

# THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

## THE WEEK IN WASHINGTON.

### Minor Matters of Interest in the Capital City.

**FRIDAY, DEC. 22.**—Mr. Henshaw, the new Austrian Minister, arrived today. He will make an official visit to Secretary Gresham during the week and be presented by him to the President. For the past two months the Legation has been in the hands of a charge and storm signals at present in use by the Weather Bureau, the adoption of an additional wind signal, to be known as the "Hurricane Signal," is announced to take effect Jan. 1. This signal will consist of two red flags with black centers, displayed one above the other, and will be used to announce the expected approach of tropical hurricanes and also of those extremely severe and dangerous storms which occasionally move across the lakes and the Northern Atlantic Coast. The flag will be the same as the one now used for the distinctive storm signal, the pennant being omitted.

**MONDAY, DEC. 24.**—The United States Consul at Zurich informed the Department of State that a Federal Exposition will be opened in Geneva, May 1 next, at which our producers and manufacturers may exhibit and thus give the Swiss people an opportunity to compare American goods with those of other countries. The Consul says that American trade can be greatly increased in Switzerland if our manufacturers and producers will only deal directly with the Swiss people. At present nearly all American products consumed in Switzerland are introduced into that country through the medium of English, German, and Belgian houses.

**TUESDAY, DEC. 25.**—Christmas was observed quietly here. All the churches were filled with worshippers at special services. At the orphan asylums the day was made delightful for the little ones, and at dinner were present the various benevolent homes, at the jail, and at the almshouse.

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 26.**—The Chairmanship of the Venezuelan Claims Commission was accepted by Don Manuel Domínguez, the Mexican Minister to the United States, Baron von Saurma-Jelitsch, the German Ambassador having been compelled to decline the honor by his government's instructions. Senator Andrade, the Minister of Venezuela, represents that country on the Commission, and N. B. Jeffrey is the member for the United States. The Commission will meet on the 27th of the month, by terms of the treaty which was ratified July 28, and their decision must be rendered not later than March 28. The only claim that is being settled by the Commission is that of the Venezuelan Steam Transportation Company of New York against Venezuela. The Commission held a meeting this week. Although the Japanese Legation here has been officially advised of the appointment by the Chinese Government of two Ambassadors to conduct negotiations for a peaceful settlement of the present troubles between that country and Japan, it was said today that it has not been informed of the identity of the Ambassadors. Neither has it been advised of the names of the instructions on that part of Japan. It is explained, however, that there is no special occasion for haste in the selection of the Japanese representatives, for it will require at least 20 days to make the journey between Peking and the Japanese capital, where the negotiations are to be conducted.

**THURSDAY, DEC. 27.**—The census of the population of the District by the police is so complete that Maj. Moore was able today to form an estimate of the population. The total population of the District is given as 380,125. The population, as reported by recent censuses, has been as follows: 1880, 177,624; 1890, 230,292; 1894, 293,152. The census of 1890 showed an increase over 1889 of 52,758, and the present census shows an increase of 38,769 over 1890.

**FRIDAY, DEC. 28.**—The 13th annual session of the American Forestry Association began at the Department of Agriculture. The report of Prof. Fennell, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Association, read that there had been a noteworthy increase in forestry matters during the past year. The most important advance in forestry during the year was in the passage of the McLean forestry bill. This bill, the report said, was not altogether satisfactory, but was a considerable step forward, and the American Forestry Association wished that it had been known as the Padlock bill, which looks to control of the forests by a special commission. The McLean bill has passed the House and is now in the Senate, and it is decided to make strenuous efforts to secure favorable action in the Senate.

**SATURDAY, DEC. 29.**—The Agricultural Department issued a bulletin on the culture, properties, and uses of sweet cassava, which is found in the southern peninsula of Florida and well up in the foot hills. From a careful study of the climatic conditions under which the plant flourishes, it is safe to assume, says the bulletin, that it may also be grown with success in southern Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. Cassava is a name which should be known by all who grow the purified starch derived from the roots of the plant, but it has passed into general use to designate the plant itself. The fleshy root of the plant yields a great portion of the daily food of the natives of many portions of tropical America, and one of its forms of starch is imported largely into this country as tapioca.

