

friend until death. P. T. Barnum, the world-renowned showman, also delivered a course of lectures under his auspices, becoming so favorably impressed with his superior abilities as a manager that he immediately offered him ten thousand dollars per year in gold, and all expenses, to take charge of an exhibition he was then about sending to Europe, which is said to be the largest sum which was ever offered for a similar service, and which would have been accepted but for his numerous and pressing engagements at home. Mr. Shaw is also well known among the showmen as the proprietor of "Shaw's Hall," one of the most commodious and elegant theatres and lecture rooms in New England, built by him at an expense of over forty thousand dollars, for the benefit of his own city. The celebrated Panorama of Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, the most successful and best known exhibition of the kind which ever traveled, was also for many years owned, though not exhibited, by him personally.

His offer of five thousand dollars for the original manuscript of President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation is only one of numerous instances showing his keen foresight and intuitive perception in relation to speculative matters. It will be remembered that Mr. Lincoln presented it to the Sanitary Fair at Chicago, to be sold for the benefit of the soldiers. Immediately on learning this fact, Mr. Shaw telegraphed offering two thousand dollars for it. As soon as this offer was made known the Proclamation was sold to parties connected with the Fair for three thousand dollars, whereupon he telegraphed at once to the Commissioners of the Fair offering five thousand dollars for it, and is confident that if his offer had been accepted at that time that he could have cleared a hundred thousand dollars by the operation. The offer was not accepted, and six months afterward they *wrote him to know how they could make some money out of the thing*. But the golden moment had passed, and his offer was not renewed.

Mr. Shaw's business enterprises and engagements have long been of the most extensive and responsible character, and it is a source of much astonishment, even to those best acquainted with him, that he can transact so much business, with all its complicated relations, without apparent jar or difficulty. The remarkable faculty, however, possessed but by very few, but which he has in such perfection, of abstracting himself from the work immediately in hand, no matter how engrossing, and concentrating his energies upon the details of some entirely different subject, enables him to execute an amount of business entirely beyond the capacity of ordinary men.

He is President of the Shaw & Clark Sewing-Machine Company, with three hundred thousand dollars capital, a corporation employing a large number of hands, and doing a very extensive business; also, President of the Ne Plus Ultra Collar Company, with two hundred thousand dollars capital; also, President of the Everett Sewing-Machine Company, with one hundred thousand dollars capital; also, General Agent for the Chicopee Sewing-Machine Company, with two hundred thousand dollars capital. He also established the Hinkley Knitting-Machine Company, with two hundred thousand dollars capital, and is the manager of the various foreign companies operating under the Hinkley patents, being formerly the exclusive owner of the invention, both here and abroad. In addition to being a Director in several other cor-