

N. Y., where he was appointed surrogate. He was afterward made a member of the state senate, and was one of the most powerful opponents of De Witt Clinton. He was in congress for several years and afterward comptroller of New York, and in 1833 a member of the United States senate. He was strong in his adherence to principle and supported Henry Clay's compromise bill in 1833, while he opposed Van Buren's independent treasury scheme. He resigned from congress in 1844 to become governor of New York, and remained in that position until 1847. During the anti-rent riots he declared Delaware county in a state of insurrection and felt obliged to call out the military.



Horatio Seymour said of this statesman: "Mr. Wright was a great man, an honest man; if he committed errors, they were induced by his devotion to his party. He was not selfish; to him his party was everything—himself nothing." Silas Wright died in Canton, St. Lawrence county, N. Y., Aug. 27, 1847. After the troubles between the Hunkers and Barnburners had been settled, it was hoped that there would be democratic peace in New York, but such was not the case, as there continued to be faction fighting in the old wigwam, which was carried on by constant intrigue and often by

open violence. Such collisions, accompanied by more or less excitement and rioting continued to prevail until 1853, when there was another split in the democratic party, which now became divided into hards and softs. The situation was now reversed and the old Hunker chiefs, John McKeon, James T. Brady, Charles O'Connor, Greene C. Bronson, and their associates found themselves in the same condition in which they had put the Barnburners in 1848; that is to say, banished from Tammany hall. Having called a meeting to endorse their state nominations at Tammany hall, their leaders found the doors of the wigwam locked against them by order of the sachems. And it should be remembered, in reading the further history of Tammany, that the Tammany wigwam is always under the control of the officials of the Tammany society and cannot be used for any purpose without their sanction. The trouble between the hards and the softs continued until 1856, when, after the nomination of Buchanan for the presidency, "the two factions determined to bury the tomahawk and smoke the pipe of peace around the old council fire." It is proper to give some account of the prominent democrats just mentioned, who led the Hards out of the Tammany wigwam.

BRADY, James T., one of the most brilliant of all the members of the New York bar, was born in New York city Apr. 9, 1815. His father was a lawyer, and he grounded his son, James, in his study for that profession. At the age of twenty-one he was admitted to the bar, and almost his first case drew public attention to his eloquence, his clear-sightedness, and his legal knowledge. He speedily became in demand in the most important litigations, such as the great patent cases, like that of Goodyear vs. Day; cases involving questions of medical jurisprudence, like the Parrish will case; or the moral insanity plea, as in the case of Cole the homicide; and divorce cases, such as that of Mrs. Edwin Forrest. But Mr. Brady was specially successful in criminal cases, in which he usually appeared for the defense, frequently without fee or reward. In 1848 he was appointed district attorney of New York, and in

1845 corporation attorney. In 1859 Mr. Brady appeared as counsel for Daniel E. Sickles, on the latter's trial for the assassination of Philip Barton Key, and his success in saving Sickles is well known. It is said of Mr. Brady that he never lost a case in which he was before a jury for more than a week; in that time they saw everything through his eyes. He was an ultra state-rights man before the civil war, and in 1860 was a candidate for governor on the hard-shell or pro-slavery democratic ticket. Mr. Brady died in New York Feb. 9, 1869.

BRONSON, Greene C., who was another hard-shell leader, and the candidate of that faction for governor in 1855, was born in Oneida, N. Y., in 1789. He was educated as a lawyer, and practised for many years in Utica. He was surrogate of Oneida county, member of assembly, attorney-general, chief justice of the supreme court, and justice of the court of appeals. He left the bench and settled in New York, where he practised law, but was unfortunate, and lost all his property by speculation. He was, for a year, collector of the port of New York, and from 1859 to 1863 was corporation counsel. He died at Saratoga, N. Y., Sept. 3, 1863.

O'CONNOR, Charles, the celebrated lawyer, was born in New York city Jan. 22, 1804. He was admitted to the bar when only twenty years of age. In 1848 he was a candidate for lieutenant-governor of New York, but, although he ran ahead of his ticket, he was defeated. His greatest lawsuits were the Forrest divorce case, the Lispenard will case, the Lemmon slave case in 1856, the Parrish will case in 1862, and the Jumel case in 1871. He was a leader of the "Friends of Ireland," and presided at some of their meetings. During the civil war his sympathies were with the South, and after it ended he became senior counsel for Jefferson Davis, when the latter was indicted for treason; and, in company with Horace Greeley, went on Mr. Davis's bond when he was admitted to bail. In 1872 a faction of the democratic



party nominated Mr. O'Connor at the Louisville convention for president. Mr. O'Connor retired from public and professional life in 1881, and settled at Nantucket, Mass., where he died May 12, 1884. While the hard-shell and soft-shell quarrel was being conducted in the midst of the democracy of the city of New York, Fernando Wood appeared upon the scene, soon made his influence felt, and in 1854 became the candidate of Tammany hall for the mayoralty, and was elected. What was known as the "American party" was again striving for position in local politics as it had in 1843, when it first raised the hue-and-cry against the "foreign element." In 1854 its candidate, James W. Barker, was defeated by Mayor Wood; whereas, ten years before, the American party had succeeded in electing James Harper mayor, as has already been told. It was only the year before, in August, 1853, that the old warfare between the softs and the hards had broken out again, and there had been a serious hand-to-hand fight in a back room in Tammany hall, in which Augustus Schell, at the time collector of the port of New York, and afterward grand sachem of the Tammany society, was severely injured, so much so that he suffered for a long time from the injuries which he received on the occasion, and his assailants were tried for the assault, convicted, and sentenced to imprisonment in the penitentiary. After

this came a bad break in the Tammany forces, which resulted in the defeat of Horatio Seymour for governor in 1854, a position which he already occupied.

