

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1891.

SPRUNG OF NOBLE STOCK.

MEN OF SCOTCH-IRISH BLOOD TO MEET IN LOUISVILLE.

Their Natural Society Has Grown to Magnificent Proportions, and is Piling Up Matter for an Interesting Historical Work—Notable Men of Yesterday and Today.

On Thursday next will assemble in the city of Louisville, the third annual congress of the Scotch-Irish society of America, and it is certain that the gathering will be notable, not only for the number, but for the prominence of those who attend.

The invitation of the city is extended through her representative bodies, the local Scotch-Irish society, the Board of Trade and the Commercial Club. The exercises will be held in the Masonic Temple Theatre, a large audience chamber situated in the heart of the city, and also in the great Auditorium. These exercises will consist of reports of officers and committees, the annual election, and many addresses, some of which will be of a historical nature, and others devoted to the immediate prosperity of the society.

The congress proper will be held on the mornings and afternoons of May 14, 15 and 16. On Sunday evening, May 17, an old time Scotch-Irish religious service will be held, and Dr. John Hall will preach the sermon. Everything will be done to make this service the counterpart of those which were held a hundred years ago. Rouse's version of the Psalms will be used, and the hymns will be "lined off" in the old style. Such a service was held at the society's convention last year in Pittsburg in Mechanics hall, which seats 6,000 people. Some idea of the interest it awakened may be obtained from a contemplation of the fact that just about as many people were turned away as were able to find places in the vast auditorium.

This enormous and unexpected convocation resulted in some amusing complications. I recently had the pleasure of hearing some anecdotes of the occasion from Mr. Robert Bonner of New York, who is president of the society.

"In company with the Rev. Dr. Bryson," said Mr. Bonner, "I came before the door of the great hall just fifteen minutes before the hour at which the meeting was to open, according to the announcements

we had made. We found the fire marshal at the door, and he refused to let us in, because the law compelled him to provide against the danger of panic in case of fire, and the building already held as many people as he thought might safely enter it. 'Well, as for me,' said I to the marshal, 'you may do as you like, but Dr. Bryson



DR. JOHN HALL.

is simply obliged to get in, for he is to deliver the second address.' We then introduced ourselves more formally, and the marshal decided that we might enter.

"Ten minutes behind us was Dr. Hall, who was to take charge of the meeting. He had been dining at the house of a lady well known in Pittsburg for her many charities. This lady and her daughter were with Dr. Hall, but they had to go home again; the marshal could not let them in. And Dr. Hall himself had to present the necessities of the case very strongly in order to gain admittance. I don't believe that there ever were so many people in Pittsburg before besieging the doors of the house of worship."

No doubt there will be a similar scene at Louisville. The success of the meeting may be taken as typical of the society's career. The idea of its formation originated in the brain of Col. Thomas T. Wright, then a merchant in Pensacola, Fla., but now a resident of Nashville, Tenn. This was a little more than three years ago. He wrote to ex-Governor (then Governor) Taylor of Tennessee, suggest-

ing the organization, and received an enthusiastic affirmative response. The men of Scotch-Irish descent in Tennessee took hold of the plan with eagerness. Prominent among them were Mayor Pillow of Columbia, Tenn., and Mr. A. C. Floyd, a young lawyer of that city, now secretary of the society.

It was from Governor Taylor that Mr. Bonner and other notable men of Scotch-Irish descent in the east heard of the project. There was an extensive correspondence, by means of which Scotch-Irish people all over the country heard what was going on, and the result of it was that the convention, or more properly, mass meeting in Columbia, Tenn., in May, 1889, was attended by about 5,000 persons, so many, in fact, that no building in the city would hold them, and they were obliged to hold their meetings in a great tent on the public green.

It was one of the most harmonious and enthusiastic gatherings ever held in this country. An organization was formed which, strong in the beginning, has grown steadily and rapidly, resulting in the formation of local societies in many states and cities, and bringing together in the national body a vast number of men. When the



ROBERT BONNER.

society attains its full natural proportions and becomes thoroughly unified, it will no doubt be one of the most powerful organizations in the country.

Although everybody knows the preponderance of Presbyterian proclivities among the Scotch-Irish, the society is absolutely non-sectarian. It is also non-partisan. Its present object is the collection of material for a history of the Scotch-Irish race, and to that end it invites contributions from all who have appro-



THOMAS T. WRIGHT.

propriate data at command. Already an immense amount of valuable matter has been obtained; an incredible number of the men who have moulded the destinies of this country have been proven to have sprung from this indomitable race. Among them are Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, John Witherspoon, John Paul Jones, James Madison, John Marshall, Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, James Buchanan, Lincoln and Grant. Then there was stout old Davy Crockett and Sam Houston, the Washington of Texas; Robert Fulton and Horace Greeley; and that remarkable family, the Perrys.

