25 days. By this reckoning Seward reached the vicinity of his school-teaching on January 25, 1819, having left Schenectady, New York, on January 1.

The academy which had employed Seward's classmate who had resigned in Augusta and had recommended Seward for the vacancy was called Union Academy and was located about ten miles out of Eatonton to the northeastward. Georgia was academy-minded during the ante-bellum times; academies were springing up all over the state. Union Academy building was not yet finished when Seward reached Eatonton; and the school was not incorporated until 1821, with the following trustees, most of whom were the same as those who employed Seward: Dr. Iddo Ellis, William Walker, Major William Alexander, William Turner, William E. Adams, Zaccheus Butler, and Hardy Pace.[4]

On March 2, 1819, the following advertisement appeared in the Milledgeville *Journal*: "UNION ACADEMY.—The friends of science are respectfully informed that a private academy has lately been established in the neighborhood of Maj. William Alexander, Mr. William Walker, and Col. William E. Adams, in Putnam county, on a site obtained from Francis Ward, Esq., not far from Garner's Ferry; and will go into operation the 19th of April. The academy edifice, which will be ready for the reception of students by that day, will be spacious and commodious, adapted to the accomodation of 80 to 100 scholars in two schools. The rector, Mr. Wm. H. Seward, is late from Union College, New-York, from which institution he comes highly recommended as a young gentleman of good moral character and distinguished industry and *literary equipments*. He will teach the Latin and

Greek languages, theoretical and practical Mathematics, Logic, Rhetoric, Natural and Moral Philosophy, Chemistry, Geography, English Grammar, and such other branches as are usually taught in northern colleges. The common branches of elementary spelling, reading, writing, &c., will, of course, be taught, in the institution. The price of instruction will be 15, 22 or 30 dollars according to the branches taught. Board may be had in respectable families at a sum not exceeding one hundred and twenty-five dollars. From the respectability and the acknowledged healthiness of the neighborhood the cheapness of board and tuition, and the qualifications of the rector, the trustees feel warranted in recommending this infant establishment to the attention of the public. Parents disposed to send their children, will enter them without delay with the treasurer, Maj. William Alexander, designating the studies they wish to pursue, in order that the requisite aid may be procured for Mr. Seward—it being understood, also, that if any students are excluded for the want of room, they must be from among those last entered. Communications directed through the medium of the post-office, in Eatontown, to Wm. H. Seward, Rector of Union Academy, or to William Turner, Secretary, or to William Alexander, Treasurer of the Board of Trustees of Union Academy, the postage being duly paid will receive prompt attention. ."

This communication was signed by William Turner, the Secretary of the Board of Trustees. It was followed by this post script:

"In the article of boarding, are included lodging, candles &c., (for which extra charges are made at some schools.) The retired situation of Union Academy, removed from scenes of dissipation and vice, is alike favorable to the studies and morals of the students. The public also are informed that it is the design of the Trustees to introduce into the institution a system of strict discipline, equally removed from pernicious relaxation, on the one hand, and rigid severity on the other. Arrangements have been made for securing the aid of a female teacher, well qualified to conduct the Female Department.[5]

Here in Eatonton Seward found himself probably by January

25, certainly before the first of February, with only 9 shillings and 6 pence, New York currency, in his pocket, with the hopes of getting the position which his classmate had given up. Even if he should get the position the academy was some months from opening up. The building was not yet finished, for workmen with saws and hammers were working away on it. Who had suggested starting out on this wild-goose chase so early: Had it been Seward to get away from an irate father—or a classmate and for what reason? No one today knows.

Seward thought it best to go ahead to the neighborhood of the unfinished academy building and meet the trustees and the people of the community. His reception in Georgia everywhere had been very hospitaable and he felt sure he would be well received in the community of the Union Academy. So, the next morning investing eight shillings in a "neck cloth" to cover his soiled shirt bosom, he set out with one shilling and six pence in his pocket, after enquiring the way. Having walked eight miles he came to a cross-roads country store, where he stopped and engaged the storekeeper in conversation, which he soon directed into asking the storekeeper how to get to the homes of some of the planters who had founded the new academy, whereupon he was told that a Mr. Ward lived about two miles down through the woods.

Seward set out, but after going about a mile and a half he became exhausted from hunger and thirst and spied a double log cabin not yet finished—that is, it had two rooms with a breeze-way between or in the vernacular, which Seward did not know, a "dog-trot." There were no glasses in the windows, and blankets served as doors. He soon saw that the people who occupied it were youthful, handsome, and cultured. The head of the house was Dr. Iddo Ellis, a physician, formerly of Auburn, New York, and his wife, a daughter of the Rev. Mr. Phelps, an Episcopal rector of the same city. They had two small children. They invited him to spend the night, curtaining off a part of the room to make him a private apartment.

The next morning Dr. Ellis summoned a meeting of the Board of Trustees to take up the matter of the employment of Seward

as rector. Seward was ushered in and introduced by his host of the night before. William Turner, the most learned of the Trustees, began questioning Seward on various educational subjects but soon desisted, being satisfied. As no other Trustee cared to continue, Seward was allowed to withdraw. With his heart in his mouth he went down to a nearby spring and sat down, and with fear and trembling, he wondered what under the sun he would do if he did not receive the appointment. In the meeting Dr. Ellis strongly recommended him, and so did the letter sent by Seward's classmate. All of the Trustees were quite satisfied with the answers Seward gave to Turner's questioning; so they voted to make Seward the rector of Union Academy.

Seward was now called back from his agony at the spring, and as he remembered it more than fifty years later, "If ever mortal youth was struck dumb by pleasant surprise, I was that youth, when William Turner, Eq., rose before me, six feet high, grave and dignified, and made me this speech": and then he told how the Trustees in trying to determine whether Seward was qualified to be their rector they had found that he was more able to examine them than they were to examine him, that they desired to employ him but that they could offer him only $800 for the year, that he could board in such of their homes as he wished for $100 a year, but that the school would not open for six weeks, during which time they would furnish him a horse and carriage to travel over the state at will, and that "in the intervals of rest" he could "board among us without charge."[6]

Seward was so overwhelmed by the generosity of this offer that he could write in his memoirs more than fifty years afterwards: "I accepted the position with an expression of profound thanks, and an assurance of determination to merit the approval of my generous patrons. It was, as I still think, an important crisis in my life. I indulged, with satisfaction, that henceforth I was to be an independent, self-reliant, and self-supporting man."