**CRAT OF THE CORRIDORS.**  
An exhibition of hand-painted china, which attracted much favorable comment in a recent public display in this city, was the work of Miss S. A. Buckingham, daughter of Commodore Hiram Buckingham, formerly of the 10th Conn., and now Captain of the Interior Department. Miss Buckingham is possessed of unusual artistic ability, and the display was an evidence of it.

Tom Reed's magnanimity so far in this session toward the Democrats has been the subject of much surprised comment. He seems to pity the once-ardent Crisp and mouthy Bryan, and forbears. Perhaps his silence is better than his flinging barbed javelins would be.

The irrepressible Springer is trying awfully hard to catch on to something that will promise votes. He stands ready to endorse any sort of a financial scheme that any sort of men propose.

Mrs. Nellie Grant Sartoris is now a lecturer among the wealthy widows of Washington society. Mrs. Sartoris has, in addition to landed property in England, an income of \$30,000 a year. She is ready to marry this income will be increased by half. Her presence here last winter resulted in her making about her old friends whom she had known during her girlhood, and, therefore, when she returned, early in the autumn, it was to find herself at once surrounded by friends, who will contribute to her pleasure during the present winter.

Mr. Burrows and Senator Patton are working hard for the Senatorship in Michigan. The Legislature is solidly Republican, with one exception. Some of those voted in State politics say that there is a sentiment that Burrows

will be of greater benefit to the State by remaining in the House. He would probably go to the head of the most important committee, and his long experience in the legislation of that body would fit him prominently for the responsible position. For this reason, I think that Senator Patton has an excellent chance of being his own successor.

The principal offices in the next House will be eagerly sought, and already candidates are making themselves known. The Clerkship, so far, appears to be the most attractive of the places to be filled, but the candidates are not wanting for both Sergeant-at-Arms and Doorkeeper. Secretary Humphrey, of the Republican League of Clubs, is the latest aspirant for the Clerkship, his competitor, so far suggested, being Secretary McKee, of the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee; Representative-at-Large McDowell, of Pennsylvania, and Representative Henderson, of Iowa. Gen. Henderson's name has also been named in connection with the office of Sergeant-at-Arms. It is also understood that Col. H. L. Swords, Sergeant-at-Arms of the National Republican Committee, would like to be made Sergeant-at-Arms of the House. For Doorkeeper the name of Congressman Honk, of Tennessee, is being canvassed, and it is stated that the Kentucky Republican representatives will probably have a man for the office. In the Clerkship contest, it is considered probable that McDowell will have the support of the Pennsylvania delegation.

Capt. Thomas P. Smith, of the U. S. Army, was in town last week. He is Indian Agent and Inspector, and has studied the aborigine problem thoroughly. He says that a spirit of progress is at work among the tribes on the Northwest reservations, and that of this a healthy indication is the growing disposition among them to dissolve the tribal relations and agree to the allotments of their lands in severalty. All the progress the Indians look upon with this favor, and realize that it is the only way of civilization.

The extreme seclusiveness of the present President makes one recall how, when Gen. Grant was in command of the army and when he was President, he stroled about unattended. He rode in the street-cars like an ordinary citizen, and was often seen on Pennsylvania avenue without having his footsteps dogged by detectives. Mr. Lincoln, though bogged down with war responsibilities and surrounded by office-seekers, insisted on riding out unattended on his favorite horse. Andrew Johnson, also, never stood in fear of molestation, though the bitterness of the war was abroad in the land and thoroughly permeated the public mind. Against the protest of his friends, he had the guards removed from the White House doors, and they had never been replaced up to the time of the secession. President Hayes was also very generous of his presence, and appeared to his friends who wished to see him. He walked out frequently with his wife or attended by some personal friends, and very often alone.