In regard to the last named, I will quote from a letter which President Bonner recently received, because it shows the manner in which material for the Scotch-Irish history is coming in all the time. A lady writes from a Connecticut city as follows: "I beg to mention among the sailors of New England, of Scotch-Irish blood, my five uncles Commodore O. H. Perry, of Lake Erie fame, Captain Raymond, H. J. Perry, who commanded one of the vessels on Lake Champlain under Commodore McDonough, Commodore M. C. Perry, who crowned a life of naval distinction and glory, by opening the ports of Japan to the commerce of the world; Lieutenant

James Alexander Perry, who died at the age of 20—he was a midshipman at the time of the battle of Lake Erie, wanting a little of twelve years old; he acted as Commodore Perry's aid, and was voted a sword by Congress, being probably the youngest recipient of a national sword of honor in the world. My youngest uncle, Nathaniel Hazard Perry, a purser in the navy, was too young to take any part in the war of 1812—born 1804; died, 1832. Their father was Commodore C. R. Perry, U. S. N., who had some Scotch-Irish blood in his veins from his mother. Their mother was Sarah Alexander, of County Down, daughter of Sarah Wallace and James Alexander."

Such historical references as this, with the tracing of the Scotch-Irish descent, are desired by the society, and they are coming in fast. Mr. Bonner named me more men of Scotch-Irish blood, who were prominent in this country's history, than I could have called up with no limitation as to descent. Mr. Bonner's enthusiasm in this research made him the victim of a good bit of satire, shot at him by Mr. Oliver Dyer, long associated with the Bonners in the Ledger office, and known to everybody in New York. Mr. Bonner had been giving Mr. Dyer a formidable list of noted Scotch-Irishmen, and was diving further and further into the depths of history, when the Mr. Dyer interrupted him with the remark: "If you keep on you'll make out St. Paul to be Scotch-Irish."

Almost all the States represented here have local societies in a flourishing condition. That in California, of which Mr. Montgomery is president, is such an important organization that there was some talk of its being the entertainer of this year's congress, but the distance proved a bar. Mr. Montgomery, who has no end of money and a very generous heart, has recently given \$50,000 for the erection of the state society's building in San Francisco. Pennsylvania is a stronghold of the Scotch-Irish. The state society has Dr. MacIntosh for president. His address before the congress this year will be on "Our Pledge to Posterity; or the Scotch-Irish Today and Tomorrow."

At present the headquarters of the national society may be said to be in Columbia, Tenn., where the secretary, Mr. Floyd, resides. There has been some discussion as to the erection of a building as the society's home, but that will come later. When it is put up it may be in Pittsburg, but that is not settled. Columbia, which if it were not so far south, would be the place for it is as one may say, the birthplace of the society; and, besides, it stands in that grant of land given to Gen. Green after the Revolutionary war, which became the rallying center for early Scotch-Irish influence in what was then called the West. Probably Columbia won't get it,

in spite of the argument in its favor, and everybody will be sorry, for as Mr. Bonner said (though not about this particular matter), "They're such a fine lot of fellows around Columbia, that we hate to leave them." DAVID WECHSLER.

There's Plenty of the Old Style, Yet.

Chauncey M. Depew says that there is a mighty sight of difference between political speech-making nowadays and similar speech-making twenty-five or thirty years ago. "In the old days," he said recently, "the ambitious man who wished to pose before his fellow-men as a stump orator carefully prepared and committed to memory as elaborate and eloquent a speech as his brain was capable of producing. Having committed this speech to memory he was ready for the campaign. He delivered it on each and every occasion where he was called upon, changing neither word nor expression. Each audience was filled with the idea that they were listening to something absolutely new and fresh, and especially prepared for that occasion, and as the travel was slow in those days none of them knew any difference. Now if a man takes the stump he must be prepared to make at least one complete new speech daily or at each new appointment. If he has any prominence whatever stenographers are sent to his first appointment, take down his speech verbatim, print it next morning in the newspapers, and by the time he reaches his second appointment the persons who would come out to hear him talk have all read what he was going to say, and he must either make a new speech or get the reputation of being unable to make but one speech in a campaign."

