

When the usual time for meeting came the Manning members met and also perfected an organization. The result was two Albany delegations to the State Convention, but by Mr. Tilden's consent the Manning delegates were admitted and recognized as regular. Their votes were cast for Amasa J. Parker, much to Tilden's chagrin, although he was nominated and elected. Mr. Tilden soon got over his pique, however, made the *Argus* the organ of the Executive, and took Mr. Manning into his confidence, and from that time on the relations of the two men were uninterrupted.

During Mr. Tilden's administration the *Argus*, directed by Mr. Manning, supported him unflinchingly, and many of the schemes of reform proposed were credited to the fertile brain of the editor. Against the canal ring, as against the Tweed ring, he waged inexorable war. The acts of placing the canals and prisons on a business and self-sustaining basis and of augmenting the term and power of the Executive were urged, and, it was asserted and never contradicted, planned and secured by Manning. He was a member of the Democratic State Committee in 1876, was made Secretary of that body in 1879 and 1880, and served as its Chairman in 1881, 1882, 1883, and 1884. He controlled the delegation from the State of New-York to the National Convention of St. Louis in 1876 and of Cincinnati in 1880, and whatever aggressive work the State Democracy accomplished from 1874 to 1884 was identified with Mr. Manning's influence upon its organization and policy. He was the recognized successor of Dean Richmond and Samuel J. Tilden in the leadership of Democratic leaders, and when Mr. Cleveland took his seat as President he tendered Mr. Manning the only office he had ever accepted, the Secretaryship of the Treasury. Then for the first and last time he entered public life as an office holder.

Of Mr. Manning it was always said by his political associates that he was "a good listener." As a talker he was seldom heard save in a limited circle of most intimate friends. He was a good judge of men, and when he was at the head of his party he surrounded himself with lieutenants of rare skill in the art of playing upon the emotions, not to say ambitions, of men. Of them he took frequent advice and through them he was able to stimulate the masses of the party in the most remote districts of the State. He had learned the secret which prolongs leadership, promotes confidence, and inspires respect. For himself he wanted no political office, and so he aroused none of the jealousies of his more ambitious followers. For men of loyalty to the party he believed in a system of rewards, just as he believed in a series of punishments for those who proved untrue to the party organization. It is not strictly true that he was vindictive, much as some of his acts seem to show. But he was a man of strong resentments, and he laid a heavy hand upon captains who disregarded the obligations imposed upon them. This was discipline, and politicians do not need to be reminded of its necessity at times.

Mr. Manning was naturally cautious and conservative. He leaned upon his lieutenants, weighed their suggestions, and slowly arrived at results which were, however, generally satisfactory to his advisers. Once his mind was made up, no amount of opposition swerved him from his purpose. He stepped into the breach and stood like a rock in the Chicago Convention of 1884, and nobody who witnessed the proceedings of that body can forget the admiration excited for the leader of the New-York delegation when he arose in his seat, dignified and imperturbable, and begged the convention to give Tammany the fullest opportunity to vent its spleen upon Cleveland. Mr. Manning was reared in a turbulent school of politics whose methods he sympathized with less and less the graver the responsibilities that were laid upon him as leader. He had no patience with a pretender or with a small intriguer, and for that other lieutenant of Tilden, David B. Hill, who was saturated with such characteristics, he cherished a feeling of distrust. For his ambitions and his political methods he entertained positive aversion.

Twice in his life did Mr. Manning express doubt as to the wisdom of the policy adopted by Mr. Cleveland, once in the Spring of 1883 at Albany, again at Washington three years later. On the first occasion, unable to satisfy the more clamorous of his followers that the power of selection for office was vested exclusively in the Governor, and that he was disposed to use it according to his own will, Mr. Manning rid himself of their importunities by sailing to the West Indies. He was not in the best of health at the time, and, as may be supposed, he seized eagerly upon this chance for relaxation and rest. There is little doubt that had Mr. Manning consulted his personal desires the change of office holders in the Treasury Department would have been more sweeping, just as there is little doubt that the restraint enforced by President Cleveland has been the means of broadening his party's foundations and strengthening its structure. But Secretary Manning was loyal to his chief. So firmly impressed was he with the idea that the fortunes of the Democracy must for a term of years at least be linked with those of Mr. Cleveland that when he was asked some months ago what in his judgment ought to be done at the National Convention of 1888 he replied with emphasis:

"Renominate Mr. Cleveland!"

"But suppose, for instance, that another should secure the New-York delegation. What then?"

"Renominate him without New-York. The people of New-York will re-elect him. They have unbounded confidence in him. No politician or combination of politicians can swing them away from their moorings."

