THE MEMORABLE MARYLAND SENATORIAL CONTEST.

The Election of Hon. George Vickers —How It Was Brought About.

The recent election of Hon. George L. Wellington to the United States Senate to succeed Senator Charles H. Gibson carries the memory of the politicians back to the election of Hon. Geo. Vickers, of Kent, and the incidents thereto connected. That contest differed widely from the more recent one in this that the office sought the man and not the man the office as was the case during the present Winter.

For the first time for many years the democrats of the State found themselves in control of the State legislature when it assembled in January, 1867, with a Senator to elect to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late Hon. James A. Pearce.

It will be remembered that the Eastern Shore law was repealed in order to reward Hon. Thomas Swan, who was then Governor of the State, and elected as a republican for his betrayal of his party by putting the democrats in power. He was duly elected, but foresaw trouble ahead because his successor Lieutenant Governor Cox would become Governor, and hand the State over again to Republican rule. Governor Swann refused to accept and then Ex-Governor Philip F. Thomas, of Easton, was elected. The Senate refused to accept him on the ground of disloyalty. The legislature still continued to vote for Mr. Thomas, notwithstanding his rejection, but without avail.

Matters were growing warm in Washington. Andrew Johnson, who had become president by the death of President Lincoln, was about to be impeached and it was necessary for Maryland to be fully represented in order to save the President. No time was to be lost.

The remainder of this interesting political history is told by a writer in the Philadelphia Sunday Record as follows:

A SENATOR ELECTED.

In the meanwhile the monotonous joint ballots, with Thomas in the lead, were kept up until one morning there came a change. John Lee Carroll (since himself elected Governor of the State) was, I believe, the first name on the alphabetical roll. When it was called on that memorable morning he responded with a candidate who had never been voted for in all that contest, where compliments were numerous, and whose name had never been publicly canvassed as among the possibilities. Mr. Carroll answered; "George Vickers, of Kent county." The "cue" was taken up, and every vote was cast for Vickers. The most irreconcilable Southern sympathizer, in the face of the danger to the President of the United States, had laid aside his prejudices.

Inquiries were made on every hand as to who and what George Vickers was. The substance of the information elicited was that he was a well-to-do old-time Whig lawyer, who had lost a goodly number of slaves through emancipation, was a thorough Union man during the war, and had become enough of a democrat to be made a district elector on the McClellan presidential ticket.

SOUGHT BY AN OFFICER ON AN ICE BOAT

The proper certificate was promptly prepared and a committee appointed to notify Mr. Vickers of his election. It was midwinter, and the surest and promptest way of communicating with Chestertown (where Mr. Vickers resided) was by State ice boats. The committee was directed to take one of these, go to Chestertown, and request Mr. Vickers' attendance in the United States Senate at the earliest moment.

A member of the committee, on his return, told me of the trip. He said they landed at Chestertown about daylight, sought out in the chilly morning air Mr. Vickers' residence and knocked heavily on the door. An upper window was opened by a man who asked: "What is the matter, gentlemen?"

"Are you George Vickers?" the committee chairman asked.

"Yes," was the response.

"Well, then," said the chairman, "we are a committee of the Maryland Legislature, sent here for the purpose of notifying you of your election as United States Senator, and to request your immediate attendance at Washington."

"United States Senator! You surprise me, gentlemen. Please wait a moment and I will hastily dress myself and admit you."

THE COMMITTEE PRAYED WITH HIM.

My informant thus finished the story: "In a short time Mr. Vickers appeared at the door, invited us in, and when we had entered, said: 'Gentlemen, I thank you, and, through you, the legislature of my native State, for this amazing honor and its great responsibilities, and will endeavor to justify the selection by the service which I accept. I must ask you, before proceeding further, to join me in thanks to Almighty God for His favor and support in the great task before me. Then all hands dropped to their knees. Think of it! I, an old Catholic from St. Mary's, getting down on my knees to listen to a Methodist—and a Union man at that—thank God for allowing the democrats to elect him United States Senator. But the old man seemed so earnest that I don't regret it, and, I believe, from the way in which he talked in that prayer, he'll turn out to be a democrat we'll all be proud of."

Mr. Vickers made hasty preparations, accompanied the committee on its immediate return to Annapolis on the ice boat, took the first train for Washington, D. C., was presented to the Senate and sworn into office without question, and —as completely as Mr. Ross, of Kansas —cast the vote in that body which saved Andrew Johnson from impeachment in his high office.

Suffice it to say that Mr. Vickers' subsequent course in the Senate on party questions vindicated the choice of him, and won the admiration of every Maryland democrat, while his general abilities commanded the respect of his fellow Senators of all politics.

A $2,000,000 Home.

Of all the beautiful country establishments of the wealthy along the Hudson, none can rival the magnificent colonial palace of Mrs. Eliot Shepard, at Scarborough-on-the-Hudson, which has just been finished and fully furnished.

The mansion, which contains in the neighborhood of 200 rooms, is built of light pressed Italian brick and terra cotta. It is situated on high ground, from which the scene is uninterrupted on all sides for miles around. The view of the Hudson and Palisades is unsurpassed.

The entrance to the Shepard estate from the public highway is through two artistic gateways formed of carved stone and iron brought from France. On either side of the beautiful drives and embowered walks are fine lawns laid out with huge flower beds and shaded from the sun's glare by many choice American and foreign trees. Massive retaining granite walls encircle the estate, which, without the beautiful residence, would be an ideal park.

The main entrance is recessed and enriched by a portico supported by Corinthian columns, extending in height two stories, surmounted by an entablature and an attic story, the recess forming a dark back-ground, against which the Corinthian columns are beautifully shown. The great verandas, which nearly surround the house, and the beautiful terraces will recall the old Italian villas and gardens. The entrance hall is undoubtedly the chef d'œuvre of the whole house. This hall and the stairway hall are of Italian marble and hung with rare Gobelin and Italian tapestries. Beautiful staircases, with easy landings, rise to the second floor. The balusters on the stairways were brought from France.

All the principal rooms of the house, which are on the first floor, are so arranged that they can be opened into one mammoth room, which can be utilized for any purpose. The living and reception rooms are on the southwest side of the great hall. The latter room is both elegant and handsome. It is finished in Spanish cedar, and the walls are beautifully frescoed with Italian leather. The great fireplace and mantelpiece were imported from an Italian chateau. Golden Wall coverings and silken tapestries of the same hue make a rich frame in the salon for the beautiful bric-a-brac, which Mrs. Shepard collected while in Venice and the Holy Land. In the salon there is a mantlepiece 200 years old.

Mrs. Shepard's appartments are on the second floor, as well as all other sleeping apartments. Her rooms are models of beauty. The pale tints of the comoes which adorn the ceilings are in sharp contrast to the beautiful colors of the silk embroideries, which cover like tapestries nearly one-half of the room.

On the third floor the guest's chambers are situated. These are finished in white and gold, with private dressing-rooms and baths. Here also are situated the billard-room, woodwork of a dark, rich color; the floor and ceilings are of mosaic. The mansion is lighted by electricity, there being 1,250 lights in the house. The total cost of the house and laying-out of the garden is said to to have been $2,000,000.

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