At the dinner table at the home of Dr. Ellis one night, where Seward apparently was staying for a time, there was some gossip which must have amused him. Dr. Ellis said that at the Trustee

meeting one of the members of the Board asked how old he thought Seward was. Ellis said he thought about twenty. The questioner replied that he thought that was "very young for such an enterprise." Seward now admitted that he was only seventeen; to which Ellis replied, "Well, we'll leave them to find that out."[7] It is safe to say that in the midst of his month's teaching when on May 16th he had a birthday and was only eighteen, he did not announce it, and have a celebration.

There is the possibility of a loss of about a month or, at least a half a month in Seward's whereabouts in Georgia. In his reminiscences, dates are conspiciously absent, as might well be expected, except January 1, 1819, when he left Schenectady. Thereafter there are no dates, but his narrative goes merrily along, with no long interrupting stays indicated. A reconstruction of the time-segments of his trip has appeared previously in this narrative, bringing him to Eatonton about the end of January at most. From Seward's narrative one would guess his election as schoolmaster to have taken place within the next few days; but the next fixed dates available would place it near the end of February rather than at the beginning. The advertisement in the Milledgeville *Journal* mentioning Seward as rector of Union Academy appeared on March 2nd. Of course, it would have taken a week or two to formulate the advertisement and for the newspaper to publish it; but that would leave at least two weeks for Seward to be living on that sum of one shilling and six pence, New York currency, but, he would not have needed that much in the Putnam County land of Southern hospitality as he found it. So the lost month or two weeks is really of no importance. Yet one may wonder where he was during the lost month or several weeks, for according to Seward's account, there was only a day from the time he left Eatonton from the time he reached the home of Dr. Ellis; and it was the next day, when the Trustees met and elected him headmaster of Union Academy. Then there is this further explanation that the Trustees' meeting did take place as here indicated and that they were too optimistic in telling Seward that the Academy would open within the next

six weeks. So they waited almost a month to insert the advertisement in the Milledgeville paper, giving the time of opening.

Either through the Milledgeville *Journal* advertisement or through some other method, Seward's family learned he was down in Georgia, preparing to teach school as headmaster of an academy. Letters soon began to pour upon him from his father, mother, and sister. He could ignore his father but not his sister, and most especially, not his mother. On March 11th he answered his mother in an appealing letter, promising to get out of his engagement as soon as he could well do so, and he thought that he could be back home "by the 25th of June at least." But if everything were different he could be a willing resident of the South. His mother should not worry about him. "Your son is in a situation which is unanimously called the best in Georgia. Health is as common a guest in this Settlement as in any in Georgia it being removed about 200 Miles from the sickly pestilential and burning sands of Savannah. Georgia is proverbially hospitable and yet this People on my arrival hailed me with more than Southern welcome and still continue to treat me with a politeness and respect, which would were I relieved from my anxiety about Home reconcile me to be a willing resident in this land of Strangers." "[8]

Seward may not have been guilty of too much duplicity in thus promising his mother that he would come home as soon as possible and in leading his generous Trustees and friends into believing that he would be their loyal teacher and promoter of education in Putnam County. In fact, if pressure from home had let up, he might have settled down for a spell, like so many other Northerners who came South.

Seward said that he sent his father an Eatonton newspaper containing an advertisement announcing his election to the headmastership of Union Academy "whether it was my vanity, or a solicitude I felt to relieve parential apprehension." There was most likely no Eatonton newspaper at this time, but the newspaper which Seward sent must have been the Milledgeville *Journal*, and this was the method by which father Seward learned of his son's whereabouts. The old gentleman immediately communicated

with Richard Richardson, President of the United States Branch Bank in Savannah, asking him to send his son a letter of credit allowing him to call on the bank for an amount not to exceed $100. This was to provide young Seward funds sufficient to bring him home. Young Seward checked the money out, but instead of spending it in going back to New York he used it for necessary expenses in Georgia, over and beyond all the hospitalities provided by his Southern friends.[9]

He now with the horse and carriage proceeded to cash in on the six weeks or more vacation during which the Trustees had allowed him to view the state, and incidentally to inform the people of the forthcoming opening of the new academy. He was not traveling all the time, of course, for he enjoyed living among the planters, and as he expressed it, "I moved in a hospitable circle round the new academy . . . and from these places I made excursions to Milledgeville, Sparta, and other towns, always hospitably received by prominent citizens." Among the planters' homes in the vicinity of the academy he mentioned Ward's, Walker's, and Turner's. There were others which he mentioned at other times.

Seward's refusal to return home and his spending the $100 which his father had allowed him to draw out of the United States Branch Bank in Savannah greatly enraged his father, who, when young Seward's vacation was hardly half over, wrote a most threatening letter to Major Alexander, the President of the Board of Trustees, forbidding him or anyone else to "harbor the delinquent" under the threat of prosecution to the "utmost rigor of the law," for young Seward had left home "without any just provocation or cause, thereby disgracing . . . and plunging his parents into profound shame and grief." Major Alexander showed Seward the letter and remarked that he did not think he had abandoned his home and college without good cause, and added, "I shall be your friend. I shall keep the affair to myself, and you may decide upon it as you think best. If you should conclude to go home, we will not oppose you, although it will be a disappointment. If you decide to remain, your father may prosecute me as soon as he pleases."

Had this been the whole of it, as Seward saw it, the answer would have been easy; but the pleas of his mother and sister settled the matter. Apparently in his own mind he made up his answer and gave Major Alexander some intimation of it, but no official decision was yet announced, probably to protect the opening of the academy. Seward went about enjoying the remainder of his vacation, with only one incident which he remembered as unpleasant, and that involved a slave. He was assisting a slave woman in getting her horse across a rickety bridge when the horse fell through and spilled a sack of corn being taken to a mill. Seward went to her master for help, who came and berated both the slave and Seward too.

The academy opened on April 19th, as announced, though Seward mistakenly remembered it as May 1st. There were 65 students—34 males, 31 females. As Seward remembered it, there were sixty, "most of whom were well advanced in years, but quite uninstructed." A month later there were about seventy students. Miss Martha Spalding was Seward's assistant and was in charge of the Female Department. Under the rectorship of Seward the academy was so successful that the Trustees decided to limit the number of students to seventy.

