

"PRINCE OF ROCHESTER"

LIVELY SKETCH OF THE FALLEN HOUSE OF LORD.

(FROM THE SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE WORLD.)

ROCHESTER, September 23.

One by one the roses fall.

The downfall of the house of Lord, of Rochester, which is presaged by the fateful indictment at Buffalo of Geo. D. Lord, the eldest son, would seem tragic if the high battlements of that house were viewed without knowledge of the airy foundations from which it sprung. Like many another family who have made a sudden glow and noise and stench in this country, the Lords must be considered as an excrescence—a palpable wart. They result from a bad condition of the political body. Their decadence is the simple effect of Governor Tilden's caustic.

The two men whose doings have brought this house into prominence are Jarvis Lord and Geo. D. Lord, his eldest son. There is another son, Frank, tongue and meddler, who stands in shadow in the background. Jarvis Lord is a senator of the State. Geo. D. Lord was for one or two years a member of the Assembly.

Jarvis Lord, "Old Jarv.," as his cronies call him, began life as the attendant of a stallion. He had escaped from a common school with the least of education, but with wits so keen that when he removed at an early age from his birthplace at Ballston to Pittsford, near Rochester, he was soon the proprietor of a paying farm. Later, he started a grocery on the towpath. Later still, he laid out a race-track, at which were assembled on stated occasions the best trotters of the time.

With fortune grew ambition. The canals, with which and with the officials in charge of them he had become familiar, presented attractive opportunities. About twenty years ago he entered the lists as a contractor, and in a very short time distanced, by his deftness in the contrivance of unbalanced bids, almost everybody who attempted to compete with him. His shrewdness and good humor served him with politicians and people. He was elected twice to the lower house of the Legislature, and this year closes his third term in the Senate.

He had married early and his son George grew up with his fortunes. As a stripling George looked on his father's farm and tended his father's store. Then, entering into business, he proceeded so fast on the route Old Jarv. had paved that he shortly became even a greater power as a canal contractor than his sire. Yoked together, father and son were hard to beat. For many years they carried on a series of canal contracts which netted them large sums of money. During those years political connections and affiliations were formed which knitted the elder Lord close to the side of several honorable and earnest Democratic leaders. He was one of Dean Richmond's trusted few, and that lion heart's confidence was never betrayed by Lord while Richmond lived.

George, too, sought political position; but his first effort to get an election to the Assembly from Livingston County was as futile as twenty years ago old Jarv.'s had been to get his election as Sheriff in Monroe County. Subsequently he secured his election to the Assembly from Rochester, and in 1871 he was securely entrenched with his father in the State Legislature.

Now began that swift and brilliant campaign against the local tax-payers, the success of which and the ascendancy he acquired by it earned George D. Lord to be dubbed "Prince of Rochester."

Twice the moon was at the full. That marvellous man sat in his rooms at the Delavan House, dispensing powers to his favorites and ordering tea for next day on Capitol Hill. I may be mistaken, but I don't think he had then missed a vote from the Lords for any of his measures; and George Lord at this juncture wanted and obtained in return all the votes Tweed could command. Without the knowledge of the people of Rochester a bill was suddenly introduced in the Legislature providing for the construction of a large new water-works system for that city, at the public expense. The bill authorized the Mayor of Rochester to appoint five Commissioners, who were in turn authorized to employ engineers, surveyors, &c., and to let the contract for the construction of the works. The Commissioners were empowered to borrow money on the city's credit at 7 per cent. interest, and to issue bonds of the City of Rochester to be signed by the Mayor and the President of the Board of Commissioners; and the Common Council was required from time to time to raise the sums necessary by taxation. This bill became an act late Friday night, April 27, 1871. It was signed by the Governor Saturday. On Saturday afternoon George Lord took the train for Rochester with the law in his coat-pocket. On Sunday the Commissioners were appointed by the convent Mayor, and the citizens of Rochester were astounded by the publication of the facts in Monday morning's papers. The Commissioners for the job were Boswell Hart, who was holding at the time the office of Special Mail Service Superintendent under the General Government at a salary of \$1,000 a year and \$5 a day besides; Edwin M. Smith, the Rochester Postmaster; William H. Bowman (who has just been indicted at Buffalo for complicity with Lord in a conspiracy to defraud the State), and two respectable dummies—Charles C. Morse and Gilman H. Perkins.

