THE MARCH MAGAZINES.

"Harper's."

Mesers. T. B. Peterson & Brothers send us Harper's Magazine for March, 'The P. licemen of the Sea" is an interesting illustrated article on lighthouses, lightsnips, wrecks and wreckers; "South Coast Saonterings in England," third paer, is a description of Christchurch in Hampshire, and gives some interesting reminiscences of Shelley, William Godwin, and Mary Wollstonecroft, suggested by the monument of the poet; "Brainerd's Bock" is a poem, and "The Lands of the Earthquake" is illustrated with a number of engravings of celebrated volcanoes, etc. The other articles are "A Cuild's Wiedom;" "My Enemy's Daughter," by Justin McCarthy, three chapters; "Our Presentation at Court;" "About Heat;" "Missing;" "Lost and "The Weeping Willow;" "Saints and Sinners;" "Johnny Right;" "About Cousin Jemima;" "Labau's Daughters;" "Shipwreck of the General Grant;" "A Hant after Devils;" "Love on Crutches;" "An Outsider at an Otter Hunt;" "Eobing;" "Editor's Easy Chair;" "Editor's Book Table;" 'Monthly Record of Current Bvents;" and "Editor's Drawer."

The skeich entitled "Our Presentation at Court" is amusing as well as edifying: -

From time to time the great clothes question has painfully agitated the diplomatic world of America. From the inner to the outer circle has this aguation awakened the supposed subtle and learned intellect of diplomacy, to receive no satisfactory solution, and be quieted down only to break out afresh with increased aggravation. The grave question of clothes is this:
-- Immemorial usage has established as law at the courts of Europe that at all social gatherings graced by royalty your diplomate shall appear in court costume. And this means the dress the diplomate wears on like occasions when in the presence of his own sovereign. But our American diplomate has no sovereign other than the people, and no court that calls for more in the way of dress than a whole coat graced by clean linen. If, then, our accredited agent of the State Department, residing near the court of some European sovereign, complies with the social law concerning oress, he is forced to adopt the costume of some other court than his Now, is not this a grave and subtle Is it not worthy the profoundest study and the most delicate handling? Unfortunately it has to be considered, and finally settled, by our sovereign, the people; and our sovereign, the people, does not consider pro-foundly or handle such questions with much delicacy. "Why," is undepently demanded, Republic be forced to put on this absurd dress, that is, after all, a base livery, marking an interior class in an effect despotism? No, never!" And so our gracious sovereign, on the stump and through the press, settles the great clothes question. Such had been the consideration, and such the settlement, when our worthy Minister, the Hon. John Y. Mason, arrived in Paris as the accredited diplomatic agent of the Government of the United States at the court of St. Cloud. Mr. Mason, in common with all our diplomates then abroad, was sorely puzzled by Mr. Marcy's instructions to appear, on all occasions, in the plain dress of an American citizen. Mr. Buchanan, with on the exigencies of the situation at St. James and one on the orders of his superior in Washington, sought to compromise by putting his dignified person into a suit of plain black, with a snowy vest and white choker, and had in consequence been mistaken for an upper servant by one of the effete aristocracy at a court entertainment, and requested to make himself lively with an over-coat and umbrella. Pierre Soule, on the other hand, not being blessed with Mr. Buchauan's peculiar powers of vision that enabled him to look on both sides at one time, got up a fancy dress of black silk velvet, that was something of a cross between Ben Frankliu and the Prince of Denmark, Mr. Sanford, who preceded Mr. Mason at Paris as charge draffaires ad interim, alone complied Gaffaires ad interim, alone complied with the instructions, and appeared before Napoleon III, the Eupress, and their brilliant court in the simple dress of a simple citizen. From this compliance with the instructions of our Secretary of State, on the part of Mr. Sanford, came all our grief. The Hon. John Y. Mason, whose name, by the by, the court printer would persist in publishing as John y., and the students of the Quartier Latin innocently called old Johnny-cake, had taken the clothes question under careful consideration, and had, moreover, consulted one of the ablest diplomates we then had abroad. This eminent person was an American citizen of African descent, and rejoiced in the plain name of John Diggs. This colored diplomate had been taken from Philadelphia to Europe as a servant by Mr. Rush, and left abroad by that Envoy Extraordinary, John had turned his attention to a Rush study of diplomacy; and acquiring a knowledge of larguages the distinguished politicians sent abrond by our Government seldom possess, and blessed with a common sense our educated diplomatists are prone to lack, he was eminently successful. He had, above all, a practical knowledge of the intricate and delicate ceremonies connected with court life. These rare accomplishments came in time to be known and appreciated; and the gentlemen of this iree land of ours, who are taken from the political arena to make a part of the most cultivated, as well as the ablest, class connected with the governments of Europe, generally engaged John to meet them at Laverpool, that they might learn something of their unried and much-dreaded duties. Among the American diptomates thus dry nursed by the accomplished Diegs was my corpulent and good-natured chief, Mr. John Y. Mason. Of course on this delicate and difficult question of clothes John was consulted, and his opinion closed the discussion.

