

## "UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."

Many of the Characters Drawn by Mrs Stowe are Still Alive.

(From the Hartford Times.)

It is forty-four years since the publication of the first edition of "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Since that one there have been many editions of this story, and there will be many more. Mr C. E. L. Winstate, of Boston, has long had an interest in "Uncle Tom's Cabin," and has found in the course of his researches that almost every one of its characters had an original in actual life. He thus tells of them:

"Josiah Benson and Sam Pate were the prototypes of Uncle Tom. The first half of the character's life was drawn from Benson, while the career of Pate, who died exactly as Mrs Stowe described, formed the basis of the second part of the story. Benson, who became a preacher, had shown fight while in the service of a cruel master, and being overthrown, both of his arms were broken. The arms were never set and Benson remained a cripple until his death, five years ago.

"The original of George Harris is still alive. A few months ago he visited Boston to see his brother Milton, an employee in the sub-treasury here. Lewis George Clarke, for such is his real name, was the first slave who, after running away from his master, was allowed to take the platform against slavery. Twice he was sold at the block, the first time at Stamford, Ky. to Tom Kennedy, the original Legree, and the second time at Garrett, Ky. to Kennedy's son. At the latter sale Clarke brought \$150. Though Clarke's parents were slaves, they were nearly white, and his sister, Della, the original of Estlin in the story, became the wife of a Frenchman, who bought her in the auction pen at New Orleans and took her to Mexico; she died some years ago.

"Lewis made his escape in 1831, a year after his brother Milton had run away, and went to Canada in the way stated in the story. At one time an attempt was made by the original of Marks, the lawyer, to kidnap Lewis and his brother, but though Milton was carried to the Court House at Madison, he was quickly rescued by the abolitionists. Ellen, who was chased by the bloodhounds over the ice, was not the wife of Lewis, but otherwise the incident was true.

"It was when Lewis Clarke was living with Gerrit Smith that Mrs Stowe saw him, and obtained the facts for her powerful novel. He has often maintained that so far from being overdrawn, the sketches of life could have been made, with truth, even more vivid. He, himself, has of late been a lecturer.

"A few years ago the original of Eva was living in Washington, and as her death has not been chronicled she may today be still in the Capital City. She was Miss Letcher, of a prominent Southern family, and became the wife of Gen Kennedy, the master of Lew, in Clarke. Kennedy was made over by Mrs Stowe into Legree, and his son into St Clair. The Letcher family served as prototypes of the Selbys. The death of Eva the stated the choice of another girl to accompany her to that pathetic scene, and so Annie Campbell, that cousin of Clarke's grandfather, was Bequith, the colored girl named Milla, who belonged to Mrs Benton, of Lincoln County, Ky."

That first edition of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," forty years ago, was printed in Boston by the then obscure house of John P. Jewett & Co, of Boston. A story, whether true or not, is told of the difficulty Mrs Stowe found in securing a publisher for her untitled work. She was then the wife of Prof Calvin E. Stowe, of Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Me.

"Uncle Tom's Cabin" had been printed as a serial in the National Era, an anti-slavery paper in Washington of limited circulation and influence. She took the manuscript to various publishers in Boston, and all told her the work would not succeed. As a last resort she offered the "copy" to Mr Jewett. He told her he would look over the book and let her have his decision at once. This was a step gained and with renewed hope she waited.

Mr Jewett's house was a small one and he could not afford any experiments. He had great confidence in his wife's judgment, and so he took the manuscript home to her and told her that he should abide by her decision. She read the book through and said:

"It is a live book. It will sell!"

That settled its fate. The first edition was put upon the book dealers' counters on the 30th of March, 1853, and the success it attained every one knows. Edition followed edition until in four years 313,600 copies had been sold in the United States alone. In the first six months 50,000 copies were printed and sold. The firm of John P. Jewett & Co rose from obscurity to fame, and was obliged to add press after press to its plant until it had the largest publishing house in Boston. The first installment of royalties to Mrs Stowe was \$10,000 cash. The work has been translated into a dozen different languages, dramatized in more than twenty forms, acted in nearly every city and town in the world. The French and German translations have passed through eleven editions each, and the other languages represented are: Spanish, Italian, Danish, Dutch, Swedish, Flemish, Polish, Magyar, Arabic, Armenian, Russian.