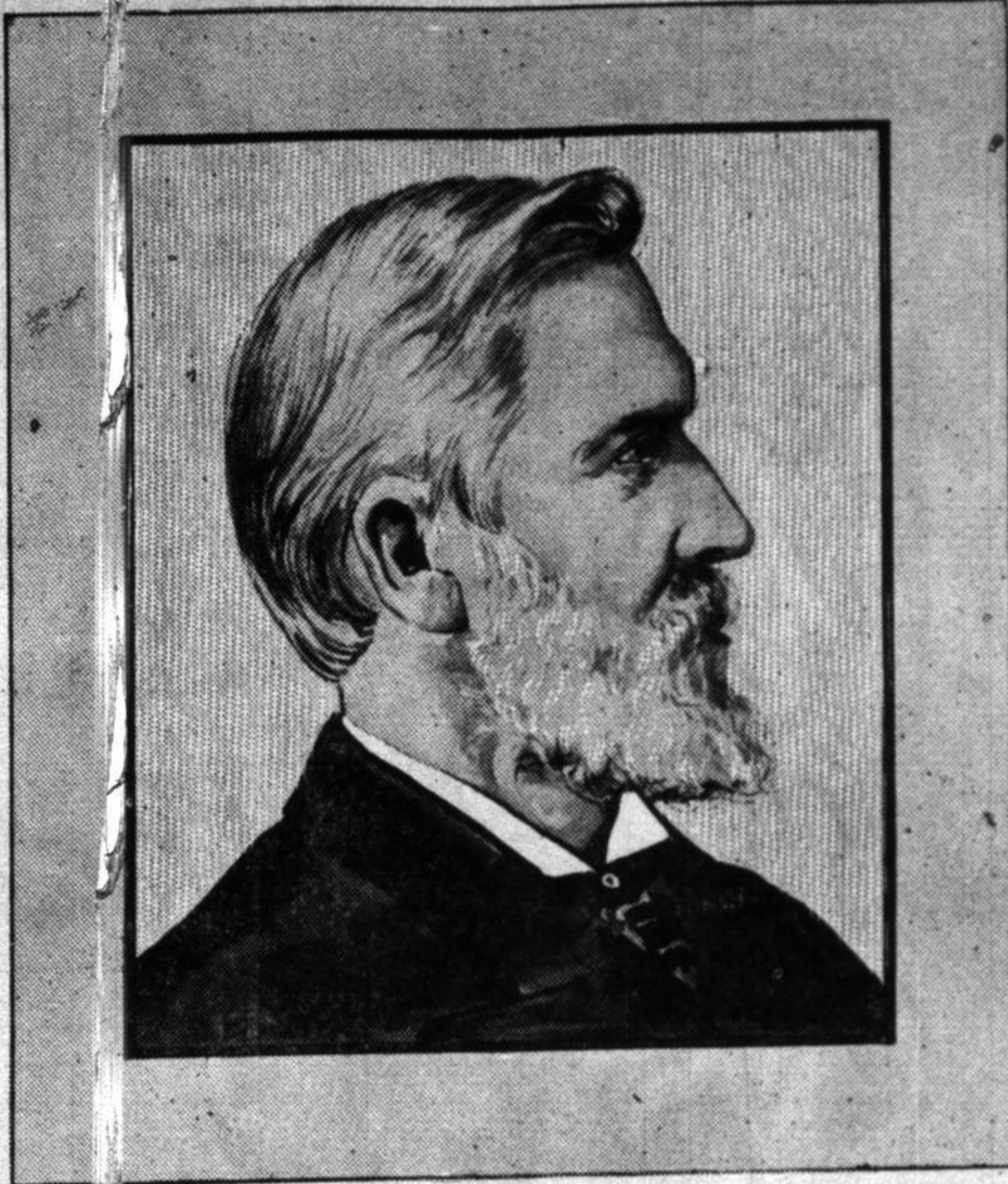


PROF. ELISHA GRAY.



Courtesy Chicago Tribune.

A Call for Help.
Editor News-Letter:

My attention has just been called to an article in the *Highwood Independent* of the 11th inst., in which article the editor seems to be making a herculean effort to thrash everybody in general a proceeding which, of course, is purely his matter, and but for a curious little fact I would spend no time in paying any attention to it.

In this article the editor of the *Independent* attempts to slash the writer by referring to his article in the *NEWS-LETTER* of January 4th, in which he confesses himself unable to understand some of the English in the *Independent*, and so the editor says:

"We are not surprised that Patron No. 1 cannot understand our English. We are only surprised that he had brains enough to read the article with fair understanding."

