

council breaks up. Then subjects are called for from the editors, and suggestions solicited; but Mr. Bennett decides whether they shall be written upon or not. In business, Mr. Bennett is shrewd, sharp, and prudent. If he pays a dollar he expects to get a dollar's worth for it. He often seems rough and impatient, and he is prompt and decided.

MR. BENNETT AT HOME.

In his house he is genial, liberal, and kind. He dispenses an elegant hospitality. No English nobleman, with an income of fifty thousand pounds, lives in a style more generous than he in his city residence on Thirty-eighth Street and Fifth Avenue. His favorite residence is on Fort Washington. Here he receives his friends in a principality of his own. He has a great deal of company, and has everything to make guests happy. He leaves each one to enjoy himself as he pleases — a thing very rare in America. On entering Mr. Bennett's mansion as a guest, the visitor will find every attention he can desire and every elegance that can make him happy. A French cook, bowling and billiard rooms, horses and carriages in the stable, a steamboat to sail up and down the Hudson, are at his service. At dinner all the guests are expected to be present at a given hour. At the other meals each one does as he pleases. The guest comes down to breakfast at any hour, and orders, as if at a hotel.

On a lounge or an old sofa the host will be found, with his floor strewn with books and papers. He usually goes to his office on pleasant days. It is the duty of one of the editors to mark with a blue or red

pencil all paragraphs in the papers, personal, financial, political, acts of Congress, &c. Those that have an interest to the editor-in-chief are sent to Mr. Bennett, and his eye catches at a glance the stirring events of the day. A telegraph wire connects Mr. Bennett's room at Fort Washington with his son's room in New York. The bell ringing three times indicates that Mr. Bennett has something to say. The father and son talk as if in an adjoining room. "Don't put in that article" — "Publish that editorial on Congress" — "Come home to dinner," — with other matters, are rattled over the wires. Mr. Bennett is a great student of history. He studies Cromwell and Bonaparte, Biddle and Jackson, and delights in the history and scandal of the times. His philosophy is of the type that laughs at all public things, and he looks at public acts from this standpoint. But no man is more genial in his home. His two great loves are his son and his paper. He makes few outside calls, and will not attend balls, parties, or soirées, except in his own mansion. He is a fast friend; and when he takes one to his bosom he takes him with all his faults, and holds fast to him through good report and through evil. Those who visit him find all sorts of guests — French, Germans, Italians, English, with men of all ranks. All who have any claim upon Mr. Bennett are sure of a welcome. He knows how to distinguish between those who come as friends and those who come to obtain a boon, or obtrude business upon him in his retirement. He is up very early around his grounds, but allows his guests to sleep as long as they please. He dislikes to read of the death of men who were young when he was young. It fills him with

melancholy, that lasts a long time. His life is very regular, his constitution is of iron, and he is guilty of no excess. He is careful of exposure, drinks no stimulating liquors, does not use tobacco, and excitements do not touch him. There are probably twenty years more of wear in him. He is very liberal in his way. He supports several widows, by a regular instalment paid weekly, whose husbands were young when Mr. Bennett was young, or were fellow-craftsmen of his when he was struggling for a foothold in this city.

#### HIS FAMILY.

Mrs. Bennett is a remarkable lady, possessing great force of character. Her long residence abroad, for the purpose of educating her son, made her familiar with the languages of Europe. She speaks, with the fluency of a native, French, German, Italian, and Spanish. She has presided at the table around which sat the Spanish and Italian admirals, the French commander, and the German ambassador. With each of these officials she maintained a conversation in his own language, without hesitation or embarrassment, as if she had never spoken any other. The Herald is indebted to Mrs. Bennett for the establishment of the foreign correspondence, which is so marked a feature in that print. Her letters from foreign capitals during her residence abroad were marked by taste, tact, and talent. She is genial and accomplished as a hostess, and gives a charm to the elegant home over which she presides.

Mr. Bennett's daughter, Janette, is quite young, cultivated and accomplished. Like her mother, she is familiar with all the tongues of the continent, and in

her education enjoys all the advantages that wealth and liberality can bestow.

Young Bennett, named after his father, is one of the best educated young men in the country. He has probably a better practical education than any other. He enjoyed great advantages, as he spent the most of his younger years abroad, and was trained in every accomplishment. He can speak fluently, and also write French, German, Italian, and Scotch. On coming home, his father resolved to fit him to take his place in carrying on the Herald establishment. Young Bennett set type, and learned all the mysteries of the craft as a printer. He studied engineering, and knows how to run the huge machines in the basement of the building. He can work at the press. He is master of the art of electrotyping. He can telegraph with skill and accuracy. And the toys of his boyhood were miniature steam engines, small telegraph machines, with juvenile fonts of type and presses. He has marked business and executive ability, and devotes more hours to his office than any young man in the city. He has the entire management of the immense business of the Herald. He presides at the council in the absence of his father, and conducts the affairs of the office in the same prompt, decided manner. He edits the Telegram, and owns the Weekly. He never leaves his office during business hours, and is always at his post except a few weeks in summer, when he follows his favorite pastime of yachting. He is not only the business manager of the Herald, and has to attend to all the calls, but he is the active editor, and manages the finances. He goes over the accounts daily, and knows

