

# THE CONCORD TIMES.

John B. Sherrill, Editor and Owner.

PUBLISHED TWICE A WEEK.

\$1.00 a Year, in Advance.

VOLUME XXII.

CONCORD, N. C., JULY 22, 1904.

NUMBER 7.

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CONSUMPTION

## Alton Brooks Parker

Career of the Democratic Candidate for President. Born on a Farm and a Farmer-Judge, Good Tenor Singer and a Well-Learned Judge—His Early Struggles.

ALTON BROOKS PARKER, the Democratic candidate for president, is fifty-two years old, six years older than Theodore Roosevelt and nearly ten years older than his rival when he assumed the presidential authority.

He is just a little under six feet in height.

He is broad shouldered, deep chested and weighs 190 pounds.

His cheeks are ruddy, and his hazel brown eyes sparkle with the glow of health.

His hair, which is thin on the top and sprinkled with gray on the sides, is of an unusual attractive shade of red, characteristic of other members of the Parker family.

His mustache, which is usually worn close trimmed, is a shade darker than his hair.

Like President Roosevelt, he is an

cropper, the cattle, sheep, pigs, chickens, turkeys or ducks. Whether in the peach or apple orchard, in the cow pasture, barn or sty, he is the master of all in knowledge as well as in energy. He will fix his plowfork or put his shoulder under a heavy load with the best of them, and it is a good man who can keep up with him. He drives his family to the church of his son-in-law, Rev. Charles Mercer Hall, at Kingsley, every Sunday and sings so heartily that strangers in the congregation are apt to turn their heads. Nor does he forget to have his domestic servants who are Roman Catholics driven to their own church regularly.

The judge is a vestryman in the Kingsley church, and although a man of very moderate means, he is probably the wealthiest man in the congregation. He is the practical pillar



JUDGE PARKER AND ROSEMONT, HIS HOME AT ESOPUS, N. Y.

"out of doors" man. He keeps his muscles hard and his mind clear and keen by much exercise in the open air, horseback riding, driving and walking and farm work.

He is alert and energetic in his appearance, movements and speech. His manner in association with friends is affable and kindly and without the self assertiveness of the judge.

His conversational habit is to be direct and frank and scrupulously careful in his choice of expressions. Usually when his opinion is asked on any subject his reply is instantly ready.

Judge Parker is one of the best examples of a self-made man in the United States today. Born poor, he has built up a small fortune that amply provides for his needs, and above that he appears to have no further ambition in a monetary way. His three farms, one at Cortland, another at Accord, and the third at Esopus, complete his land possessions, and in all his wealth is estimated at not more than \$20,000.

Saving and good judgment have brought to him what he has and not any stroke of good fortune.

Rosemont, the judge's house at Esopus, is a modest but comfortable wooden structure, standing on the stone foundations of a Dutch house of colonial times. It is set on the side of a hill among shade trees and fronts the river. It is the abode of hospitality and refinement, the typical home of an American gentleman. The pic-

ture of the church and takes an active interest in its charities, its cooking and sewing and dancing schools, its physical culture class and its basket ball games for boys. He is also a contributor to the funds of the local orphan asylum and is one of the managers of the Kingsley City hospital.

His neighborly usefulness is to be seen on all sides. He is even the freight agent of a steamboat company, so that the little private dock on his farm may be used for the convenience of the community.

He is a confirmed magazine reader. He seldom reads poetry, but is fond of good novels. Mrs. Parker is always on the alert for a new story for her hard-working husband. But his natural taste is for Dickens, Thackeray and Scott. He delights in the vigorous out-of-door atmosphere of "The Scottish Chiefs." Jefferson is his favorite political writer. Any book or article on agriculture or cattle breeding is sure to interest him.

After he has spent a morning working on his judicial opinions, hours of grave concentration, when no one is permitted to interrupt his quiet—and when he is waiting for lunch his secretary, Arthur McCausland, will sit at the piano while the judge in a sweet tenor voice sings old fashioned ballads or hymns, "I Feel Just as Young as I Used to Be," "Only an Armor Bearer," "Hold the Fort," and so on.

Judge Parker was born May 14, 1852, at Cortland, N. Y., and was the son of a farmer. Two hundred years ago his ancestors had come from England and settled in New England. From generation to generation they were of the hardy farmer class, and they drew their love of country from the soil to which they had been transplanted. Judge Parker's great-grandfather was a soldier in the ranks of Washington's army.

As early as he could go so young Parker attended school at Cortland academy and later got out of the Cortland Normal school all the equipment for life that it could give him. His parents were not able to send him to college or even to take care of him while he was trying to find a school. At sixteen he became a country school teacher.

