

Open Evenings. Closed all day Xmas.

Tonight Will Be a Hammer.

Telling reductions right through all lines of Xmas Goods. Our determination to close out all such articles has overstepped all bounds, and we've made winding-up reductions that'll stand unparalleled.

- All Desks reduced. All Rokers reduced. All Children's Chairs reduced. All Easy Chairs reduced. All Couches reduced. All Tabourettes reduced. All Hall Racks reduced. All Fancy Parlor Pieces reduced. All Chiffoniers reduced. All Cabinets reduced. All Lamps reduced. All Onyx Tables reduced. All Parlor Tables reduced. All Screens reduced. All Book Cases reduced. All Gold Furniture reduced. All Shaving Stands reduced. All China Cases reduced. All Reed and Rattan Furniture reduced.

W. B. Moses & Sons, F St. Corner 11th. Storage, 22d & M.

Mertz and Mertz, 'New Era' Tailors.

We Merely Remind You

That this Friday is the last day of our Big Extra Sale of Black Cheviot Suits. Use good judgment--come down and treat yourself to one as a Christmas gift instead of wasting your money in some frivolity that will simply afford you momentary pleasure. They are grand values.

Black Cheviot \$10.97. SUITS,

Mertz and Mertz, 'New Era' Tailors, 906 F Street N. W.

Only a Cold!

Yes; but a cold frequently has a serious ending. Chronic coughs, pneumonia, bronchitis and consumption all start with a cold. Neglected colds cause more than two-thirds of all the deaths in America.

There is a right way and a wrong way to cure a cold, but you can make no mistake in using

Duffy's Pure Malt Whiskey.

It is a pure healthful stimulant which quickens the circulation and restores healthy action to every part of the body. It is a sure cure for colds, malaria, pneumonia. It assists nature and builds up the system.

Do not be induced to take any inferior whiskey which your dealer may try to substitute, but be sure that you get Duffy's. Nothing else can produce the same effects.

PAINE'S COMPOUND MAKES PEOPLE WELL. No Christmas and New Year's table should be without a bottle of DR. SIEBERT'S ANGIOTONIA Bitters, the world renowned appetizer of exquisite flavor. Beware of imitations.

DISTRIBUTING CUT FLOWERS

Reply of Secretary Alger to Local Florists.

Not Regarded as Competition With Their Business--Views of Colonel Bingham.

About a month ago Secretary Alger received a letter from N. Studer and other florists of the District of Columbia, petitioning the War Department to prohibit the free distribution of plants and cut flowers, products of the florists, by the officer in charge of public buildings and grounds, outside of the government, on the ground that such system is pernicious and unjust to the regular dealers.

The letter having been referred to Col. Bingham, the officer in charge of public buildings and grounds, he made a report in which he expressed his belief that the small distribution of flowers by the government does not affect in any calculable degree the profits of the florists in this community. He stated that on the contrary, the general sentiment among many of the florists of Washington and other principal cities, is that it cultivates a taste for such things among people to such an extent that they even buy flowers when they formerly thought they could not afford to. The distribution, he adds, is to hospital officials of the administration, to the Supreme Court, members of Congress and particularly to the employees of the government for funerals and such purposes.

Based on this report Secretary Alger has addressed the following letter to N. Studer and others of the same city: "Acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 19th ultimo, protesting against the free distribution of cut flowers, plants, etc., by the government, and the objection to the distribution of flowers, which may be in bloom at the propagating gardens is one of long standing, and it is understood has been in existence ever since the commencement of the present administration at the nursery, over a third of a century ago.

It seems to be a proper thing to send out to hospitals, fair grounds and churches and to prominent government officials and others, these pretty blooms, rather than to permit the flowers to fade and die upon the shrubs, and to be a source of no legal objection to using for the cultivation of flowers for decorative purposes at large and important public functions, which are otherwise occupied by the public area of glass so necessary during about one-half the year for propagating the half million of plants, and assisting in the summer decoration of the public parks.

"The custom in this matter has been frequently mentioned in annual reports to Congress and the fact reported that while under the law the loan of gift of the blooms was constantly refused, the blooms were gladly distributed so far as the limited quantity would admit."

FARADAY'S ANCESTRY.

They Were Poor but Honest and Thoughtful People. From the Western Electrician.