Simultaneously the Commissioners began to advertise for bids to build the works, and the tax-payers began to fight against the robbery that was projected against them. By a stroke of genius George Lord secured the contract for building the works under the name of James McDonald, a contractor in the eastern part of the State, whose name is painted on the window of Lord's headquarters in Rochester. The citizens resisted the issue of the bonds to defray the price on the ground that no power existed in the State or the National Constitution to compel a city against its will to incur such an enormous debt. They took their grievance to the Court of Appeals, which decided adversely in spite of the opinion written by Judge Peckham in their favor. From the Court of Appeals they carried their cause into the Supreme Court of the United States; but here George Lord, by a charming piece of strategy, prevented them from prosecuting it. He obtained his election as Alderman, entered into the Common Council, and caused a vote to be passed by that body discontinuing the city's suit! The tax-payers, however, succeeded in sending to the Legislature in 1872 a champion of their own, Henry L. Fish. He found himself powerless at Albany, where the influence of Lord in the lobby outweighed his own in the chamber. Lord's contract therefore prospered. The original price, estimated from an unbalanced bid, was \$1,800,000. The cost up to this time has overrun that estimate by \$1,400,000, exceeding the sum of funds which were authorized to be issued (\$3,000,000) by \$200,000. The next Legislature will be applied to to authorize more bonds to complete the work.

But this was only one feather in the plume of the Prince of Rochester. On the 20th of May, 1872, a provision was inserted in an act to amend the several acts relating to the city of Rochester, creating a Board of Public Works. Through this board all city improvements were virtually placed under Lord's control.

At last, too, a commission was created by another legislative act, which was given power over the plans and erection of a new City Hall building, which as an architectural spectacle is truly shocking, is located on the canal-bank of the Court-House, and so great a scandal associated with its construction that a new commission had to be appointed last August by the Mayor to seek deep into the causes of its cost. This commission reports that it cost just \$85,000 more than it ought to, and that by settled purchase, and corrupt collusion and bribery, the contract for it was given to one of Lord's friends.

The march of these tremendous jobs has thus overwhelmed all the calculations and influences of the tax-paying class in Rochester. The



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latter have made no headway whatever against the water-works swindle, which, if new bonds are issued to cover the whole cost, will make them liable for \$350,000 a year for thirty years. They have been unable to induce the Legislature to repeal the act creating the Board of Public Works, although the tax-payers, by a vote of 5,131 out of 11,419, expressed themselves last March in favor of abolishing it. And they are powerless to restore to the treasury the stolen thousands of the City Hall. Says one of them: "The Lords have had their heels on the city's neck. During the last six years they have increased the municipal debt from a little over \$1,000,000 to more than \$5,000,000, and still they are not happy!"

I should think not. If any one envies their lot to-day he would probably be undeceived were he Asmodeus and could unroof their houses. Jarvis Lord is sick and miserable. I am told his anxiety on his son's account is great. Everybody seems to have a soft spot for old Jarv. in this emergency. But few, except his followers, say a good word for George. The taciturn manners of the Prince do not ingratiate. "Jarv. Lord," remarks one who knows them both, "is a gentleman. George is a hog." This, I take it, refers not so much to the quality of their manners as to the quality of their hearts. Jarvis Lord still lives on his farm in Pittsfield, some five miles away. George Lord lives on Plymouth avenue, in town. The palace he set out to build is not yet completed. Only a brick wing of it is constructed behind the externally modest wooden house where he resides, but the interior of the house and that wing are described as little short of magnificent. The wing contains a miniature theatre and a dining-room, where, in the course of his career, the Prince has entertained sumptuously (and bolsterously enough to shame his nickname of "The Silent") scores of the fallen and falling comrades of the passing era of plunder and display with whom, if by nothing else than his desperate plea of the Statute of Limitations at Buffalo, he has made his bed.

J. B. S.

GEORGE D. LORD'S TRIAL.

ARGUMENT OF COUNSEL UPON THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.

[SPECIAL DESPATCH TO THE WORLD.]

