

PEN PICTURE OF REED

He is an Autocrat, But a Very Pleasant Man to Meet.

When Not Exercising His Functions as Speaker He is Usually Out of His Seat, and Usually Entertaining.

(Special Washington Letter.)
Thomas Brackett Reed, speaker of the national house of representatives, is possessed of autocratic power. Politics and the country are throughout the country made all manner of comment concerning him and his methods, but only those who are perfectly familiar with congressional affairs can understand the real situation. It is true that the speaker has complete mastery of the house of representatives, and that he exercises his au-

THOMAS B. REED

thority as ruthlessly as the czar of Russia controls his broad domain. Speaker Reed has often been called the czar because of his determined character; but there is a vast difference between the real czar and the man who rules out of the house of representatives.

The czar of Russia was born to power, and by divine right holds that power as long as he lives. The speaker of the house of representatives exercises complete power within his legislative domain, but that power is conferred upon him by a majority of the house of representatives. Whenever at any time the speaker goes beyond that which is deemed right and proper by the majority he may be deposed and another representative be elected in his place. Therefore it must be understood that so long as Speaker Reed exists such wonderful power in the national house of representatives he is simply the mouthpiece of the majority and his every act is subject to their approval.

The people are apt to form erroneous opinions concerning men whose names are seen in print. If half the stories in criticism of big Tom Reed were true the people might well believe him to be a sort of hobgoblin or other fearsome creature. But, as a matter of fact, his individuality is such that he is really a lovable character.

This great man from the Pine Tree state is not an accident, but a growth. When he first came to congress he was on a par with every other representative of the people. At that time he attracted attention only because he was a stranger in the city. He had a large man physically. His hair was thick and covered with a crop of silky Auburn hair, and on his upper lip there grew a delicate little boyish mustache. To-day he is bald, without a mustache, and his general appearance in some degree warranted the popular application which was given to him by Ann Cummings, "the moon-faced czar."

During all the years of his continuous service Mr. Reed increased in strength and every year he more and more commanded attention for his intellectual abilities. As he grew in knowledge of parliamentary law and legislative procedure, as assumed prominence in all debates. Moreover, it became apparent to all of his associates that he was a growing man and a strong man, whose arguments usually demonstrated that he was reaching correct conclusions. His fellow representatives began to consult him and seek his advice on all important occasions, so that after a lapse of years he gradually grew into the confidence of the strong men of his party, until leadership was given him by election to the speakership.

As the leading republican member of the committee on ways and means, in the forty-ninth and fifty-first congresses, Mr. Reed was recognized as the floor leader of his party. When the fifty-first congress convened, with a republican majority, Mr. Reed was a candidate for the speakership. The other candidates were Mr. Burrows, of Michigan; Mr. Henderson, of Iowa; and Maj. McKinley, of Ohio. The contest was a warm one for about ten days, and when the republican caucus met, Mr. Reed had a majority over all, and was elected speaker. Very soon after assuming the chair he made a rule concerning a quorum of the house of representatives which has since been a source of controversy of a violent partisan character. He claimed that under the constitution of the United States, when there was a quorum visible the house could do business. Previous to that time it had been generally understood that there must be a quorum "present and voting."

Mr. Reed maintained that it was only necessary to have a quorum "present." Therefore, although the minority members were present and desired to vote, Mr. Reed called those present by name and caused the clerk to march them down as "present and voting." But the mere fact that they were present made up the quorum, which is a majority of the house. This was the decision rendered by the supreme court of the United States, and also by the democratic party when it had a majority in the house of representatives.

When Mr. Reed, speaker of the house of representatives, announced

the chairman and members of the committee of the house, he appointed Mr. McKinley chairman of the committee on ways and means. A tariff bill was passed which was called the McKinley bill. All bills of that character are named after the chairman of the committee in which they originate. Although Speaker Reed was the recognized leader of his party the McKinley bill was spoken of as often in print that the reputation of Maj. McKinley became national, and that fact was largely instrumental in bringing about his subsequent election as governor of Ohio and president of the United States. There are a great many "ifs" in the political world, and one of them is suggested by friends of Tom Reed goes with the expression, "If McKinley had been elected speaker of the fifty-first congress, and Tom Reed had been made chairman of ways and means, as he would have been, the country would have had a tariff bill called the Reed bill, and Tom Reed might have reached the presidency as McKinley reached it."

