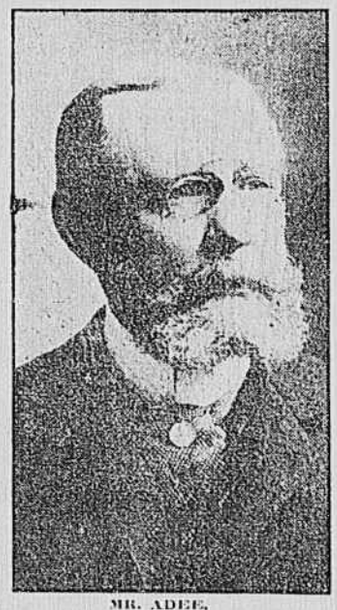
New Year's Is Judgment Day at White House--Feuds Which Are Already Waging--Vexed Duties of the Official Social Mentor

THE PUBLIC IN LINE.

DIPLOMATS ARRIVING.



MR. ADEE,
the Mentor of Official Etiquette.

THE NEW DEAN AND SECRETARY KNOX.

COLONEL COSBY,
the Master of Ceremonies.

BY JOHN ELFRETH WATKINS.

Washington, D. C., December 30.—Will the New Year reception at the White House to-morrow precipitate its usual social row?

Conditions are more than favorable—a new chief justice, a new dean of the diplomatic corps, two new ambassadors, five new ministers and a new commanding general of the army, all to be placed in the order of precedence when the President's master of ceremonies lines up the official guests for the procession into the Blue Room.

New Year's Day in Washington society is always the day of judgment, socially speaking. It is the day when each official learns his place, for here there is an exact place for every one.

Each official, high and low, each foreign grandee and lesser bureaucrat of the home government, is a block in a great pyramid, of which the common people form the base stratum. Washington erected this social Cheops and adhered to the conventional foreign model. Adams maintained it, but Jefferson tore it down, thereby creating such chaos that all later Presidents of his political faith have respected it since it was rebuilt by Madison.

The apex is the President, but from this lofty capstone down there has always been dispute as to how each successive block should be left to lie in the structure. Even the second from the top has been a cause of bitterness and strife, although its place was firmly secured some seventeen years ago. Those immediately below have been hammered at by disputants in the past few years. Will the strife begin again Monday, when the Marine Band, with its fanfare, "Hail to the Chief," signals the curtain's rise upon the national social drama?

Rank of Vice-President Disputed.

The White House had scarcely been opened the second time to Mr. Cleveland when the late awakening of our mother country overseas to the fact that we were a world power of the first magnitude necessitated the reconstruction of the social pyramid. A new block was sent over from England, one that had never been seen before in this country. Previous to that if you had asked many a member of Congress what an ambassador was he would, as likely as not, have defined him as some befussed and befeathered personage who used to run errands for the ancient kings of Persia. But we found an ambassador among us in 1893, and he straightway demanded social rank second only to that of our chief magistrate himself. Pointing to the fact that he was the personal representative of his sovereign, and would, on that account, be ranked next to blood royal at any monarchial court if the old world, he planted his foot directly upon the pate of the late Lord High Executioner, Adelai Stevenson, now Vice-President of the United States, and strode boldly over that functionary.

Then into the White House came the Ohio Napoleon, the first skipper of the ship of state to appear relieved of suspicion that his first mate was plotting to drop a spider in his coffee. He treated officialdom to the unheard of spectacle of a brotherly presidential arm about the waist of the second in command, and when the actors made their entrances at the opening of his first social drama, the audience found Garret A. Hobart at his immediate right, in the centre of the stage, while Sir Julian Pauncefote was left further over toward the wings. Sir Julian promptly complained to his foreign office; which protested to our Secretary of State. Then President McKinley ruled that because of their interdependent constitutional relation the offices of President and Vice-President were inseparable, and that the Vice-President was as much the heir apparent in America as was the Prince of Wales in England. And President McKinley stood pat. And the British foreign office swallowed the pill.

Will New Dean Claim Precedence?

We have a new dean of the diplomatic corps who will make his New Year debut at the White House in 1911. Sir Julian was the dean—the ranking member of the diplomatic corps—in the days of his social warfare against the Vice-President. Will this year's dean—the Baron Ladislaus Hengelmuller von Hengervar, privy councilor of Franz Josef of Austria, and that monarch's ambassador to America—claim precedence over Mr. Sherman?