Reluctantly he was obliged to give up the hope of a college training for his profession and to think of the old fashioned approach to the bar through the office of a preceptor. Having surrendered one cherished ambition, but not his chosen profession, he was admitted to the office of Schoonmaker & Hardenbergh of Kingsley as a student of law. Working his way, he was at last enabled to enter the law school at Albany, gravitating between the office of his preceptors at Kingsley and the law school, according to season and necessity. In 1872 he was graduated, and soon after the sign of Parker & Kenyon was hung out at Kingsley.

He speedily demonstrated a decided ability for political management. From the start he was a Democrat.

In 1877, when he was twenty-five, the Democrats of Ulster county nominated him for surrogate of the county. He was elected for a six year term and in 1883 was re-elected.

In 1884 he was a delegate to the convention at Chicago that nominated Grover Cleveland for president, and he helped to pull the candidate through in the hotly contested campaign of that year. Cleveland was elected, and in January he turned over to Lieutenant Governor Hill the uncompleted term of office he was obliged to surrender to become president.

Governor Hill was nominated in the fall. The Democratic party was worn out with the efforts it had made in the preceding year, its money was exhausted, and its stock of patience was growing small.

Hill was urged to select this or that man to take charge of his interests in the conduct of the campaign. He, too, had come to know Parker very well, and he had a clear conviction of his superior fitness for the difficult position to be occupied. He sent to Kingsley for Parker, who not only overcame the apathy of his party and its regarded the disadvantage of an empty cash box, but overcame all the advantages supposed to be enjoyed by the Republicans and saw his candidate victorious by 11,000 plurality in the state in which Cleveland had with difficulty secured about 1,200 the year before.

During the campaign Supreme Court Justice Theodore R. Westbrook died. Governor Hill was urged to fill the vacancy at once. "After the election," was his answer to all pressures. When the election was over he announced the appointment of Alton B. Parker to the judgeship.

In June, 1889, was created the second division of the court of appeals to accelerate the work of the highest court. Judge Parker was designated by Governor Hill to sit with this new court. He was only thirty-seven years of age, the youngest of all judges of the court of appeals. He sat in this court until 1893, when, upon its dissolution, he was appointed by Governor Flower, urged thereto by many judges, to be a member of the general term of the supreme court of the First district. Here he remained until the creation of the appellate division of the supreme court, when he resumed the trial terms in his own district. In 1897 he was nominated to be chief justice of the court of appeals and was elected by a plurality of 60,880.

That not every one, however, regards Judge Parker as a Delphic oracle is shown by the following anecdote: A very able New York attorney who was quite deaf and very sensitive was arguing a case before the New York court of appeals. He dwelt at

length upon a fundamental law principle. Finally Judge Parker interrupted. "It would seem, Brother —, that you infer that this court is not well versed in this elementary law point."

Now, the attorney didn't catch what was said, but he made it a rule to agree always with what the court said; so, smiling and bowing, he said: "Precisely, your honor, precisely. You have stated the proposition correctly."

The court laughed, Judge Parker smiled, and the lawyer continued his argument.

Nonconspicuous in the public eye has been Mrs. Mary D. Parker, the wife of Judge Parker. This is because she has led an unusually quiet life.

Mrs. Parker was born at Accord, in the township of Rochester, in Ulster county, and is a daughter of the late Moses I. Schoonmaker. Her early life was passed upon the farm upon which she was born. Her girlhood was passed at Accord, and was much the same as that of most American girls reared in the country. She continued to reside at Accord until her marriage to Judge Parker.

Since then Mrs. Parker has spent her time between Albany and Esopus, with frequent visits to Kingsley, the home of her daughter, Bertha Parker Hall, wife of the rector of the Mission Church of the Holy Cross.

The Schoonmakers, from whom she is descended, were among the early Dutch settlers of New York state, and the good Dutch virtues would look with pride upon so worthy a descendant and daughter.

## Henry Gassaway Davis

Career of the Democratic Vice Presidential Candidate—How Was Born on a Farm and Was the First Railroad Brakeman in America—A Man of Millions.

HENRY GASSAWAY DAVIS, the Democratic vice presidential nominee, is a man with more than an ordinary business and political career. In West Virginia and nearby states he long has been regarded as a financial giant, and his political life has been characterized by conservatism and sagacity.

His nomination at St. Louis confers upon him the peculiar distinction of being the oldest candidate ever selected for the office. Mr. Davis having been born in Woodstock, Md., on Nov. 16, 1823. His father was Caleb Davis, a successful Baltimore merchant, who died a few years after the son's birth, and his mother was a Miss Louise Brown, whose sister was the mother of Senator Gorman of Maryland.