"I'll tell you what it is, sah," he said, with great deliberation, balancing his tail figure on one leg, while the other permitted his toe to one leg, while the other permitted his toe to lightly touch the floor, in a pose worthy a study, "I'll tell you what it is. You come here as de Minister, an'de Emperor or Monsicar Drouyn d'Lhuys 'll be glad to see you ef you come in y'r shirt sleeves. But when de Empress, or Madaine Drouyn d'Lhuys, invites you to de dinner or de reception, and puls on de card en uniform, you can do one thing or de udder; you can put on de uniform an' go, or you can keep off de uniform an' stay at home, it won't theor off de uniform an' stay at home. It won't do to go dah in y'r shirt sleeves an' say dat was Mr. Marcy's instructions. No, Sah. You can mind Mr. Marcy an' stay at home. An' my Observations has taught me dat most of dis diplomacy is done at descenterialnments."

Til be hanged!" exclaimed his Excellency. in the valgar tongue of the Old Domision, if the nigger hasn't uttered more good sense on the subject than I have heard yet."

And so it was determined to don the court dress in violation of orders. I was somewhat scrprised to find that, after all this deliberation and debate, as if the conclusion were held in abeyance that his Excellency John Y. had been

possessed of his court suit from the first. A grave difficulty met the Minister on the threshold. Of our diplomatic corps abroad, Mr. Sanford alone obeyed instructions in reference to clothes. It is true that he had not been very successful in impressing upon the decorated despotisms of Europe the courming simplicity of our republican Government. Being only Secretary of Legation, acting ad interim as charge d'affaires, the decorated despotisms regarded the move as an ill-mannered act on the part of one so insignificant that it was beneath serious attention. What John Diggs had said was true enough. To obey Mr. Marcy was to decline invitations to all court ceremonies and entertainments. For a secretary to ignore the usages of his class and the wishes of his host or hostess was simply an imperimence, and was treated with contempt. For a minister to do so would be considered a grave affront, and as

such would meet with quick resentment. Mr. Sanford, however, had obeyed instructions, and he now refused positively to accompany Mr. Mason to the first court ball of the season, where quite a number of American eltizens were to be presented. Of the ceremony attending a presentation the American Minister

knew little, and his lately appointed a cretary quite as ignorant, can diess. The unnarry old gentleman begoed the late diplomare, of the simple citizens dress, in the most imeeching and piteous manner, to accompany bim; but the austere representative of republican simplicity

positively declined. It was a trying moment, and involved much talk and heavy consumption of tobacco, to which last-named article the Minister resorted with increased energy when his diplomatic brain was vexed by some intricate question, as the one now demanding solution. The Judge assure me that "it quieted the nerves, cleared the brain, opened the pores;" and I can add that with magical effect it gave to a Virginia gentleman all the aplomb necessary for the most trying occasions, and if it did not improve the mind or notice the manners, it at least lifted one above the embarrassment of teeling the deficiencies.