Will he try to wedge his block in under the capstone of the pyramid? Happily enough, the challenge will not be given at the New Year reception. In more recent years the White House has fortified itself against such a war by placing the Vice-President at the President's right hand before the Blue Room door is opened to the procession of guests.

The new dean will head this procession, and after him the other eight ambassadors and the twenty-eight ministers, to present all of which gorgeous beuniformed, besworded, bescimitared and beplumed body the master of ceremonies is not a personage of sufficient sanctity. The Secretary of State himself, "Mr. Knox, if you please," must descended from his lofty station as second mate of the ship of state and act the usher's part. Perhaps no other functionary than one who does the nation's business with these diplomats can pronounce such names as Keishiro Matsui or Phya Okhan Varadhara, should the President, with a sly aside demand: "Say, what was the name of that fellow in the lilac pajamas?" It would be embarrassing for Master of Ceremonies Cosby to have to confess he didn't know.

Mr. Knox hurries home ahead of the gaudy horde of counts, viscounts, pashas, beys, barons, dons, signors and mandarins, who are to motor over to his yellow mansion for the New Year stand-up "breakfast," which our Premier always gives to the members of the diplomatic body. So far so good. Back in the west doorway of the Blue Room, Colonel Cosby, the "lord chamberlain," has slipped into the place of the Secretary of State. He is exalted enough to call out "the Chief Justice," who has been cooling his heels while the several hundred diplomats have passed in, for such has been the rule for decade upon decade.

Will the New Chief Justice Bristle?

Will the new Chief Justice bristle at this? Will he protest that as the head of one of the three equal and co-ordinate branches of the government he is as inseparable from the office of President as is the Vice-President, the titular head of the legislative branch? At all ceremonies held within the Capitol building, under the dominion of the legislative branch of our vested power, he will find himself placed, as a matter of course and custom, ahead of the dean of the diplomatic corps and his resplendent train. That has long been the recognized order of precedence in either chamber of Congress, but in the White House it has been held that diplomats, as strangers in the land, should be given first place, after the President and Vice-President.

That he should stand with the President and Vice-President and thus complete a triumvirate representing the three branches of government might properly be demanded by the new Chief Justice. His venerable predecessor threw down the gauntlet at one of President Roosevelt's early state receptions to the judiciary when he, as chief guest of honor, was made to wait in one of the parlors until the last little attache of legation had gone through the Blue Room door. Some high officials have suggested a compromise which would let the Chief Justice and other high officials below the Vice-President into the President's presence between the ambassadors and ministers. When Chief Justice Fuller made his protest, Count Cassini, then dean of the diplomatic corps, was said to agree with him so far as the judiciary reception was concerned, but whether the new dean would as readily acquiece to the claims of the new Chief Justice is a question.

New Chief of Staff and the Admiral.

In Monday's New Year procession through the Blue Parlor the judiciary will be followed by the Senators, Representatives, officials of the District of Columbia, and then the officers of the army and navy. But there will be a new commanding general of the army, Major-General Leonard Wood, chief of staff, who was not in his present rank when the last White House social program was ended. Will there be resumed between him and Admiral Dewey the same quarrel over precedence which arose when the admiral, following a recent New Year reception, submitted through his flag lieutenant an implied protest against his being required to march in line behind General Miles? If so, the head officer of our navy will remind the master of ceremonies that his rank is equal to that of a general sans prefix, which is two grades above the rank of Major-General Wood, while the latter may reply that officers of the army have always come "into the presence" ahead of those of the navy by virtue of the army's having been established prior to the navy. But there is one body in this New Year procession which will not quarrel over precedence, save where some one disobeys the law of "first come first served," and then there will be no appeal to a higher power than "vox populi," down there on the cold street. This body will be the great serpentine line of "the common people," black and white, among whom Lincoln, during one of his receptions, said he delighted in taking his "annual public opinion bath."

These precedence feuds may excite your risibles, but not those of the mentors of etiquette in Washington who about this time of year delve into precedents deeper than goes your man of law.

The Marquis and the Senor Don.