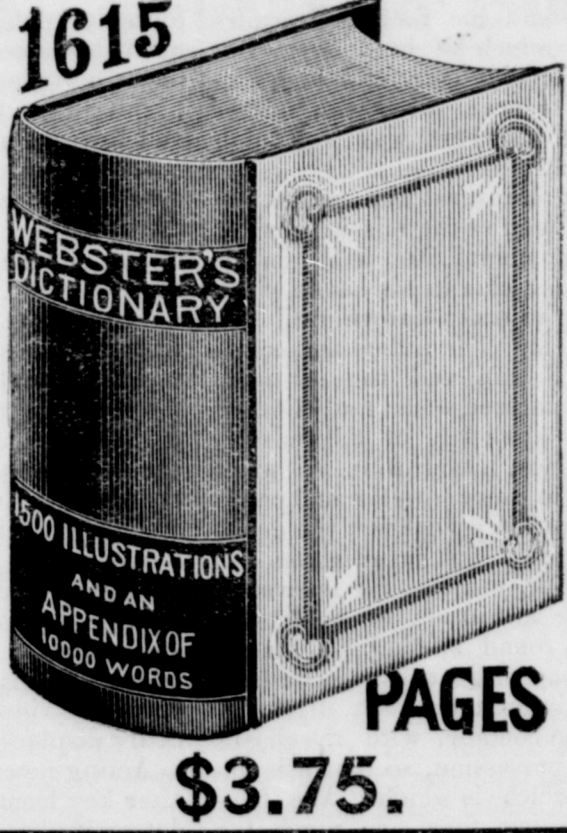
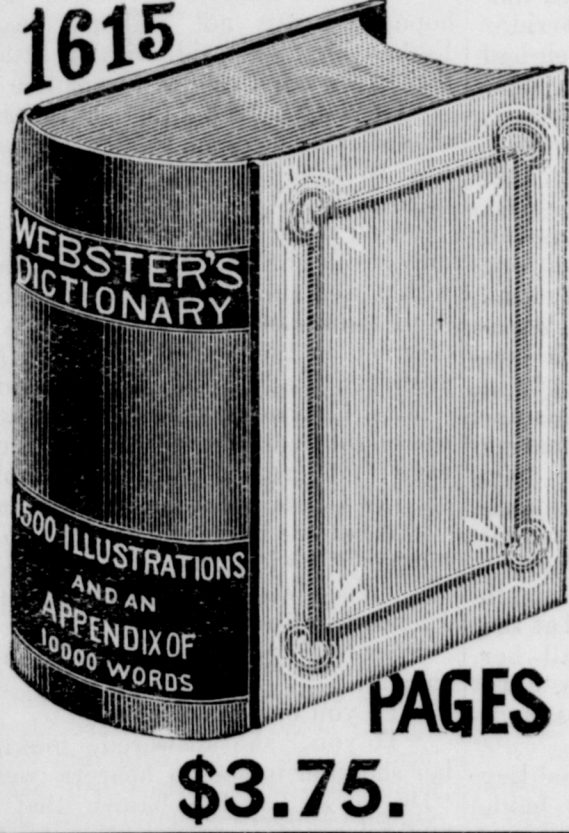
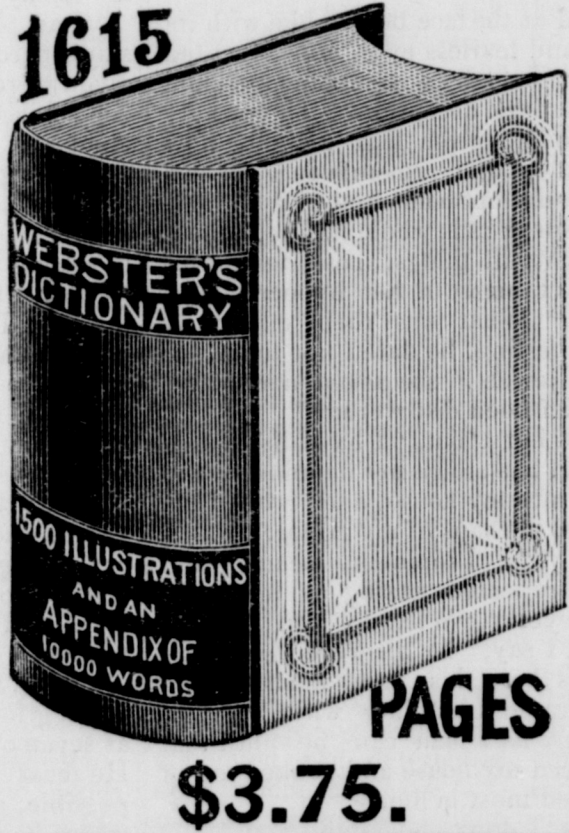
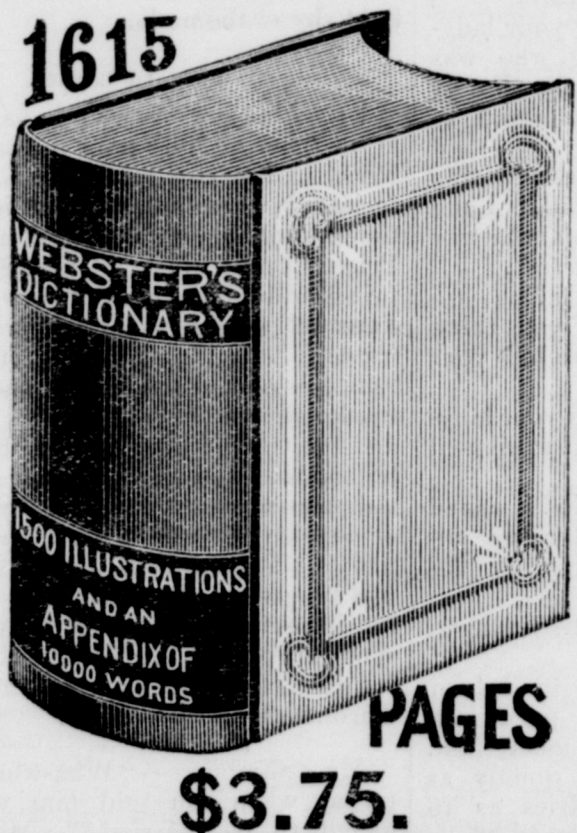
A Device to Curve the Pitched Ball.

