

NEW YORK LETTER.

The Astoria will always be a show place—a place where money will reign and beauty in silk attire dance in regal apartments furnished and decorated by the masters of the arts and the crafts. It will be under the sole management of George C. Boldt, who has already made a famous name in connection with the Waldorf and will be run in conjunction with that hotel.

It takes 15,000 employees to run the Astoria-Waldorf.

Of these there are 100 mechanics and engineers, 400 waiters, 100 chambermaids and 100 cooks and kitchen workers. No attempt is made to lodge this regiment of employees in the hotel. The girls sleep there, but not one male employee has quarters in the hotel.



JOHN JACOB ASTOR.

As everybody knows, the Astoria is the sole property of John Jacob Astor. It is the most costly hotel in the world. The land, at a fair market valuation the building and the furnishing make its estimated cost about \$6,000,000. That is, the hotel must make a clear profit of \$1,000 a day to pay the bare interest on the investment. The Waldorf, owned by William Waldorf Astor cost only two thirds as much.

The opening of Delmonico's new restaurant, at Fifth avenue and Forty Fourth street, is an event of more than local interest.

The original Delmonico was a native not in fact the only living member of the world with several of its greatest cooks—and was brought to this country by Thomas Addis Emmet, who emigrated from Great Britain immediately after the hanging of his brother Robert Emmet. The first establishment of any pretense that bore the name was in the building now known as the Stevens House, on Broadway. Although the Delmonico kept pace with the upward march of the city, and have planted their banner successively at Chambers street, Fourteenth street, and Twenty sixth street, certain rules laid down by the founder of the house have been rigidly followed by each of his successors. It is a curious fact, by the way that in this family the descent has always been from uncle to nephew.

An old time Delmonico rule forbids the serving of a meal in a private dining room to a gentleman and lady without the presence of a third guest no matter if they are known to be man and wife. The strictness with which this rule is enforced may be inferred from a story which sounds almost incredible, though it is strictly vouched for. One evening, more than a third of a century ago, Mr. and Mrs. August Belmont, at that time, perhaps, the most prominent people in New York society, entered one of the small dining rooms in the Fourteenth street restaurant, where they had previously ordered a dinner for four, and sat down to await their guests. The latter did not arrive. Finally Mr. Belmont turned to the waiter with the remark that he would not wait any longer, and ordered him to serve for two. But this the servitor declared was contrary to orders, and Mr. Delmonico, who was appealed to by the amazed banker, sustained his employee, with the result that his patrons took their dinner in the public dining room. It is further recorded that Mr. Belmont with characteristic sagacity, turned the matter to good account, that winter, by making bets with other gentlemen of wealth and prominence that they could not dine alone with their wives in the Delmonico private dining room.

CYRUS THORP.

**Debt Twenty-two Years Old.**  
A case of rather remarkable commercial honesty has just come to light. In 1875 one of Springfield's well-known shoe dealers found himself so embarrassed by depreciation in value of stock and the difficulty in collecting accounts that he failed, and made a compromise with his creditors of 50 cents on the dollar.

After twenty-two years the merchant now considerably over seventy years old, has settled all these old claims in full, paying the balance unpaid at the time, amounting to several thousand dollars. There was no claim on him other than that of his conscience.

**A Determined Schoolmarm.**  
Scientifically trained schoolmarm in these times are not to be trifled with. At Babylon, L. I., a young teacher undertook to punish a stout boy pupil. While thus engaged, the boy's class-mate, who is larger than the teacher dashed upon the scene, and the two combined to reverse the order of discipline. But the schoolmarm seized the girl's hands, tripped her up, sat on her and then the boy howled for mercy. Evidently there are some things taught in a normal course that are not illustrated at the graduating exercises.

The most exciting game at Klondike is when the miners play poker with beans for chips. The man who wins a bean is sure of a meal.—Chicago Journal.

CURRENT COMMENT.

Dr. Parkhurst says of the New York election: "My vocabulary is no match for the ignominy of the situation."

Speaker Reed says if the deficit does not end when the Dingley law begins to operate under normal conditions the Republicans will enact legislation which will provide additional revenue.

Keely has dropped his motor to work on a flying machine propelled by what he calls the neutralization of gravity by "sympathetic outreach." The name suggests a skillful touch for stock subscriptions.

It is discovered that since McKinley has been President 179 negroes have been appointed to office, and there has been a serious protest made against only one of them. The race question cannot be either so prominent or so virulent as agitators would have us believe.

Switzerland's scheme of making insurance against sickness compulsory on people of limited means is an instance of far-reaching paternalism on the part of the Government, but there is thrift in it. The people who are thus obliged to provide for their own old age, the Italian canton of Switzerland—a province that has furnished this, however, to the effect that he was public expense.