On May 22nd, official action was taken by the Trustees on Seward's application to resign and return to New York but only with the understanding that he secure a replacement who would be as completely satisfactory to the Trustees as he had been. In the meantime Seward had written to Union College to send Philo D. Woodruff, with whom he had been in correspondence about the position, and who had now arrived. He proved satisfactory. Seward continued for the following week to introduce him to the people of the community, to the students, and to make him acquainted with the rules of the school and its method of operation. Woodruff most likely had all the pleasant manners and engaging personality of Seward, but probably lacked the red hair

of Seward, which made him so attractive to the Putnam County people, and Southerners in general.[10]

With Woodruff now performing satisfactorily as rector of Union Academy, Seward, as he fondly remembered it more than a half century later, "took leave of my spirited and generous patrons, and affectionate scholars, with sentiments of affection and sadness such as I have seldom since experienced." And so with mixed feelings, but with happy memories of the old South, he made his way to Savannah, where he caught a boat to New York. He completed his course of education at Union College, studied law, began its practice successfully, paid off his debts, entered politics, and became governor of New York. In the meantime Woodruff continued to teach at Union Academy for a spell before studying law and he entered its practice in Greensboro, in the adjoining county of Greene, where he married a young lady, and settled down as a Southerner.[11]

Having served as governor of New York from 1838 to 1840, Seward went back to his very lucrative law practice, which took him to various parts of the country. In 1846 it was necessary for him to make a trip as far west as Cincinnati and St. Louis and southward to New Orleans. Being so far in the Deep South, the call of his old Putnam County friends, who always remained fresh in his mind, could not be forgotten. It was not business that directed him back that way; it was sentiment, which with him could have a greater pull than money.

He went first to Greensboro to see his old friend Woodruff and to have him accompany him over into Putnam County to help locate their old acquaintances in the Union Academy community. They went first to old Major Alexander's residence and knocked at the door. The Major appeared and recognized Woodruff but did not know Seward, and it took some little time for Woodruff to explain who the stranger was, but finally when he mentioned that it was Seward, who had once been a rector of the Academy, Major Alexander bowed and welcomed him in. They then visited old acquaintances in the neighborhood. Among them, especially,

was William Turner, who kept a diary, in which he jotted down much of what is known about this visit.

Turner wrote, "He dwelt in impressive discourse, and rather affecting recollections. They (S.[eward] and W.[oodruff]) had visited the site of old Union Academy—and seen the friends with whom they boarded when they taught school in this neighborhood (Philadelphia, Putnam Co.)—had seen a few of their former pupils; but time had worked many changes—many old friends were gone—scenes formerly frequented had changed."

Seward told Turner that he had wanted to come back South and visit the people of Putnam County. "He owed a debt of gratitude to the people of this neighborhood, which he had long wished to pay—alluding to his teaching school in this neighborhood, at Union Academy, in 1819—and requesting to be affectionately remembered to old friends and patrons whom he could not now see. Seward and Woodruff were in this vicinity three or four days. They were with William Turner on May 21st and 22nd, leaving on the latter day or the following one.

A journey of five days put him back in his home in Auburn, New York, as he noted in a letter of thanks. In this letter, dated May 28th, he wrote, "But it is my purpose to write, not an essay, but an account of my arrival, with assurances of thanks of the kindnesses shown to me by yourself in Georgia, which I shall cherish in the heart's core where lay buried, but living remembrances of greater hospitalities bestowed on me twenty-seven years ago which recalled me to scenes where I was already forgotten."[12] This letter was addressed to William Turner, the Secretary of the old Board of Trustees of Union Academy, who had been the principal host of Seward on his second visit to Putnam County. All told, Seward had spent about five months in Georgia on his first visit in 1819, and only three or four days on his second sentimental visit in 1846. After Seward left they carried on a good tempered correspondence of disagreement on national issues centering principally around the tariff, state rights, and slavery, for the next two years, ending up with a long letter (better termed an essay) by Turner, dated at its heading, December

14, 1848, and concluding with the date, February 14, 1849, and covering twelve closely printed pages and parts of two others. Seward acknowledges receipt, and said he would answer, if the summer would bring him "any repose," but the summer apparently failed, and he never answered.[13]

This short episode in Seward's life, of running away to the South when a mere lad to teach school for a month, was not to be forgotten by Seward or by Seward's enemies in both North and South. As has appeared in this narrative, Seward remembered with strong sentiments of affection the people of Putnam County, who gave him a position of trust and honor, a stranger, who took him on faith. He tended to apply this feeling to Southerners in general, even with his pronouncements on "higher laws than the constitution" and "irrepressible conflicts." From the time he could first remember, he had a feeling for the slaves in his father's family; and he had no personal animosity against slaveholders in the South. And if Seward had had his way, the Civil War would not have broken out over provisioning Fort Sumter.

But Southerners disliked Seward for his abolitionism doctrines, and they did not let his month teaching career in Putnam County mellow their opinion of him, but rather they tried to pull out of it some incidents to discredit him. For instance, a person in 1855 wrote Seward, saying that a mulatto who was born nine months after Seward had taught school in Putnam County could be bought at a reduced price, and that Seward ought to buy him and set him free; for the owner feels that "you have some sympathy for your colored friends and relatives south."[14] A more authentic case of Seward parentage of a mulatto, but still subject to doubt, was that of Rosetta Alexander, a slave girl of Major Alexander's, one of the Trustees of Union Academy, where Seward had boarded part of the time when he was rector. In 1866, Rosetta wrote Seward and begged him to set her up in a little house on a small tract of land, saying that she had always heard from her mother and from Major Alexander that Seward was her father. She said that she was almost white and that she was the mother

of eleven children. She said that now that she was free she was writing to him for help.[15]

The Rosetta Alexander case was undoubtedly not an attempt by some Southerner to pester Seward, who was now Andrew Johnson's Secretary of State, but it was a genuine attempt of this freed woman to get help, though she could not have been in great want since the Freedmen's Bureau was ready to prevent starvation as was, indeed, Major Alexander, if he were still in life, or other white people in the neighborhood.

