

Social Season In Washington

A Score of Presidential Receptions and Cabinet Dinners—Taft Interested in Congressional Elections—Is it to Be a Do Nothing Session?—Clothes on the Lee Statue.

By JAMES A. EDGERTON.
(Our Washington Correspondent.)

PRESIDENTIAL receptions are coming along in a bunch. Outside of the regular New Year's reception there was one to the diplomatic corps on Jan. 4, which will be followed by the judicial reception two weeks later, the congressional reception on Feb. 1 and the army and navy reception Feb. 8. Scattered in between will be diplomatic dinners, supreme court dinners and plain and fancy banquets in such profusion that they would delight the eye and palate of old Epicurus himself. Whatever



MRS. PHILANDER C. KNOX.

may be said about the deliberate way Washington goes about other things, socially it is a busy city. Just now the thing that disturbs the fair hostesses of the capital is not the woman question, but the man question. One would suppose that with all the male statesmen who foregather here there would be plenty to dance and lead the ladies out to dinner; but, whether it is that the men are busy playing poker or trying to devise ways to keep from passing bills, it is a perplexing fact that it is not always easy to find enough men to go around. To add to the difficulty about fifty new society buds have blossomed out this winter or are in process of doing so, which calls for just that many more masculine partners. It is a pity that the male beauty squad of the Taft inauguration could not have been induced to remain here permanently.

As Lent begins this year on Feb. 25, the social season has been hastened and squeezed up into a few weeks. This has necessitated the rushing of cabinet dinners at the rate of one a week, beginning with that of the secretary of state on Jan. 6. I do not know that Washington social affairs are intensely interesting to the remainder of the country, but it ought to afford some satisfaction to the people to know that their representatives, senators and other officials get enough to eat, even if food prices are doing the aeroplane act for the rest of us. It used to be supposed that the nation's brainiest men should be the ones sent here, but I am not sure that the view is correct or that it is any longer followed. So far as I can judge the two most important activities of Washington life are eating and talking, and as both are performed through the facial orifice it would seem that the prime requisite in those sentenced to terms of service here is not brains, but mouth. Nor am I prepared to say that of late years this has not been the rule observed.

Now that 1910 is on the boards members of both houses are awakening to the fact that a congressional election is on this year. The Democrats are more confident of carrying the next house than they have been in a decade. For one thing they argue that no party ever revised the tariff that it was not snowed under in the next congressional election with the single exception of 1898, when the Spanish war came on to distract the people's attention. One uncertain element in the coming fight will be the insurgent Republicans. I am inclined to believe that this element, however, will fight out its battles within the party and that whatever division exists in the majority ranks will be settled in convention and will help the Democrats little in the election. President Taft, it now appears, is to take a very active part in the fight, naturally regarding the result in the light of a verdict on his own administration.

The statue of Robert E. Lee in the uniform of a Confederate general, which was placed by the state of Virginia in statutory hall, has created embarrassment in official quarters owing to the criticism leveled at it from certain portions of the north. These objections have not been aimed at Lee, but at his uniform. Now, outside of eating and talking Washington is perhaps most expert in the matter of

clothes, so that this sort of sartorial question is right in its line. However, it has not seen fit to meet the issue as yet, but has settled the matter by sidestepping it—that is, congress will permit the statue to remain in place, but will not formally accept it.

Some ingenious student has discovered a similarity between the careers and attitudes of John Quincy Adams and William Howard Taft. Both the sons of noted fathers and distinguished in their own rights, both averse to making political appointments, both refusing to play politics to further their own fortunes and both, despite their excellent qualities, failing to stir the hearts of the multitude, the parallel does not seem entirely fanciful. Will the likeness be carried out to the end of their careers? Even the weather prophets would hardly dare to offer a forecast. Besides, it is too early in the Taft administration to size it up.

The librarian of congress has handed over another momentous decision, this having not to do with the north pole or the fearful and wonderful meteorology of the 4th of March, but the more aesthetic subject of music. In a word he has settled once and for all what is the most popular national song. It is not "Yankee Doodle," "The Star Spangled Banner," "America" or even "The Girl I Left Behind Me," which gained such vogue in our late war with fever, embalmed beef and Spaniards. The first of American songs in "patriotic popularity," so says the oracle of the Congressional library, is "Dixie." Hereafter the yells which rise to greet that blood stirring air may be given with renewed fervor, having the support of official sanction.

It is probable that President Taft will come near the Roosevelt record in the matter of special messages, though to do so he would have to send them in every other day. Outside of his railroad message there will doubtless be one on the Philippines, one on conservation, one on the District of Columbia in all probability and one on Alaska. How many more will be forthcoming no prophet would have the temerity to predict, especially in view of the prodigious output of former days. Mr. Taft's Alaskan communication is to deal with a comprehensive scheme of government which he is working out. Now that "Seward's leeburg" has been found to be a land flowing with milk and honey, likewise with coal, gold, enterprise and prospects, it is clearly entitled to all the government it can get and pay for.