WOOD, Fernando, was born in Philadelphia, Pa., June 14, 1812. He came of Quaker origin, and having received a good education, settled in New York city while he was a boy, and began to study



business in a shipping merchant's office. Before he was twenty-one years of age, he had already gained quite a reputation as a writer and speaker. In 1839 he was made chairman of a young men's political club, and in 1840 was elected a member of congress on the democratic ticket. He served two years in the house of representatives, and during the next seven years, or until 1850, he was engaged in business with such success that he was able to retire with a competence. In the latter year he was nominated for the mayoralty of New York, but was defeated by a combination of whigs and know-nothings. In 1854, how-

ever, he was elected mayor, and re-elected in 1856. It was in the latter year that an attempt was made in the legislature to place the New York city police under state control. This attempt was fought by Mayor Wood, with the result of a serious riot, and at the next election Mr. Wood was defeated, although he was re-elected in 1859. After this Mr. Wood served twelve years in congress. He died in Washington February 20, 1881. Fernando Wood's relation to Tammany was a peculiar one. He received his first election as mayor of New York as its nominee, but after his re-election was thrown over by Tammany, chiefly through the machinations of the hard-shells, who had been brought into it by the consolidation of 1856. Wood now organized Mozart hall as an opposition society, and with its assistance succeeded in inflicting upon Tammany in 1859 a disastrous defeat, and once more putting himself at the head of the city government. So fierce had been the Wood and anti-Wood fight in Tammany that the democratic voters had elected two general committees, each claiming to be the regular Tammany hall committee. Mozart hall passed away in a few years, after Wood had lost his interest in it, but was followed by the McKeon democracy, Irving hall, Apollo hall, the Citizens' association and other societies, all of which fought Tammany, as a rule, for the purpose of personal aggrandizement, by selling themselves out to the highest bidder. At this time Tammany contained such men as Lorenzo B. Shepard (grand sachem in 1855), Robert J. Dillon, Augustus Schell, Charles P. Daly (afterward chief justice of the court of common pleas), Smith Ely, Jr. (afterward mayor of New York), C. Godfrey Gunther (afterward mayor of New York), John J. Cisco, and many others of the most respected and wealthiest citizens. In the mayoralty contest of 1859, Fernando Wood, as the candidate of Mozart hall, polled 29,950 votes; Havemeyer, the Tammany candidate polled 26,918; and Opdyke, the republican candidate, 21,417. This showed that the democrats held five-sevenths of the vote in New York. In 1861 the vote between Tammany and Mozart hall, the former nominating Gunther and the latter Wood, was so close as to give the mayoralty to Opdyke, the republican, by a small plurality. It was not until 1865, when John T. Hoffman was nominated by Tammany, and elected, that the organization once more united all the officers under its control, including the mayoralty, the

common council, the board of supervisors, the street, health, market, police, and educational departments. The vote by which Hoffman was first elected was, Tammany (Hoffman) 32,820; republican (Marshall O. Roberts) 31,657; Mozart hall (Hecker) 10,390; McKeon democracy (Gunther) 6,758.

After Fernando Wood left Tammany, and set up for himself, the old organization was broken up into "rings," which worked through the factions we have named, and did great injury to the political system of the democratic party in New York. Among their leaders was Isaac V. Fowler, who exercised great power about 1857, and who was grand sachem of Tammany in 1859-60. He was appointed postmaster of New York, and while holding that official position was discovered to have committed a defalcation, and fled the country, this being almost the first instance of this character in the official history of New York. It is said of Fernando Wood, that while holding the position of mayor he inspired the democracy of the city with a spirit of activity it had never before known. His power and influence over the minds of men were extraordinary, and few dared openly to oppose him, yet eventually the opposition which gathered around his political pathway was of a character to daunt the most courageous.

SHEPARD, Lorenzo B., one of Tammany's best men and one of New York's most interesting young citizens, was grand sachem of Tammany, 1855-56. He was the son of David B. Shepard, for many years a prominent New York lawyer, and was born in 1821. At the age of fourteen, being left an

orphan, he began to study law with Judge Ulysses D. French, with whom he remained until 1848, being admitted to practice at the bar in 1841. In 1845 Mr. Shepard was appointed by Gov. Silas Wright examiner in chancery. In 1846 he was a member of the New York state constitutional convention; he was appointed by President Polk U. S. district attorney for New York, to fill a vacancy, and in 1854 Gov. Seymour made him district attorney of the city and county of New York. In 1855 he received the unanimous nomination of Tammany hall for counsel of the corporation. Besides being grand sachem of Tammany, he was chairman of the consolidated general committee of Tammany hall at the time of his death. This lamented event took place on Sept. 9, 1857, when he was found dead in his bath-tub, being then only thirty-six years of age. The regular Wood convention of 1856, which met in Tammany hall on Sept. 15th of that year, selected Daniel E. Sickles as chairman. The fact is only mentioned here because the convention split during the meeting, and a party of bolters retired to the old "Pewter Mug" in Frankfort street, which was at that time kept by Col. Thomas Dunlap, and where they held a side meeting. The "Pewter Mug" was a noted tavern in those days and was the constant place of resort of democratic politicians.

Among those who have been mentioned as prominent in the councils of Tammany hall, one of the most important personalities was that of Augustus Schell, who was a sachem for many years and grand sachem from 1882 to 1884.

SHELL, Augustus, became chairman of Tammany hall general committee in 1852, and in 1878 its candidate for mayor. (See Index.)