Like Judge Parker, Mr. Davis spent his early days on a farm. He received his education in a village school and at the age of twenty entered the employ of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad as a brakeman. This was the first railroad built in America, and Mr. Davis has the distinction of having been the first brakeman on any rail-

ever, his practical skill, courage and energy overcame all difficulties. Piedmont was the center of the Cumberland bituminous coal region. The present great coal fields of that part of the country were then undeveloped, and Davis perceived that that section was one of immense industrial promise. The firm of Davis & Bros. engaged in the shipping of coal and lumber for the producers, and its business grew rapidly.

In 1850 Henry G. Davis organized the Piedmont Savings bank and became its president. This bank was supported by the National Bank of Piedmont, of which Mr. Davis is also the guiding spirit. He and his brothers, whose possessions were originally insignificant, have since been able to count their capital by millions, while their landed estate at one time approximated 100,000 acres.

Before the war Mr. Davis was a Whig, while after its close he allied himself with the conservative wing of the Democratic party.

He made his entry into politics in 1855, when he was elected to the West

eighty-first year, is as spry as a man of sixty, and a good deal spryer than many. He was a delegate to the recent national convention and a member of the committee on resolutions. He was chosen as a member of the subcommittee that had charge of the platform, and he stayed up all night during the deliberations of that committee at the Jefferson hotel at noon the next day he did not appear fatigued, and he told his friends he could stand another twenty-four hours of it as well as not.

He favored the insertion of a gold plank in the platform. When his name was being considered by the national convention there was some question as to whether he supported Bryan in 1896 and 1900. Chairman Jones of the Democratic national committee put it at rest by saying that in 1896 Senator Davis presided at a Bryan meeting in West Virginia and voted for Bryan.

At that time Senator Davis was engaged in building a railroad and had a large obligation at a bank which he desired to renew. When he went to the bank the president said: "I understand you presided at a Bryan meeting last night."

"Yes," said Davis. "What of it?"

"Well," said the bank president, "don't you know that the theories of Bryan are opposed to all the financial institutions in this country? I do not see how you can come to this bank or any other for favors, holding the views that you do."

"Do you mean to say," asked Davis, "that the fact that I remain loyal to the Democratic party makes any difference with my credit?"

"Not at all," said the bank president. "But we are not inclined to do any favors for such people."

"This is no favor to me," said Davis. "I am simply carrying this obligation as a business transaction, and if you don't want to renew it I'll pay it now and withdraw my patronage from the bank."

The bank president grew alarmed at this, because Senator Davis is heavily interested in financial operations in West Virginia, and he begged Davis to reconsider. Davis would not reconsider. He paid the obligation in cash that afternoon and cut that bank off his list of business connections.

Senator Davis is many times a millionaire. He has been an enthusiastic Gorman man ever since the canvass for the Democratic nominee in 1904 began. At one time he said he would spend a million dollars to secure the nomination of Gorman, and it was no mere idle boast, because he had the money and would spend it.

Personally, Senator Davis is an affable, genial man, democratic and modest. He does not look his years, and to the casual observer he would appear to be not more than sixty-five. He is more than six feet tall, erect and straight as in the days of his youth. His shoulders are square. He is well muscled. He has a spry heel and toe walk. There is not the slightest evidence of any loss of mental or bodily vigor.

His face features are regular and bold. His nose is aquiline. His eyes are gray and sharply penetrating, but withal kindly in expression and set wide apart. His face is not deeply furrowed, though fine wrinkles appear about the eyes. His beard of snowy



HENRY GASSAWAY DAVIS.

whiteness in the United States. He was soon advanced to the position of conductor and was then the only railroad conductor in the country. An amusing story illustrative of the grip of early associations on a retentive nature used to be told of him in Washington. It was said that well toward morning of a wearisome all night session of the senate Senator Davis was asleep, his head resting upon his desk. Senator Edmunds had provoked Judge Thurman to a speech, and by introduction the judge unfurled his red bandanna and blew a blast of mirth that usual power. Mr. Davis may have been dreaming of his old railroad days. At any rate, he sprang to his feet in a half dazed condition, and catching sight of the red flag—the old signal of danger—and seeming to imagine that he had heard a shriek of alarm from the open throttle of a locomotive calling for "down brakes," seized his desk and with the brakeman's quick twist wrenched it from the floor.