Diplomats are always the cause of the most vexation, and even after they have been given their desired places in the line they are not always satisfied. It was only last January that the Marquis de Villalobar, minister of Spain, almost threatened to start the Hispano-American war all over again because President Taft invited some ambasador to pause behind the receiving line and let the masquis go on through.

But the marquis was soon to come into his own. To attend the celebration of the founding of Toledo, O., last summer, he was commissioned as the personal representative of Alfonso XIII., and as such he was given precedence over all other diplomats in attendance, including Senor Don Francisco de la Barra, the Mexican ambassador, who, on hearing of the arrangement, stayed away from the ceremony.

Then some august foreign feelings were hurt at the Hudson-Fulton centennial. The British fleet in the bay shot off a twenty-four gun salute, which was promptly answered by Castle William; but the Frenchmen saved their powder, because, it is said, the French admiral, through inadvertence, had been left standing in the street after the military review, while the officers of other flags were promptly taken to their boat landings. And then Gaston Darboux, official envoy of the French President, got his distinguished back up because he was overlooked in the turmoil of naval welcomes.

Notables Who Mustn't Dine Together.

Formal dinners, such as from now until Lent will contribute new chapters to the social history of our republican court, are as oftimes the scenes of these social feuds as the White House levees. We have spoken of the friction between the Chief Justice and the ambassador, but one of a much longer standing has been in the running between Chief Justices and Vice-Presidents. So cautious hosts will refrain this winter from placing the knees of Mr. Sherman and of the new Chief Justice beneath their mahogany at one time.

Indeed, the poor justices have been sailing upon doubtful social waters for lo these many years, and because the Cabinet used to dispute the social rank of these members of the highest judicial tribunal old-time hosts at the Capital will not invote both Cabinet officers and members of the Supreme Court to the same board.

Once Cabinet members had such doubtful rank in the scale of notables that they, like the Vice-President, had to be invited into the Blue Room before the door opened, there to stand and receive with the President—as they still do—instead of venturing into the adjacent parlor to cause trouble while the master of ceremonies lined up the courtiers. For there came to dispute the Cabinet's rank not only the Messrs. Justice, but the Senate, which body has given Presidents more vexation over precedence than any other body of home officials. Many still conspicuous in the capital drawing rooms remember an exciting occasion when a prominent Senator's wife made a loud uproar because her host escorted the wife of a foreign minister instead of herself to the dining-room and thereby designated her as the occupant of the honor seat at table, upon his right.

A feud between the Cabinet and diplomatic corps arose as early as the administration of Jackson, one of whose portfolio bearers outraged the delicate sensibilities of Count Serrurier, the French minister, by disputing his place in a state dinner procession. And the upshot of it all was that the count stayed without and sulked in his tent while "Old Hickory's" viands were being enjoyed by the less elect.

A Tale of Two Hostesses.

So the newcomer in Washington society has to burn the midnight oil long over an etiquette guide before venturing to act as host or hostess. A distinguished American, who lately went abroad as envoy to a foreign sovereign, has told this story, illustrating the perils of the uninitiated:

A new official's wife arranged a dinner, which was to include the Vice-President, the Secretary of State, the French ambassador, an Italian cardinal, the bishop of her church, and an old marquis with a famed hatred of the French republic.

"Who's to sit at your right?" she was asked by a friend, experienced socially.

"Way, my old bishop, of course," was her unhesitating reply. "And his wife will go in with the cardinal."

The friend, appalled on discovering these breakers ahead, advised her to submit the list of guests to the Vice-President, and she declined with warmth.

"But, my dear," the Vice-President must always have precedence over all others and the marquis hates the French ambassador to his finger tips!"

"I don't care; I shall consult no one about my own affairs."

But other friends who found her in a calmer mood pointed out the only possible channel, and she at last agreed to be piloted. Three dinners she gave—one to the Vice-President, one to the Secretary of State and one to her bishop, the one she had wished to especially honor.

Wise hostesses who find themselves confronted with such social puzzles go up to the State Department and lay them before Assistant Secretary Alvey A. Adee, who for many years has been the social mentor of all state functions at the White House.