But to return to the political and abolitionist arena of antebellum times, the Jefferson Davises, who were often visited in Washington by Seward, held many light conversations with him. On one occasion Mrs. Davis, who was a grand-daughter of a governor of New Jersey, asked Senator Seward (he was now a Senator) how he could believe such mean things about slavery when he himself as a schoolteacher had lived in the South and had seen how well planters had treated their slaves. He looked at Mrs. Davis "quiquizzically and smilingly" and replied, "I do not, but these appeals, as you call them, are potent to affect the rank and file of the North." Davis, shocked, asked him if he never spoke from conviction. Seward answered, "Nev-er," which seemed to indicate that the whole conversation was deep humor in his mind.[16]

In 1860 when Republican candidates were early in the winter peeping their heads up like the crocus flowers, seeking the nomination for the presidency, with Seward's head the tallest, the Savannah *Republican* recalled that many years ago he had been a schoolteacher in Georgia and it published the announcement of his election to the rectorship of Union Academy, which had appeared in the Milledgeville *Journal* in 1819. The Savannah paper made no comment, hostile or otherwise—only calling the attention of its readers to the fact that the well-known abolitionist had at one time been a Georgia schoolteacher.[17]

Among the readers of the Savannah *Republican* who saw the schoolteacher article was Joseph Addison Turner (1826-1868), the literary son of William Turner, who inherited his father's literary effects, and in going through his father's papers, found

enough material to construct an article entitled "William H. Seward as a Schoolmaster in Georgia," which he published in the second number of a magazine which he founded in 1860 in March of that year. In this article he was much more hostile toward Seward than his father had been, as he had not yet been born when Seward taught at Union Academy, but he had known Seward for a day or two when he visited Putnam County in 1846, for young Turner was then twenty years old. When Seward returned home following his resigning his rectorship of Union Academy, Joseph Addison Turner in this article likened him most sarcastically to the prodigal son in the parable in the Bible. Being somewhat a poet, also he wrote a poem depicting Seward's ingratitude of which this is a part:

"Mid favors many and a bounty large
Since generous people heeded want's demand
And blessed the stranger with a liberal hand.
At all their boards he shared the social cheer,
With all the charms that friendship fostered here,
And boundless favor smiled his steps around,
While ready welcome aye his coming crowned.
But time rolled on, the youth a man became,
And won the way to fortune and to fame,
With hatred every act of kindness paid,
And wild fanatics 'gainst his friends arrayed;
Did all he could to wound the fostering hand,
And hurl her foes upon this lovely land.
The viper warmed, the warmiming bosom bites,
By nature in ingratitude delights.
But surely man his high estate degrades,
When grateful memory from his bosom fades,
And he decends to act the viper's part,
Distilling poison thro' the friendly heart."[18]

Seward also had his political enemies in the North, probably not as bitter as was Joseph Addison Turner. Among them was the editor of the Albany, New York, *Argus*, who wrote, in 1861, "Had Mr. Lincoln's Secretary of State remained a school teacher

in Georgia—a character in which he is remembered by many—it would have been better for his reputation as a statesman, and probably prevented the downfall of the late Union."[19]

But Seward's school-teaching career was remembered by both friends and enemies, and this was especially so in the campaign for the nomination of a Republican candidate for the Presidency in 1860. For instance, the editor of the *New York Times*, who could scarcely be called Seward's enemy if for no other reason than to be different from Greeley's *Tribune*, published, without comment, on January 31, 1860, the advertisement from the Milledgeville *Journal* in 1819, announcing the opening of Union Academy and Seward's election as rector.[20]

Probably such a minor incident in the life of no other American statesman played so important a part in the life of that statesman or lasted so long in the memory of the country itself as did Seward's school-teaching career of a month play in his career.

NOTES

[1]Frederick W. Seward, ed., *Autobiography of William H. Seward from 1801 to 1834 with a Memoir of his Life and a Selection from his Letters, 1831 to 1846* (New York, 1877), 20, 32, 34. Seward wrote his autobiography at the instance of his children, when he was about seventy years old. It is the principal source to much of what is know about his trip to Georgia in 1819. Glyndon G. Van Deusen, *William Henry Seward* (New York, 1967), 4-6. This is the standard biography of Seward. Earl Conrad, *The Governor and his Lady, The Story of William Henry Seward and his Wife* (New York, 1960), 17-18, 20-21. This work is highly imaginative. With a grain of truth, Conrad lets his imagination run riot.

[2]Seward, *Autobiography*, 36-37; Conrad, *Governor and his Lady*, 20-22.

[3]Seward, *Autobiography*, 30, 38; Conrad, *Governor and his Lady*, 20-23.

[4]William C. Dawson, comp., *A Compilation of the Laws of the State of Georgia . . . since the Year 1819 to the Year 1829, Inclusive* (Milledgeville, 1831), 7.

[5][Joseph Addison Turner,] "William H. Seward as a Schoolmaster in Georgia," in *The Plantation, A Southern Quarterly Journal* (Edited by J. A. Turner of Eatonton. New York, 1860). I. 2 (June, 1860), 223-24. Garner's Ferry, mentioned in the advertisement, was on the Oconee River equidistant from Eatonton and Greensboro. Adiel Sherwood, *Gazetteer of the State of Georgia* (Charleston, S. C., 1827), 58.

[6]Seward, *Autobiography*, 38; Frederic Bancroft, *Life of William H. Seward* (2 vols. New York, 1900), 6-9; Conrad, *Governor and his Lady*, 23-24.

[7]Seward, *Autobiography*, 39, 40.

[8]The original copy of this letter is in the William Henry Seward Papers in Rush Rhees Library of the University of Rochester, and is used by permission of Karl Kabelac of the Department of Special Collections.

[9]Seward, *Autobiography*, 41, 42; Conrad, *Governor and his Lady*, 25, 26.

[10]Seward, *Autobiography*, 41-44; George E. Baker, ed., *The Works of William*

H. Seward (5 vols. New Edition. Boston, 1884), I, xviii; *Plantation*, I, 2 (June, 1860), 225-26; Conrad, *Governor and his Lady*, 26.

[11]Seward, *Autobiography*, 43; *Plantation*, I, 2 (June, 1860), 226-27.

[12]*Plantation*, I, 2 (June, 1860), 227-48. The account of the meeting of Seward and Woodruff originally appeared in the *Plantation*, I, 1 (March, 1860), 192-93. The account of Seward's trip to New Orleans in 1846 appears in Bancroft, *Seward*, I, 154-55.

[13]*Plantation*, I, 2 (June, 1860), 247.

[14]Jacob Johnsing, Savannerville, Ga., July 2, 1855, to Hon. W. H. Seward in the Library of the University of Rochester. See note 8.

[15]Rossetta Alexander, Macon, Ga., April 11, 1866 to Hon. William Seward in the Library of the University of Rochester. See note 8. See also Van Deusen, *Seward*, 6.

[16]Varina H. Davis, *Jefferson Davis, The President of the Confederate States of America* (2 vols. New York, 1890), I, 581; Van Deusen, *Seward*, 260.

