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NATHANIEL PRIME WALL  
STREET'S FIRST PICTURESQUE  
FIGURE ENDED A SUICIDE

Wall Street has many picturesque figures today—men who have made millions in Wallingford-time; men who have risen from page boys; men who have tried to "break the bank" and failed. Indeed, there are so many of them now that it is difficult to single out any one as the most picturesque.

When Wall Street was younger it was much simpler. And in its very youthful days it presented its first outstanding figure, a man whose name still echoes now and then, even though it has no effect upon the market. It is a little late for that, for he rose to his greatest power a century ago.

## Called Old Nat.

Nathaniel Prime was the man. "Old Nat" they called him even before he was very old as business ages go. A short, thick-set volcano he was, and his sign hung out at 42 Wall Street as early as 1796, and for a good many years thereafter.

The story is that he came from Boston. There he had begun his career as a coachman for William Gray, a wealthy merchant, who saw that he had possibilities and lent him enough money to make a start.

But his real start is connected with another story. It is one of a big dinner party at which Prime met a wealthy Southern planter, to whom he confided that if he could get his hands on \$5,000 he could double it within a year.

"What security have you?" asked the planter.

"Nothing but the word of an honest man," the story quoted Prime.

And that was enough. He got the money, more than doubled it, repaid it and was off to a glorious career of high, very high for those days, finance.

## No Good on Wall Street.

There is a sequel to the story for which we will not vouch. It sounds a little too dramatic. But, anyway, it recounts that the Southern planter,

near ruin, went to Prime in Wall Street some years later with the request for a loan of \$5000—the same amount he had lent.

"What security have you?" Prime is said to have asked.

"The word of an honest man," the planter returned.

"That's no good on Wall Street," the story quotes Prime's answer. And the planter went to the wall. It is a little dramatic, isn't it?

## Third Richest.

At any rate, Prime made his name and his fame. And a very great deal of money. At one time he was listed as the third richest man in New York, but those were the days when the city had only one bona-fide millionaire, a gentleman of the name of Astor—John Jacob.

Prime was a shrewd man, as a story of one of his biggest deals will show. He had bought an interest in a sniping business as one of his side lines, and one Christmas Eve one of his ships came in with the news of a substantial rise in the price of cotton on the Liverpool market.

Prime and Stephen Whitney, another stockholder, got the news, it is said, and knew that it would not be come generally known until the day after Christmas. They knew, too, that with the Southern mail what it was, it wouldn't be known in the South for many a day.

## Used Messenger.

They devised the plan of dispatching a messenger at once to beat the mail and do as much buying as possible. It was 11 o'clock at night when the plans were completed and old Prime dashed up to the City Hotel and cashed a check for \$1,000 to send the man on his way.

The messenger, Walter Barrett, got his start at 6 o'clock the following morning on the boat for Amboy. He worked his way South and West, and

Of Interest to  
the Women

## PEACH BAVARIAN CREAM.

Mix 1 tablespoon of gelatin with a little of 1 cup of water to make a smooth paste. Add the rest of the water and cook with 2 beaten egg yolks and 1-2 cup of sugar in the top of the double boiler until both gelatin and sugar are dissolved.

Add juice of 1 lemon and grated rind and the cup of fresh crushed peaches which have been standing in enough sugar to sweeten. Fold in 1/2 cup of heavy cream which has been whipped and turn into melon mold decorated with slices of fresh peaches. Let stand for two hours before serving.

## PINEAPPLE MARMALADE.

2 cups crushed or shredded pineapple, 1 cup water, 2 cups sugar, 3 tablespoons lemon juice.

Make a syrup of the sugar and water. When boiled down somewhat, add the crushed pineapple. Simmer till it becomes as thick as jam. Then add the lemon juice and cook a minute or two longer. Do not allow it to boil hard at any time. Remove from stove, put in glasses and seal as in the case of jelly.

CAULIFLOWER WITH CREAM  
SAUCE.

Separate the flowerettes from the head of cauliflower put into cold water for 30 minutes; drain, cover with boiling water to which 1 teaspoon of salt is added; boil until tender. Drain, put into tureen and cover with the cream sauce.

If you desire to do so, the outer leaves of the cauliflower may be cut into slices put into boiling salted water, boiled until tender and put into bottom of tureen; then place the flowerettes on top.

Sauce: Put 1 tablespoon butter or bacon drippings into saucepan; when melted remove from fire and add 1 tablespoon flour, stir until smooth; then return to fire and add 1 cup cold milk slowly, stirring until creamy. Pour over the cauliflower and sprinkle with finely chopped parsley, or dust with paprika.

## BAKED BEAN CROQUETTES.

2 cups baked beans  
1 cup cold, boiled rice  
1 tablespoon butter or bacon drippings  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon onion juice  
1/4 teaspoon grated nutmeg  
A little pepper  
1 tablespoon chopped parsley  
1 egg and breadcrumbs  
Drain and mash the baked beans through strainer and add the rice which has been mashed fine; add the butter or bacon drippings, salt.

She (cooly)—Did you miss me when I was gone?  
He—Were you gone?

by handing sums of \$50 and \$75 to various Mississippi River captains to prevent their halting too long for freight he got to New Orleans in eleven days.

He had with him letters of credit which put an exceedingly large sum of money at his disposal. And he went right out to spend it. It is said that in a single day he contracted for 50,000 bales of cotton. He paid 11 and 12 cents a pound for it. Later it sold for as high as 17 and 18 cents a pound and turned a fancy profit. That was Prime, a shrewd man.

## Finally a Suicide.

But he wasn't shrewd to the finish. Eventually he retired from the field of active business, a very wealthy man. Apparently, he had everything he desired, for certainly he had everything that money could buy. It looked as though all he had to do was pass the rest of his life in ease.

But things do not always work out so easily. With nothing to worry about, all Prime would do was worry. He gave over his life to it. Perhaps he had dealt too long with money.

At any rate, he became obsessed with the idea that his fortune was in danger. He imagined that day by day his wealth was slipping away. He told his friends that the almshouse was staring him in the face. And they couldn't convince him. One day they found him dead—he had cut his own throat.

That was the end of Wall Street's first picturesque figure.

pepper, nutmeg, onion juice and parsley; mix well. Spread on platter to cool. When cold and firm take a spoonful into floured hands and form into cones or oblong shapes; dip in egg (one egg beaten with one tablespoon cold milk) then in breadcrumbs. Fry in deep hot fat or oil; drain on paper. Serve with tomato sauce.

## WILL-O'-THE WISP.

The shadow of wings and a shaft of song  
Carried upon the breeze,  
Lifted and drifting and blown along  
Over the tips of the trees.

A sign from the sea, and a skein of fog  
Falling upon the town  
Like a long, loose veil, faded and pale  
And dragging most pitifully down.

A gilded cloud and a wisp of snow  
Fluttering flimsily by,  
The soul of a rose—who knows, who knows?  
Freed by a kiss from the sky.

Will-o'-the wisp with a shock of sun  
Running across the hill.  
Hold him fast while his beauties last,  
For Joy has a whimsical will.

—PEGGY REID in New York Sun.

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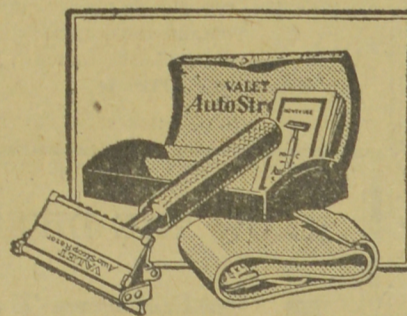
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