

About People and Social Incidents.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

Washington, May 31.—President Roosevelt received a visit to-day from Commander Isam Takahashi, the naval attaché of the Japanese Legation...

Among other callers at the White House were Attorney General Moody and Commissioner Garfield...

Whether celluloid is explosive or not is a question regarding which there is some disagreement. In a short article on the composition of the substance in "Johnson's Encyclopedia" Professor C. F. Chandler declares that it is made of gun cotton and camphor.

Perhaps the most startling feature of modern naval battles—Manila, Santiago, the Strait of Corrales—is the extraordinary disparity between the losses of the victor and the losses of the vanquished.

THE CABINET.

Washington, May 31.—The Secretary of the Navy, who will retire from the Cabinet a month from to-morrow, has given up his house here, and will live in New-York.

THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

Washington, May 31.—The German Ambassador and Baroness von Sternburg entertained at luncheon to-day prior to their departure to-morrow for Deer Park and later for a summer of travel.

The Netherlands Minister and Mrs. van Swinderen have intended to sail for Europe to-day, but have delayed their departure on account of the illness of the latter's mother.

Powell Clayton, formerly Ambassador to Mexico, called at the State Department to-day to terminate his connection with the diplomatic service.

Mr. Black is the daughter of the late George A. Fuller, the founder of the Fuller Corporation, who she married Mr. Black in 1888, when she was seventeen years of age.

NOTES OF THE STAGE.

Mr. Fawcett's Plans—A Summer Concert Series Talked Of. George Fawcett will close his season at the American Theatre next Saturday night, convinced that his experiment has found favor in New-York.

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June's advent may be said to be heralded by marriage bells, for a large number of weddings have been set for to-day. Among the most notable from a social point of view will be that of Ansel Phelps and Miss Georgiana Wimerding, which will take place at No. 19 Essex street.

A large number of people will go this morning to Meriden, Conn., to attend the wedding there of Miss Alice Unkles and Harry Victor Schieren, son of ex-Mayor and Mrs. Charles A. Schieren.

The French Ambassador and Mrs. Jusserand will to-day for Havre to spend the summer abroad.

Oliver King, of Baltimore, who married Miss Winona Perin next Saturday at Ridgefield, Conn., gave his farewell party last night at the Delmonico's.

To-night Henry Chauncey Cryder, who married Miss Louise Hollins next week, will give his farewell bachelor dinner at Delmonico's.

Baron Moncheur, the Belgian Minister, and the baroness, who is the daughter of the American Ambassador to Mexico, Powell Clayton, have arrived in town from Washington, and will for Europe the day after to-morrow to spend the summer abroad.

Mrs. Jordan L. Mott has sailed for Europe to join her husband, who is abroad.

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and auxiliary to his negotiations with France, although its object was to confirm our title to a territory upon which France had no valid claim. Doubtless he could have effected the Louisiana Purchase just as well without sending it. But because he did send it our title to Oregon was made secure, the United States became a Pacific power, the Russian pretensions of a monopoly of that ocean were defeated and the way was opened for the continental expansion of the Republic.

The story of that expedition and its results will be found well worth careful reading, for its romantic and heroic interest and for its essential bearings upon the material and constitutional development of the United States. The content of the expedition is worthy to be commemorated with a great fair in every other way that appreciative patriotism can devise, and the best possible wish would be that it may be worthy of its theme. Happily, there are assurances that all has been done that could be done by the popular, opulent and cultivated communities of the Pacific Coast, while the interest manifested by the whole country is to be taken as an earnest of generous and discriminating support of an enterprise whose appeal to the nation is strong, direct and unmistakable.

A NEW NEW-YORKER.

All roads never did lead to Rome, and all men who grow great in the other sections of the country do not come to New-York to employ their talents and enjoy their fame. Nevertheless, New-York is well accustomed to receive prominent citizens of other cities and States, making them feel at home in the metropolis. Outsiders sometimes are disagreeable enough to say that New-York is made up of immigrants, and that its greatness is largely due to the constant infusion of new blood. There is some truth in this, but that steady stream of new-culture tends here only because here it has the largest opportunity and because here it is most quickly mingled with the general stream of business and social life.