So persistent was Mr. Manning upon this point in subsequent interviews with his associates, and so persistent was he in impressing it upon them, that he may be said to have died with this as one of his strongest convictions.

Although Mr. Manning has not been an active participant in politics for many months, it must not be supposed that he lost sight of all the movements of the politicians of this State. On the contrary, he expressed the desire in September last to see his old lieutenant, D. Cady Herriek of Albany, elected Chairman of the Democratic State Committee. He was interested partly because Mr. Herriek was a favorite and a tried and true adviser, and partly because he was not wholly satisfied as to the attitude of ex-Mayor Murphy of Troy toward the President. It is a curious but well-known fact that Mr. Manning was not at first in sympathy with the nomination of Mr. Cleveland for Governor away back in the Syracuse Convention of 1882. His plans had been laid in a different direction, and deviation from them was not altogether easy or exactly desirable. Mr. Cleveland had no more reliable friend after the two men became acquainted. Mr. Manning was a strong face with heavy features. In the slope of the forehead the wavy hair, and the general outline there was a marked resemblance to the well-known face of P. T. Barnum which has frequently been noted by descriptive newspaper writers.

Mr. Manning's administration of the Treasury Department disappointed his enemies and surprised even his most ardent friends by its vigor and ability. But his continuance in this great office, the culmination of his career, was destined to be short. He was a man of sedentary habits, stout and florid, and his labors as Secretary of the Treasury were incessant and severe. On the morning of March 23, 1886, as he was ascending the steps of the Treasury building to his office, he was stricken with apoplexy. He was a helpless invalid for many days and never recovered from the shock, although his strong constitution enabled him to rally to a wonderful extent. Realizing that he must cease labor if he wanted to live, Mr. Manning sent his resignation to the President in a manly letter. It was refused by the President in a kind and appreciative letter, which did away with all the stories of differences between them, which had been industriously circulated by some persons.

A visit to Watch Hill during the Summer of 1886 caused his health to improve so much that he determined to improve resume business, though of a less onerous nature than the management of the national finances. The Western National Bank of this city was incorporated with a capital of \$3,500,000, and he was made its President. Then he sent his resignation once more to the President, and it was accepted Feb. 14, 1887. Conrad N. Jordan left the Treasuryship of the United States when the Western Bank was formed, and was made its Vice-President. He has relieved Mr. Manning of his duties, so that he spent most of the Spring in Europe. He returned to New-York June 12 last and lived quietly at the Fifth Avenue Hotel for a time, and then in his own house, until he went to Albany a few days ago to spend the holidays with his family.

The business career of Mr. Manning was quite apart from his political life, and had well fitted him to grapple with the vexed questions connected with the finances of the Nation. He was the natural business successor to Comstock in the proprietorship of the *Argus*, and after Mr. Cassidy's death he managed the entire concern as President of the *Argus* Company. If there is any business in the world which requires a cool head, good judgment, and shrewd management it is that of a great newspaper. But Mr. Manning had other business relations. He had been for many years the Albany Director of the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad. From 1869 to 1882 he was a Trustee of the National Savings Bank of Albany. In 1873 he was elected a Director of the National Commercial Bank of Albany, and when Robert L. Johnson, died in 1881, he was chosen Vice-President of this bank. A year later the President, Robert L. Pruyn died, and Mr. Manning was elected to succeed him. He was one of the Park Commissioners of Albany, a board whose field was business rather than politics, and he was a Director of the Albany Street Railroad Company and the Albany Electric Light Company.

As Secretary of the Treasury Mr. Manning took firm ground on the question of sound currency, recommending in his report December, 1885, the repeal of the silver coinage act. The policy which he was developing was one based on solid principles of finance. He was twice married. His first wife, Mary Little, whom he married in 1853, died in 1882. On Nov. 19, 1884, he married Miss May Margarita Fryer of Albany, who survives him. He leaves also four children, James Hilton Manning, the managing editor of the *Albany Argus*; Frederick Clinton Manning, Mrs. Delehanty of Albany, and Miss Mary Manning.

MR. MANNING'S CAREER.

OUTLINE OF THE LIFE OF ONE WHO

MADE HIMSELF.

