Presidents at Dinner.

The White House Stewart Describing the Table Habits of Hayes,
Garfield and Arthur.

I had an interesting chat, writes a Washington correspondent, with Mr. Crump, steward of the White House under Hayes and Garfield. Said he 'The position of steward at the White House pays \$1,800 a year, and it was, under Hayes, a very nice position. The steward has the full charge of the White House. He is responsible for everything. He must see about the table, attend to the catering and keep the servants and the house in order. When Hayes and Garfield were at its head the position was easier than now, on account of the good hours they kept. Each of them had his last meal over by 6 o'clock, or a little later, and we got through dish-washing by 8, so that the men could go away. Of course, I refer to ordinary days when there were no state dinners. Mr. Ar. thur has his dinner between 8 and 9 o'clock, and his friends often sit at the table until 12 and 1 o'clock. The hours are all changed now.

"President Garfield was very plain in his diet. He came into the White House with dyspepsia, and he was doctoring all the time up until he was shot. He ate no rich food and was particular about his hours. He had breakfast at 8:30 in the morning, when he would eat a good beefstake and some baked potatoes with cream poured over them. This was a favorite dish of Garfield's, and it was one which he ate when he could eat nothing else. It is delicious, and far surpasses baked potatoes and good butter. Then Garfield was also fond of a little nice bacon fried to a crisp, and this with a few side dishes made up his breakfast. Dinner he ate at 3. p. m,, and this meal was much the same as his breakfast. He always had his beefstake, and neither he or Mrs. Garfield were big eaters. About 7 o'clock he had tea, and this was a very light meal also. There was generally some one present to dine with the family, but there was no wine at the White House during the Garfield administration." "Tell us something about Hayes."

"During the administration of Haves there was wine used at only one dinner, and that was at the one given to the Grand Duke Alexis. Durng their family meals there was never wine on the table nor was there any at the state dinners. The Haves family were good livers, and they were also great entertainers. During the last three months of Hayes' term there was an average of thirty-seven at each dinner, and he always had a house full of guests."

"It costs a good deal to run the White House, I can tell you, and Arthur will have to have a great many things sent in by the neighbors if he carries much of his salary away. Haves had a number of friends such as Major McKinley of Ohio and oth ers, who had a standing invitation to be present at his family dinner. He never set the table for less than fourteen, and they were generally full. So you want to know what Hayes ate ?" continued Mr. Crump. "Well, his hours were breakfast at 8 or half past 8, lunch at 1, and dinner at 6 He was a great lover of oatmeal and grits, and we always had these on

the table as a part of the breakfast. Then, we would have fruit in the season, good steak or mutton chops buckwheat or corn cakes." "Was Hayes much of a candy eat-

er ?" I asked. "What?" replied the steward; "why sir, he had a sweeter tooth than any child in America. All of the family RANGES are very fond of candy, and we always have it on the dinner-table. It was of the assorted kinds, and it was eaten of liberally. Mr. Hayes did not like pork. He said he had eaten enough of it in the army to do him a life-time. Mr. Hayes was a pleasant man to work for, and Mrs. Hayes was one of the kindest ladies that the White House ever had. I keep a list of all the callers upon Mrs. Garfield, and some of those who called upon Mrs. Hayes. At one of Mrs. Garfield's receptions Guiteau

was present."

"Is the position of steward a desirable one ?"

"Not very at this time. The work is very hard. In addition to the catering and seeing that the house is kept in order, the steward has to watch the relic-hunters. It is outrageous how strangers will destroy the furniture. We often found the carpets cut after a big reception, and it was a common thing to see a hole cut out of a lace curtain. Sometimes the chairs would be cut, and at one time a piece large enough to make a cane was broken out of a safa back. In the east room, just under the mantle, there are a number of little carved, gilt knobs which screw into the wood work, and at one reception seventeen of them

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