



Hon. Alexander H. Rice.

One of the features of journalism of the present day is illustration, and as the TRANS-CONTINENTAL intends not only to be up with the times, but constantly on the move in the run of progress, we present, among other features, in the first issue of our paper, those of the distinguished gentleman whose name graces the head of this article, which will, we think, owing to the spirit of our special artist, be readily recognized by most of our readers. ALEXANDER H. RICE, President of the Boston Board of Trade, may justly be said to be a representative man of Massachusetts, and also of that class of Boston merchants who contribute so much by their business enterprise, sterling integrity and mercantile honor to render the name of that city respected at home and abroad.

Like many of our most eminent public men, Mr. Rice owes nothing to fortune, but everything to his own talent, industry and ability. After serving as boy and clerk in the store of William Carter & Co., in Boston, he determined to obtain a more thorough and classical education, and for that end entered Schenectady College at N. Y., then under care of the celebrated Dr. Nott, where he graduated with honor. Returning to Boston he accepted a partnership in the house of Wilkins, Carter & Co. His energy and tact soon gave him a leading position in the firm, and the business in 1845 assumed a more important aspect. After the retirement of his partners, the present firm of Rice, Kendall & Co. was formed, with Mr. Rice at its head.

Mr. Rice has served as Mayor of Boston in 1856 and 1857, and in 1858 was elected to congress, serving four terms, and much of the time as chairman of the naval committee, introducing many important reforms and offering the valuable suggestions which were received with commendation by naval men of high position. He certainly was one of the most popular men with the veterans in the service. When Gen. Grant was elected President Mr. Rice's name was one of the most prominent for the position of Secretary of the Navy, and that he did not receive the nomination we consider a positive loss to the country. Having returned to private life, he now devotes himself to his business like a good merchant as he is, and is ever ready to make his talents available in any department of business, charity or assembly for which his ability as a presiding officer and his talent as a graceful and accomplished speaker is peculiarly adapted.

This brief imperfect sketch, written at the running rate of forty miles an hour, can scarcely be said to do justice to its subject.

—J. Tillinghast, Esq., Gen'l Supt. of the New York Central railroad, accompanied our train from Albany to Suspension Bridge, a distance of 304 miles, which was made in 8 hours and 26 minutes. Gen. Priest, Division Supt. accompanied the train as far as Utica, also Div. Supt. Lapham, thence to Rochester, and Div. Supt. Torrence to Suspension Bridge. The train was run by conductors Whitbeck, Eaton and Wells.

— At the Massachusetts State line our passengers assembled and Hon. Alex. H. Rice delivered a short and appropriate address to Gov. Claflin, full of feeling and well chosen sentiments, after which nine hearty cheers were given with a will for the Governor of the old Bay State. While he cannot go with us in person, for the legislature of the State is in session, his heart and best wishes go with us, and his warmest sympathies.

— Before leaving Boston, where our train left the actual borders of Atlantic tide water, in Massachusetts Bay, a bottle of sea water was filled in the presence of the party, to be taken to San Francisco and there emptied into the Pacific ocean. As this train will be the first through entire train which has ever crossed from Atlantic to Pacific direct, every car going through with only through passengers, the incident is not without interest historically.

— From Chester to Washington up the grade of the Boston & Albany railroad, our train was run at fully thirty miles an hour. Everywhere we have met with marked compliments and received distinguished civilities from our railway friends. The fastest speed between Boston and Albany was performed from Chatham and Greenbush, a distance of twenty-three miles, which was made in twenty-four minutes.

— Col. Charles O. Russell, Gen'l Superintendent of the Boston & Albany R. R. accompanied the train over his road, and the excursionists acknowledge themselves under many obligations to him, both personally and officially, for his great kindness and for many favors shown them and the train.

— His Excellency, Gov. Claflin, with his wife, accompanied this excursion party, of the Boston Board of Trade, through the State of Massachusetts to the State line.

— The Board of Trade Excursion train, it is estimated, was visited by over fifty thousand people from the time of its arrival on Saturday to Monday morning.

— Owing to the crowded state of these columns, our full stock report is omitted, but will be found posted on the bulletin of our editorial room in the smoking car.

— At every way station the platforms are crowded by persons anxious to view and cheer the party as they pass.

WANTED.—In the "Revere" Car a Tenor and Bass.