It was while serving as a conductor that Mr. Davis met and formed the acquaintance of Henry Clay, who was a passenger upon Mr. Davis' train while going from his Kentucky home to the capital and returning. Clay would board the train in Baltimore and leave it at its western terminus and make the journey over the mountains into Kentucky in the old fashioned stagecoach. Mr. Davis got his first

Virginia house of delegates. He was a delegate from West Virginia to the Democratic national conventions of 1868 and 1872, while in 1867 he was elected to the legislature of his state as a Union Democrat, being re-elected two years later. In 1871 he was made United States senator to succeed W. T. Wiley, Republican, he being the first Democratic member of that body from the then young state of West Virginia.

At the expiration of his term he was re-elected. After serving twelve years in the senate he declined further political honors, preferring to devote his entire time to his rapidly increasing business affairs.

Early in his public career he assumed an unequivocal position on financial questions, from which he has never departed. Almost at the beginning of his legislative service he was confronted with the issue of the responsibility of West Virginia for a portion of the debt of the Old Dominion. Despite the advice of friends who considered momentary popularity rather than justice, he took a bold stand in favor of his state's meeting her just proportion of the debt of the mother state, when that equitable proportion could be ascertained. By reason of his determination he made a profound impression upon all his associates.

Until recently Mr. Davis was president of the West Virginia, Central and Maryland railroad, which he projected, and also of the Piedmont and Cumberland railroad. He was one of the delegates to the pan-American congress and was a member of the United States intercontinental railway commission. Today he is known as one of West Virginia's "Big Four," and had the boom of Senator Gorman materialized he was to have managed it.

In 1853 he married Miss Kate A. Bantz, a daughter of Judge Gideon Bantz of Frederick, Md. He has two sons, John T. Davis and Henry G. Davis, Jr., and three daughters, Mrs. Stephen B. Elkins, Mrs. R. M. G. Brown, wife of Lieutenant Commander Brown, U. S. N., and Mrs. Arthur Lee. Mr. Davis' wife died two years ago. He has a beautiful villa at Deer Park, Md., where he passes the summer months, but his home as a voter is at Elkins, W. Va., where his residence adjoins that of United States Senator Stephen B. Elkins, his son-in-law. The people of Elkins are very fond of ex-Senator Davis, who has done very much for that town. He built the Davis Memorial hospital at a cost of nearly \$100,000 in memory of his son, who was drowned while cruising on the African coast. With Senator Elkins he has founded the Davis and Elkins college, a Presbyterian institution at Elkins that soon will be dedicated. He was also instrumental in the erection of the Davis Memorial Presbyterian church at Elkins.

Ex-Senator Davis, though in his

### THE CANDIDATE IN BRIEF.

Henry G. Davis is eighty years old.

Left an orphan at an early age began his career as superintendent of a plantation.

Became brakeman on the Baltimore and Ohio at twenty and later was promoted to conductor.

A thirty he was supervisor of trains.

Invested in coal lands and laid foundation of immense fortune.

Founded the West Virginia towns of Davis and Elkins.

Was a politician during the war.

Elected to lower branch of West Virginia legislature as Union-Conservative 1865 and to the senate two years later.

Elected United States senator in 1871 and served until 1887.

Has been delegate to six national conventions.

taste for politics from Henry Clay in his conversations with that great statesman during these trips over the Baltimore and Ohio, and he cast his first ballot for Clay for president.

Later he became station agent at Piedmont. Having served with the railroad company for fourteen years, he turned his attention to commercial pursuits and established the firm of Davis & Bros. at Piedmont.

Socially he always was diffident, even backward at times, but when called upon he never failed to declare his convictions. In his railroad life, how-



MRS. STEPHEN B. ELKINS.

whiteness is a feature that does more to denote advanced age than any other.

The whole bearing of the man denotes an alert, vigorous interest in life and the matters that appeal to him for action.

His daughter, Mrs. Stephen B. Elkins, is one of Washington's noted entertainers, and her gracious womanliness has won her many friends.

Ex-Senator Davis is but one of many vigorous old men who are still active in public life. Here is a list of some of the prominent old men who are still active and hale like Mr. Davis:

Ex-Speaker Galusha Hays of Pennsylvania, 80; ex-Vice President Levi F. Morton, 80; Senator John T. Morgan of Alabama, 80; Senator George F. Hoar of Massachusetts, 77; ex-Secretary Boutwell, 86; Senator Edmund W. Pettus of Alabama, 83; Senator William P. Frye of Maine, 72.

Russell Sage, capitalist, at the age of eighty-seven is still active in Wall street, and Charles Haynes Haswell works every day as civil, marine and mechanical engineer in New York, although he is in his ninety-sixth year.