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THE HOUSE AND HOME Columns of The World. Fill More Houses, Rooms and Apartments than any Other Medium on Earth.

NELLIE BLY AND THOMAS C. PLATT.

The Big Republican "Boss" Chats About Himself, of Politics and of Dr. Parkhurst, His Pastor.

HE DECLARES HE IS ONLY AN ORDINARY REPUBLICAN.

Believes in Woman Suffrage, Ambitious to See the Republicans Restored to Power and Wishes Office-Seekers Would Give Him a Rest.

BLATT: meaning perseverance, pluck, persistence and a power. A politician and leader. Feared by his enemies, respected by his associates, loved by his intimates and the wonder of the State of New York. I never wanted to see a man so much and so little. I had the curiosity that all people have to see the man who is so talked about, and yet he was to my mind a terrifying being.

I pictured him as stern and cruel, seated upon a throne, from which he dealt favors to the laboring office-seeker. I confess I trembled as he approached, expecting to be crushed by the first word, but as I glanced brightly into his face I saw his eyes were soft and gentle, and that in the various changes of an eventful life his mouth had not forgotten how to smile.

I can judge a man by his smile. I never saw a wicked man or a cruel one whose bad qualities did not show in his smile. Nor have I seen a good man whose smile did not tell of greater things about him than did ever a man's tomlinsons. Naturally my terror vanished, and I pleaded my case so well that Mr. Platt, who is tired to death because he can't pick up a newspaper without seeing something about himself, consented to my interviewing him.

PLATT AND THE CARTOON. "I saw a little cartoon of myself the other day," was his first remark, "and beneath was a single line, 'Too much Platt.' That is just my idea, and I wish the newspapers would let me rest for a while you were not interesting and the public was not interested in you." I replied frankly, "The newspapers would not bother about you."

AS A CHURCH-GOER. "Did he compel you to go to church?" "Did he? I had to go to church four times every Sunday. I went to Sunday-school early in the morning. After that to service to conference. I believe it was called, in the afternoon and to service again in the evening. I had such a surfeit of church-going in my youth that if it could be averaged up, or spread out, it would do for all my life."

AS TO THE PRESS. "Do you feel at all sensitive about the unkind things that are said against you in the newspapers?" "I would be foolish to be sensitive about anything that is said against me. I am always happy to be mentioned in this way when it is in my power. I am always happy to be mentioned in this way when it is in my power. I am always happy to be mentioned in this way when it is in my power."

FAVORS WOMAN SUFFRAGE. "Do you believe in woman suffrage?" "Oh, yes, indeed," he replied emphatically. "I think women have as good a right to a voice in all matters as men have."

AMBITION. "Do you have any ambition?" "I am ambitious to see the Republicans restored to power and to see the office-seekers give me a rest. I am ambitious to see the Republicans restored to power and to see the office-seekers give me a rest."



A CHRISTMAS CAROL BY LEWIS MORRIS.

Dark are the days, the nights are long,
Blithe Summer's joys are done,
Yet in our hearts we keep the Sun,
And raise a cheerful song,
Bare is the world, or deep in snow,
Yet are our souls aglow;
What spell is this, what still mysterious voice,
That calls "Rejoice! Rejoice!"

It is, that on the weary earth
We every dying year
A great hope dawns, a glorious birth
Returns our souls to cheer.
Again, again, the Eternal Child
The Virgin-Mother mild
Ring joy-bells, ring, clear through the frosty air
Ring gladness everywhere.

Sound, gracious as that heavenly word
Of old, in Bethlehem
By night of wondering shepherds heard
When angels spoke with them,
Peace, Peace on earth to faithful men,
This be our strain as then;
To-day, to day let all rejoice indeed
Whatever their form of creed.

Peace be and joy! Ay, though it seem
To world-worn eyes and ears
Across dark gulphs of strife and tears
Only a heavenly dream,
Devine, devine our souls shall hold
Those precious words of old:
Good will and peace to men--the halt, the blind,
The poor, the nay, all mankind.

Therefore we raise our cheerful song
A strain of solemn mirth;
Our hope is clear, our faith is strong;
In a regenerate Earth,
No doubt shall come our eyes to dim,
Or check our faithful voice;
To Peace on Earth, we raise our Christmas hymn
Whose burden is "Rejoice."



MALLISTER ON THE "GENTLEMAN."

"Can a Tradesman Be a True Gentleman?"--An Important Question Now that the Millionaire Business Men Are Getting Into Society.

In colonial times the society of New York was a very aristocratic, composed of the English officials sent over from the old country and the representatives of the rich manorial landowners. In those days New York had a genuine landed aristocracy and the manorial grants were real feudal ones, differing entirely from the so-called manors of other colonies, which were simply territorial patents in the name of the King.

AN ERA OF MONEY KINGS. During the period of our civil war society became utterly demoralized, and many persons who amassed fortunes by stock and gold speculations and Government contracts, were not distinguished by their reckless extravagance. Then came the period of the railway speculators, many of them genuine railway robbers, as they acquired fortune in a dishonest and reckless manner, but under our modern banality we do not care how a man acquires his fortune so long as he is clever enough to escape the prison walls.

TRADES MEN AND GENTLEMEN. The question now arises: Can a tradesman be a veritable gentleman? I reply unquestionably, yes. The idea of what constitutes a gentleman is very varied, and a definition is to be found in America from the definition in England. In this country it applies to every one who is not a blackguard, as one workman will say to another, "Be a gentleman," or, "Behave yourself like a gentleman."

more fitted to vote than many men who had the right of suffrage. "I don't doubt that," I answered. "Thereupon we entered upon a little argument, which ended by my asking Mr. Platt if he had ever been threatened by cranks."