The reassembling of congress after the holidays was marked by no wild display of fireworks. In the beginning of the session the excuse was that the president had not outlined his chief policies in his regular message, and hence there was nothing to do but to wait until he did. Now that the commerce message is ready this excuse no longer exists. Will there be some other plea for inaction? Champ Clark, the minority leader, says that all the house ma-



CHAMP CLARK.

chine expects to do is to pass the appropriation bills and a ship subsidy measure. The Democrats, of course, will oppose the subsidy and will try to cut down the appropriations. Clark expects the session to end by April or May. There is far from an optimistic belief in the capital that anything worth while will be undertaken. The listlessness of December is still present. Unless the insurgents manage to start something it looks as if the session will be labeled with a large sign of "Nothing Doing." If this thing keeps up the city of Washington should place over its gates this legend: "Leave work behind, all ye who enter here."

With the National Geographic society's headquarters in this city, the Cook-Pearry controversy has had a storm center. Washington is overrun with scientists, from the bug experts of the agricultural department to the weather sharps of the signal service. Willis L. Moore, the head of the "fair and warmer" prophets, is also president of the National Geographic society, the body that will examine the verdict of Copenhagen university and deliver the scientific finding for America on the polar affair. This it will do in deciding as to the inscription on the medal delivered to Commander Peary. It has already found that he "reached" the pole. What it is now to determine is whether or not he "discovered" the pole. Of course the nature of its decision is already settled. It remains only to make the formal investigation and give out the result. Even though there may be left a few Cook partisans it is assured that the verdict will be more generally accepted than as Professor Moore's optimistic forecasts of inauguration weather.

HOCKEY SEASON IN FULL SWING.

Five Games in All Circuits From Now On.

CLOSE RACES ARE EXPECTED.

In New York Amateur League Several Teams Appear to Be Evenly Matched—The Intercollegiate League Fight Pittsburgh Prospects.

Ice hockey, that fast, furious and brilliant national pastime of the boys across the border, will from now on until March occupy a conspicuous place in the limelight of the sporting world. In fact, judging by the present healthy condition of the sport and large attendance at the games in New York, Pittsburgh, Cleveland and St. Paul and several other cities where the game is played, besides that on the different Canadian circuits, it surely looks as if the strenuous ice game will enjoy the most prosperous season it has had in some years.

The uncertainty which exists as to the ultimate outcome of the race for the championship of the Amateur Hockey league in New York tends to add greater interest to the season. Three of the five clubs which compose this circuit have shown great ability, and it is a tossup as to which of them will win out.

The New York A. C. is even stronger than it was last season, except in one feature—Jimmie Sherriff still is firmly ensconced in his announced intention of being a spectator and not a player this season.

The Wanderers are more than 100 per cent better than they were last year and have put what could probably be termed an all Canadian team on the ice. The St. Nicks will be in the fight right up to the finish and have shown that the club which defeats them will be going some. The other two clubs, the Crescents and the Hockey club, will furnish no end of opposition to the three "best bets" and will be stumbling blocks not to be overlooked.

All of these teams have had considerable practice, and their players are in the best shape for a hard season. Under such conditions and judging from the speed and fine play which have been exhibited in several games to date the caliber of hockey in the league will be of the best.

The fact that many of the games have been strengthened by the securing of the services of Canadian amateur players of the first rank indicates that the winners will have to travel at top speed throughout the season. The teams which have been seen in action thus far have all shown marked improvement over their work of last year. They have solved many of the more difficult features of play, and New York is in for a siege of the best hockey it has ever known.

The intercollegiate league of which Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth, Columbia, Princeton and Cornell are members holds another element of uncertainty. Princeton is the only one of the teams to show marked weakness, but this in a large measure has been eradicated. Probably the best showing by any of the teams has been made by Harvard, with Cornell next. All the teams in the league have been practicing steadily since Thanksgiving day and are in condition to play lively games and maintain their ability to the end. The campaign of the college boys will extend until Feb. 19, eight games being scheduled for New York, seven for Boston and one for Cambridge, Mass.

The recent visit of the Cleveland and the college teams to Pittsburgh has stirred up renewed interest in the game there. And there is considerable talk of organizing a new league. As there are quite a few players residing in Pittsburgh who were members of teams in the Western Pennsylvania Hockey league and who are more than anxious to get back in the game, it looks as if the promoters would experience very little difficulty in getting together several strong teams. Among these players are such stars as McKay, Donnelly, Strobel, Koch, Campbell, Ray Robinson, Garnet Sixsmith, Meyers, Brown and Rutledge.

Three Men Willing to Swim Rapids.
Three enthusiasts have expressed their determination to try to navigate the Whirlpool rapids, below Niagara falls, with motorboats and try for the prizes offered by John A. Pen-ton and others of Cleveland. These prizes are a gold cup worth \$500 and \$1,000 in cash. These three, who evidently hold their lives cheaply, are John L. Gibney of Brooklyn, John W. Kirk of Cleveland and Allan A. Blanchard of Oak Harbor, O. They have made formal entries. Those who are booming this affair say that a dozen others have made inquiries and will probably enter in the next few weeks. The committee to manage the trials will be named shortly.