It is possible that the Constitution may yet seal the senatorial title did many years ago, with her same ring, which distinguished the vessel as the finest warship of her day. Of the original ship there is everything left but the spars and some of her deck-work. Her sturdy timbers are as firm now as the days the oak timber were placed in, and although she has laid idle at the Portsmouth Navy-yard since the early 70's, it is said that she has deteriorated but little, and can easily be rejuvenated with a liberal expenditure of money. New Hampshire and Massachusetts want her as a warship, and she is thought that Secretary Herbert will decide to make the necessary repairs.

"There is some use of living after all," said Mr. Ciss, M. H. Middleton, a messenger in the Naval Ordnance Bureau, the other day, as he lovingly smoothed a case containing a handsome gold watch, an Xmas present from his friends in that Bureau. I am now probably the oldest enlisted man living. I began my career in the Seminoles war, served through the war with Mexico, and for the past 52 years have been in either the naval or military service.

The statesmen "out of a job" will soon take to the lecture platform and continue to talk on the respective declines with which their names have been associated in Congressional history. The Manager of a Lyceum Bureau has written to a number of these gentlemen asking if they would lecture, and they have all replied in the affirmative with wonderful unanimity. Mr. Bland has been talking on the floor of the House for the past 22 years, and it will come natural to him to talk on silver, and his audience will have no chance to talk back. Mr. Springer's profession is that of a lawyer, and he has had Congressional practice for 20 years. He will now have other opportunities to continue his eloquence. The list includes Wm. L. Wilson, R. P. Bland, Champ Clark, Wm. Springer, Amos J. Cummings, W. J. Bryan, Lafe Pomeroy, M. D. Hunter, Julian C. Burrows, of the House, and Roger Q. Mills and John W. Daniel, of the Senate, who are not sure of finding time to give to lecturing. Wilson is the only one of this number to whom the audience is not a new one. The most successful statesmen do not make the most successful lecturers. Ingalls is a striking example of this fact. When he spoke in the Senate the galleries were packed and crowds outside fought for admittance. In other cities where he appeared after his defeat, he could attract only a scattering few to his lectures. It is not known what these gentlemen will receive for their speeches, but none will make less than \$100 a lecture, and some will advance to \$400.

At present it does not look as if the currency bill would pass. The House members say something should be done in the way of financial legislation, but are not quite clear what; they are certainly not sure that the currency bill is the thing they want. Prolonged discussion in the House will probably keep the bill from reaching the Senate before the end of the session. Representative Bland, who has a free coinage substitute pending, is very doubtful of his ability to secure even a record-making vote upon it.

The Blaine house has been secured for a 100-year lease by Chicago capitalists, and a permit has been issued to construct an opera house,

which will be one of the handsomest in the world, and perfect in its appointments. In its architectural features it will be strictly classic. The exterior in effect will be of the Grecian order, and the materials for the front will be in light stone to a given height, above which a light buff brick and buff terra cotta will be used.

Many of the old settlers of Washington and Alexandria remember that at the time of the Ellsworth tragedy, in the month of May, 1861, Jackson, then a proprietor of a hotel in Alexandria, and Ellsworth's assassin, was shot by Frank Brownell, of the city of Troy, N. Y. Some time after the occurrence Brownell was promoted to a position in the Regular Army. On severing his connection with his old regiment he sought by every means to retain the much-prized rifle, but the Captain in command refused to part with it, and it was transferred to one of the soldiers remaining in the company. Brownell, feeling that the musket properly belonged to him, kept track of it, tracing it after the disbandment of the Zouaves to a private in the Regular Army, who bore it with him over the plains and used it effectually at many a conflict with the Indians. Brownell continued his efforts to get possession of the weapon, and at last, by the assistance of an Army friend, it was returned to him. There is no doubt of its identity. Brownell's initials "F. B." are on the stock, are still there, and other marks fully as identifying. This famous musket he caused to be deposited in the State Department, Albany, and where the coat and hat of Col. Ellsworth are also "on file," and will forever to come remain a memento of the terrible tragedy, and a souvenir of the bold avenger.

