

OUR ALBANY LETTER.

30V. MORTON AND HIS CHARMING FAMILY.

Anticipations of a Brilliant Social Administration—Mrs. Morton and Her Daughters—Renovation of the Executive Mansion—Legislative Reform.

There are many indications that Albany will enjoy this winter the gayest social season it has ever known. This is in part a reaction from the dullness of last winter, but there is also a belief that Gov. Morton's administration will be distinguished for its social triumphs. It is stated in social circles here that Gov. Morton is the richest man who has ever sat in the executive chair of this State, and that he is as hospitable as he is rich. His family is one of the most interesting in the country.

Mrs. Morton is a very handsome and distinguished looking woman, who is yet on the sunny side of fifty. She is



Governor Morton.

exceedingly charming in her manners and a most hospitable hostess. Her maiden name was Anna Street, and she is a relative of the poet Alfred B. Street. Mrs. Morton's ancestors resided in Albany, and Albany society has held out the most cordial welcome to her.

The Mortons have not had a city house since leaving Washington, but have resided in the fine country seat at Ellerslie, near Rhinecliff, on the Hudson. It is one of the most beautiful and handsomely equipped residences on the American Rhine. They will now, however, reside most of the year at Albany. Mrs. Morton is of thoroughly domestic tastes, although so well calculated to shine in society. She has given much of her attention to the education of the five girls, Edith, Helen, Lena, Alice and Mary, who constitute a group of girlish beauty that any parents might be proud of.

Mrs. Morton has a stately presence, a bright, rosy complexion, and abundant hair, now changing to white, and which is usually worn in a Psyche knot. She has a most winning smile and is graceful and cordial in manners. She usually dresses richly and in good taste, and will undoubtedly form an ornament to Albany society.



Mrs. Morton.

Miss Edith Morton, the eldest daughter, is a very attractive young lady, having recently been introduced to society at the Patriarch ball, in New York. She is dark like her father, and of a rather quiet disposition.

Mrs. Morton has brought up all of her children in the strict English fashion, the nurse girls and maids who attended them being typical English servants.

While Mrs. Morton was a model mother she did not believe in spoiling her children with too much attention and waiting on. She preferred the sensible method of training, and the girls were taught to wait on themselves—more so than most children born in the lap of luxury.

Mrs. Morton is not what the swagger set would call a fashionable woman. She does not live for society alone. The Misses Morton, of course, follow the ideas of their mother as to dress, and are always robed in rich garments, tastefully made, but not cut in the fashion generally accepted by the young ladies of the 400. They are all pictures of health, and are fond of outdoor sports, especially Edith and Helen the two eldest, who are enthusiastic horsewomen.

The amount of time these young ladies have spent abroad and in tra-



Miss Edith Morton.

velling, generally speaking, has made them broad-minded and interesting to a degree which makes them charming conversationalists.

As far as education is concerned the Misses Morton have undoubtedly had every advantage that money and devoted parents could procure. They all speak French as well as they do English, and Miss Edith is also a German.

scholar of ability. In fact, she is considered the student of the family.

Miss Helen, and, in fact, all the children, are unusually proficient in art, literature and music, to which they are devoted. In fact, they are so much taken up with their studies and amusements at home that society has



Helen and Lisa Morton.

seen but little of them, and as yet there has been but little or no talk about the eldest ones in connection with a matrimonial venture.

The Governor's mansion has been greatly improved for the occupancy of Gov. Morton and family. It is the first time it has been occupied by those with much social ambition since its erection. As is well known, the house was built during Gov. Hill's first administration, and the interior arrangements in many respects were of the bachelor order. Mrs. Flower had many changes made when she occupied the house, but she and Gov. Flower were both of quiet tastes, and, although giving frequent dinners, did not aspire to social prominence. It is safe to say that the State mansion will see more life and gaiety in the next two years than it has ever seen before. And this is as it should be.

Albany has an excellent society, refined and hospitable, but it needs such leadership as the Mortons are capable of to draw it out of its rather conservative shell. A season of social gaiety would have a good effect upon trade,



Alice and Mary Morton.

and would benefit a number of industries that have felt the effects of hard times.

A curious effect of a provision of the new State constitution promises to effect an important reform in the work of the Legislature. Heretofore the Legislature has adjourned each week on Fridays and has not got down to work fairly until the next Tuesday, making about four working days each week. The effect of the abolition of railroad passes to all public officers has deprived the members of the Legislature of a free ride home and return each week, and the result appears to be that but few will see their families often during the session. The members who propose to stay in town are agitating the question of holding a session six days of the week, instead of adjourning Fridays, and this reform, if carried out, is likely to lead to a short and busy session.

Speaker Fish is a man in the rather unfortunate position of having too many friends. The Republican majority in the Assembly is so large that the task of making committee assignments has been one of the most difficult ever undertaken by a speaker. The work has been finally accomplished, however. The Democrats have two places on each committee. The trouble has been to provide enough assignments for the seventy-two Republicans who supported the speaker in caucus and of an importance commensurate with the dignity of the many new members who haven't learned yet the real size of the space they will occupy in the public estimation.