The social snarl that he cannot untangle is a bad one indeed, but he had to surrender some time ago, when called into the secretary's office to help place the dinner guests of a society woman who had arranged an elaborate function. She had already sent invitations to about all of the pairs of high functionaries between whom there was friction over precedence, besides two women who were deadly rivals, two estranged naval officers, who were expected to clash at their next meeting, and two titled foreigners, between whose families existed a feud compared to which that of the Montagues and Capulletes was a love feud.

The official mentor adjusted and removed his glasses several times while squinting up and down the column of names, while the hopeful hostess made sundry suggestions as to how her guests might be seated. Then Mr. Adee turned his head to one side, and, glancing at her out of the tail of his eyes, said:

"Well, Mr. Secretary, under the circumstances, if I were the lady, I should become desperately ill and indefinitely postpone the dinner."

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Winchester Social News

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Winchester, Va., December 31.—Mr. and Mrs. Charles O'Connor and their children have returned to Portsmouth after visiting relatives in Winchester.

Dr. Hugh Greenway Russell, of Richmond, is visiting at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. I. W. Russell, in Winchester.

Congressman H. D. Flood, who has been visiting at the home of his brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Evelyn Byrd, in Winchester, has returned to Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Correll, of Winchester, have been visiting friends in Washington during this week.

Rev. Michael Ahern returned to Old Point Comfort yesterday, after visiting his brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice M. Lynch, in Winchester.

Mrs. Stanley E. Harmer and her children, of Winchester, are visiting at the home of Mrs. William H. Rippard, in Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Lumley and daughter, Miss Mary Lumley, of Winchester, are spending a month with relatives at Raleigh, N. C.

Mrs. C. E. Supinger, of Front Royal, is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Herrell, at their home in Winchester.

Mrs. Helen Ames, of Boston, Mass., is visiting her mother, Mrs. S. J. Donaldson, in Winchester.

Misses Louise and Fannie Breeden, of Washington, are visiting Miss Lizzie Sherrard, at her home in Winchester.

Miss Nora Clowe, of Washington, is spending some time at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Clowe, in Winchester.

Mrs. Leslie Shepherd has arrived from Kansas City, Mo., to visit her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Leafe, in Winchester.

Mrs. D. J. Reedy has returned to her home in Winchester, after a visit to relatives in Washington.

Miss Louise Affleck, of Winchester, has gone on a visit to relatives in Martinsburg, W. Va.

Misses Bettie Green and May Heist, of Winchester, have been visiting friends in Washington and Baltimore during the past week.

Mrs. Forrest Allamong and her two children left Winchester this week on a visit to relatives in Maryland and West Virginia.

Miss Lucille Faulkner, of Middletown, has been visiting relatives in Winchester.

Mrs. Oliver Bright, of Portsmouth, is visiting her mother, Mrs. M. A. Cain, at her home in Winchester.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Vernon Eddy and son, of Philadelphia, have been visiting at the home of Mrs. Eddy's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Kurtz, in Winchester.

Wytheville Social News

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Wytheville, Va., December 31.—The dance given by the Wytheville German Club on Wednesday evening, at Boyd's Hotel, was one of the most enjoyable affairs of the season. Those dancing were Miss Virginia Dew, with Allen Brown; Miss Clara Gilmore, with Walker Brown; Miss Lelia Dew, with Fitzgerald Campbell; Miss Annie Powell, with Henry Dew; Miss Katie Miller, with Neal Williams; Miss Helen Otey, with Houston Brown; Miss Ellie Howard, with Stuart Campbell; Miss Annie Howard, with Junius Powell; Miss Isabella Wiggins, with Varney Ward; Mrs. Patterson, with Dr. Dayton Wiggins, United States Army; Mrs. W. S. Trinkle, with Mr. Trinkle; Mrs. W. S. Moore, with Chris Otey.

Miss Bettie Moore entertained the Junior Club and a number of invited guests Thursday.

Mrs. Amelia Walton left this week to spend the remainder of the winter with Mr. and Mrs. J. R. K. Bell, in Pulaski.

Miss Mattie Lee Allison is the guest of Mrs. W. S. Stanley, in Norfolk.

Varney Ward, of Phillips Exeter Academy, is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Stuart Ward.

Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Spiller, of Baltimore, are spending the holidays with the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Spiller.

Dr. Harry W. Dew has returned to Lynchburg, after a visit to his mother, Mrs. Thomas R. Dew.