Mr. Richardson, of Tennessee, in his humane desire to protect the birds of Red Top, Woodley, and other beautiful retreats about Washington, the other day introduced a bill in Congress that if passed, will accomplish a little more than the Representative intended. The bill provides that it shall not be lawful to shoot or kill birds of any description in the District of Columbia. Any violation of this statute shall subject the offender to a fine of \$10 for the first offense, and \$20 for each and every offense thereafter. "Birds of any description" is the objectionable phrase in this, for turkeys and chickens are birds of the same excellent description. It will cost many dollars apiece to kill turkeys or chickens in the District, if Mr. Richardson don't revise that bill.

Ex-Secretary John W. Foster is now on his way to the Japanese Capital as private adviser of the Chinese Peace Plenipotentiaries to negotiate terms of peace with Japan. Gen. Foster has had an experience in the field of diplomacy unequalled in the annals of American history; even John Quincy Adams's labors were not so varied. Gen. Foster may be said to be the only American who has made diplomacy distinctly a profession. His diplomatic career, as well as his army service, has been brilliant, and he has borne out in civil life the complimentary statement made of him by Gen. Sherman regarding his military abilities: "I like Foster; he never loses his head."

The Capitol building has been practically deserted during the holidays. Only a few rambling sightseers, the Capitol policemen, and now and then a stray Senator or Representative evoke the echoes of its spacious corridors. The charm of the festivities of Christmas at home was the magnet that had drawn every one who could leave. Only the members and Senators from the far West and South and those whose families are in Washington remained here. Some work was done on the appropriation bills, yet unreported, by Chairman Sayers and some of the members of the subcommittee, but their work will be subject to ultimate revision when the full committee meets.

Two rival delegations from Cynthia, Ky., have appeared, to urge the cause of two fair ladies for the Postmaster's title, in Kentucky cavalier style. Miss Mattie E. Todd, a niece of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln, was appointed by President Hayes, 16 years ago, and has been reappointed ever since by the succeeding Administrations. Her term expires Jan. 8, 1895, and three prominent gentlemen have come on here to ask for her retention, while two other citizens will push the appointment of Mrs. Moore, whom they like better.

The family of Senator Palmer can scarcely be equaled for its longevity. His grandfather, whom he can well remember, was born in 1747 and fought in the Revolution. His father fought in 1812, and the Senator himself was a Union soldier in the '60's. These three generations alone cover nearly 150 years. Of the four living generations of Palmers the Senator is the oldest. They all bear the name of John M. There are a number of Palmers down in Northumberland County, Va., and a friend of the Senator's once went to see an old lady living in that quarter. Her maiden name had been Palmer, and she claimed to be related to the Senator, whom she said possessed many of the family traits, and then his grandfather was born down there. But the old lady was staggered when told that the Senator fought in the Northern army, and exclaimed, with a sigh, "Oh, there's always a black sheep in every family."

The grave of James G. Blaine, in Oak Hill Cemetery, attracts more visitors than any other, except Washington's at Mount Vernon. Strange as it may seem, there is nothing to mark the resting-place of the great statesman but a small footstone with the initials "J. G. B." upon it. At his head is an old hyacinth, blasted by lightning, and it was his personal wish that this should be his only monument. Upon the death of his son Walker he selected the lot which overlooks Rock Creek, and when his daughter, Mrs. Coppinger, died, purchased the adjoining lot, in which stood the old hyacinth tree, which had been struck at the top, but which has since been trimmed and revived. The Secretary re-

quested then that he be buried beneath it, and that it should never be destroyed. His wishes have been carried out.

