ARTICLE.

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SUBJECT.

Senator J. B. Frye, (A Sketch.)

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Burlington, Vt., _____ *1900.*

A Sketch

on

Senator Frye

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Sent to the Youth's

Companion

Dec 22/99 Boston

OFFICE OF H. S. HOWARD,

1[redacted] COLLEGE STREET, BU[redacted]NGTON, VT.

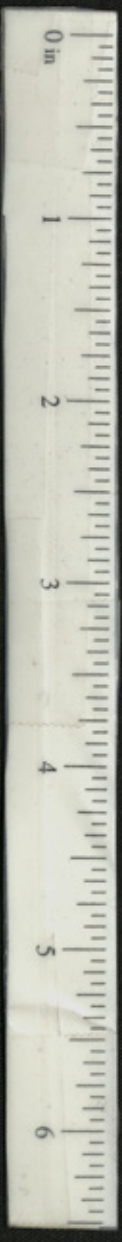
No.---------- Date----------

To----------

Ship to---------- ----------

Via----------

Terms----------



My old friend & classmate has always been aspiring to higher & higher positions. Once some years ago when I met him at the Hamilton where he always lives when in Washington, he said to me jocosely that he was in a dilemma, being uncertain whether to accept the Senatorship or a higher position. He did not tell me what he regarded as a higher position than that of a United States Senator. It might have been the office of Secretary of State. But his choice fell to the Senatorship. Now he touches, I think, the acme of his ambition, if he really has any ambition in these days, to sit and occupy the chair of the

Vice President of the United States.
And indeed, though not elected by
the people for the place, he is
to all intents & purposes the
Vice President. Probably no
better presiding officer of the
Senate could be found; and
should he ever be called
to step upon the Presidential
platform, platform, he would fill that
place with the same marked
ability that he has filled office
after office up to his present
elevation.

The first time I saw Frye was
in our Sing-class room
at the beginning of our first
term in Bowdoin College. I
was not quite 16 and he
appeared to me self reliant & fully
about my age. He hadn't yet
come to his full size, but he
was a very presentable youth.

His limbs were longer than mine and he had a perfectly shaped head, one might say well chiseled. His hair was dark brown having light shades and his eyes just as they are now, large & noticeably blue eyes that brighten immensely under excitement. As a freshman he roomed in Massachusetts Hall (north end) with Webster Pickard a junior. This cut him off considerably from his more humble classmates of the north College where P.S. Perley & I enjoyed the fun & teasing of the Sophomores. I doubt if Frye ever had the old discipline of the hazing. Though, to be sure, I saw him at football once considerably annoyed when the Sophs so often mistook Freshmen's shins for the football.

and of study
work
We must at the Gymnasium
in the rear of the Dormitory
We practiced jumping with
the swing rope for developing our muscles;
neither of us greatly excelled
in this exercise. Our classmate
Sandgrass could go so far
beyond us by his elastic spring
at the end of the rope. Nor
I think were we
but a little balked
discouraged
in the competition; yet he
was more strongly
I remember him so well
in recitations. The remarkable
thing about Forge then & there
was his voice. It had such
clear ring to it & demanded
attention. His memory was
seldom
at fault & his recitation
was excellent when he had
studied. Boys of his age & mine
did not always have a good lesson
because there were sometimes
distractions that were demanding
to
And it was not always our
poor work

[redacted] Think of that old fashioned "hold-in" by the Sophomores at the Chapel door, and those "smoke outs" in one's room! If one had studied, such disturbances & many like them by a train always acted unfavorably on the nerves and naturally troubled the reciting. There were suppers, society-meetings, games & revels, which would at times occasion a poor rendering of language before Professor Packard in the early morning or [redacted] a noisy dog next door would [redacted] Guido would [redacted] difficulty with Professor Smyth at the blackboard in the afternoon. But [redacted] was better disciplined than I by his having a [redacted] junior room & conservative examples, so that his habitual recitation was good.

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He was very fortunate, or rather the want of one, to teach school winters - & to stay out of College one Fall Term during the winter of his Junior & Senior years.

But Frye came from a family of power by the Storage of power. The Androscoggin enabled Pepperell people to have large factories, & Miscall belonged to the family of a Manufacturer of ample means, large for those days between 1846 & 1850; so that he was not obliged to teach the winter-school, nor do double work in term Time. He retained his youth & elasticity all through the course; was very fond of his Secret Society, Mu Y. U.; had many boon companions. Really I do not know what would have become of him, if he had not struck two important Epochs after his graduation which look plain in 1850. One was the meeting

with a ~~very agreeable~~ charming & accomplished young lady. She belonged to a fine family, was highly cultured and thoughtful, and ~~always~~ ^ ~~indeed~~ after the first acquaintance gained an ascendency over the young man that his ~~classmates~~ ^ visiting classmates quickly discovered. They married in proper fashion, ~~and after the~~ after which ~~my~~ life to my classmate ~~became~~ naturally became more serious and ~~of course~~ ^ social companionship stood aloof.

The other was his ~~public~~ ^ yielding to ^ confession of the great Master; ^ public ^ Thus revealed what we in New England used to call "strange of mind."

As a lawyer, as an officer on the governors staff in war time, as a public speaker of pronounced ~~abolish~~ & peculiar eloquence, as a member of the House of Representatives

faithful to his engagements
personally as United States Senator he
has always played a
distinguished part. Every
subject he touches he masters
and can give a reason for
any opinion he entertains.
The subjects touching our
manufactures are at his
tongues' end, and everything in which
our merchant-marine
finds in him a constant friend
and able advocate. Admiral Dewey
at Manila gained his experience to
an Empire in the Orient;
Frye & his colleagues at Paris
formulated & carried Hard-
Treaty stipulations which
secured it. Senator Frye is
a strong, manly, Christian
statesman, & his classmate is
glad to see him where he is,
the right man in the right place.

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On 1851 while I was commanding the Department of West Point Frye called me to the unveiling of a Soldiers Monument at Auburn, Maine.
Where I arrived Frye was on hand to meet me. A vast multitude had gathered about the Monument & the nicely constructed platform; among them were families from far & near his friends & mine, friends of our boyhood; My own home had been but 12 miles to the North & his just across the Androscoggin. Frye presided, and after an invocation by the Chaplain & a patriotic piece by the Auburn Band, made the introductory address. On the succeeding eve we had a "Soldiers Rally & Camp fire, with Speeches in a hall. His Speeches on both occasions so impressed me that I shall never

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forget either the substance of them, or the manner of their delivery. His ~~speech~~ opening address was a fine resume of the great war arguments, and a tribute to the veterans who had participated in them. His voice was so resonant that the strong crowd became silent as his first utterance and he held the attention of his close. He had heard that he could instantly bring the noisy house of Representatives to silence & stop the talk of the lobby by the first fifteen minutes of a speech after he got upon his feet. Here at Auburn I had the chance to see & hear for myself. The promising College boy had become a man and I was able to rejoice at his success as I welcomed among our neighbors at the sound of his voice.