The speaker of the house of representatives occupies an exalted position. It is very difficult to secure access to him. Strangers in Washington must have their representatives or senators go to his office room with them in order to pass the door where a cable messenger guards the entrance. By the way, that messenger is the son of an African-American Methodist Episcopal bishop. There is no assumption of authority in this official condition. Speaker Reed is obliged to be exclusive and bar the public, not because he has so much business to attend to, but because he has time to indulge in social greetings. Nevertheless, whenever a senator or member of congress goes to his office, the door is promptly opened and the visitors are permitted to enter. Everybody who calls with a right to enter his room, finds there a genial gentleman, who is one of the most entertaining men in this country, or, for that matter, in the world.

Just a few months ago, a distinguished editor in a northeastern city visited Washington with his daughter-in-law, and was viewing the rotunda of the capitol when Speaker Reed passed through that spacious place. A newspaper man who is well acquainted with Mr. Reed called to him and said: "Are you in very much of a hurry?"

"I am always in a hurry," said Mr. Reed, "but I can steal a little time for a friend even when I am busy." "Well, I want to introduce a couple of friends who are visiting Washington for the first and only time in their lives," said the newspaper man. "In such a case," said Mr. Reed, "I will steal a moment if necessary. I am always glad to meet people who come to the capital city of their country."

Then, taking the hand of the northern editor and his daughter-in-law, Mr. Reed said: "I must congratulate you on your good fortune. You are seeing a national capital on a day when the weather is good, and you might seem not interrupted by heavy, cloudy skies, or disagreeable fogs and driving rains. It is always a pleasure to me to meet with visitors here."

No man in private life, in a blacksmith shop, in a carpenter shop, a clerk in a store or in any other machine shop could have been more affable and polite and agreeable than was this big man from Maine, when introduced to his physical and his intellectual building in the capital city. He is a

very strong man and a very conservative man, but he is, all the time, a gentle man. The chief justice of the supreme court of the United States, Melville W. Fuller; the president pro tempore of the United States senate, William P. Frye; the speaker of the national house of representatives, Thomas Brackett Reed; and other distinguished citizens and officials who are alumni of Bowdoin college, had a meeting here recently, and Speaker Reed, who is a graduate of that college, said:

"If anyone had told me when I was at Bowdoin that I would ever run for congress or that I should ever be elected if I did not run for any other political office, I should never have believed it. Mr. Reed said as he looked back upon his college days it was not the bright fellows who had prospered, who had the largest place in his heart, but that place was given to some of the 'unprepossessing.' That picture of Speaker Reed at a banquet among his friends shows him to very good advantage. Nevertheless, he is entirely human and just like lots of people, who you know, and who may be possessed of great ability, but have not had political opportunities."

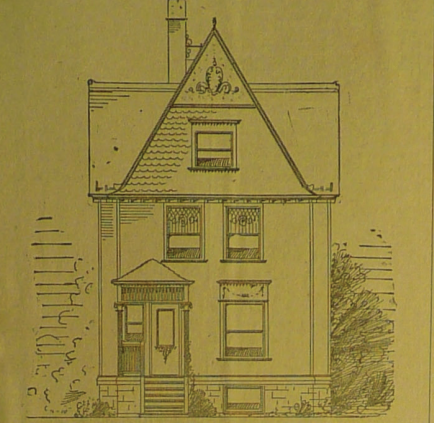
SMITH D. FRYE.

ART IN ARCHITECTURE.

DESIGNED AND WRITTEN ESPECIALLY FOR THIS PAPER.