BUFFALO, September 24.—The case of G. D. Lord, of Rochester, who for his response to a charge of bribery as a member of the Legislature in 1871, pleads the Statute of Limitations, came before the Superior Court here this afternoon. Lord came on from Rochester with his counsel, Mr. Cogswell, and presented himself at the bar. An argument was immediately begun between the District-Attorney and opposing counsel, first, on the point whether the plea of Statute of Limitations ought to be considered by Court as intercepting the regular process of trial; and second on the point whether that plea was valid. District-Attorney Lockwood did not deem it necessary to file a formal demurrer to the plea, and contended that the prisoner's plea of "not guilty" formed a basis on which his trial should proceed. The Court thought it best that a regular legal response should be made to the plea, whereupon the District-Attorney moved that it be stricken out. Lord's attorney, tacitly accepting this motion as a demurrer, proceeded to argue the case. Counsel held that since the time in 1871, when their client is alleged to have committed the crime, there existed a statute permitting to three years the period during which a criminal could be prosecuted and punished; therefore that period expired in 1874, and he was no longer amenable, although this period was prolonged by subsequent statute in 1873 to five years. They contended that the statute could not be interpreted retrospectively, and be made to take in offenses committed while the previous three-years' statute was in force. The District-Attorney's rejoinder to this argument was extremely earnest and cogent. It was, in a nut-shell, that the State's assignment of limit of time beyond which it relinquishes its right to prosecute a criminal, is a voluntary act of grace to him, and the State retains and did retain in this instance the right to protect itself by prolonging that limit whenever it chose to. Judge Clinton asked for counsel's briefs, which will be submitted to him to-morrow. He will render his decision on the point raised next Tuesday.

BARKLEY ARRAIGNED.

BUFFALO, N. Y., September 24.—Ex-Canal Commissioner Alexander Barkley was this forenoon arraigned in the Superior Court, under the joint indictment found against himself, Geo. D. Lord, Lewis J. Bennett, Thad. C. Davis and William H. Bowman, for conspiracy to defraud the State. He entered a plea of not guilty, and gave bail in the sum of \$5,000. Charles A. Donaldson, of Fultonville, became his security.

THE CASE OF EX-GOVERNOR HOLDEN.

RALEIGH, N. C., September 24.—The State Convention, to-day, by a vote of 53 to 56, refused to remove the disabilities of ex-Governor Holden, impeached in 1871, upon the ground that the oath of the members prescribed by the Legislature restricted them from legislative action. An ordinance will be passed giving the Legislature general pardoning powers.

A LIFE SENTENCE FOR ARSON.

In General Sessions yesterday John Gonzales, charged with arson in the first degree, was found guilty and sentenced to imprisonment for life. The restaurant of Leno Martinez at 192 Pearl street was set on fire on the night of June 17, and a demijohn of kerosene was found on the basement stairs when the fire had been extinguished. The principal witness for the people was a Spaniard named Antonio Marino, who was in the employ of the defendant. He swore that Gonzales offered to give him \$100 and promised to send him to Cuba if he would assist him in firing Martinez's place; that on the night of the fire he accompanied Gonzales, who carried a demijohn of kerosene to the place and broke open the basement door; that he (witness) was afraid the policeman would see him, and as soon as he saw Gonzales go into the basement he ran to the Fulton Ferry and waited till Gonzales came and they went over to Brooklyn together. The Assistant District-Attorney produced a number of witnesses to prove that the reputation of Gonzales was not good, and the jury after being out a short time returned with a verdict of guilty. Recorder Hackett then sentenced Gonzales to State Prison for life.

YELLOW FEVER IN BROOKLYN.

The Brooklyn Board of Health were notified yesterday that there was a yellow fever patient at the City Hospital. The patient, William J. Boneton, was a sailor on board the English brig Wauburn, which arrived in this port more than a month ago from Matanzas. The vessel had a cargo of sugar, and was detained at quarantine until the cargo had been discharged, and was then thoroughly disinfected. Saturday last Boneton was taken to the hospital suffering from a febrile attack, which, according to the Brooklyn officials, has developed into yellow fever. The patient has been isolated, and several unsuccessful attempts made to find the brig. Dr. Otterson will hold a conference with the health authorities of New York on the subject to-day.

Boulton died at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Dr. Payne, who had charge of the case in the hospital, said last night that Captain Spencer, of the Wauburn, brought Boulton to the hospital last Wednesday afternoon, saying he was a favorite sailor of his and wished him well taken care of. He then offered to pay \$30 in advance for one month's board. Sixteen hours later the physician discovered that Boulton was not suffering from bilious fever, as was at first supposed. He grew worse and exhibited all the symptoms of yellow fever. Captain Spencer, who lives in Williamsburg, said that the Wauburn came from Matanzas a month ago and there was no yellow fever in that place then. Boulton had visited several sailors' boarding-houses in Brooklyn where clothing had been un-