A Cleveland man has patented a device for giving a base ball the curve when it leaves the pitcher's hand. The device consists of an elastic strap with a loop in one end to receive the thumb, and at the other end is a segment of a sphere corresponding to the shape of the ball. It is claimed that as the ball leaves this arrangement, any curve desired can be given and without the employment of the contortions which the average pitcher has to make to reach the same result.

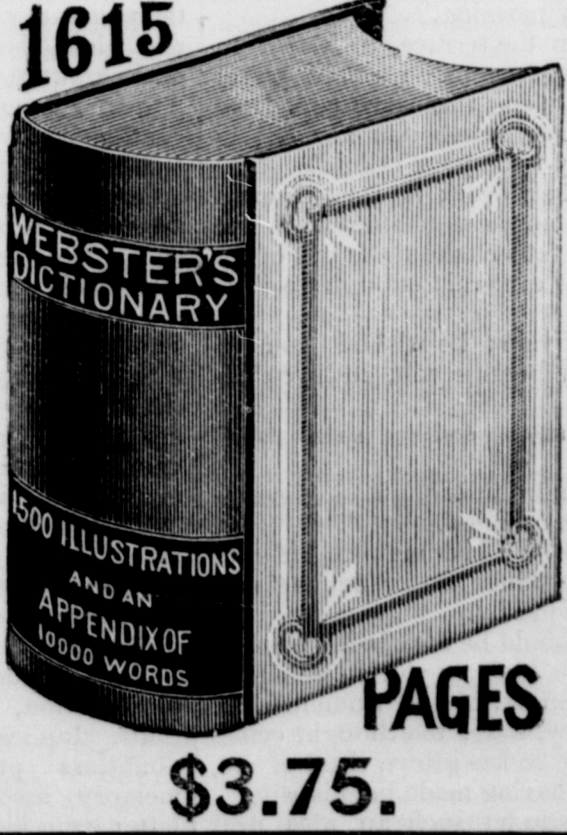
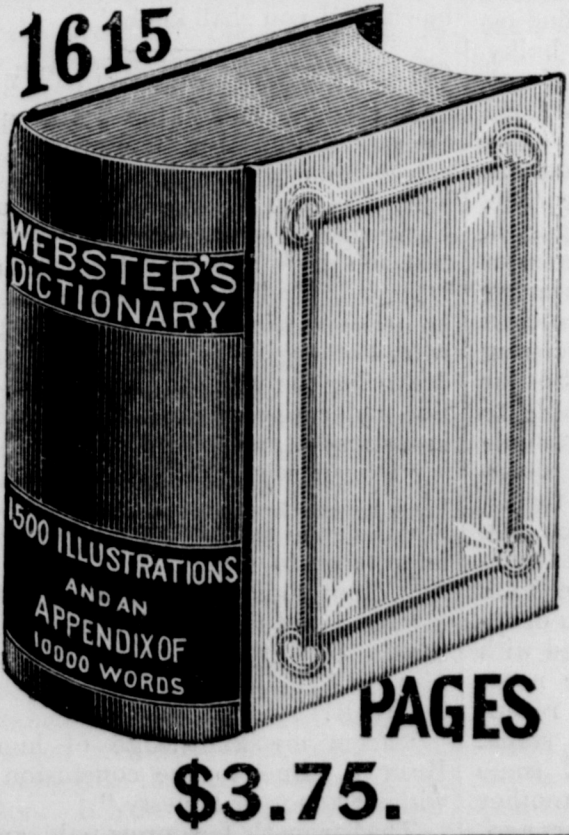