The nine room residence, herewith described, will cost \$15,500, with a foundation of stone.
The size of parlor is 12 feet 6 inches by 12 feet 6 inches; sitting room, 12 feet 6 inches by 12 feet 6 inches; dining-room, 13 feet 6 inches by 12 feet 6 inches; kitchen, 10 by 12 feet; chamber, 8 feet by 12 feet 6 inches; 10 by 10 feet, 9 feet by 12 feet 6 inches, 12 feet by 12 feet 6 inches, 10 by 13 feet; and above, 7 feet 6 inches by 9 feet 6 inches; pantry, 4 feet 6 inches by 6 feet 6 inches;

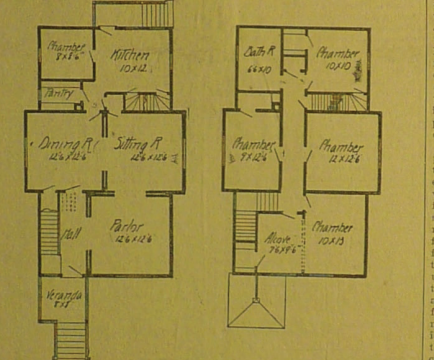
hall, parlor, sitting and dining-rooms; maple floors in bathroom, kitchen and pantry. The sink in the kitchen is porcelain-lined. There is wainscoting in the kitchen, bath-room, dining-room and halls, made with cement plaster and capped with wood moulding. Laundry, coal bins, fruit-room, and all storerooms are in the basement. All roughing in pipes, laid to bathroom, bath-tub and cess-pool are built in the yard. Girders are 8 by 10 inches, and posts supporting girders 8 by 8



FRONT ELEVATION OF AN ARTISTIC 4 1/2 STORY HOUSE.

bedroom, 6 feet 6 inches by 10 feet. The three large rooms on the first floor are separated by sliding doors.
A rear stairway leads to the basement and second floor. The first and second stories are 9 feet 6 inches high. All floors are double having building paper between finished floors and sub-floors.
The sheathing is of fence flooring, having the paper between it and siding. All siding is 4-inch face; studding, 2 by 4 inches; joist, 2 by 10 inches; shingles, 4 cent; ornamental carving; art glass;

inches. Closets are provided with shelves and hooks. The front stairs, treads, nosels and risers are of Georgia pine.
The parlor is tinted copper color; sitting room, maroon; dining-room, peacock blue; dark; kitchen, straw color; chambers, colors to suit owner. The size of the house upon the lot is 22 by 40 feet.
The design is very neat and plain, and suitable for a city, suburb or country. The lines on which this residence is



PLANS OF FIRST AND SECOND FLOORS.

press brick chimney; American glass; Georgia pine finish; exterior painting; three coats; galvanized iron gutters and down spouts; front door, glass paneled. The floors are 2 feet 8 inches wide by 7 feet high, 1 1/2 inches thick; the front door is 3 feet 4 inches wide by feet high, 1 1/2 inches thick. Shingles are to have one coat of paint. The attic has a single floor. All exterior walls have one coat of brown mortar for back plastering, and all rooms are finished with two coats of plaster. The hardware, of a substantial kind, is properly placed.
The rubble stone wall is 16 inches thick, and the basement is cemented. The house is piped for gas and furnace. There is a Georgia pine floor in the

planned give a large number of rooms, and all of a fair size, as shown by door plans.
The veranda ceiling is ceiled with narrow-slatted ceiling of Georgia pine, finished with hard oil marine varnish. Veranda and porch floors are painted four coats good lead and boiled linseed oil. The chimney is capped with stone. Chimney base is of wrought iron. The outside cellarway leads to basement. The height of first story floor is 4 feet 6 inches above grade. Stone work above grade is random range block masonry.
Sliding door partitions are lined with one-half inch ceiling. All material throughout must be of the very best.
GEORGE A. W. KINTZ.