how the affairs stand, to a dollar, before he leaves the office at night. He visits every part of the establishment during the day, from the press-room to the upper room for composition. Young Bennett is tall and slim. His face is thin, his eye pleasant, his nose prominent, and his smile attractive. He is courteous in conversation, and there is a repose about him which indicates ability to fill the position he occupies. He is frank, manly, and generous. He has many traits of character that are ascribed to Prince Alfred, the royal sailor-son of Victoria. A warm friendship sprang up between the Duke of Edinburgh and young Bennett, when the latter was in London. An officer high in rank in the British navy told me that after young Bennett had tendered his celebrated yacht to the Prince, Alfred pleaded earnestly with his sovereign mother to allow him to accept the generous gift. Advised by her ministers that it would not do, she positively forbade the acceptance. Of course Prince Alfred would have acknowledged the gift by a princely reciprocation. But the history of the *Henrietta* was so romantic, the offer was so generous, the owner had shown so much pluck in crossing the Atlantic, and was, withal, so genial, so cultivated, and so manly, that the heart of the prince was completely won. And this testimony I heard confirmed on all sides during my stay in London.

#### MR. BENNETT AND THE FRENCH MISSION.

The French mission was offered to Mr. Bennett by the President, without his solicitation. He peremptorily declined it, on the ground that he would

not be bothered with the duties attached to the position. "If I wanted to go to Europe," said Mr. Bennett, "I would take fifty thousand dollars, and go at my leisure." Soon after he declined the post, Mr. Seward visited New York. A mutual friend stepped over to the Herald office and announced the fact to Mr. Bennett, and asked him to walk over and see the secretary. "I have no business with Mr. Seward," replied the editor; "if he wishes to see me he can call and see me." Mr. Bennett regards himself as a representative man, who is to be called upon by all who wish to see him. He carries this rule to great lengths.

#### PERSONAL APPEARANCE.

Mr. Bennett is tall, and marked in appearance. Like Commodore Vanderbilt, nobody passes him without turning to take a second look. His form is genteel, and he is as erect as a Mohawk Indian. He dresses in good taste, without imitating either a sloven or a snob. His hair is white and flowing, giving him a venerable look. The lines of his face are hard, and indicate talent and determination. In an omnibus or car he would command general attention. He could easily be mistaken for a clergyman, a professor in a college, or for one of the solid merchants of the city. He can command the best talent in the world for his paper. He pays liberally for fresh news of which he has the exclusive use. If a pilot runs a hazard, or an engineer puts extra speed on to his locomotive, they know that they will be well paid at the Herald office, for its editor does not higggle about the price. When news of the loss of the *Collins* steamer was brought to the

city, late on a Saturday night, the messenger came direct to the Herald office. The price demanded was paid, but the messenger was feasted and confined in the building until the city was flooded with extras Sunday morning. The attachés of the Herald are found in every part of the civilized world. They take their way where heroes feared to tread. If in anything they are outdone, outrun, outwritten, if earlier or fresher news is allowed to appear in any other journal, a sharp, pungent letter is penned, either discharging the writer or ordering him home. During the war, the Herald establishment at Washington was a curiosity. The place was as busy as the War Department. Foaming horses came in from all quarters, ridden by bespattered letter-writers. Saddled horses were tied in front of the door like the headquarters of a general. The wires were controlled to convey the latest news from every section up to the last moment of the paper going to press. Mr. Bennett is a fine illustration of what our country can do for a penniless boy, and what a penniless boy can do for himself, if he has talent, pluck, character, and industry. In the conflict of interest, and in the heat of rivalry, it is difficult to estimate a man rightly. In coming times Mr. Bennett will take his place in that galaxy of noble names who have achieved their own position, been architects of their own fortunes, and left an enduring mark upon the age in which they lived.

## LXV.

## DANIEL DREW.

EARLY LIFE. — MR. DREW ON THE HUDSON. — MR. DREW AND THE HUDSON RIVER RAILROAD. — MR. DREW AT THE STOCK BOARD. — PERSONAL AND DOMESTIC.

THIS remarkable man was born in Carmel, Putnam County, New York. He is seventy years of age. He is one of the most astute, shrewd, and successful capitalists in the city. In person he is tall and slender, his hair is black, his complexion very dark. He is tough and agile, and would pass easily for forty-five. He is reputed to be worth twenty millions. For several years he has seldom made less than half a million a year. His gifts are very large. He seldom gives away less than one hundred thousand dollars a year in private charities, besides the large gifts which mark his munificence. He selects his own charities, and vagrant solicitors have not a very high opinion of his liberality. At a meeting of the trustees of his church, not long since, the question came up about finishing a mission chapel. One of the trustees said, "We expect a generous sum from brother Drew." Turning to him he said, "Brother Drew, I put it to your conscience. Don't you see your way clear to give us ten thousand dol-