Sanford was obstinate, and Mr. Mason found that he would have to throw up the presentation or undertake it without assistance. centleman who had filed the several positions of Judge, Congressman, and Attorney-General was not to be daunted by "the fringe-work and flummery of a court presentation;" and he swore a great oath that he would present Muggins & Co. or dic.

It requires something more, however, than the experience of American official life, even when sustained by the best of whisky and the purest tobacco, to enable one to look calmly through the gilding of a court such as that imperial tailor and uplicasterer, Louis Napoleon, has created. Mr. Majon was not of that class can pierce the outer seeming to the real substance, and retain a self possession from an inner sense of superior merit. The rattling roar of carriages, the glare of lights, the gorgeous stalrway, made beauti ul by flowers and imposing by the Cent Garde, up which swept a living stream of beautiful women and decorated men struck awe into the soul of the Virginia diplomate. How he found his way to the presentation room remains a mystery. When there his troubles began.

The room reserved for Americans was the one given also to the Engli-h. Mr. Mason was im mediately surrounded by citizens of our free land, done up in court costome that, either chrough the awkwaidness of the wearers or from the fact that the bired dresses did not fit them comfortably, made them resemble the armies on the stage in spectacular dramas, that stalk about conscious of the jeers and laughter of the audience. Crowding about their unhappy Minister, they begged to know what they were to do, where place themselves and how to The appearance of the diplomatist was as ludicrous as his position was pitiable. The back of his unbuttoned coat made a straight line from collar to tail. That part of his round person which the satirical Benton said was content only when filled with orsters, seemed to round out to twice its ordinary size, while his cocked hat was fixed firmly to the back of his good-natured old head. Firmly grasping his dress sword, he rolled to and fro, using language more remarkable for its force than polish in reply to the troublecome questions of the excited crowd.

Strange to relate, an English attache came to the relief of the perplayed Minister. He begged for his intrusion, and said that he saw the Minister and his attaches were new to the business, and begged leave to suggest that if Mr. Mason would place his compatriots on one side of the room, in a line, he, the Minister, could observe the manner the English Ambassador went through the ceremony. It consisted merely in walking backwards before the Emperor, and presenting each one by name, with his or her residence.

The line was soon formed. A new trouble presented itselt. The people to be introduced. each by name, were strangers to Mr. Mason He did not know their several cognomens, and walking up and down the line he demanded earnestly that they should "sing out their names." But when their names were so sung out he found that he could not remember

While thus engaged the Emperor and suite entered, and the presentation of the English began. Mr. Mason ceased his demand for names, and gazed carnestly at the process being gone through with, that he might learn something of his duties. The Americans ceased talking, and settled in a fixed stare at the world-wide celebrity before them.

I know of no shock more positively disagree-able than one's first view of Louis Napoleon on foot, and near enough for accurate criticism. He sits tall, and in carriage or on horseback appears at his best. But on foot his short, thin egs and long body make up an awkward figure below the medium height; and one looks in vain at the retreating forehead, weak chin, parrow, drooping shoulders, and broad hips for any of the well-known and distinctive marks of the Bonaparte family. One gazed hopeiessly into the dull, glazed eyes, that have an unpleasant resemblance to those of a deceased mackerel, at his red bottle-nose, and retreating chin, to find evidences of intellect and character. He was dressed on this occasion in tight breeches, that showed to a disadvantage his short, slender egs, while the close-fitting coat was so that it suggested concealed armor. He strove, evidently, to hide a slight limp, the origin of which I never heard explained.