The Vibration of Sound.
According to Lord Rayleigh, certain experiments have shown vibration of sound having an amplitude of less than one-twelfth of a centimeter, could still affect the sense of hearing. Supposing the sense of hearing were such a vibration would be so short that it would have to be enlarged 100 times before the most powerful microscope could render it visible. Young people can hear high notes which are inaudible to their elders, and it is believed that babies in particular are gifted in hearing sounds which are not vouchsafed to the ears of more mature man.

Great Parisian Tunnel.
The terminal tunnel of the Paris & Bordeaux railway will run from the city to the heart of the French capital. It is to be completed by 1900, and it will doubtless, like the London underground railway, be equipped with American electrical devices and motors, as the chief engineer of the line, who is now in the United States on a tour of investigation, has expressed himself to that effect.

To Stop Plant Growth.
A German chemist, says Merck's Report, has prepared a fluid that has the power when injected into the base of a plant near its roots, of anesthetizing the plant. The plant does not die, but ceases growing, making the fresh green appearances, though its vitality is apparently suspended. It is also independent of the changes in temperature, and the most delicate plants are said to flourish in the open. The composition of the fluid is shrouded in the greatest secrecy, but it is said to have a pungent odor and to be colorless.

Compressed Floor Bricks.
In England much interest is taken by the army and navy authorities in a new method of preserving floor by means of compression. With hydraulic pressure apparatus the floor is squeezed into the form of bricks and evaporate are removed to have shown that the pressure destroys all forms of larval life thus preserving the floor from the ravages of insects, while it is equally secure from mold.

Landed on His Feet.
She—'Hike you a complete, I haven't she—reached the bargain-point yet. He—You would be a bargain on any counter.—Harper's Bazar.

AFTER INDEPENDENCE.

Interesting Speculations as to the Fate of Cuba when Spain Lets Go.

It would seem, then, that at first sight, that Cuba is no better prepared for independent government than Mexico was 80 years ago, the more so in that the difficulty of the task will be intensified by race-problems, which never existed in Mexico. The population in Cuba is made up of whites, blacks and mulattoes in about equal numbers, and it is needless to say that the masses of the Cubans in government and in all the pursuits to which the white population, as we refined and progressive a class as any Latin-American people, are able to maintain their ascendancy over the colored element. For any trol steadily declines from this moment in the scale of civilization and enlightenment. Let us hasten, however, to say that we do not devoutly hope and believe that the white element in Cuba will be able to hold its own, though the difficulty and the menace implied in the facility with which the negro thrives and multiplies on the island will always be present.

The circumstances mentioned would seem to argue political trouble for Cuba after her independence has been achieved. On the other hand, there are facts which make for political stability. Though he has no experience in self-government, the Cuban in general possesses a high standard of education and enlightenment, far higher than that of the United States, even present Spanish-American republics when they threw off the yoke of Spain. The better class of Cubans have been educated in the United States, where they have studied the working of popular institutions as practiced in their highest perfection. Moreover, the progress that has been made by the world in general in the science of government, the facility of communication and intercourse with the United States, the force of public opinion there, reacting on public opinion in the island, the example of the more important Spanish-American republics of today, and finally the mere exhaustion of the country and the necessity of reconstructing its wealth and resources, are all factors that will favor a stable and orderly public administration.

Then, too, there is a very important negative circumstance that will favor tranquility in Cuba. Most of the intelligent people who have taken this and other Spanish-American countries have been due to the clash of interests and principles between the church and the state. It is to be said that this will not happen in Cuba. The people there are Catholics and will probably remain so. But there will be no such contest. It is to be said that this will not happen in Cuba. The people there are Catholics and will probably remain so. But there will be no such contest. It is to be said that this will not happen in Cuba. The people there are Catholics and will probably remain so. But there will be no such contest.

HOW POMP WAS CONVERTED.

It Was on a Rainy Sunday at Church Where He Was the Only Stranger in Attendance.

Dr. Payson, the famous and beloved preacher of Portland, Me., used to tell the following pointed story:
One very stormy Sunday he went to church, more from habit than because he expected to find anybody there. Just after he had stepped inside the door an old negro came in and asked if Dr. Payson was to preach there that day, explaining that he was a stranger in town and had been advised to go to his church.
"Upon that," said Dr. Payson, "I made up my mind to preach my sermon, if nobody else came."

