

in a hurry for the cars, than the most successful preacher in America.

AS A PASTOR.

Like Spurgeon, Mr. Beecher believes in preaching. He does no pastoral work, in the proper sense of that term. He visits the sick, buries the dead, performs marriages, but he must be sent for. His parish is so immense, so scattered, that he could do nothing else if he undertook to visit.

X.

HARPER BROTHERS.

RECORD OF FIFTY YEARS. — JAMES'S BOYHOOD. — ORIGIN OF THE HOUSE OF HARPERS. — ESTABLISHMENT ON FRANKLIN SQUARE. — EMPLOYEES. — THE CHARACTER OF THE HOUSE. — THE COUNTING-ROOM.

RECORD OF FIFTY YEARS.

JAMES, John, Wesley, and Fletcher Harper — who compose the house of Harper Brothers — have been in successful business for fifty years. Their publishing house, on Franklin Square, is the largest of the kind in the world. Brockhaus, in Leipsic, and the great establishments on the continent of Europe, do not combine all the departments of labor necessary for the production of a book. In Europe, books are usually sold in sheets. Printing is one department, electrotyping another, and binding a distinct business. The Harpers print, electrotype, and bind under one roof. The manuscript is taken from the author, the types from the foundry, leather from the currier, and paper from the mill. They leave the establishment a perfect book, printed, illustrated, and bound in the highest style of art.

JAMES'S BOYHOOD.

In 1810 James Harper left his rural home on Long Island to become a printer. His parents were devout Methodists. His mother was a woman of rare gifts. The morning James left his home, to begin the great battle of life for himself, his mother led the family devotions. With a heart full of maternal love she commended her child to the Savior. She embraced him fervently, and bade him never forget his home, the altar of his God, or that he had "good blood in him." He was the "devil" in the printing-office not far from where the massive house of the Harpers now stands. All the mean and servile work was put upon him. At that time Franklin Square was a genteel abode. The old Knickerbockers, who were in trade, had their stores in and around that place. Sons of judges, aldermen, and men of money crossed the path of the young apprentice. His clothes, made in the old homestead, were coarse in material, and unfashionable in cut. The young bucks made sport of James. They shouted to him across the street,—"Did your boots come from Paris?" "Give us a card to your tailor!" "Jim, what did your mother give a yard for your broadcloth?" Sometimes the rude fellows came near, and under the pretence of feeling of the fineness of the cloth, would grasp the flesh. James bore this insult and taunting with meekness, which was construed into cowardice. He saw that he must take his stand, and end this imposition. He had no idea of wealth or position, but he meant to do right, and so conduct himself that his mother would not be ashamed of him. He meant

to earn all the success and position that fidelity to duty could secure. But he resolved not to be imposed upon. One day, as he was doing some menial work, he was set upon by one of his tormentors, who asked him for his card. He turned on his assailant, having deliberately set down a pail that he was carrying, booted him severely, and said, "That's my card: take good care of it. When I am out of my time, and set up for myself, and you need employment, as you will, come to me, bring the card, and I will give you work." Forty-one years after, when Mr. Harper's establishment was known throughout all the land, after he had borne the highest municipal honors of the city, and had become one of our wealthiest men, the person who had received the card came to Mr. James Harper's establishment, asked employment, claiming it on the ground that he had kept the card given him forty-one years before.

ORIGIN OF THE HOUSE OF HARPERS.

With great fidelity James served out his time. His master was pleased with him. In a patronizing way, he told him when he was free he never should want for employment. James rather surprised his old master by informing him that he intended to set up for himself; that he had already engaged to do a job, and that all he wanted was a certificate from his master that he was worthy to be trusted with a book. In a small room in Dover Street, James and his brother John began their work as printers. Their first job was two thousand volumes of Seneca's *Morals*. This job was given to them by Evert Duyckinck, the leading publisher of that day. The second book laid the founda-

tion of the permanent success of the house. The Harpers had agreed to stereotype an edition of the Prayer Book for the Episcopal Society of New York. Stereotyping was in a crude state, and the work was roughly done. When the Harpers took the contract, they intended to have it done at some one of the establishments in the city. They found that it would cost them more than they were to receive. They resolved to learn the art, and do the work themselves. It was a slow and difficult labor. But it was accomplished. It was pronounced the best piece of stereotyping ever seen in New York. It put the firm at the head of the business. It was found to be industrious, honorable, and reliable. In six years it became the great printing house of New York. In 1823, Joseph Wesley Harper entered the firm. In 1826, Fletcher Harper was added. These names constitute the house of Harper Brothers to this day. Besides personal attention to business, the brothers exercised great economy in their personal and domestic expenses. John commenced house-keeping in the lower story of a small, genteel house, paying the annual rent of one hundred and eighty dollars. One thousand dollars was what it cost the brothers each to live for the first ten years of their business life. It is their custom when they start a new business enterprise, such as the Weekly or the Bazar, to set apart a capital of fifty or one hundred thousand dollars, as the case may be, to be expended in placing the new enterprise on a paying foundation.

ESTABLISHMENT ON FRANKLIN SQUARE.