With a sigh of relief our English contemporaries announce the result of the investigation into the ancestral history of Michael Faraday. Dismay and consternation were plainly visible everywhere when the institution was made recently that the family of the famous scientist occupied a humble place in the lower walks of life. The "nice people" who had been admiring the genius of Faraday were horrified at the thought that among his progenitors was a common "day laborer."

Harman and George Francis were brothers. When the war broke out Harman enlisted in Company K, 97th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers. His experiences during the war were so severe that he surprised his family by walking into the home and telling them that he had grown tired of fighting and was not going back to his company. In vain the home folks argued with him and pointed out the fate of a deserter. Harman was determined. At home he was going to remain. It was then that George made up his mind to save the family name from dishonor. The resemblance between the two brothers was great and George went to the front as Harman.

George served all through the war. In the battles of the Wilderness he was wounded. The wound was a serious one and he knew that their father fought in the rebellion in vain. Since the war the pension has been regularly drawn by arrangement between the two brothers. This worked all right until lately. A few months ago Harman died. The pension is still being paid, but George wants to appear right before his neighbors. He thinks the honor of knowing that their father fought in the rebellion is due to his children. Harman left no family and George feels that he has the quiet right to it. He asks that the record may be changed.

Typoid Fever Law Suit. From the Buffalo Commercial.

A verdict of far-reaching importance has been rendered by a Wisconsin court in favor of Mrs. Julia Green of Ashland, and against the Ashland Water Company. The case was brought on the ground that the typhoid fever, of which her husband died, resulted from drinking the water supplied by the company. The verdict was for \$2,000, and the suit is said to be the first of the kind ever brought in the United States. The case has been appealed to the supreme court of Wisconsin. If the higher court should sustain the verdict a new and fruitful field of legislation will have been opened.

It appeared in the testimony that other deaths besides Mr. Green. The polluted condition of the water supply had been noticed by the board of health, and the company had been informed some weeks before Mr. Green was taken ill of the condition of the water. The company did not take any precautions. It is alleged, to remove the source of contagion or to secure a purer water supply. The expert testimony given at the trial based its theory of contamination on the fact that the sewer deposited its contents two miles above the point of the intake in Ashland bay, whence the city water supply was drawn. The expert believed that the city water was polluted with the bacillus of typhoid fever from this sewage.

For a description of a charming hotel--the Hotel Empire, New York, appears on page 8.

RULES OF THE HOUSE

They Are Powerful Only to Bind the Minority.

THE MAJORITY ARE UNRESTRICTED

Speaker Reed Possesses Only What Has Been Yielded to Him.

DECEIVING THE PUBLIC

False pretenses are so common in Congress that they are often practiced unconsciously. Deception of a certain sort is one of the features of political life, and many of our public speakers actually deceive themselves and live lives made up largely of false pretenses. The public undoubtedly believe that legislation is blocked in the House by the restrictive rules under which that body operates. The tyrannical power of the Speaker is the subject of frequent complaint among members of the House. Their excuse for not doing what their constituents demand of them is that the rules hinder or that the Speaker will not let them.

This is all disingenuous. No rules can bind a majority, and the Speaker has no power except that given by a majority, and the duration of his power is subject to their will. A majority can override the Speaker and the rules permanently or on occasions at their discretion. What actually holds them in check is either disinclination to go or else fear. There is no power and there are no rules that could stand for a day against the distribution of flowers by the government. The Speaker would not dare attempt to hold such a majority in check except by the power of persuasion. When he rules against the distribution of flowers, he does not want to be so ruled, or else he has the courage to assume the responsibility for legislation which they want or which their constituents demand of them. They are held in confinement.

Proposed Changes in the Rules. A great number of propositions for changes in the rules have been submitted to the members and the committee on rules are going through them for the purpose of considering them. It is well known that the method to be adopted which would change the method of legislation or increase the importance of the individual member, the men who propose the liberalizing of the rules know well that no new rules are necessary to enable them to do what they desire in the way of legislation. The trouble is not with the rules, but with the Speaker, but with the members themselves. This they know, but they count on the public opinion which they run their hands into a spider web and cry out: "Behold, I am bound!"