Misses Maggie Bibble and Annie Powell, of Sweet Briar College, are at home for the holidays.

Miss Laura Lee Stanley, of Portsmouth, is visiting her grandparents, Captain and Mrs. Bolling Stapley.

George Kent, of Wise, is the guest of relatives in town.

Allen Brown, of Pearisburg, is visiting his mother, Mrs. A. C. Brown.

Miss May Bibble left Monday to spend some time with friends in New York City.

Henry Dew, of Washington and Lee, and Mr. Fitzgerald, of Hampden-Sidney, are at home for Christmas.

Newton Otey is at home after spending several months in Dallas, Tex.

Miss Alice Gilmore left for New York Saturday, where she will visit friends.

Pocahontas Social News

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Pocahontas, Va., December 31.—Irvin Jenkins, of the V. P. I., Blacksburg, is spending the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Jenkins.

William S. Dennen was one of the attendants of the Lee-Balding wedding at Bluefield, W. Va., Wednesday.

Miss Annie Wallace, of Graham, was the guest this week of Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Tabor on St. Clair Street.

Miss Fannie Catlett, of Bluefield, W. Va., is the house guest of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Jenkins.

Miss Zanie Nash, of Graham, is the guest of Miss Letha Tabor.

Miss Bertha Deaton, of Farmville, is the guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Deaton, on Merrick's Lane.

Dr. Luther Sowers, of Richmond, is the guest of relatives here this week.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Ward have for their guest Miss Essie Jones, of Bolsevain.

Claude Deaton, of Thacker, W. Va., is here visiting friends.

Mrs. Minnie Lawrence, of Bluefield, W. Va., who has been spending some time here visiting relatives, returned to her home Thursday.

David Cooke was the guest of his mother in Bluefield, W. Va., Monday.

Mrs. C. C. Frazier and children, are in Cary, W. Va., visiting Mr. and Mrs. Prichette.

Otto Drexel, of Bluefield, W. Va., is in the city, the guest of his sister, Mrs. Harry N. Wood.

Miss Josephine Dennen, of Richmond, is the guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Dennen, on East Water Street.

C. R. Karr, of Roanoke, was in the city Tuesday the guest of friends.

Rev. and Mrs. Charles W. Sydnor left Monday for Petersburg, where they will visit relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Heber Marvin Umberger have for their guest Miss Estelle Bauche, of Athens, W. Va.

Dr. E. H. Jones, of Switchback, W. Va., was here Wednesday.

J. Bauch, who is making his winter home in Greensboro, N. C., is here spending the Christmas holidays with his sons and daughters.

Miss Rosalee Hicks, of Graham, is the guest of Miss Nannie Du Puy.

Gordonsville Social News

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Gordonsville, Va., December 31.—Richard and Burton Cook and Reginald Shelton, of Richmond, spent several days this week at the home of Rev. J. B. Cook.

Mr. and Mrs. Burton and Laurence Woody, of Richmond, and Miss Callie Woody, of Meltons, were visitors this week at "Mountain View," the home of Dr. A. C. Smith.

Mrs. J. L. Faber and son, Oscar, visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. O. Gillum, at Madison Mills, this week.

B. H. Faulconer, after spending several days with relatives in the city, left on Tuesday to visit friends at Lanexa, before returning to Randolph.

Miss Sallie Morris has been spending the week with Miss Lizzie Stratton.

Miss Lee Carver, of Keswick, was a guest this week of her parents, near town.

Miss Katherine Scott and George Scott, of Richmond, spent several days this week with their parents, Dr. and Mrs. John W. Scott.

Rev. and Mrs. J. T. Cuthriell returned home on Saturday, after spending the week with friends in Richmond.

Jere Cosby, of Alexandria, has been spending the week with his mother in town.

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Faber have returned to their home in Richmond after spending some days with relatives in the city.

Richard Woody, of Richmond, visited his mother, Mrs. W. J. Woody, in the city.

Fenton Jacobs, of Richmond, spent several days this week with his mother, in the city.

Miss Courtney Partlow, of Richmond, has been spending the week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Partlow.

James and Willie Holladay, of Barcroft, and Richard and Raleigh Conway, of Don, have been spending the week at the home of Mrs. J. H. Hume.

