

THE DAILY TIMES.

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TUESDAY, - - OCTOBER 19, 1897.

CHARLES A. DANA.

The Washington Post, of yesterday, says: "Yesterday the famous and venerable editor of the New York Sun passed away, after a long illness, and under the burden of many and eventful years. We do not recall in our knowledge or experience of journalism a more impressive figure or a more strenuous and potent personality. Mr. Dana has always been earnest, if not intense, in everything. He has never been content with the beaten track, with the commonplace and the stereotyped.

He began life as one of the Brook Farm community, in the capacity of a servitor-associate of Nathaniel Hawthorne, Margaret Fuller, and that illustrious group of thinkers who occupied so large a place in the intellectual world of that day. He was afterward a disciple of Proudhon, the notorious Socialist, and wrote in the New York Tribune a series of letters of marked ability relative to that eminent person. During the civil war he was a subordinate of Mr. Lincoln's distinguished War Secretary, Stanton, and in that position exhibited notable qualities of energy, devotion and enthusiasm. After the war, obtaining control of the New York Sun, he proceeded to force his newspaper into the front rank of journalism, imparting to it a reputation for brilliancy and bitterness in its editorial department, but studiously and inexorably exacting from its news department the most scrupulous adherence to fact, and the very highest literary style. A quarrel with General Grant, during the great soldier's administration as President, took Mr. Dana and the Sun into the Democratic Party. A quarrel with Mr. Cleveland, when Governor of New York, took Mr. Dana and the Sun into opposition to the Democratic ticket of 1894. He had the most violent feuds with John A. Logan, with Henry Ward Beecher, as with U. S. Grant, and these feuds he exploited with a rancorous and relentless animosity which amazed the generation. He was unforgiving in his resentments, intemperate in his methods of warfare, but he made the Sun a model newspaper, and, even in his most savage and withering attacks upon those he regarded as his enemies, he kept the Sun's tone to a pitch of perfect tone and brilliancy. Whether we admire or condemn Mr. Dana, as an influence in public affairs, it is impossible to deny his power and his charm of style.

To analyze Mr. Dana's effect upon the thought and the tendency of his time is a task calling for the most careful and deliberate reflection. It is a task for

which we have neither the leisure nor the inclination at this moment. We need no indulgence, however, in the matter of pronouncing upon his intellectual attainments, nor do we hesitate so much as he was a tremendous factor, a force of most passionate and indomitable energy in the equation of the period. Whatever he did he did with a gigantic might. Whatever he thought he uttered with surprising eloquence and clearness. Right or wrong, mistaken or informed, just or unjust, generous or vengeful, philanthropic or malevolent, he was at all times frank, outspoken and commanding. No one can say of him he was faint-hearted in his animosities or niggard in his loves. Whatever else he may have been, he was not that poor and unconsidered thing, a negative.

SEAL EXPERTS FROM JAPAN.

The last of the delegates to the international seal conference to arrive are the Japanese representatives, S. Fugita and K. Mutsukuri, who came in last night from New York, and are stopping at the Arlington, says the Washington Post. The Russian commissioner, M. Pierre Botkine, arrived in Washington last week. It is believed that the conference between the delegates of Japan, Russia and the United States will meet during the present week, and begin the task of reaching an agreement in regard to Bering Sea matters, and that the American and British experts will meet a few days later.

The Japanese delegates are prominent and representative men of their native land. S. Fugita is a member of the Board of Fisheries in the Industrial Department of the Japanese government. He is well informed on the seal question, and will no doubt take a prominent part in the coming conference. K. Mutsukuri is a graduate of Harvard University. At present he occupies the chair of biology in Tokyo University, a national institution of learning. Mr. Mutsukuri is a distinguished scholar, and has a thorough knowledge of the modern languages.

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