The retirement of Representative Blair, of the First New Hampshire District, from public life on March 4 next, will be the cause of much regret. He slipped out of the great Republican victory, not being re-nominated. His career is interesting. He has long been prominent in Congress, and a few years ago was a center of interest in the Senate. He has all through his career been the firm Congressional champion of woman suffrage, temperance, moral purity, and education for the masses. He was the author of the bill to extend Federal aid to common schools in all places in the United States where there should be a certain percentage of illiteracy. This bill was debated in the Senate for a long time during the 50th Congress, exciting the attention of the whole country. It finally passed the Senate by a vote of 39 to 29, and Mr. Blair carried by a majority of 100 in the House. Some of the compliments of the season is to call a girl Triby-like, instead of frank or sweet-minded.

The number of medicinal uses to which hot water can be put is quite surprising when considered. For sprains or strains of the wrist or ankle, or of any joints, there is nothing better than a half hour's soaking in very hot water, night and morning. Applications of hot water to wounds or sores is also helpful. Strained, inflamed eyelids, and tired eyes are soothed by bathing gently with hot water; and bleeding is sometimes stopped by applications of hot water. For dyspepsia, the simplest relief is a cup of hot water before meals. Some headaches yield to the same medicine, and physicians prescribe applications of hot water frequently for pneumonia and pleurisy.

Black and blue is a very popular combination for older women, as well as for girls. A handsome black silk dress, made up with jetted trimming, a vest of heavy white lace over white satin, has blue velvet collar and belt and sleeve trimmings. An old black silk gown may be cheered up by a little jabot of plaited blue chiffon for the throat.

Black lace over white moire or satin, white lace over black, black lace over black, or white over white, are favorite trimmings for black gowns, but rarely is it that there is not some color introduced into the costume.

The tea-gown—dear to the heart of woman-kind—must be such an extraordinary comfort. The one shown is graceful and dainty, but is not at all difficult to copy, and will be pretty in either dainty silks or laces; or, for a morning wrapper, in warm flannel or cloth. Copied in warm red, dark-blue, gray, or green, with a front of gathered silk and a yoke and belt of jetted material, it may have the frill trimming around the fronts and round the sleeves or not. Fur is always delightfully pretty, becoming and luxurious, and the narrow bands for a wrapper like this need not be very expensive, for on the cloth and silk the cheaper kinds may be used. To be copied in daintier colors it needs must have ermine, swan-down or mink, and the are more expensive. It is fascinating in pink, with the front gathered, of pink chiffon, the belt and yoke of white lace and the bands of mink or ermine. In flowered or striped silk, with the front matching the flower colors, it is pretty as a gray silk with

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At the conference last week between Secretary Gresham and Secretary Smith to adjust the differences between the two states of Junior Vice, Friends of Mr. Anderson seem to be rather sanguine, and friends of Capt. Hart suggest that he has the lead in the race for Senior Vice.

The candidates already announced for the office of Senior Vice-Commander are John H. Howitt, the present Junior Vice-Commander, and Capt. Hart, who was Commander of Kit Carson Post, 2, two years ago. Beyond the selection of suitable persons to fill the above positions, there is not much interest centered in the other offices, although a candidate is expected soon to be named for the office of Junior Vice-Commander. The candidates for the office of Junior Vice-Commander are John H. Howitt, the present Junior Vice-Commander, and Capt. Hart, who was Commander of Kit Carson Post, 2, two years ago.

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them fresh is to buy French chalk—or, better still, pipe-clay—and every time the gown is taken off and a spot noticed, rub the clay well into it; then the dress can be hung away to rest. When it is needed again, the powdered chalk is easily brushed out, and generally the spot goes with it. There is hardly anything on earth so useful to a girl as powdered chalk; except, of course, vaseline and curling-tongs. White or gray shoes ought to be rubbed generously with pipe-clay after every wearing, and then they probably will never need to go to a professional cleaner's unless an unusual accident happens to them. The clay comes in big lumps, but leaves a powdery mark whenever rubbed lightly on any material.