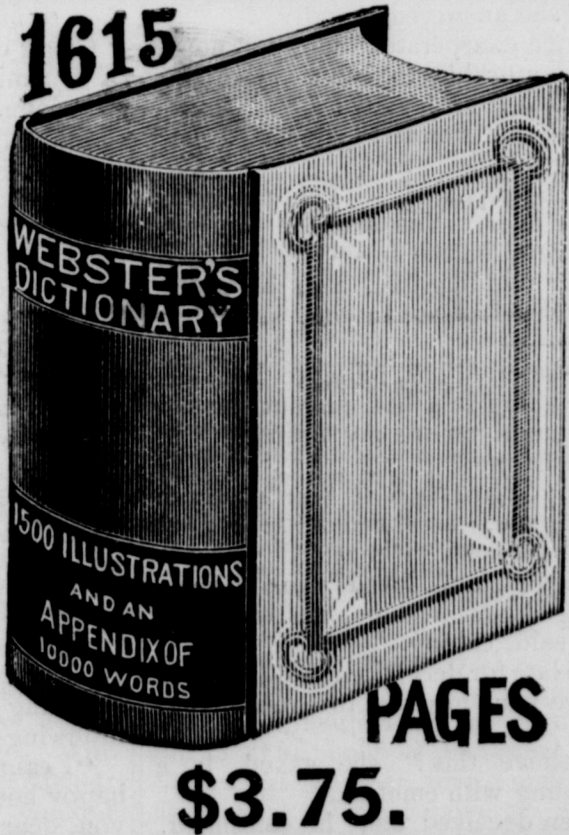
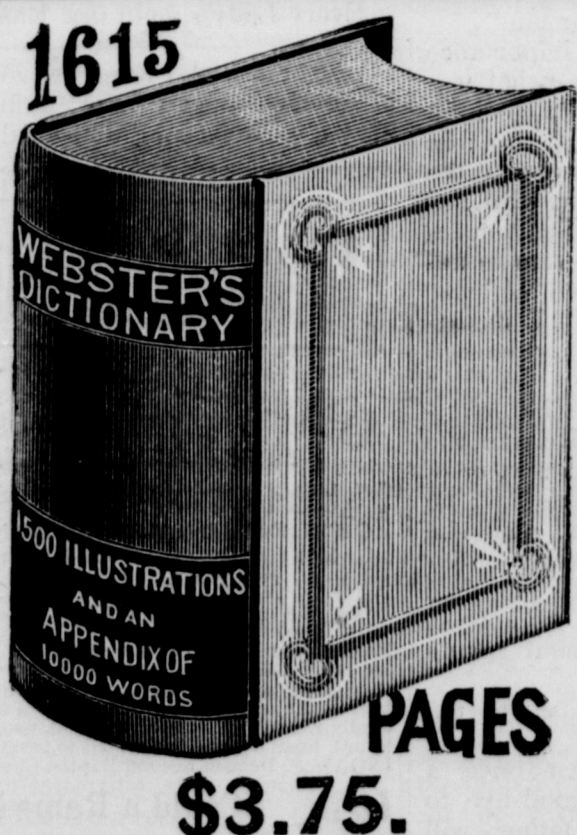
How to Detect a Waiter.

The safest plan to pursue at a swell reception where the waiters and the male guests are clad in swallow tails is to jam your hands into your pantaloons pockets and jingle a few coins when you meet a stranger. If his eyes begin to bulge and his hand commences to travel toward you he's a waiter. This is a straight tip.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

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