[17]*Plantation*, I, 2 (June, 1860), 223; Savannah *Republican*, January 23 (2, 2), 1860.

[18]*Plantation*, 1, 2 (June, 1860), 248-49. Various myths were still going about Seward in Georgia as late as the 1960's. It is being told by a descendant of Francis Ward, where Seward boarded for a time, that Seward fell in love with a Miss Gatewood who was courted also by a son of Ward. And when Seward returned to New York and wrote Miss Gatewood, her brothers got the letter and burned it so she would continue her affair with Ward's son, and Seward receiving no reply, did not marry this Southern belle. Bernice McCullar in *Atlanta Journal*, October 15 (no page number), 1965. It is recorded as a fact that Seward came to Georgia in 1821, taught at Union Academy for a time, then at Greensboro also, fell ill and lingered for a long time before getting well. Thaddeus Brockett Rice (editor Carolyn White Williams), *History of Greene County, Georgia, 1786-1886* (Macon, 1961), 219-20.

[19]Quoted in *Southern Field and Fireside* (Augusta, Ga.), June 1, 1862, p. 316.

[20]*New York Times*, January 31 (3, 1), 1860.

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A.E.A. REPORT NO. 458

81st Congress
1st Session

ANALYSIS

OF

H.R. 331

A BILL

To provide for the admission of
Alaska into the Union

1949

Introduced by Mr. Bartlett
(Delegate from Alaska)

Prepared for

AMERICAN ENTERPRISE ASSOCIATION
1614 K Street, N. W. Washington 6, D. C.
Telephones: EXecutive 8205—DIstrict 6336

by

SULLIVAN, BERNARD & SHEA, *Special Counsel*
914 Ring Building Washington, D. C.

The basic purpose of the American Enterprise Association is to aid Members of Congress, and others, in their study of legislation and in a better understanding of the system of free enterprise and in the policies and laws which affect its survival.

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ANALYSIS OF H. R. 331

A BILL To provide for the admission of Alaska into the Union

By Mr. Bartlett, Delegate from Alaska

January 3, 1949

Referred to the Committee on Public Lands

Companion bill S. 2036 by Mr. Kefauver of Tennessee

CONTENTS

(This analysis consists of 8 pages)

INTRODUCTION

Alaska has been a part of the United States since its purchase from Russia in 1867. Between the time of its purchase and 1884 Congress made no special provision for the government of Alaska, and for all practical purposes the area was governed by the Commanding Officer of the Army detachment which had been sent to Sitka to take possession from the Russians. In 1884 Congress made Alaska a district of the United States and provided for its government by making the code of laws under which Oregon was governed at that time, applicable to the new district. The first criminal code for Alaska was enacted in 1899 and the first civil code in 1900.

Alaska is now governed under an Organic Act which was passed in 1912. Under that Act, Alaska has a Governor, appointed by the President, a system of courts, a popularly elected legislature with limited power to enact local laws and local units of government. Alaska has had a delegate in Congress since 1906.

Numerous bills providing for the admission of Alaska to statehood have been introduced in Congress in the past. During April of 1947, the House Committee on Public Lands held hearings on the question of statehood for Alaska in Washington and, during August and September of that year, at several cities in Alaska.

H. R. 331 was introduced on January 3, 1949, by Mr. Bartlett, the Delegate from Alaska. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Public Lands and was reported (House Report No. 255) with amendments on March 10, 1949. It is now pending on the House Union Calendar.

S. 2036, a companion bill, was introduced in the Senate on June 10, 1949 by Mr. Kefauver (for himself and nineteen other members of the Senate) and referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs where it is now pending.

SUMMARY

H. R. 331 provides for the admission of Alaska as a State of the Union. It provides for the election of delegates to a convention to frame a constitution and a system of State Government for the proposed State. The constitution would be subject to ratification by the people of Alaska, and to the approval of the President. If the President approved the constitution, Alaska would be admitted to statehood immediately following the election of the officers provided for in the constitution.

The bill requires that the proposed convention be republican in form, make no distinction in civil or political rights on account of race or color and be not repugnant to the Constitution of the United States and the principles of the Declaration of Independence. The bill also requires that the convention provide, by ordinance "irrevocable without the consent of the United States and the people of said State", for (a) perfect freedom of religious worship; (b) the disclaimer by the people of all right and title to property of the United States including lands within the State in actual possession of and used by the United States, and to all property held by natives; (c) the acknowledgment of the exclusive power of Congress to legislate concerning lands held by the United States for military purposes; (d) the assumption and payment by the State of the debts and liabilities of the Territory; (e) the establishment and maintenance of a system of public schools; (f) the consent of the people to the provisions of the bill reserving rights or powers in the United States; and (g) the taxation of property of non-resident citizens of the United States on the same basis as property of residents.

The bill also provides that the State of Alaska shall acquire all property now owned by the Territory and that the United States shall retain title to all property to which it now has title, including public lands, except certain lands expressly granted to the new State. These grants include: (a) sections 2, 16, 32, and 36 in each township for the support of common schools, and section 33 in certain townships in the Tanana Valley for the support of an agricultural college and a school of mines, subject to certain exceptions and subject to the right of substitution in certain cases; (b) Block 32 in the City of Juneau for use as a dwelling for the Governor, for a State Museum, and for park and recreational purposes, (c) property owned by the United States and used in connection with the conservation and protection of fisheries, fur and game; and (d) one million acres of vacated unappropriated, unreserved public lands to be used for public buildings, asylums, penitentiaries, schools for handicapped, normal schools, reformatories, and homes for pioneer residents. Under the bill, five per cent of the proceeds from the sale of public lands by the United States subsequent to the admission of the new state would be paid to the new state to be used for the support of its common schools.

The bill also makes provision for the transfer of judicial functions from Territorial to State courts; for the creation of the Federal District of Alaska; for the election of State and county officers, and two Senators and one Representative in Congress and authorizes an appropriation of $100,000 to cover the expenses of the convention and of the elections provided for.

DIGEST BY SECTIONS

Sec. 1 contains the enacting clause and defines the geographical limits and area of the proposed State of Alaska.

Sec. 2 provides for the election and organization of a constitutional convention.