Davy Jones, of Gladstone, was a visitor this week at the home of Mrs. J. B. Buckner.

Walter Ladd and John Davenport, of Richmond, are visiting at the home of J. M. Swan.

Mrs. J. E. Leitch and daughter are on a visit to relatives in Richmond.

Mr. and Mrs. Willie Hite, of Luray, are visiting at the home of Harrison Strickler, near town.

Mr. and Mrs. N. L. Lamb, of Burnley, were guests this week of the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Harper.

Tom Hawley, of Richmond, spent several days this week with his aunt, Mrs. J. T. Bailey.

J. H. Linney, of Charlottesville, visited his nephew, N. A. Linney, here on Tuesday.

Miss Edna Faber, of Roanoke, is visiting her father in the city.

The Gordonsville German Club gave another delightful dance on Monday night.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. T. Sneed visited the latter's parents, in Charlottesville, this week.

"77"

Humphreys' Seventy-Seven Breaks up Colds and

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Social Side of Washington

Washington, December 31.—With its fifty-seven celebrations the Yuletide of 1910 is now only a memory. Already the house parties which added much to the gaiety of Christmas week at the capital, are beginning to scatter, some of the members going east, some going west and some going back to the college nest. To-night another year will be planted in the tomb of time. To-morrow a new year will be ushered on its path to glory. For its proper welcome by society, nearly every official home has assembled especial guests, and representatives of foreign governments sought to have their official family circle complete for the roll-call on Monday, when the diplomatic corps will observe its time-honored custom of paying court to Miss Columbia before breakfasting with her Secretary of State.

The original Christmas party of the young friends of Robert Taft and Miss Taft, entertained at the white House, was augmented on Wednesday, by the arrival of the Misses Anderson, of Cincinnati, Mrs. Taft's nieces, who are already well known in Washington society. This merry group rendered first aid to Miss Taft at the ball given in her honor by her parents last evening, and will be among those to greet the foreign officials at the White House on New Year's Day.

Vice-President and Mrs. Sherman returned to-day from Utica, where they spent the holidays as central figures in a large family circle of children and grandchildren, which included, also, Mrs. Sherman's aged mother, Mrs. Babcock. Mr. and Mrs. Sherman were accompanied back to Washington by their sons and daughters-in-law, who will be their guests here until after New Year's. At her reception on January 1, Mrs. Sherman will also be assisted by Mrs. Brewer Herkimer and Miss Hawk, of New York, who with Mr. Herkimer, will be her house guests during the first days of the year.

The home of the Secretary of State will be especially gay next week, for Mrs. Knox has graciously decided to put aside, for official purposes, the mourning which has kept her in social retirement for more than a year, and still keeps her from private entertaining. In pursuance of this decision, she will follow the custom of her predecessors, and entertain at breakfast the leading representatives of foreign governments at this capital on Monday, and on Thursday she will give the first of the series of Cabinet dinners in honor of President and Mrs. Taft.

One of their distinguished guests on the former occasion will be William Glynne Gladstone, who will make his first public appearance in Washington on that day, as honorary attache of the British embassy. Especial interest is taken in the appointment of Mr. Gladstone to this post, because of his close kinship with England's Grand Old Man of blessed memory, whose Hawarden estate he inherited at the age of thirteen years. Mr. Gladstone is now twenty-six, a graduate of Oxford with high honors and a man from whom the British foreign office expects much, and society not a little, for apparently he is still "heart-whole and fancy free."

By the last turn of the diplomatic kaleidescope the Austro-Hungarian ambassador was made dean of the foreign corps, and as such, he and his wife, Baroness Hengelmueller von Hengervar, will lead the brilliant procession of international official representatives paying respects to the President of the United States on the first week day of the year 1911. In the Austrian entourage a bride, Madame von Loewnthal-Linau, wife of the counselor of the embassy, will receive first impressions of a "Court Day" in the great republic, an experience belonging last year to Baroness Preuschen.

Few ambassadors can boast of having four such handsome young matrons in his train as Monsieur Jusserand, of the French embassy. They are Madame Lefevre Pontalis, wife of the counselor; Viscountess Benoist d'Azy, wife of the naval attache; Countess de Chambrun (nee Longworth, of Ohio), wife of the military attache, and Madame de Peretti de la Rocca, whose husband is first secretary of the embassy.