This is quite an interesting statement, but to the writer there is nothing new in it. In fact, I have quite frequently admitted that my brain power is only very common, indeed I have often mourned over this very fact, and while I am usually able to understand simple English I confess I found myself incapable of understanding the English used by the editor of the *Independent* in the article referred to.

But, by the way, just as I was reading the article mentioned above, I glanced into an adjacent column of the *Independent* and I saw this rather strange statement, which may not be uninteresting in this connection. The editor of the *Independent* says:

"The cold contracted by Mr. A. W. Fletcher, while out on the lake in his *Mud Scow*, of which the *Highland Park* sheet made mention in its last issue; and from which Mr. Fletcher has been quite ill for the past week, is now able to be around and attend to business."

Now let me assure the editor of the *Independent* that I am very sorry—indeed I feel mortified—but I must confess the fact that my brain again is not equal to the emergency. My only apology is that in my young days my school opportunities were very limited, but I did one winter have the opportunity of studying English grammar four weeks. In that time, by dint of hard labor and the patience of my teacher, I came to understand fairly well the relation of the subject in a sentence to the predicate of that sentence, and I read the above statement over again still my brain proves insufficient. I conclude that "the cold contracted by Mr. A. W. Fletcher" is the subject. By eliminating what seems to be the modifiers I reach the conclusion that "is now able to be around and attend to business" must be the predicate.

I read the item again, and again I am puzzled to know whether the editor really meant to say that the "*Mud Scow* is able to be around and attend to business," or whether the "*Highland Park* sheet is able to be around," or whether "A. W. Fletcher is able to be around," or whether he really meant to say, "the cold contracted is able to be around and attend to business."

I inquire of my neighbors, and they are unable to help me out. The language seems plain that

With the passing of Professor Gray the world has lost one of its profoundest thinkers and workers, and we, his fellow townsmen, perhaps will not fully appreciate the real greatness of this man until we are reminded of it by the judgment of those who were not so close to him.

We knew him in his private life, and were more impressed with his warm and loving nature than with his more serious side, but we knew nothing of the prodigious problems constantly before his master mind. We love to remember his kindly face and to recall him in his comfortable home, where he was always the thoughtful host and genial entertainer, but the quiet, unassuming man confided his deepest thoughts to few. He frequently complained of being lonely because he could not find the kind of companionship that he needed, and, like all great inventors, enjoyed working out an electrical or mechanical problem with one of his laboratory experts more than anything else. His was one of the most analytic minds of recent times. He was constantly at work discovering new laws, new fundamental principles, and was never willing to employ his time on mere devices, or, as he once expressed it, "little tool inventions." His name will forever be indelibly stamped upon the telephone, but he did not realize any substantial benefit from the invention itself and for a long time deplored the fact that he did not even receive the credit to which he knew

he was entitled. His first recognition as the real inventor of the telephone came from abroad, for scientists on the other side of the Atlantic judged the case from the records on file in the patent office, and consequently on its merits, while those nearer home were befogged by the legal verbiage of clever lawyers working in the interest of unlimited capital to place the credit of the invention where it did not belong. The later years of Professor Gray's life were gladdened by the increasing evidence that history was going to right this great wrong, and we predict that in due time he will take his place with Franklin, Faraday, Fulton, Morse, and the other masters who have changed the methods of conducting the world's work.

His harmonic telegraph was also a distinct departure from anything that had preceded it and enabled him to send eight messages simultaneously over one wire, and this might have been one of the great industrial inventions of the age had it fallen into proper hands. His crowning achievement, however, was the telautograph, by which one may transmit his own handwriting over a line, as was successfully done between London and Paris. The telautograph contains, perhaps, more original invention than anything in the whole electrical field, and is the result of over ten years of hard work. Other inventors have taken up the work where Professor Gray left it, and the telautograph is only to-day beginning

to find its place among the great modern inventions, but no one can deprive its originator of his full credit.

The last years of his life have been devoted to still another original research that is bound to be of the greatest benefit to mankind—a method of warning ships at night or during fog of the approach to a dangerous coast, enabling them to save their passengers and crews from the perils of shipwreck.

This is by no means a complete list of professor Gray's inventions, for he produced many things of less importance, but those mentioned serve to show that he was a king among original inventors, and we would have to scan the records very closely, and perhaps in vain, to find so much to the credit of any other man.