The house is an immense iron building, painted in imitation of white marble. It covers half an acre of ground. It is fire-proof, seven stories high, and is one of the most complete, airy, and pleasant edifices in the city. It has two frontages, one on Franklin Square and one on Cliff Street. Its apartments are united by iron bridges thrown across the court. The stairways are circular, and are outside the building. There are no openings in the floor for fire to communicate from one story to another. The rooms are elegant, and well ventilated. Modern improvements for comfort, health, and cleanliness abound. Expensive and curious machinery fill the chambers. The folding machines, the presses, the marbling department, the mysteries of electrotyping, the marvellous inventions by which science becomes the handmaid of toil, and wipes the sweat curse from the brow of labor, are among the curiosities shown.

EMPLOYEES.

The movements of the nicely-adjusted machinery are scarcely more quiet and elastic than are the movements of the six hundred persons employed in this house. Pen, brain, the pencil of the designer, the chisel of the engraver, the skill of the artist, the neatness and taste of women, intelligent mechanism, find here employment. The liberal, genial, honorable spirit of the proprietors prompts them to pay the best wages, and secure the best talent. Those who enter the house seldom leave it. Boys have become men, and they still come and go as regularly as the sun. The middle-

aged have become gray-headed. The sons of men who have grown old in the service and have died, step in to take their fathers' place. One old man, who has lived in the vaults for half a century, and has charge of the plates, and will live nowhere else, who talks constantly about the "good Mr. Harpers," as he calls his old masters, is still hale, hearty, and happy as when a boy he did the bidding of James and John.

THE CHARACTER OF THE HOUSE.

The uniform prosperity and success of the house of Harpers for half a century shows conclusively that integrity and honesty are worth something in trade. The Harpers have kept abreast of the times, and held the lead from 1826 to this hour. Their mercantile repute is without a stain, and their honor untarnished. Their imprint on a book fixes the reputation, and often guarantees the fortune, of the author. Hardly an American book comes out that is not offered first to this house. Eminent authors in Europe send for their terms. The most celebrated writers on the Continent beg the Harpers to introduce them to the American public. Two thousand works, three thousand volumes, twelve hundred of which are original, are the issue of one season. The weekly and monthly pictorials are marvels of success, of elegant typography, graphic illustration. The house has driven out the vile yellow-covered books, once so common in genteel and even Christian homes, by affording attractive, elegant, and cheap stirring works of fiction. The circulation of half a million of the Weekly and the Monthly shows at once the demand for light literature, and how readily

the public will welcome the pure when it is offered. Two hundred and ten thousand of Harper's Weekly have been sold in one week. Thousands of persons are dependent on this firm for their daily bread. Husbands and parents, brothers and sisters, booksellers and agents, artists and authors, outside of the establishment, in all parts of the land, find employment at their hands. At an early day the Harpers opened a genteel and healthy field of labor for women. Ladies of taste and talent, numbered by hundreds, find protection and good wages under this honorable roof.

THE COUNTING-ROOM.

In the centre of the main floor, railed in by an iron fence, is a space fifteen by forty feet, which is the sanctum of the brothers. Within the enclosure are sofas, desks, and easy-chairs for persons having business with the house. Here may be seen, from day to day, the original founders of the firm, James, John, and Joseph, the youngest of whom is over sixty, but looking less than forty. James, the founder of the house, would be a marked man anywhere — tall, well-proportioned, with dark hair, heavy eyebrows, a pleasant expression, a genial smile and a kind word for all. A devout Methodist, he is a liberal supporter of all good things. The wealth he has so nobly earned flows as constant as the river. When New York was so badly governed that neither property nor life was safe, and the people arose in their might to effect a change, Mr. Harper was chosen their standard-bearer, and was elected, triumphantly, mayor of the city. John is thick-set and stocky, but not as tall as his brother. Joseph is thin,

spare, and looks very little like the elder member of the firm. In the counting-house during the day may be met the most distinguished authors, writers, and artists of the land; men of letters, foreign and native, making it the "Literary 'Change" of New York. The whole air is redolent with talent, literature, and taste. Surrounding the original members of the firm are the sons, on whom already the burden of the establishment rests. They inherit the urbanity, probity, and thrift that has made the name they bear so famous and so honored. It is no common boon to find such a house, to find it green and vigorous at the close of a half century, to have leisure and wealth for repose or travel, and to be surrounded by children able and willing to bear down the honor and business of the establishment to generations to come. It is a genial spot in which to pass a half hour. With such company, genial conversation is blended with the politeness and the blandness of the old school. If the Brothers Cheeryble have a house in New York, it is located in Franklin Square.

XI.

STOCK AND OIL PREACHERS.

THE NEW YORK PULPIT. — MINISTERIAL SPECULATORS. — A SPECIMEN
IN POINT.

THE NEW YORK PULPIT.