Nobody else did come, so the doctor preached to the choir and the old negro. Some months afterward he happened to meet the negro, who, stopping him, asked how he enjoyed the sermon that stormy Sunday.
"Enjoy dat sermon?" replied the old man. "I s'pose I never heard a better one. You see, I had a real pretty well up front, an' whenever you'd say somethin' I'd see look all round 'em, an' see how they was. An' I says to 'mself: 'He must mean you, Pomp, you's a dreadful sermon.' Well, do you s'pose I ever heard a better one? I went 'dined the church down home. The deacon 'nough.—Christian Endeavor World.

His Willingness.
Kind Old Party—My lad, because that boy struck you with his fist is no reason why you should hit him with that big stick. You should hit him with fire on his head.

Good Speculation.
Watts—Don't you want to take some show in it?
Potts—Do you think I'm an idiot?
"This is not a mining game. We are going to build a bicycle path back to civilization."—Tollanville Journal.

A FAMOUS SEA-FIGHT.

Destruction of the Hunsear of the Holliver Coast—What a Fight Between Modern Vessels Means.

From the first of the battle the encouraging voice of Grant had come to the men in the turret through the speaking tube from the conning tower; but when the Blanco crowded into the thick of it, and great shot struck the Hunsear's sides as rapidly as those of a battering ram, the orders of the commander were no longer heard. The officer in charge of the turret called to his superior, but there was no answer, and when Commander Elias Aguerre ran up the narrow little ladder that led to the lower, he stumbled over the dead body of an admiral. A shell had struck the conning-tower, and had taken off Grant's head as neatly as if the decapitation had been by the guillotine. The admiral killed, Lieutenant Perry, struck the corpses aside, and the new commanding officer pulled back the tube flap to give directions; but as he did so the Hunsear staggered, keeled over, then shook in every plume, while a concussion more terrific than any so far told the rest of the crew that the Hunsear was disabled. A shell had struck the conning-tower, and had taken off Grant's head as neatly as if the decapitation had been by the guillotine. The admiral killed, Lieutenant Perry, struck the corpses aside, and the new commanding officer pulled back the tube flap to give directions; but as he did so the Hunsear staggered, keeled over, then shook in every plume, while a concussion more terrific than any so far told the rest of the crew that the Hunsear was disabled. A shell had struck the conning-tower, and had taken off Grant's head as neatly as if the decapitation had been by the guillotine. The admiral killed, Lieutenant Perry, struck the corpses aside, and the new commanding officer pulled back the tube flap to give directions; but as he did so the Hunsear staggered, keeled over, then shook in every plume, while a concussion more terrific than any so far told the rest of the crew that the Hunsear was disabled.

Once more all was silent in the conning-tower. Lieutenant Palacios hastened to the conning-tower, but he was compelled to push three bodies out of the way. He had barely given his first command when a bullet from the well-aimed rifle of a man in an enemy's top lodged between his eyes. Then the fourth to command the Hunsear that day, Lieutenant Pedro Garzon, took the place, and as he gave his orders, a shell burst through the quartermast to put the helm to port; for he had determined to ram one of the adversaries, and sink with him the necessary. Over and over spun the wheel, but the Hunsear's head still pointed between the Chileans.

"Port, Port, I say!" screamed the commander.
"She won't answer," came back the sullen answer from the only one of four quartermasts that were left standing; and he dropped dead as the words left his mouth.

The Hunsear now lay drifting in a hell of shot and shrapnel, and the three, white-red and red blundered from the peak. One by one, in twos and threes, the men in the turret dropped their rifles, and the remaining great gun was silent, its barrel literally choked with dead. The turret could not be turned for the same reason. Corpses hung from the necessary top; corpses clogged the conning-tower.