Power of the Majority. The rules do not permit amendments to appropriation bills if the amendment involves some additional expenditure of money, but a majority of the house can put such an amendment on any bill. Amendments to all bills must be germane, but if a majority of the house chooses to do so they can add to a private bill a measure for the recognition of the independence of Cuba. By an appeal from the chair they can override any rule or any ruling. But without resorting to such violent methods, they can, by making their wishes known, compel the committee on the subject to make a special order of business that may be on the calendar, whether it be a private claim, a financial measure or one for fortifications and defense. All the bills are on the calendar, and the Speaker can long resist the will of a majority if that majority really has a will. The rule under which the Speaker operates is that a majority often do not really want what they pretend to. They are simply hiding behind the Speaker and making the committee enter into by a Speaker when elected is that he will cast a shadow large enough for all covards to find shelter in. Reed casts a shadow which is not intended to be a shadow in it who have the inclination to stand erect. Many men in Congress believe that the public is not capable of judging between the merits of the proposals, and that the sentiment is something to be distrusted and rejected. They have not, however, the courage to either say or act this sentiment.

Deceiving the Public. When Crisp was Speaker there was a great cry raised because the committee on rules would not report a special order for a measure which a large majority had petitioned into the calendar. The obstinacy of the Speaker and his committee was not known to the public. It was this, that a very large number of the members who signed the petition went immediately to the Speaker and stated that they were compelled to sign the petition, but that they hoped he would pay no attention to it. Each man who thus repudiated his own act was struck from the petition--or rather the petition had to remain intact--and when the number was cast up it was found that the majority had shrunk to a considerable minority, and the request was not granted.

Their Weakness Protected. Speaker Reed knows the difference between the public and the private wishes of members. It happens often, perhaps, that a majority are rather in favor of a measure which they are permitted to vote on. This is simply because a considerable number of the majority are willing to take the advice of the Speaker and not to act on their own. If they were an insistent majority they would have what they wanted. They let the Speaker have his way because they lack confidence in their own strength. Restrictive rules serve simply because they afford members a protection against their own weakness. There is an exact ratio between the strength of the rules and the weakness of the personnel of the House.

The desire to avoid is almost a paramount passion with a certain portion of Congress. This is why the apparent overwhelming majority in the House for the recognition of Cuban belligerency does not result in any legislation. There is so much opposition to any attempt at financial legislation. There are few who feel that any injury could come to the country by the recognition of Cuban belligerency. It is not what holds them back. It is chiefly the fear of having their own personal positions exposed. While there is nothing to be gained by them in the way of occupying with safety an equivocal or uncertain position. If action is taken they are compelled to stand up on one side or the other.

Return of Commissioner Ross. Letters received from District Commissioner John W. Ross at the District building during the past few days are to the effect that he expects to return to the city about the first of the year. His letters also indicate that he has no intention of resigning his office as Commissioner. He is at his home in Illinois, and his health is reported to have very much improved.

GEORGETOWN ADVERTISEMENTS

"Liquid" Good Cheer! The liquid portion of your holiday good cheer will be beyond reproach if you look to your supply. Only those brands of Wine, Whiskey, Brandy, Champagne and the like that have the merits of quality and age for recommendation them are gathered here. Fine Old Logan Whisky, \$1.25 qt.

Thomas L. Hume, 1204 22d St. det-18-14.

Gifts for Everybody! This little list of appropriate gifts may suggest just the thing you've been striving so hard to think of.

- Reliable Fountain Pen, \$1 up. Reliable Gold Rings, 50c. up. Yankee Watch, Gold Watch, \$1. Lach's 14k. Gold Watch only \$15. Gold-rimmed, \$1.25. Blackford's, 3125 M Street. det-18-14.

SPECIAL DRUG SALE.

- Paine's Celery Compound, 65c. Terrill's Compound, 65c. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, 65c. Food for Life, Parks, Davis & Co., 35c. pint. Phosphate Emulsion, fresh daily, 35c. Carter's Pills, 11c. Scott's Emulsion, 25c. Black Rubber Nipples, best make, 2 for 5c. Absorbent Cotton, 1st package, 20c. G. O. Pills, 25c. 22d and 31. 32d and O. 3d and Pa. ave. a.e. det-18-14.

AFFAIRS IN GEORGETOWN

Lozano's Dry Goods Store Gatted by Fire Early This Morning.

Insurance for but Two-thirds of the Loss--General and Personal Notes.