Secretary Morton, who is to take up his residence in the metropolis on retiring from the Cabinet in July, will find no barriers to immediate recognition among leading New-Yorkers. In a peculiar sense he will be a public functionary, for nothing concerns us more deeply than the management of the great local transportation systems, one of which, now in embryo, he is to help establish. He may, indeed, feel that he is taken into the bosom of the family a little too completely, for he is likely to find his fellow townsmen exercising liberally the privilege of frank fault-finding with everything he does as a railroad manager. Still, they will greet him with high hopes and a determination to give him a fair chance to apply to their transportation problems his proved talents as an enlightened and energetic executive. We hope that he will here find every pleasant expectation gratified and that we shall see his new undertaking crowned with the success which means satisfaction to himself and the rest of his fellow New-Yorkers.

RUSSIA'S VIEW OF RUSSIA'S WOE.

Some of the sanest and soundest comments on Russia's unparalleled disasters appear in the Russian press. The "Russ" declares that Togo's and Oyama's victories should free Russia from "the slavery of the bureaucracy." The "Slovo" says that "the Japanese are not fighting the Russian people, but the Russian bureaucracy." It is not the people, but "the government, which has suffered defeat." Other popular journals speak to the same effect, demanding—whether peace is made or not—the immediate reform of the Russian government and the establishment of a popular Congress. Most epigrammatic of all, the "Listok" sums up the case in the pregnant words: "The war has taught the lesson that education, good government and freedom are always victorious over ignorance, misrule and 'despotism.'"

For a little time the forces which have led Russia into her present hapless plight may continue to bear away. Faith in righteousness and in the destiny of the human race forbids us to believe that they can always do so. As our Secretary of State wrote long ago: "The people will come to their own at last. God is not mocked forever!"

What we are most interested in, therefore, is the view which the true exponents of the Russian people take of the situation. That view, as set forth in the sentences we have quoted, is an inspiring one. There is hope for and there is ground for faith in a people that cherishes such opinions.

The lesson is as old as war itself. It was taught when the Greeks overthrew the Persians, when the clean living Goths conquered decadent Rome, when Gustavus and his Swedes vanquished the imperial armies, when Drake scoured the Armada, when Motke pricked the overblown bubble of the Second Empire. Russia has been slow to learn it, but her people, and we must believe, her rulers, are learning it at last, and those who learn lessons must in time triumph over those who will not or who cannot learn. The bureaucracy may conceivably plan for building another navy to serve as targets for Togo's guns and for sending more armies for Nogi and Kuroki to mow down. The true voice of Russia demands that the future campaign be fought rather with "education, good government and freedom." That demand, sounded clearly and bravely amid the lamentations and the tumult of disaster, is auspicious of Russia's redemption, and that it may speedily prevail must be the desire of Russia's truest friends.

HALL OF RECORDS WASTE.

Far be it from us to say that the new Hall of Records does not need \$500,000 worth of repairs before it is even completed. It may be that the architects have gone along blindly and bullheadedly putting up partitions, installing plumbing and stringing electric light wires with utter disregard of the necessities or convenience of the departments which are to use the new rooms. Possibly the present Board of Estimate and Apportionment can point back to a previous administration as the author of bad plans which it has been following. But neither the inadequacy of previous plans nor the responsibility of somebody else for them is any excuse for this belated scheme of alterations involving a large amount of reconstruction and a delay of from eight months to a year in getting the building ready for occupancy. Mayor McClellan and his associates have been in office nearly two years. Horgan & Slattery have had charge of this building almost from its beginning. The original architect, Mr. Thomas, who made the plans in the strong administration, died, and early in the term of Mayor Van Wyck the commission was turned over to Horgan & Slattery while little of the work of construction had been done. They altered the plans in many particulars, on the plea that they were suiting the building to the needs of those who were to be housed in it. All through the Low administration they supervised the work under a contract which Mayor Low was unable to break. Why has it taken them something like seven years to find out how the offices should be arranged? Why has it taken the present authorities nearly two years, until the building is practically completed, to discover the needs of the departments? No sane private builder and his architect would have been so slow to find out how the offices should be arranged? Why has it taken the present authorities nearly two years, until the building is practically completed, to discover the needs of the departments? 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