As a whole, the ministry of New York is able and greatly respected. A fashionable New York church can command almost any talent in the country. Besides this, there is almost every variety of talent in the New York pulpit — the radical who makes his pulpit a political forum, and the well-to-do conservative who meddles with neither politics nor religion. The trader, the man sharp at bargains, men found on 'change, with the stock and oil preachers, abound. Some are in political life, others are connected with the daily press. Some are in literary pursuits; some write books, others review them. An attempt was made some time since to keep the Sabbath more loosely, and a New York clergyman was found willing to lead the attempt. Ministers of New York have been found willing to throw their silk gowns over the players, and have preached sermons to show the connection between religion and the stage. Nearly every faith known to

the civilized world has a local habitation in New York, and a priest to minister at its altar.

MINISTERIAL SPECULATORS.

Among the most excited in the stock market are men who profess to be clergymen. One of this class realized a snug little fortune of eighty thousand dollars in his speculations. He did not want to be known in the matter. Daily he laid his funds on his broker's desk. If any thing was "realized," it was taken quietly away. The broker, tired of doing business on the sly, advised the customer, if the thing was distasteful to him, or he was ashamed openly to be in business, he had better retire from Wall Street. Men of this class often have a nominal charge. They affect to have some mission for which they collect money. They roam about among our benevolent institutions, visit prisons or mission-schools, anywhere they can get a chance to talk, to the great disgust of regular missionaries and the horror of superintendents. They can be easily known by white cravats, sanctified looks, and the peculiar unction of their whine. They can be seen daily upon the curbstone in Wall Street, speculating in stocks, horses, houses and oil; indeed, anything that turns up.

REV. SIDNEY A. COREY, D. D.

This gentleman may be classed as a representative clergyman of New York. He is about fifty years of age; a man of marked ability and of decided talent. He is pastor of the Murray Hill Baptist Church, and has had a career a little out of the usual line. He was educated for the stage. Being early brought

under the influence of religion he consecrated his gifts to the ministry, and brought his marked talents to bear on the cause of religion. He has been content to be a pioneer in the religious field and to do mission work in this great city. It was through his influence that the fine stone edifice on Twelfth St. was reared. While in the height of success, the Fifth Avenue fever began to rage. Some of his friends were among the most successful business men in New York. Having secured eligible lots for elegant residences in that fashionable part of the city, they proposed to build a new edifice for Dr. Corey that should out-top any in the city. He was induced to leave his down-town charge and embark in the new undertaking. The elegant edifice now known as Christ Church, and occupied by an Episcopal Society, was reared for the new Society of which Mr. Corey was to be pastor. When completed it was undoubtedly the most unique and brilliant church edifice owned by the Baptists in the country. But reverses which are the common law of mercantile life in this city, swept with terrific power over New York. The stoutest houses shook in the crash of '57, and hundreds of men of fortune became penniless. The men who were pledged to the new enterprise had to abandon their own houses. It was impossible to procure money, and with sorrow the congregation yielded to the pressure and abandoned their elegant place of worship.

Not discouraged, Mr. Corey and a few friends commenced their work anew in the humblest way. The aristocratic and wealthy, who would crowd a fashionable church, on a fashionable thoroughfare, could not

be expected to follow their pastor into halls, little chapels, and unattractive rooms, such as could be secured to meet the new emergency. With a persistency and courage that no reverses could daunt, Mr. Corey has finally secured eligible lots in the upper part of New York. Worshipping now in a small chapel, he will soon erect an edifice to crown the years of toil and struggle with triumphant success.

Dr. Corey possesses marked executive and business ability. He visited England at his own expense to induce the great preacher Mr. Spurgeon to come to America. He would have accomplished his object, but the prince of preachers could not leave his own work at that time. Blest with means, Dr. Corey is liberal in his aid of educational and philanthropic causes. Few men have a larger hold on the young business element of the city. He is a high-toned, genial and manly gentleman, better known, perhaps, among the business portion of the city than any clergyman in New York. He is one of our best read ministers, and has a private library that ranks among the first in the land. Preaching without notes, with a sonorous voice and impassioned utterance, tall and manly in form and bearing, he leaves a marked impression on his audience, and ranks among the best pulpit orators of the metropolis. The last year he received the collegiate honor of Doctor of Divinity.

XII.

JOHN JACOB ASTOR.

HIS EARLY LIFE. — EMBARKS FOR AMERICA. — HE BEGINS BUSINESS. — EARLY SUCCESS. — ENGAGES IN COMMERCE. — SITE OF THE ASTOR HOUSE. — HIS STYLE OF BUSINESS. — A BRIDAL GIFT. — HIS LIBERALITY. — ASTOR LIBRARY. — THE MORLEY LEASE. — HOW HIS WEALTH WAS LEFT. — MR. ASTOR AT EIGHTY-ONE. — HIS RELIGION. — HIS CLOSING HOURS.

HIS EARLY LIFE.

WHILE New York has a name, the memory of John Jacob Astor will form an important part of our historic fame. As the tall cliff among the hillocks, or the cathedral among the lowly dwellings, so he towers among his compeers. He was born on the 17th of July, 1763, in the small village of Waldorf, near Heidelberg, in the duchy of Baden, Germany. His father was a very respectable man, and held the office of bailiff. Mr. Astor was a countryman of Martin Luther, and possessed many traits that marked the great reformer. He was educated by his mother. His school books were the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer. During his long life, it was his habit, on waking in the morning, to read from those books that he used in the home of his boyhood.