A most disastrous fire visited this section of the city this morning, shortly after 1 o'clock, which was confined to the dry goods store at the northwest corner of 21st and M streets, conducted by Mr. Charles Lozano. Fortunately, the blaze was discovered before it had made great headway, and the fire engines reached the scene without loss of time. The entire interior of the store was ablaze when the engines went into service, but the firemen succeeded in getting the best of it before it communicated to the outside. Had this effort failed, the conflagration would have been much more serious, it is believed, owing to the high wind which was raging at the time. After a stubborn fight the firemen got the flames under control.

The origin of the fire is not known. There was no one in the place at the time it was discovered, and the proprietor did not reach the scene until after it was extinguished. There was a large stove in the rear part of the main building, and the fire seems to have burned the forest at this point. This gives rise to the supposition that the origin was the stove, which was overheated. The store was closed at 10:30 last evening, and everything appeared to be all right at that hour.

The entire store was gutted, and that portion which runs beneath the row of small office buildings on 31st street also suffered considerably. The goods above were damaged by fire and smoke. Mr. Lozano stated to a Star reporter that the stock in the store was worth over \$100,000 and that about \$10,000 worth of stock can be used. The insurance on the stock is only about three-fourths its value, the Christmas stock on hand making up much of the difference.

At 1210 31st street, near the Lozano store, is the office of Jewell & Nicholson, attorneys, and Mr. Compton, lawyer. Some valuable papers and books were destroyed there, the loss amounting to about \$100. Next door, at 1210, is the printing office of Mr. E. Mankin, which also suffered to the extent of a special order of business, and the presses may be ruined. Above the Lozano store is the office of the Citizens' Equitable Building Association, and also that of the Georgetown branch of the Associated Charities. This place was not injured. All of the buildings were owned by Mr. A. M. Baer, and his loss, about \$100,000, is covered by insurance.

Linthicum Institute Closes. The annual Christmas closing of the Linthicum Institute occurred last evening, and the occasion was taken advantage of by the students to make the usual gifts to the teachers, as a token of esteem. The school remained open much longer this year than usual, and as a result there was a great attendance of the students at the ceremonies, though there was plenty of enthusiasm. Every member of the faculty was remembered by the students, and the greatest of honors was bestowed on the janitor was also remembered. The ceremonies were opened by Mr. Frank Van Sant, who made a short address and presented Mr. E. H. Hay with a silver comb and brush prettily engraved. Mr. Otto Niemeyer presented Mr. R. C. Balingier with a nicely framed water color of large size. Mr. J. H. B. presented Mr. A. address, presented Mr. Well with a pen and holder, while Mr. Frank Goodwin presented Mr. Frank J. Wissner with a box of handkerchiefs.

Masses at Trinity Church. Solemn high mass will be celebrated tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock at the Catholic Church. The high mass tomorrow morning will be the first since the introduction of the new electric light system in the church, and the effect will be quite pleasing. The music will be of extra high quality. Other masses will be celebrated in quick succession. Each priest celebrates three masses on the day in honor of the three births of the Saviour--His eternal birth in the bosom of His Father; His temporal birth in the town of Bethlehem; and His birth by faith in the minds of all; His birth in the conduct and senses by mortification, modesty and His birth by love in the hearts of all. Mass for children will be celebrated at 9 o'clock, and at the second high mass of the day, benediction will be given. The benediction will be given immediately afterward. No vesper services will be held in the evening or afternoon.

Church Program. There will be missionary services held Saturday evening at the Gay Street Baptist Church. During the night of the thermometer ran lower still, and this morning at 7 o'clock the reading showed the temperature to be only 14 degrees above zero. In some sections of the town the temperature was even lower than this.

Record of the Thermometer. That cold weather is at hand is fully evidenced by the readings of thermometer at the Georgetown station of the weather bureau. Prof. W. F. Burrows last evening at 9 o'clock recorded a temperature of 24 degrees. During the night of the thermometer ran lower still, and this morning at 7 o'clock the reading showed the temperature to be only 14 degrees above zero. In some sections of the town the temperature was even lower than this.