Secretary Manning's career, like that of so many others who have risen to leading positions as statesmen in this country, is remarkable from the fact that he was himself the sole author of his advancement in life. Beginning a poor lad, with nothing to look forward to except as the result of his own exertions, unaided, save by his wonderful energy and stubborn perseverance, in little more than a half century of life he pushed himself forward to a position of wealth and influence in his native city and State, and finally reached the most important office in the Republic, next to that of the President himself. Others of our public men have done this, but most of them have secured their high eminence in the political history of the Nation by successive steps from the lower to the higher offices within the gift of the Republic. Daniel Manning's career was peculiar in this that he was not a seeker for office, and that until he was tendered and accepted the portfolio of the Secretary of the Treasury he never acted in the capacity of an officeholder, although he several times declined positions which were offered him. His political life was the reverse of his business career. In the latter he began at the bottom and worked upward; in the former he started nearly at the topmost round of the ladder, and remained there until death loosened his hold.

Mr. Manning was born in Albany on Aug. 16, 1831. He came of a sturdy parentage, the characteristics of which probably had much to do with forming the nature of the man and fitting him for the strong battle which he fought with fortune and which he won. His ancestral lines ran back into English, Irish, and Dutch sources, combining the main stocks which settled Albany, and impressed upon the life and growth of that city its staid qualities. From his earliest boyhood young Manning felt the desire and formed the purpose of self-help. While at school the disposition to be doing was his dominant characteristic. He was impressed with the idea long before his young mind could form it into an intelligible statement that he could unite the work of getting an education with the work of supporting himself, and he put this idea into execution at the first opportunity. He resisted the policy of his parents to confine him to the routine of school life for a set number of years before allowing him to attack the field of industry itself, and so, as soon as he had acquired the simple rudiments of an education, at the early age of 11, he obtained a situation in the office of the *Albany Atlas*, a paper which was subsequently merged into the *Argus*, and on this latter paper the life work of Mr. Manning was begun and ended as a business man. Step by step he worked his way up, until he finally became the leading mind of the journal and managed it according to his own views. And this position was practically that of the leader of the Democratic Party in this State.

Mr. Manning's career in the *Atlas* office began as a carrier and errand boy. When the paper was consolidated with the *Argus* he began a regular apprenticeship at the printer's trade, serving first as "devil" and then at the "case." He was thorough in his work, and earnest in his desire to learn the minutest details of his trade. The result was that he became rapidly proficient as a compositor, and was advanced to the position of foreman in the *Argus* composing room and general manager of the mechanical department of the paper. From this important field of work he was transferred to the editorial rooms in the capacity of a reporter. In those days reporters were not assigned to departments, as they are very generally now, and young Manning's duties were manifold and various. He was called on to report the West Albany stock yards, dog fights in this wide field, probably the best in the world for the study of men and character, Daniel Manning was an apt student. His mind enlarged under the influence of his constantly changing surroundings, and he rapidly learned to know whatever was worth knowing about Albany and its neighboring cities and towns.

It was in reporting the proceedings of the Legislature, one or other of the houses of which constantly fell to his lot, that he first began to gain his insight into politics which gradually fitted him to become a leader in his party. Here he met the politicians from all parts of the State consulted with them on all the issues of the day and even while a reporter made suggestions which older heads adopted to their benefit. In journalism he was a pupil of Calvin Comstock who owned a good share of the stock of the *Argus*, and in politics he followed the lead of William Cassidy, the well-remembered editor of the paper, and influential Democratic leader. In 1865 he was advanced to the position of associate editor with Mr. Cassidy. He had reached this position by nothing but hard, faithful work, during which he had really been in training to succeed the manager of the *Argus* in his powerful leadership of his party. He had saved money enough during his long years of toil to purchase the interest of Mr. Comstock in the paper, and when, in 1873, Mr. Cassidy died, Mr. Manning took his place as the general manager and editor-in-chief of the *Argus*. He was in a position now to wield an almost irresistible power over the destinies of the Democracy of the State, and he wielded it with a firm hand.

Mr. Manning's career from this time on is wholly identified with the politics of this State. He was in a position to be courted by a number of the Democracy, and he was tempted with flattering offers of nominations to office, a of which he politely declined. He recognized that as the head of a great newspaper he could do more by way of influence than as the holder of any office, and he set himself to the task of leading the Democracy instead of being led by the party as its paid servant. The turning point in his career as a political manager was when Mr. Tilden took possession of the Democratic party. His aim was not to build up an Albany agency over the party, and to this end he labored regardless of who should be the beneficiary of the work. The organization of the party in Albany County was in the hands of Meegan and ex-Speaker Theophilus C. Callicott, with the latter's paper, the *Albany Times*, as its organ. Mr. Manning took advantage of the preparations of the convention of 1874, the Tilden convention, to grasp the local management. With the aid of friends in the County Committee he induced a majority of that party to meet for reorganization on a day much earlier than usual.