Sec. 3 provides for the formation by the convention of a constitution and a system of government for the proposed State. This section specifies that the constitution shall be republican in form, shall make no distinction in civil or political rights on account of race or color, shall not be repugnant to the Constitution of the United States and the principles of the Declaration of Independence, and shall provide (a) for perfect freedom of religious worship; (b) that the State and its people disclaim all right to any property the title to which is in the United States and to all lands held by natives, that the title of the United States or of such natives shall remain under the control of Congress, and that no taxes shall be imposed upon lands or property of the United States; (c) that the Congress shall have the power of exclusive legislation over land held by the United States for military, air, naval, or coast guard purposes, subject to the right of the State to serve process thereon; (d) that the debts and liabilities of the Territory shall be assumed and paid by the State and all debts owed to the Territory be collected by the State; (e) for a system of public schools, open to all children and free from sectarian control; (f) that all provisions of this Act are consented to fully by the State and its people; and (g) that the lands and other property belonging to citizens of the United States residing without the State shall never be taxed at a higher rate than the lands and other property belonging to residents.

Sec. 4 provides that the State of Alaska shall retain title to all property now owned by the Territory and that the United States shall retain title to all property to which it now has title, including public lands, except as provided in section 5.

Sec. 5 provides for the grant to the State of Alaska of certain public lands including (a) sections 2, 16, 32, and 36 in each township for the support of common schools, and section 33 in certain townships in the Tanana Valley for the support of an agricultural college and a school of mines, subject to certain exceptions and subject to the right of substitution in certain cases; (b) Block 32 in the City of Juneau for use as a dwelling for the Governor, for a State Museum, and for park and recreational purposes, (c) property owned by the United States and used in connection with the conservation and protection of fisheries, fur and game; and (d) one million acres of vacated unappropriated, unreserved public lands to be used for public buildings, asylums, penitentiaries, schools for handicapped, normal schools, reformatories, and homes for pioneer residents. This section also provides that five per cent of the proceeds from the sale of public lands by the United States subsequent to the

admission of the new state would be paid to the new state to be used for the support of its common schools.

Sec. 6 provides for the submission of the constitution and State government formed under this Act to the people and the President and prescribes the procedure to be followed in that connection.

Sec. 7 provides (a) for the election by the people of a Governor, members of the State legislature, one Representative and two Senators in the Congress of the United States from said State, and such other officers as the constitution shall prescribe, (b) that Alaska shall be deemed to be admitted to the Union when such officers are elected, and (c) that the State of Alaska shall be entitled to one Representative from the time of its admission into the Union until a reapportionment, as provided by law.

Sec. 8 authorizes an appropriation of $100,000 for defraying the expense of the elections and convention.

Sec. 9 reserves to the United States exclusive jurisdiction over Mount McKinley National Park, except that the State of Alaska may serve process or levy taxes therein, and persons residing therein may vote at elections in the political subdivisions in which their residence is located.

Sec. 10 provides for a United States District Court for the District of Alaska, with the same jurisdiction as other Federal district courts, and for the appointment of a district judge, United States attorney, and assistant United States attorneys, a marshal, and a clerk, each of whom must have been a bona fide resident of Alaska at least 3 years immediately prior to his appointment.

Sec. 11 keeps alive, and establishes a procedure for subsequent handling of causes pending in the District Court for the Territory of Alaska or on appeal prior to statehood, and causes of action which have arisen prior to that time but which have not yet been sued upon.

Sec. 12 establishes a procedure for the handling of cases pending in appellate courts at the time Alaska becomes a State.

Sec. 13 provides for the transfer, upon statehood, to the United States District Court for the District of Alaska of all causes within the jurisdiction of such latter court pending in the District Court for the Territory of Alaska, and for the transfer to the appropriate courts of the State of Alaska of all other pending causes in the district court for the Territory.

Sec. 14 makes the courts of original jurisdiction to be created by the State of Alaska the successors of the District Court for the Territory of Alaska with respect to cases not transferred to the United States District Court for the District of Alaska.

Sec. 15 authorizes the courts created by the State of Alaska to proceed with causes pending in the district court for the Territory at the time Alaska becomes a State, and authorizes appeal from the courts of last resort created by the State of Alaska to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Sec. 16 provides for the repeal of all Federal or Territorial laws in conflict with this Act.

INTERROGATORY

1. What is the present population of Alaska? What was it in 1930? In 1940? What has been the average annual rate of change in population since 1930?

2. What percentage of the population is composed of natives? Of native born whites? Has there been any appreciable influx of Asiatics or Europeans to Alaska during the past 15 years? What percentage of the population are citizens of the United States?

3. How does the population of Alaska compare with that of the several territories which have been admitted as states in the past?

4. Would the admission of Alaska to statehood be likely to increase or decrease its population? Why? Would this operate to the advantage of Alaska? Of the nation as a whole?

5. Have the people of Alaska been given an opportunity to express their will on the question of statehood? If so, when, in what manner and with what result?

6. Does H.R. 331 provide for the admission of Alaska in a manner similar to the admission of other States previously admitted?

7. What are the principal industries of Alaska? What is the dollar value of the 1948 production of each? How many people did each employ in 1948?

8. How would enactment of H.R. 331 be likely to affect Alaska industry, in general? Would its provisions operate fairly as between the various segments of Alaska industry?

9. What was the value of the total volume of trade between Alaska and the United States in each of the years 1946, 1947 and 1948? How many persons were gainfully employed in each of such years? How would H.R. 331 affect Alaskan trade and employment?

10. What was the total annual income of all the people in Alaska during each of the past ten years?

11. What is the geographical area of Alaska in terms of square miles? How far are the principal Alaskan cities from Seattle by water? How far from principal U. S. cities by air? Is travel between the United States and Alaska by road now practicable?

12. Does the fact that Alaska is not contiguous to the United States have a bearing upon the admission or non-admission of Alaska to statehood?

13. Is the location of Alaska significant from a military standpoint? If so, how would admitting Alaska to statehood affect the national security? Has the opinion of our military leaders been considered in this connection?

14. Would admitting Alaska to statehood have any significance from the standpoint of our international relations? If so, in what respect?

15. What is the present area and extent of the public lands in Alaska? Are the provisions of H.R. 331 relating to the disposition of public lands in Alaska fair and equitable from the standpoint of all parties affected thereby?

16. If H.R. 331 is enacted what percentage of the area of Alaska would be owned or controlled by the State? What percentage by the Federal Government?

17. Assuming enactment of H.R. 331, what would be the estimated value of the natural resources which would be owned by Alaska? By the United States?

18. Are the provisions of H.R. 331 fair and equitable as they relate to the property and other rights of the Eskimo and Indian inhabitants of Alaska?