With cats and walking-tops, the surgeons had been laboring in the ward-room upon the wounded, who shrieked in their agony, had been tangled down the companionway like so much butchered beef; for there was no time to use stretchers or to carry a stricken comrade to a doctor's care. Steam and smoke filtered through the doorways, and the apartment became stifling. While they were sawing, amputating, and bandaging, shells fell into the ward-room, burst and fragments wounded the assistant surgeons, the chief of medical affairs, and the necessary top; were stretched upon the table awaiting their turn under the knife, and those who were left, suffered no less by their more pain; they were killed as they lay groaning. The shell tore away ward-room and stern cabin, and hardly a trace was left of the ship's head. After that what little surgery was done was performed in the coal bunkers.

Huddled in a passageway near the engine room were a score or more of non-combatants—stewards, pantry-men and stokers. They were in a place that was lighted only as flashes came from the gun; it was filled with powder smoke, and clouds of steam that drifted from below told that the Hunsear had been struck in a vital spot—her main-chimney. Suddenly they heard a crash, followed by the rending of the deck, and the little ironclad awayed as if she had struck a reef. Some one passed the word that the Hunsear had been shot away. As it came down it brought living men to dashed to death, also comes that had been hanging over the sides of the miller's top—Claude H. Wetmore, in the miller's top.

Wanted Destruction of Birds.
In the western hemisphere the slaughter of birds has been tremendous, and in this country it has almost annihilated only one species, and the effect has been felt by farmers in some states in the increase of injurious insects, which the birds used to eat. The feminine prejudice of ornament has warred against the work, and it is gratifying to see that the movement to prevent this wholesale destruction has been vigorously pushed by women, who see the folly of annihilating them for hat feathers.—Minneapolis Journal.

Good Speculation.
Watts—Don't you want to take some show in it?
Potts—Do you think I'm an idiot?
"This is not a mining game. We are going to build a bicycle path back to civilization."—Tollanville Journal.

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We will Take Care of the Girls

for you, for we have a very nice line of Ladies furnishings, consisting of Skirts, Shirt Waists, Hosiery, Shoes, etc. Come and see us ladies, and dress up. Perhaps it will be the means of keeping your best fellow from going to war; for you perhaps would prefer to have a live man than a dead hero. Now you old men, middle aged men and boys, come and see us, and get dressed up. Bring your wives, your daughters, and boys, and your neighbors, your neighbors' wives, and daughters and boys.



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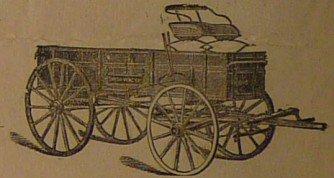
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ADAM BIEDERMANN,

Pine City, Minn.

FROM FAR ALASKA

(Continued from First Page.)

proof that my forefathers were born on the starry banks of Norway. I was never in better health, never a day sick, and never missed a meal.

I saw today about twenty big whales calling and spouting water near our boat. We are now moving slowly up toward Port Valdes, or for the careful orders of Capt. Roman a man who draws a salary of \$200 per month—a careful, painstaking seaman. Our party consists of 36 passengers, three of whom are women. We are for the first time on our journey passing mountains capped with snow clear down to the water line. Let no man who has not boots full of contrary undertake this trip. There are several in our party who have the blues already, though we have not yet landed. But we Vikings shall push for the Tanana river in all haste, where in July we expect to join Captain Crowell and his big crew of Tanana and Chitonsna, hoping to find many a gold nugget on our trip.

Capt. Hopkins of Boston, and myself, have enough courage that if the men will follow us we shall, by June 10th be on the Tanana river, and we bid adieu to the outside world for awhile anyway. Respectfully,
E. O. MELLEN.

"Your wife is a jewel." Keep her "bright and shining." Now's the time—"springtime." Give her Rocky Mountain Tea, make's the whole family well. Woman's best friend. For sale by J. Y. Bevelen, Pine City.

He Likes It.



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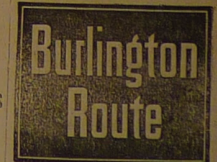
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