In the absence of Baron Rosen, who is now on leave of absence in St. Petersburg, the Czar's official forces at this post will be lead by the Russian prince, Nicholas Koudacheff, chamberlain to His Majesty, and Charge d'Affaires of the embassy. The ranking lady in his entourage is Madame Vassilieff, wife of the naval attache, who is never permitted by her friends to forget that she is the niece of the great Leschkatisky.

A warm welcome awaits the British Ambassador and Mrs. James Bryce, whose home-going by way of South America in the late autumn, was unofficially regarded as the shadow of coming events, in which the former's retirement from active diplomatic life would figure. This forecast was the more easily given credence in the light of Mr. Bryce's recognized preference for the calm atmosphere of his own library, whence his opinions on international questions can more easily be disseminated.

A very large staff is required for the dispatch of Great Britain's diplomatic business with this country, and but few of its members will be absent fram the gaity caparisined throng on parade to the White House on Monday. Conspicious absentees are the military attache and Mrs. James, who are in London for the marriage of the latter's sister, the Hon. Nina Shuttleworth, who was her guest here during the winter of 1909-10.

Of distinguished appearance is Count J. H. von Bernstorff, ambassador extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary from Germany to Washington, whose wife, nee Luckmeyer, of New York and Berlin, is noted for her queenly bearing and gracious manner. Countess Luise-Alexandra, their only daughter, and her fiance, Count Portales, of the embassy staff, will accompany them to the White House to wish the President and his family a happy New Year, and receive in exchange felicitations over their approaching marriage.

With the German ambassador also will be Major von Herwarth, military attache, and Baron von Hardenbrock, honorary attache, and Dr. Coester, all newly arrived members of his staff, and welcome additions to the foreign coterie.

The Mexican ambassador, Senor de la Barra, whose rumored engagement to his deceased wife's sister is hourly expected as an announced fact, will follow the German ambassador, and have in his train not a single lady, owing to the unmarried state of his entire staff. The Mexican embassy has been one of the most hospitable foreign official homes in Washington, and during the regime of the Romeros acquired unusual prestige. The present ambassador had the misfortune to lose his wife, by death, in Paris, just after his transfer to this capital; he has therefore never set up his household gods here. If "coming events cast their shadows before," he will soon begin to unpack the furnishings and art treasures which made his legation home such an attractive rendezvous for his colleagues at the French capital.

For a second time will the Japanese ambassador and Baroness Uchida exchange New Year's greetings with President and Mrs. Taft in particular, and official and diplomatic society in general. Arriving here late in December, 1909, their first presentation was hurriedly arranged, in order that they might take their rightful position in the official procession January 1, and were then the observed of all observers, creating an impression which has continued to grow in favor during the intervening months. The baroness is especially interested in educational matters, and, being a graduate of Bryn Mawr, has made that institution a prototype for the colleges for women she hopes one day to see spring up all over her native island kingdom.

The Turkish ambassador, Youssouf Zia Pacha, who arrived last June, and the Italian ambassador who came little more than a month ago, are the ambassadorial new-comers at a New Year's Day reception in the New World. Great interest is attached to the appearance of the former, as it is expected he will be accompanied by his son, Ibrahim Rifaat Bay, and the latter's bride, who have not yet been introduced to Washington society. Little Mrs. Ibrahim Rifaat Bey is the first Turkish woman allowed to accompany her husband to his diplomatic post since Ali Ferrough Bey so eloquently plead his case that his wife was granted the desired permission, provided she would bring her sister with her, and promise by all that was good and holy, to strictly observe the rule of high caste Turkish women, and keep herself veiled from the sight of man. Difficult as these conditions were, in a country where household servitors are frequently of the opposite sex, Madame Ali Ferrough Bey succeeded in keeping them, though in doing so she endangered the friendship of a friend, from whose luncheon, in her honor, she fled, upon making the discovery of a butler in the dining room. Her oldest son was born in this country on the Fourth of July, when in deference to our national celebration of the day, the Stars and Stripes waved merrily with the Star and the Crescent above the legation home in Q Street. Thus a Turkish lad has the right to claim the protection of Uncle Sam whenever he feels the need.

GRACE PORTER HOPKINS.