19. How would enactment of H.R. 331 be likely to affect the development of Alaska's natural resources? How would it be likely to affect private operations in the fisheries, lumbering and mining industries?

20. Would the enactment of H.R. 331 in any way affect ownership and operation of the Alaskan Railroad?

21. Have the people of Alaska had sufficient experience in governmental matters to operate their own State government?

22. What are the more significant enactments of the Territorial Legislature in fields such as health, housing, taxation, and labor matters? Has the administration of such legislation been efficient and effective?

23. What has Alaska accomplished in the field of education?

24. Would the assumption of existing debts and liabilities of the territory impose an undue burden on the new State?

25. What would be the likely effect of statehood for Alaska on Federal appropriations for Alaskan purposes?

26. Would the admission of Alaska as a State be in the national economic and public interest of the United States?

by Francis Taormina

"William Henry Seward (May 16, 1801-October 10, 1872). Valedictorian of Class of 1820. Admitted to the Bar at Utica in October, 1822. He married Frances Miller in Auburn, NY on October 20, 1824. Born in Florida, NY he made his home in Auburn, NY, from October 1822 until the time of his death. Seward is best known as the US Secretary of State who negotiated the purchase of Alaska on March 30, 1867.He recieved an Honorary LLD from Union College in 1867.

His career in politics began in 1829 when, as a member of the "Anti-Mason" Party, he was elected to the NYS Senate. In 1834 as the first "Whig" candidate for governor in NYS he lost to William L Marcy. In 1838, Seward ran against Marcy and became the first member of the "Whig" Party to be elected Governor of NYS. He served 2 terms until 1842. As Governor of NYS he championed Penal Reform, supported the improvement of the State's Canal and Railway System and originated the NYS Archives as a place for the accumulation and safe keeping of historic documents important to the history of the Province and the State of New York. He was a very strong supporter of public education. Though he declined to run again for Governor in 1842, he did remain a power in the "Whig" party and a close personal and political associate of Thurlow Weed, the Editor of the Albany Evening Journal and the Chairman of the Whig Party in NYS. In 1849, Seward was elected to the US Senate. He was re-elected to this body in 1855 and served as a US Senator until he was appointed US Secretary of State by Abraham Lincoln in 1861.

From 1850 through 1860 as a US Senator he was generally acknowledged to be "the outstanding leader of the anti-slavery forces in the North". On October 25, 1858 Seward, speaking in Rochester, NY, averred that the Nation could not endure much longer on a system based on "slave labor" and "free labor"; that these two "opposing and enduring" forces were headed for an "irrepressible conflict". This speech gained Seward more national attention at the time than had Lincoln's "House Divided" speech which was delivered on June 16, 1858. Many Southerners claimed that Seward had "set the tone" for John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry on October 16, 1859.

At the beginning of 1860, William H. Seward was unquestionably the leading candidate for the Republican nomination for President of the US. On May 17, 1860 Seward did win the largest number of votes on the first two ballots at the Republican Convention in Chicago, Illinois. On the third ballot Lincoln overtook Seward's lead and obtained enough votes to get the Republican Nomination. Explanations as to how this unexpected outcome occurred come down to the (1) the delegate's feeling that Seward could not be elected nationally because of his outspoken stance on the issues of slavery and "nativism" and (2) the observation that Lincoln and his supporters turned out to be shrewder politicians than Seward and his supporters.

Seward, despite bitter disappointment, campaigned energetically for Lincoln and responded to the call of many members of his Party that he was needed in the national leadership. In the time between Lincoln's election (November 1860) and his inauguration (March 1861) Seward was the major spokesman for the Republicans in Washington DC. As Lincoln's Secretary of State he played an crucial role in preventing England and France from formally recognizing the Confederacy as a separate nation. He was Lincoln's closest personal associate on the cabinet. His influence on Lincoln's thinking and on the way Lincoln expressed himself in the Emancipation Proclamation and the Gettysburg Address is pointed out by his Biographers.

On April 5, 1865 Seward was involved in a carriage accident. He was at home convalescing from the injuries recieved in this accident when Boothe assassinated Lincoln on April 14, 1865. At the very same time that Lincoln was shot, a co-conspirator of Boothe's, Lewis Paine, forced his way into Seward's home and attempted to murder him. Paine, while inflicting grave injuries on Seward and on members of his family, failed to kill him. Seward's wife Frances, who had never enjoyed good health, suffered from the shock of witnessing the serious injuries inflicted on her son Frederick, and on her husband and died on June 21, 1865, her life very likely shortened by the impact of these painful events.

Seward, despite his injuries, continued as Secretary of State in Johnson's Cabinet. In deference to him, Johnson held a Cabinet meeting in Seward's home on May 9, 1865. Seward resumed his regular office hours again on May 19, 1865.

Seward did not enjoy the close personal relationship with Andrew Johnson that he had had with Lincoln. Nevertheless, he remained loyal to Johnson throughout his administration. Tempermentally, Seward was able to reach out and relate to people with whom he had very substantial political and even personal disagreements. Johnson, quite a different personality than either Lincoln or Seward, could not easily relate to people who disagreed with him. Seward was hurt by his inability to prevent Johnson from doing a number of things which were politically disastrous particularly in the realm of domestic politics.

In the area of foreign policy however, despite age, injury, sickness(he nearly died of cholera) grievous personal loss (his youngest child, a daughter, Fanny, died in October, 1866)and the political ineptitude of his boss, Seward still managed to find the energy to negotiate the purchase of Alaska from Russia on March 30, 1867, and to get the Senate's approval of the Treaty he negotiated on April 9, 1867, 37-2.

Seward believed in Progress. He believed in political and civil equality. He believed that given education, the ballot

box and the expansion of economic opportunity, people could create and maintain a decent society. He believed in the United States and its political system to the point where he envisioned the entire Western Hemisphere eventually becoming part of the United States, not as a result of military conquest, but quite simply because it would be so much to everyone's advantage to live in a country like ours, that the people of Mexico, Central America and Canada would simply join us! He tried, without success, to purchase land for a US naval station in the Caribbean, to negotiate for the use of land on which a canal could be built crossing the isthmus from Nicaragua and from Columbia and to purchase the Virgin Islands from Denmark!

About himself on his tombstone he had inscribed: "He was faithful." To his family his last words were: "Love one another". For the rest of us there is much that could be learned from the study of the way William H. Seward chose to live his life.