The carnation—the much-loved blossom—is a very interesting plant to study, and the German makes a specialty of raising it, and all of our finest varieties come from there. The florists have classed carnations as to coloring, as follows: "Flukes," "Bizarres," and "Pleetees." The "Flukes" have two colors, one extending longitudinally in stripes through the petals. The Bizarres have three colors in regular stripes or spots, and the Pleetees have a white ground edged or pinked or lined with scarlet, pink, or some of the usual carnation colors. It is a flower generally fertilized by insects, and Darwin has made it the object of many interesting experiments in cross fertilization. All of the varieties come from the clove pink or wild carnation, and the spicy, fragrant little blossoms that grow in old-fashioned gardens, are now relations to the big, perfect, but not always scented blossoms of the florists. It was an herb of value to the old herb doctors with their list of "simples," and was given for nervous diseases. Some people only call the red blossoms "carnations," the white and pink and yellow flowers being "pinks."

It was Linnæus who said: "Love is an egotism of two."  
ELSIE POMEROY McELROY.

A Calendar Worth Having.  
Almost everyone has use for a calendar, and by the same token, they ought to have one that is of some use. A calendar that you have to study or "use" has little excuse for existence.

The one we like best of all is that published by N. W. Ayer & Son, the Newspaper Advertising Agents of Philadelphia.

The Ayer & Son of 1895 carries on its seal their famous motto, "Keeping Everlastingly At It Brings Success," which will alone each day be worth to all who use it far more than the price of the calendar. The size is generous, and the work a beautiful specimen of the printer's art. Each day, as is becoming to such an important slice of time, is printed large enough to be read across a room. Then, too, the master on the flaps deals with a subject in which there is a growing general interest.

That the demand for this calendar increases each year we can easily understand, for we do not believe that anyone who has spent one year in company with it will be willing to spend another without it.

The price is 25 cents, delivered everywhere postpaid, and in perfect condition.

A Hottentot Marriage Custom.  
Among the Hottentots when a widow wishes to marry again she must cut off the joint of a finger and present it to her new husband on the wedding day.

An all-gray gown, or the Puritan gown of gray and white, is one of the prettiest things that can be chosen for nice wear—to luncheons, or informal evenings, or teas, or theaters, or concerts. The one shown in the cut has a pointed yoke of gray velvet, edged round with shiny, beaded, or silver braiding. The yoke may be made of lace over gray or white satin, or of silk. A plain gray gown made with a bertha and sleeve-ruffles of lace or chiffon is also pretty. Gray with green or corse or yellow has grown to be most tiresome.

The trouble always with these delicately-colored, finely-woven cassimere, Henriettes, and crepe cloths, is that every bit of soil is so much worse on them than on less-delicate or rougher-faced goods. The easiest and best way to keep

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The "Better Half"

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The "Better Half"

Some one has said that the fads of this winter are Tribly, Napoene, and brownies.

One of the compliments of the season is to call a girl Tribly-like, instead of frank or sweet-minded.

The number of medicinal uses to which hot water can be put is quite surprising when considered.

Black and blue is a very popular combination for older women, as well as for girls.

Black lace over white moire or satin, white lace over black, black lace over black, or white over white, are favorite trimmings for black gowns.

The tea-gown—dear to the heart of woman-kind—must be such an extraordinary comfort.

Medals of Honor have been awarded to Capt. William H. Ward, Co. B, 47th Ohio, for distinguished gallantry in leading an assault upon a Confederate battery at Vicksburg, Miss., on the night of May 3, 1863.

At the conference last week between Secretary Gresham and Secretary Smith to adjust the differences between the two states of Junior Vice, Friends of Mr. Anderson seem to be rather sanguine.

The candidates already announced for the office of Senior Vice-Commander are John H. Howitt, the present Junior Vice-Commander, and Capt. Hart, who was Commander of Kit Carson Post, 2, two years ago.

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