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Washington Letter.

(From our regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30 '88

The President and Mrs. Cleveland, having returned from their vacation in the Adirondacks, are again quietly established at the White House. Their life here at present is uneventful, as there will be no entertainments until the opening of the regular season, when the usual quota of public receptions and state dinners will be given. The season, which will this year be a very short one, promises, in consequence, to be unusually brilliant, and Mrs. Cleveland's first winter in the Executive Mansion will be long remembered by the social world.

When President and Mrs. Cleveland and Mrs. Folsom returned to the Executive Mansion on Wednesday, they found the house in tip-top order, and it is told that Mrs. Cleveland held up her hands on her arrival and exclaimed, "They have painted it white!" The President has resumed his official duties. The President drives out every day, and Mrs. Cleveland and Mrs. Folsom are deeply interested in the progress of improvements at Pleasant Prospect. Mrs. Cleveland, Mrs. Folsom and maid drove down the Avenue in the President's victoria on Thursday on a shopping expedition, and from the number of parcels they took home it was evident that it was a most successful one. Evidently Mrs. Cleveland has been benefited by her sojourn in the Adirondacks, for, although she is a trifle unrounded, her figure is more rounded than when she left here a few weeks ago. The improvements upon the White House were critically examined by the ladies since their return, and commendations were lavishly bestowed upon those who made such complete arrangements for their comfort this winter.

A good deal of surprise is expressed that ship builders and contractors are so dilatory in responding to the advertisements for constructing the new naval vessels, which were published two weeks ago. As yet but one firm has applied at the Navy Department for the specific information necessary to make the proposals—the Union Iron Works of San Francisco. While some people believe that the more prominent ship builders of the country have taken warning by the experience of John Roach, and will not care to contract for the construction of the vessels, the officials of the department attribute the apparent indifference to the fact that nearly all the leading ship builders had frequent conferences with the Secretary of the Navy before the advertisements were published, and are well informed as to the requirements. It is said, however, that it is necessary to obtain detailed information, which can only be given at the Navy Department, in relation to these vessels, before complete bids can be made. At any rate, there seems to be no anxiety to examine the plans as has been the case heretofore when new ships were to be built.

One of the good effects of the civil service system is that the clerical positions in the departments are gradually being filled by young, energetic and intelligent persons. Within the past year a large proportion of the new appointments through the civil service commission have been persons of more than ordinary intelligence, as compared with those who enter the service through political influence alone. Many young collegians are ambitious to study their professions in this city where the facilities are unequalled. They go before the civil service commission, and after passing satisfactory examinations, receive departmental appointments, thus

making the Government pay their expenses, while they are pursuing their studies. Sometimes two or three years' service in the departments stifles their ambition and they gradually become confirmed pensioners in the Government service. Others simply remain long enough to complete their studies, after which they resign and engage in private business. The latter class is not very large, yet there are enough who have the pluck and determination to get along without Uncle Sam's assistance to encourage others to follow their example.

Ex-President Arthur returns to New York from New London to-day. He seems to have derived some benefit from his stop there. A friend who spent Sunday with him said that Mr. Arthur's health is certainly no worse, and probably a little better, than it was when he left New York. While he has lost flesh and is confined to the house most of the time his appearance would scarcely lead one to think him a sick man. His color is good, he sleeps well, has a good appetite, is in cheerful spirits and keeps up his interest in affairs in general.

LENOX.

The characteristics of a fine double carnation, are: the stem should be strong, tall, and straight; not less than 30 inches, or more than 45 inches high; the foot-stalks supporting the flowers should be strong, elastic, and of a proportionate length. The flower, or corolla, should be at least 3 inches in diameter, consisting of a great number of large, well formed petals, but neither so many as to give it too full an appearance, nor so few as to make it appear thin and empty. The petals should be long, broad, and substantial, particularly those of the lower or outer circle, commonly called the guard-leaves; these should rise perpendicularly about half an inch above the calyx, and then turn off gracefully in a horizontal direction, supporting the interior petals, and altogether forming a convex and nearly hemispherical corolla. The interior petals should rather decrease in size as they approach the center of the flower which should be well filled with them. The petals should be regularly disposed alike on every side, imbricating each other in such a manner as that both their respective and mixed beauties may captivate the eye at the same instant; they should be nearly flat, however a small degree of concavity, or inflection at the lamina or broad end is allowable, but their edges should be perfectly entire, that is to say, free from notch, fringe, or indentation. The calyx should be at least one inch in length, terminating with broad points sufficiently strong to hold the narrow bases of the petals in a close and circular body. As an oddity may be mentioned the double dwarf carnation of Liege.

There is also the variety called the tree carnation with suffruticose stems, which may be trained against a wall, trellis, or stakes, to the height of 5 or 6 ft. and will live for many years flowering every year. Carnations are propagated by layers and pipings for continuing approved sorts, and by seed for procuring new varieties.

W. F. J.

SKENE NOTES.

Mr. Timothy Galloway is the happy father of a girl baby.

Mrs. O. Babcock has been quite sick, but is on the gain at present.

Mr. and Mrs. Peck, of Glades farm have gone north on a business trip.

Mr. G. W. Babcock is building a large frame barn, preparatory to dairying.

Mr. William Wright, of Sun-bright, gives us the assurance that he will commence school this winter at Mount Vernon on the academic system.

The annual fair at Livingston, Overton Co., Tenn., takes place next week, and great preparations have

been made for it. A large number of visitors are expected during the three days of its continuance.

Malaria! The very mention of it is a nightmare! Whoever has suffered from this blighting disease knows what a dread scourge it is, and how it seems almost impossible to eradicate it from the system. SMITH'S BILE BEANS will most surely destroy the germs of Malaria, and afford permanent relief. Dose one bean, 25 cents per bottle. For sale by all druggists and dealers in medicine, or sent postpaid on receipt of price, to any part of the country.

WANTED—LADY Active and intelligent, to represent Smith's Bile Beans in her own locality and old firm. References required. Permanent position and good salary. GAY & BROS., 12 Barclay St., N. Y.

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Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of cutting teeth? If so, send at once and get a bottle of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for Children Teething. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Duped upon it, mothers, there is no mistake about it. It cures dysentery and cholera, regulates the bowels, cures colic, soothes the gums, relieves inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for Children Teething is pleasant to the taste, and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female nurses and physicians in the United States, and is sold by all druggists throughout the world.

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Illustrated by the use of a Buggy made by T. T. Haydock, which is not only the Leading Buggy in this picture, but THE LEADING BUGGY OF AMERICA. The Haydock Safety King Bolt and Fifth Wheel. Ask your dealer for the T. T. HAYDOCK BUGGY, with the Haydock Safety King Bolt and Fifth Wheel. Life is insecure riding over any other.

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