FRANCIS R. TAORMINA
1019 BALLTOWN ROAD,
SCHENECTADY, NY 12309
518-374-9655

William H. Seward at Union College
(Extracts from his Autobiography, published in 1891, and from the 'Memoir' by George E. Baker, prefixed to his Works, published in 1853.)

The eventful career of Union's Greatest Alumnus is replete with concern to Americans, irrespect of political creed, and especially should the incidents of the years 1816 to 1820--when he was a student, interest Union students of to-day. With this hope, these quotations are made.

"At Schenectady I alighted on the banks of the Mohawk River, then navigated with "bateaux." I climbed the College Hill with a reluctant and embarrassed step, to offer myself for an examination at which I feared I might not pass. I called at the office of the registrar Mr. Holland, and by him was immediately introduced into the presence of the Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. The college catalogue, which I had carefully read, described him as the Rev. Thomas McCauley, Doctor of Divinity and Doctor of Laws. I wondered at my presumption in coming into so high a presence. The professor inquired which of the classes I supposed myself prepared to enter. I summoned boldness to answer that I had studied for examination to enter the junior class. He immediately put me through a series of questions for half an hour, in several preparatory class books, and pronounced me more than qualified. He then asked my age, and on receiving the answer "fifteen," he replied that my studies had carried me beyond my years; the laws of the college making sixteen the age for entering the junior class. I did not regret the decision. Life at college seemed very attractive and my previous excess of preparation would make my studies easier. Long before night, my "chum" was chosen, my room supplied with the cheap furniture which the college regulations required, as I sat down to meditate on the dignity of my new situation. I was matriculated as sophomore; and these two large words signified, for me, a great deal, because I had not the least idea of the meaning of either."

"Union College was now, in 1816, or near the height of its prosperity. The President, Dr. Nott, ranked with the most popular preachers of the day; while his great political talents secured him the patronage of all the public men in the State. The discipline of the college was based on the soundest and wisest principles. There was an absence of everything inquisitorial or suspicious; there were no courts or impeachments; every young man had his appointed studies, recitations and attendance at prayers; and a demeanor was required which should not distrub the quiet or order of the institution. If he failed or offended, he was privately called into the presence of the president or professor, remonstrated with, and admonished that repeated failure would be made known to his parents for their consideration, while habitual insubordination would be visited with dismissal. I think I know of no institution where a manlier spirit prevailed among the undergraduates than that which distinguished the pupils of Dr. Nott.

"I cannot speak so highly of the system of instruction. There was a daily appointment of three tasks, in as many different studies, which the pupils were required, unaided, to master in their rooms, the young, the dull, and the backward, equally with the most mature and the most astute. The pupil understood that he performed his whole duty when he recited these daily lessons without failure. With most of us the memory was doubtless the faculty chiefly exercised; and where so much was committed mechanically to memory, much was forgotten as soon as learned. It was a consequence of the method of instruction that every study was not a continuous one, but consisted of fragmentary tasks, while no one volume or author was ever completed."

"Finding, in my Latin author, passages too obscure to be solved unaided, I went freely, though meekly, to the tutor, and obtained his assistance during the study hours. Soon afterward the leading members of the class, with the support of the rest, determined to oblige the accomplished tutor to give them shorter lessons and more frequent holidays. They attempted to effect this by throwing asafoetida on the heated stove, and, when this proceeding failed, one, bolder than all the rest, standing behind the tutor, pulled him by the hair. Of course he found out the offenders, and of course they were punished. The whole class, suspected an
r; and who could the informer be but myself, who excelled them all in the recitations,
efused to go into the general meeting and who was seen daily going to and from the tutor's
upon some errand unexplained? This, I think, was my first experience of partisan excite-
need not say that I never afterward offended my classmates by seeking to obtain
nstructions or aid from my teacher."

anuary 1, 1819, Seward, who was then a senior and had become involved in debts to

"the accomplished tailors of Schenectady," left college to teach in the South, spending six months in Georgia. He subsequently returned to college and graduated the next year.

"A new state of things had occurred during the year of my absence from the college. Previously to that event, the students from the North and the South mingled promiscuously and mingled harmoniously together. Union College during that year received a large accession of "Southerners." Previous to their coming, the students were divided between the two literary societies, the one "the Philomathean," the other "the Adelphic," which were nearly coeval with the college itself. Of these, the Philomathean was the larger and the more popular, as it claimed to be, by a year or two, the more ancient. I belonged to the Adelphic, which, at the time, consoled itself for its inferiority of numbers by pretensions to superior scholarship. The Southerners, on their arrival at the college, had joined the Philomathean, but soon afterward had complained of oppression, seceded and organized a third society, under the name of the "Delphian Institute."

"The division of the Philomathean Society, not unnaturally agitated the Adelphic, leading members of which anticipated an increase of their own strength from the diminution of the numbers and prestige of their great rival, the Philomathean. The agitation drew into discussion the relative merits of Southern and Northern Society. It seemed to be believed by both parties that the opinions I should express , after having had a six months' experience in the South would carry weight. The Philomatheans claimed my sympathy on the ground of the character which I had established for independence. The Adelphic sympathizers with the seceders claimed my adhesion on the ground of loyalty to the institution to which I belonged, and which had crowned me with all its little honors. Thus at an early date, before my educational course was ended, I stood upon the threshold of national politics. I promptly decided that the Southern secession was unjustifiable and disloyal to the institution, while I made due acknowledgments of the hopitable and chivalrous character of the South."

"My chef d'oeuvre in the Literary Society was an essay in which I demonstrated that the Erie Canal was an impossibility, and that, even if it should be successfully constructed, it would financially ruin the State. On the other hand, the subject of my commencement oration was, "The Integrity of the American Union."

"If I were required now to say from what part of my college education I derived the greatest advantage, I should say, the exercises of the Adelphic Society."

"The college career of young Seward, " observes his biographer, "as related by his contemporaries, gave brilliant indication of the rare qualities for which he has become distinguished. The traits of the future legislator and statesman were foreshadowed in the character of the modest youth during his period of academic retirement. Even then he displayed great originalty of conception -- the sturdy independence of purpose-- the firm adherence to his convictions of right - the intrepid assertion of high moral principles -- the careful examination of a cause before appearing in its defence -- the sympathy with the weak and oppressed -- and the intellectual vigilance and assiduity in the pursuit of the truth, which have formed such conspicious and admirable features in his public career." W.H.A. '02

C. March 13, 1902

William Seward 1820

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