Ex-President Harrison, like ex-President Cleveland, has withdrawn from politics, and is giving his whole attention to private business and domestic affairs. So long as they shall adhere to their present policy—from which they give no signs of deviating—both will retain and increase the respect and confidence with which their fellow countrymen now regard them.

It is no new thing for the Baldwin Locomotive Works to receive orders from foreign countries, but it is a little remarkable that calls for their engines should come from such widely separated localities as Finland, Japan, Brazil and Canada about the same time. It looks as if American engines were successful against the competition of all the world. But when shall we be able to note a similar demand for American-built ships?

The Hartford Times announces by authority that Mark Twain has paid all his debts by money which he has earned during the last two years. "This success," it adds, "shows what Mr. Clemens can do when he feels that he must. His actual earnings since he went abroad amount to \$82,000, of which about \$20,000 has been received for lecturing, and the remainder has been paid to him for his writings. He has now the comfortable prospect of a very large income from his books during the remainder of his life, and the certainty that his family will be well provided for."

The new line of steamers from Portland, Oregon, to Japan and China, which is to run under the auspices of the Oregon Railway and Navigation Company, will not be so imposing in character as its Canadian Pacific rival nor will it be backed by so substantial a subsidy, but it is a beginning which may lead to greater things. The opening trade of the Pacific is likely to require several lines of steamers in the near future.

Milwaukee's use of its fireboats for fighting fire at a distance from the river front is attracting attention in other cities with navigable waters. Cleveland, Detroit and Buffalo have adopted the system and Boston is preparing to do something with it. In Milwaukee the idea was born of necessity, the first suggestion being for a pipe line from the river to an isolated manufacturing in a section where the water mains had not penetrated. The pipe was laid and the first test with a fireboat at the river end showed a complete success. Since then lines have been laid to cover a great part of the business district of the city.

The fact that the Governments of the United States, Russia and Japan have deemed it best to raise the status of the members of the Behring Sea Conference from that of mere delegates to the high rank of envoys extraordinary indicates that the treaty completed by them is of the first importance, and binds all those of the signatory Powers to enforce it, if possible. From another point of view it may be regarded as a strong diplomatic hint to Great Britain and Canada that, although they may not be signatory to the treaty, they would do well to observe its provisions if they wish to avoid trouble.

There is some reason in Pierre Lorillard's sweeping denunciation of our fluctuating politics, but he discredits himself when he says that London financiers would not invest in America if they were offered 20 per cent. interest—"and it is all due to the unsettled condition of our politics." There are many millions of English money invested in this country, and there are indications of many more millions to come, but there is no doubt that if we could adopt one settled political policy and stick to it there would be less risk in American investments, whether for Americans or Englishmen.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

With the return of Congress comes the lobby. There are always claims before Congress and claimants waiting for Congress to favorably act upon support in case of illness will not have to be supported in the hospitals at them. There are always bills before servatism, fought for twenty years to supposed to do so. But it is just as difficult to classify the lobbyist as it is to classify any other profession or business. The lobby is not an un-mixed evil. The romances about the Washington lobby are like other romances, a few grains of fact going a long way and doing great service in sustaining the fabric of fiction. These romances have at times done much to prejudice the people who never see Congress in session, and give them exaggerated ideas of the corruption that gathers beneath the dome of the National capitol. There may have been a time when money played an important part in legislation, and it may be more or less potent now, but one will look in vain about the capital for a lobbyist who carries a checkbook with him or has rolls of greenbacks bulging out his pockets, ready to influence Congressmen. He will also look in vain for the fascinatingly beautiful woman who captures legislators with her smile and hypnotizes them into voting as she wishes. These are creatures of fiction. The lobby is made up of very different people. And the men and women who make up the lobby are more often victims than those looking for victims.

The coarse and vulgar purchaser of votes found in fiction and on the stage does not resemble in the least the Senator who walks past the doorkeeper and takes a seat on one of the sofas in the rear of the Senate chamber. Once a United States Senator, always a free admission to the Senate chamber, the most exclusive place in the whole United States. No man, however popular, who is not a Senator, a Congressman, or a member of the Supreme court may enter the Senate chamber when the Senate is in session. The Senator always retains that right. He carries it into private life with him, and when he comes to Washington he walks past the doorkeeper just as he did when a member of the Senate. There are a good many ex-Senators in the United States. A number of them live in Washington. They are lobbyists. The name does not jar on their nerves. They are engaged to promote certain proposed legislation, and they regard it no more dishonorable or undignified than they would the profession of the law and the employment of counsel for corporations or individuals. A tariff bill brings out many such members of the lobby. They represent special interests and are paid to present the demands and needs of those interests. It is honorable and often necessary. They act as counsel for such interests and show why they need a high tariff or no tariff.