The English presentation came at last to an end, and Mr. Mason's task began. Remembering the name of his first victim he succeeded, without blunder, in making the American Muggins and the Third Napoleon acquainted with each other. But with the next our Minister came to a full stop. He could not remember the name, and the poor man tried in vain by a stage whisper to communicate the magic word. The Emperor wated with that calm indifference which is far more aggravating than any expression of impatience. He waited without result, and he might have so waited an indefinite time, for the wretched man whose introduction stopped the way suddenly grew red in the face, and lost all power of articulation. Judge Mason saw apoplexy before bim, when relief came in the shape of a happy idea that struck his diplomatic brain. Stepping back a lew paces he

I have the honor to introduce your Majesty to all these good people. They are all Ameri-

This mode of presenting, by plateon, was new to his Majesty a oresand; but accepting the situ-ation, he withdraw it to w paces, so as to take in the entire line, and then began his usual speech on such occasions;--

"You have done me a great compliment, ladies and gentlemen, by coming so far to visit my court. You come from a great country. I remember your country—I was once there myself."

At this point a tall, awkward New Englander, looking at the court thus referred to through a pair of gold rimmed speciacles, thought it about the c to say something to relieve the general sense of restraint, and so cried out, in a very insinuating, soothing, though rather masal toner-

'And we were very glad to have you among us, your Mujesty.' A burly gentleman, all of conceit, and gorgeously decerated with a medal some enthustastic fire company bad presented bim, indignant that any other than to uselt should presume to speak, added, in a book voice:-

"And we hope soon to see you there again,

your Majesty."

The proposition made so heartily, to resume travels care nore this had proven so mean and miserable, discondent this Imperial Majesty to such an extent that he abruptly terminated the b his side-arms and going review, by gather's g off almost at a canter Tais absurd scene acted quietly enough, the disposition to laugh being controlled by the politeness so general in polished capital of France, and by the uccess in establishing the restraint necessary to elaborate enquette only, failed to hide of a new court. One his intense satisfaction. A large man in a very gay court dress, found afterwards to be the Master of Horse, indulated in a grin that extended from ear to ear the moment the Emperor's back was turned, and the Master of Horse saved himself from a horse-laugh by

punching violently his companion as they marched away. marched away.

The line of presented Americans immediately broke ranks, and surrounding the two unfortunates who had thus unexpectedly terminated the imperial interview so dear to the American

heart, poured out their indignation in language

more pointed than polite. The clongated nui-

sance from New England, who had opened the conversation with the Third Napoleon to relieve his embarrassment, seized on a very flesh woman, and began waitzing to the first noise of music that smote upon his car As it was in violation of court etiquette for any one to waltz before the imperial quadrille had ended, a num-ber of flunkies started in pursuit of the wrongdoers. This created some confusion, and in the midst of it came the cry of "Make way," "Onen a passage, will you?" and above the crowd was seen a fall yellow feather, violently agitated as pennant of a ship in a head-sea. the Minister and family were discovered being conducted to the diplomatic benches, where seats had been reserved. On reaching the place designated, Mr. Mason found that the stout gentleman from New York with the fire company's decoration, and bravely flanked by seven daughters, had been mistaken for the American Minister, and was in quiet possession of honors

Well," exclaimed Mr. Mason, "I'll be ---But words failed to do the subject justice, Thus ended our Presentation at Court.

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We had, as you are aware, two of your valuable and well-known CHAMPION FIRE-PROOF SAFES; and nobly have they vindicated your well-known reputation as manufacturers of FIRE-PROOF SAFES, if anyfurther proof had been required.

They were subjected to the most intense heat and it affords us much pleasure to inform you that after recovering them from the ruins, we found upon examination that our books, papers, and other valuables were all in perfect condition.

> Yours, very respectfully, JAS. E. CALDWELL & CO.

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We had one of your PATENT CHAMPION FIRE-PROOF SAFES, which contained our principal books and papers, and although it was exposed to the most intense heat for over 60 hours, we are happy to say it proved itself worthy of our recommendation. Our books and papers were all preserved. We cheerfully tender our testimonial to the many already published, in giving the HERRING SAFE the credit and confidence it justly merits.

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