Professor Gray has at various times realized handsomely from his numerous inventions, and has more than once been in comfortable circumstances, but his whole-souled generosity was not compatible with wealth, and when fortune smiled upon him she also smiled through him upon his poorer neighbors and the numerous institutions in which he was interested, and he leaves us a comparatively poor man. Now that he is gone let us who knew and loved him so well not wait for outsiders to tell us that we have had one of nature's great men among us, but let us insist that he be given his proper place in the world's hall of fame, the place that he now has in our affections.

fair was published including the menu, which among other good things announced the liquids set out. The gentleman sent a copy of the paper containing an account of the feast to a lady friend for whom he entertained more than a passing fancy, but taking precautions to cut from the menu the "vintage of '93." A few days later a daintily enveloped and nicely written request reached the mail order department of this office for "a copy of the paper of two weeks ago." A woman's curiosity of course had to be satisfied.

—Ex.

which Mr. Fletcher has been quite ill for the past week." I am again in doubt whether this "which" refers to the "cold" or to "Mr. A. W. Fletcher" or to the "*Mud Scow*" or to the "*Highland Park* sheet."

Once more: Did the editor of the *Independent* mean his readers to understand that the "*Highland Park* sheet made mention in its last issue" of the "*Mud Scow*," or of "Mr. Fletcher," or of the "cold contracted?"

But I am compelled to give it up. Humiliating as it is I must ask the editor of the *Independent* to help me out.

POSTOFFICE PATRON ["No. 1."]

Not many weeks ago a young man of this village attended a spread indulged in by a number of friends. An account of the af-

Girl Wanted.
Wanted.—A young lady to learn typesetting at NEWS-LETTER office.

Would you rather be complimented on your looks or on your brains?

Difference of Opinion.

We have been much interested in reading the editorial in the *Outlook* of January 19th, entitled "The Abolition of the Canteen." In the main the article is very fair, candid and reasonable. On some points, however, we must be permitted to object, both to certain statements as being in our belief unwarranted, and also we must object to some of the inferences.

The author says; "We have no doubt that there is a strong interest of small liquor dealers in favor of the abolition of the canteen." Of this we have never seen the slightest evidence, and yet we can see how it might be.

It is a general principle of economics that price is affected by supply and demand, and anything that increases the demand would tend to increase the price; hence, the increased exportation of large quantities of beer or whisky to other countries would compel the retail dealers at home to pay higher for these articles which in turn would decrease their profits in the retail trade.

But the author adds: "We suspect that the interest of the distillers is more or less enlisted on the same side." Will the editor kindly tell us on what he bases his "suspect?" In other words, will he state any evidence that his statement is correct?

The editor still further adds: "The uncompromising temperance advocates have added a moral support to this measure," (in other words, the Prohibitionists, for whom else can he mean by "uncompromising temperance advocates?") and the brewers, distillers and wholesale and retail dealers are all working hand in hand and shoulder to shoulder for or against, as the case may be, the continuance of the liquor business.

If the editor of the *Outlook* will bring us one single distiller or brewer or liquor dealer who voted for Woolley and Metcalf at the recent presidential election we will admit to that extent, he has grounds for his statement. Until then we must regard such statements as unfounded on fact.

A Card.

We, the undersigned, do hereby agree to refund the money on a 50-cent bottle of Greene's Warranted Syrup of Tar if it fails to cure your cough or cold. We also guarantee a 25-cent bottle to prove satisfactory or money refunded.

Geo. B. CUMMINGS.
Fred W. SCHUMACHER

Want Column.

Insertions in this column
30 words or less, one insertion . . . 25
four . . . 75
More than 30 words 5 cents per line.
All ads in this column must be paid in advance where advertiser has no regular account with this office.

NOTICE—Wanted, to buy, a fresh milch cow, half Jersey, half Durham. Address box 133 Highland Park.

FOR SALE—Folding bed, oil paintings, sheet iron stove and oil heater. Call at Dr. Boulter's.

FOR SALE—Cheap, Horse, harness, and wagon; will sell separate if desired. Enquire of C. W. Stoker, p-9

Wanted—Business men and women to take exclusive agency for a state and control sub-agents handling Dr. Whit's electric comb. \$3,000 per month compensation. Call and I will prove it. D. N. Rose, Gen. Mgr., Decatur, Ill. 3m

FOR SALE—A fine new milk cow with calf. Price \$60. Inquire of M. Moses.

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