New Heavyweight Pugilist.
Joe Chynski is boosting a new heavyweight. This man is colored, and his name is George Cotton. He is a 195 pounder, and Chynski says he will make the best of the big ones hustle in the near future.

Vacation For the Eel, 2:02/4.
The Eel, 2:02/4, will not be raced on the ice this winter. The gray wonder has been barred in the free for all at Ottawa; hence his vacation.

SPECIALIST

Dr. Leuders

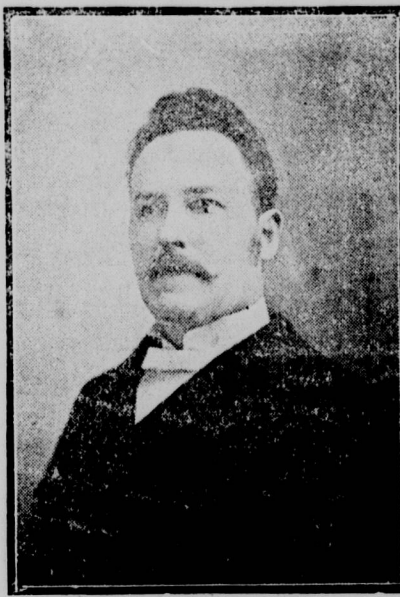
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LECTURE No. 6

If you peruse the newspapers, you will see almost every day an advertisement recommending some valuable (?) remedy which the makers tell you will do wonders.

You immediately go to your druggists and for 25 or 50 cents buy a bottle or package of that medicine. WHY DO YOU DO IT?

Because in your judgment that is the thing to do.

You really expect those wonders to happen.

Will They

NO! In 9 cases out of 10 you draw a blank and at that a blank that is going to

Harm Your System

The druggist is not to blame, he would much rather tell you to go to a good doctor because HE KNOWS.

Now after you have swallowed a lot of this stuff with no relief you become disgusted.

You Want to Get Well
IF

Your judgment is well balanced, if you reason

that you are going to take no more chances, that you are now going to

Have the Best

You will further reason that

The Specialist

Who makes a SPECIAL STUDY of your particular trouble is THE MAN TO SEE.

When you come to me a thorough examination of your condition is made,

A Diagnosis Established

and as soon as you have taken the first treatment, you will feel that You are getting better and in a very short time you will

BE CURED

Don't Put It Off

START TODAY

CURIOUS EPIGRAMS.

Brevity on a Tombstone—Douglas Jerrold's Suggestion.

Among the 1,300 epitaphs collected by Ernest R. Sutcliffe in "Epitaphia" are many quaint and curious specimens. Grimaldi off the stage was said to be a sufferer from melancholia. It will be remembered that, going to a physician on one occasion, he described his case, when the worthy doctor briskly told him to "shake off the feeling. Go and see Grimaldi, and if he does not cure you your case is indeed hopeless." "Alas," said the poor sufferer, "I am Grimaldi." His epitaph reads "Here Am I."

A prize of £100 is said to have been offered by one Thorpe, who was desirous of being perpetuated but briefly on his tombstone. One competitor sent in "Here Lies Thorpe's Corpse." This was certainly brief enough, but finally it was cut to "Thorpe's Corpse."

Many of our readers know the Douglas Jerrold and Charles Knight story. They were dining together on one occasion when the conversation turned upon epitaphs. Knight half in jest suggested that Jerrold should write his (Knight's) epitaph. The subject dropped at the time; but, walking home together in the evening, they came to a spot where each had to take a separate road. Jerrold, extending his hand to his friend, remarked, "I've thought of a capital epitaph for you." "What is it?" said his friend, much interested. "Oh, very brief and very simple, 'Good Night!'"

There are many curious epitaphs on wives. Here's one from Ulverston, Lancashire:

Here lies my wife,
Here lies she,
Hallelujah!
Hallelujah!

An inscription placed over the grave of a missionary who was accidentally shot in India read thus:

Here lies the Rev. A. B.
For many years missionary in B. district.
He was accidentally shot by his native servant.

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

At Chelmsford, Essex, on a stone to the memory of "Mary Blewitt of the Swan" it is stated that she "was the wife of nine husbands successively, but the ninth outlived her." It is added, "The Text to Her Funeral Sermon Was, 'Last of All, the Woman Died Also.'"—Westminster Gazette.

Extras.

"I say," said the messenger boy, "that nearsighted man in 406 just fell over a broom and spilled a pail of water on himself."

"Take him up a towel," said the hotel manager, "and charge him for one bath."

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ELMA, WASHINGTON

TOWNSEND'S
Malted Milk Bread

Ask your grocer for it

Lucky For Whom?
After the operation for appendicitis was over and the patient had recovered from the effects of the anaesthetic the skilled surgeon looked around for his watch. It was nowhere in sight. "You don't think, doctor," anxiously inquired the patient, "you could possibly have sewed it up in?"
"I'm afraid I have. It was lying on—no, it wasn't. I've found it. I had laid it down in my hat."
"Well, that's lucky!"
"It is indeed, my friend," said the surgeon, with a sigh of relief. "That watch cost me \$150."

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