M. T. CAIN.

Making Up Lost Time.

In regard to the difficulty of making up lost time on railroads, a writer in a foreign paper says: Thus, to take a case, ten miles to be run at sixty miles an hour, average line, suppose the engineer is a couple of minutes late when he comes to this length of ten miles, which he generally runs in ten minutes. If he runs it at sixty-five miles an hour, he is then only making up one minute in every thirteen miles, and if he runs at seventy miles an hour, he makes up one minute in every seven miles. He is probably timed to make it necessary to do the ten miles about as fast as he can every day, so that trying to gain even a couple of minutes in this length is out of the question. Again: If he relaxes the speed ten miles, say, to fifty, he is losing time at the rate of one minute in every five miles. Thus, from a speed of sixty an increase of ten miles only gains one minute in every seven miles, but a decrease of ten miles loses one minute in every five miles.—Power.

A Woman's Adventure With Wolves.

While people living outside of Inkster may be inclined to think that our wolf stories are fiction, the wolf question is of considerable local importance to us. Recently Mrs. John Harriott went out on the prairie to look after some young stock and on her return home was followed by seven wolves. When she saw them coming she ran with all her might. Suddenly she stopped to see what they would do. She started on again and they again followed at just a certain distance behind her until she reached home.—Inkster (N. D.) Tribune.

Had to Do It.

She—Why, there's Charley Van Beet. Don't you remember his going to California some time ago with his fiancée?

He—I should say I did. He wrote me he didn't have money enough to get back. How do you suppose he managed it?

She—Why, he married her out there.—Puck.

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

GOSSIP RELATING TO CONGRESS AND ITS MEMBERS.

Senator Hill's Latest Surprise—Society's Open Arms—The Senate Restaurant Again—Poor Prospect of a Financial Bill This Session.

Special Washington Letter.

There is a renewal of the public interest in Senator Hill since his latest political surprise in "making up" with President Cleveland. Everybody is discussing Hill, and in the way of getting talked about he is easily the leading politician at the national capitol. It is evident to all that Hill has yet an important role to play in the Senate, and the shrewder politicians are not disposed to accept the current stories as to his object. Hill could hardly form a very close alliance with the Administration on the money question,



Hill in the Senate.

although he might be disposed to lend his aid to an Administration bill for the sake of harmony.

All sorts of amusing stories are being told of Hill's ambition. One is to the effect that he is about to take up literature, and that the country will soon receive something from his pen in the way of a novel or possibly a play. Perhaps Manager Charley Frohman is responsible for this latter idea, as he is said to believe thoroughly in Hill's dramatic ability. No doubt these rumors have gained strength from the rather recent discovery that the New York Senator is really very well read, and is showing more general culture than was expected of him. He is an omnivorous reader, and has a remarkably retentive memory, and, like a few of our most prominent statesmen, the conflicts of politics, possibly as an escape valve to the excitement of politics.

In no other way could Hill please Washington more than to enter society. There is no doubt that women admire him, and many of them vote him handsome. His alleged indifference to the fair sex has only piqued the curiosity of the social world, and his pathway would be made easy to the most gilded circles of local swiftness if he is disposed to shine in that way.

My own idea is, that Hill does not propose to abandon politics in any degree, but is simply showing the world that he has a full stack of cards up his sleeve yet, and that his alliance is courted by the most powerful men of his party as that of a man who has a future before him. The Administration, on its part, desires to reunite the Democratic party, and has made its first overtures to Hill as a step toward closing up the faction fight in New York, which helps to demoralize the party throughout the whole country.

Senator Allen has added something to the galaxy of nations by bringing up the old subject of the Senate restaurant, that famous resort, where "cold tea" is always on tap, and corn pone and pork and beans can be obtained in their pristine purity. Allen really made a sharp attack, and the defense of the Senate's "peculiar institution" was somewhat feeble. But the reason is that it needs no defense. In the opinion of the majority of the Senators, they want a good restaurant, and good things do not come cheap under the dome that is the perch of Miss Liberty. Allen's speech will no doubt be considered a serious and able effort on the Pacific coast, but it has excited nothing but the risibilities of the Senators.

The prospects of a financial bill by the present Congress seem to have "gone a glimmering," judging by present in-



Senators Smile.

dications. The faculty of the majority in neglecting so great an opportunity is too vast to be commented upon. There is a possibility that the Senate Democrats will try to fill the breach, but it hardly seems possible that a bill not originating in the House can pass. The rumor is revived that the President will call the new Congress in session to deal with the financial question if the present Congress fails to act. He is almost under a necessity of doing so if the present condition of deficient revenue and drain of the gold reserve continues. TOWNSEND.

New Oil Lamp.

A Belgian inventor has devised an incandescent lamp such as has probably never been seen before. The lamp is composed of 3,000 pieces. It is six feet high, and measures three feet ten inches in diameter. It is fed with kerosene, and the consumption is said to be very small, its light being so powerful that one may read by it at a distance of 600 feet.

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