

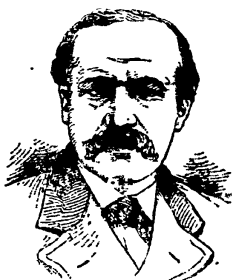
THE LATE JAMES REDPATH.

He Was One of the Journalists Who May Be Called Great.

[Special Correspondence.]

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—The death of James Redpath removes from the ranks of literary workmen one whose greatness was far better known by his associates than by the public generally, and this for the reason that he was one who had in a high degree the talent of the managing editor. In other words, he had the faculty, not common among men who are themselves excellent writers, of originating ideas not only for his own pen but for the pens of others.

This was immediately spoken of when the news of his death was told. I chanced at the moment to be one of a group of journalists, and W. G. McLaughlin, the



JAMES REDPATH.

veteran editor of *The Metropolis*, said. "Redpath was one of the last of the old time journalists of the Greeley school, and was by no means one of the least of them. He was great in a remarkable sense, for while he maintained himself always in the very highest plane of literary work, he, more than any other man since Greeley, kept himself in touch with the working people—not the writers, but the people who earn a bare living by manual toil. There is hardly an individual in the world today who is trusted by workmen as Redpath was.

"And moreover he was great, as Greeley was in a totally different direction. He was a great editor. Everybody knows how Thorndyke Rice took hold of *The North American Review* when it was moribund, and made it again what it had been before, the leading magazine of America, but what everybody does not know is that it was Thorndyke Rice's money and James Redpath's brain that made this possible. The fact is that when the old magazine was about to go into the auction room Rice went to Redpath and asked him whether it would be possible to rescue it and build it up. Redpath said that would depend on how it should be conducted, and in a twenty minutes' conversation laid down the lines of the plan which Rice afterward adopted.

"We all know what resulted. The magazine did not go to the auction room. Rice became famous, and went to congress. Redpath remained an editor. I presume there is no doubt that if Rice had lived Redpath would have continued to occupy the real editor's chair as long as his health would permit him to keep at work, and there was something very surprising about the vitality that enabled him to go back again and again to his work after passing through illnesses that would have killed an ordinary man.

"Nobody thought he would ever return to work again after Rice sent him off on that long vacation which he took after having his third shock of paralysis. Nobody supposed he would live from week to week, in fact; but although he was a physical wreck he never lost his courage or his intellectual vigor."

DAVID A. CURTIS.