White Haven School Site. The land upon which the new public school in White Haven is erected, to the southeast of the lower or distributing reservoir, has never been paid for, and the commissioners have inserted an item in the general deficiency bill asking for an appropriation of \$1,702.83 to pay for the same. The owner is Mr. J. C. Hurst. This bill was several times brought yesterday and one today for prematurely celebrating Christmas by getting drunk.

WOODWARD and LOTHROP, 10th, 11th and F Sts. N. W. Invite attention to their selections and direct importations from Paris, from Lyons, from St. Gall of Evening Gown Stuffs, for the Debutante, for Receptions, for Weddings, for Dinner Parties, for Theater Parties, for Balls, for all Fashionable Occasions and Social Functions. Rich Laces, Tulle, Chiffons, Mousselines, Silks, Wools and a vast variety of other fabrics that are now so generally shown by the leading Paris modistes.

Lace Department. Never so rich and beautiful a collection of imported gauzy fabrics, among which are many exclusive novelties in Hand-embroidered, Spangled and Applique Robes, Marquise, Lierre, Application and Embroidered Mousselines, Fan Plaited Gold or Silver Embroidered Mousseline Flouncings and Net with Lace or Mousseline Ruffles, Chenille Tosca, Spangled Brussels, Printed Broche and Fancy Plaited Chiffonette All Overs, Beaded All Overs, in Honiton effect, on black and white grounds, studded with coral, amber, turquoise and rhinestones, Silvia Plaited Liberty Silk Skirtings, in dainty colors, Jetted Nets and Chantilly Bands for appliqueing. Also real Applique, Rose Point and Duchess Laces, in all desirable widths.

Silk Department. Rich Silks, in white, pearl and all fashionable tints, embracing all the desirable weaves and including some richly elegant novelties that are exclusive. We name in part-- Crepe Suzette, Crepe de Chine, Japanese Silk, Taffetas Faconne, Gros de Londres Broche, Taffetas Barre, Satin Duchesse, Gros de Londres, Bengaline Barre, Sicilienne, Bengaline Ondine, Satin Brocade, Striped Taffetas, Taffetas Glace, Brocade d'Or, Brocade Mat-lasse, Satin Jardiniere, Taffetas Pointelle, Taffetas Pompador, etc.

Dress Goods Department. A very choice gathering of the correct sorts of Dainty Wools and Silk and Wools which are peculiarly beautiful and effective for evening wear. Silk and Wool join hands in some of the loveliest; the All-wool are exquisite. Among the most popular weaves are: All-wool Cashmeres, All-wool Henriettas, Silk and Wool Lansdowne, Silk and Wool Floranelle--these are shown in cream and art tints; also Broadcloths in a host of evening tints for opera and visiting wraps and gowns.

Millinery Department. Paris Novelties in Bandeaux and Toques, in delicate shades of satin antique--trimmed in Ostrich Tips, Aigrettes and Rich Cut Steel Ornaments. Pompons, Aigrettes and Ostrich Tips in every conceivable shade--for the hair and gown. Flower Garnitures in exquisite shades to match evening gowns. Beautiful Rhinestone, Pearl and Cut Steel Ornaments for the hair.

Neckwear Department. New Paris dainties in a profusion of exquisite conceits--latest effects for the neck. Also rich Sashes, in Roman stripes, and dainty hand-painted White Sashes, with Chiffon trimming, for evening wear.

Sale of Hurt and Damaged Books, Made necessary by the great crowds which thronged our Book Store during the days before Christmas. Some of the Books have the cover scratched; some are finger marked; some are a bit battered, while others are of a style of binding that hasn't met with general favor. In every case the reading matter is complete and as good as ever. Hundreds of volumes are represented, including Standard Authors--Poetry--Recent Fiction--Birthday Books--Historical Works--Illustrated Gift Books--Essays--Cook Books--Books for grown boys and girls--Books for little children, etc., etc.

Very Decided Price Reductions: 15c. 25c. 50c. 75c. Were 25c. & 35c. Were 50c. & 65c. Were 75c. & \$1. Were 85c. to \$1.25. On Center Tables in Basement.

The Wigwag Will Break Camp Monday Evening. But one more day remains to purchase the quaint Indian Trophies. As a special inducement we will sell during this last day 50 Bugs. Former price, \$4.95 and \$6. Your Choice of the Entire Lot \$1.00. Other quaint Curio at less than Indian prices. Third floor. Woodward & Lothrop.