A minister of the gospel may be a member of the lobby. In fact there are often ministers in the lobby watching the legislation which interests them or their churches. They are not corrupt lobbyists who would purchase votes, but their services may be paid for by the churches or schools that are seeking appropriations, and they employ the same means that other members of the lobby employ who have never been known except as politicians. They argue, plead the cause of the church and morality, use personal influence, and ask for votes on the ground of friendship if they cannot make it appear that the bill is one which should be passed on the grounds of exact justice, and in accord with political policies. They will even encourage "log-rolling," which is held up by theoretical moralists as one of the evils of modern legislative assemblies. They will ask their friends to pool issues with others who are not active friends and help along another bill in which they have no interest, providing this will help the bill wanted.

Political influence and church influence may go hand in hand in the lobby, and they often do. One of the most interesting of the Southern war claims is that of the book agents of the Methodist Episcopal church, South. When Buell's army entered Nashville in 1862 the great publishing house of the church was seized. The property was libeled for confiscation. While the question of confiscation was before the court the army made use of the plant. The paper designed for tracts was used to print quartermaster's blanks, and the bindery turned out regimental rolls instead of Bibles. The church wanted something like \$300,000 for the damage done, and presented evidence to show that it was loyal during the war. Several war claims committees of Congress favored paying the claim, but it has not been paid, for Congress has not made the appropriation. This claim brings ministers of that church, bishops and other church officials to the lobby to work for the appropriation. There are many such claims still before Congress, and they bring to each session of Congress the clerical lobbyists to mingle and be classed with all others who appeal to Uncle Sam for redress of wrongs or the enactment of laws that will help some cause. They may be the heaven to save the lump, but they all go in together and are so classed as part of the lobby.

N. P. Willis was usually the life of the company he happened to be in. His repartee at Mrs. Gales's dinner in Washington is famous. Mrs. Gales wrote on a card to her niece at the other end of the table: "Don't flirt so with Nat Willis." She was herself talking vivaciously to a Mr. Campbell. Willis wrote the niece's reply: Poem 4 lines.

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**Some Notable Features:**  
**CHAS. A. DANA'S REMINISCENCES**—These reminiscences contain more unpublished war history than any other book except the Government publications. Mr. Dana was intimately associated with Lincoln, Stanton, Grant, Sherman, and the other great men of the Civil War. He had the confidence of the President and his great War Secretary, and he was sent on many private missions to make important investigations in the army. Lincoln called him "The Eyes of the Government at the Front." Everywhere through these memoirs are bits of Secret Histories and Fresh Recollections of Great Men. These reminiscences will be illustrated with many rare and unpublished War Photographs from the Government collection, which now contains over 8,000 negatives of almost priceless value.

**RUDYARD KIPLING STORIES & POEMS**—The Christmas McCLURE'S contained a complete Short Story by Rudyard Kipling entitled "THE TOMBS OF HIS ANCESTORS," the tale of a clouded "Piper," an officer in the Indian army, and a rebellious tribe. We have in hand also a New Valued, a powerful, grim, moving song of War ships. It will be superbly illustrated. Mr. Kipling will be a frequent contributor.

**ANTHONY HOPE'S NEW ZENDA NOVEL**—"Rupert of Hentzau," the sequel to "The Prisoner of Zenda." In splendid invention, in characters, in dramatic situations, it is the noblest and most stirring novel that Anthony Hope has ever written.

**EDISON'S LATEST ACHIEVEMENT**—Edison's Wonderful Invention. The result of eight years' constant labor. Mountains ground to dust and the iron ore extracted by magnetism. The Pastest Ship. An article by the inventor and constructor of "Turbinia," a vessel that can make the speed of an express train. Making a Great Telescope, by the most competent authority living. Lord Kelvin, a character sketch and substance of a conversation with this eminent scientist on unsolved problems of science.

**THE RAILROAD MAN'S LIFE**—Drawn from fifteen years' personal experience as a brakeman, fireman and engineer, by Herbert H. Hamilton. It is a narrative of work, adventure, hazards, accidents and escapes, and is as vivid and dramatic as a piece of fiction.

**THE CUSTER MASSACRE**—The account of this terrible fight, written down by Hamlin Garland as it came from the lips of Teo Mook, an old Indian chief who was a participant in it.

**MARK TWAIN**—Mark Twain contributes an article in his old manner, describing his voyage from India to South Africa. The illustrations are by A. B. Frost and Peter Newell, and are as droll and humorous as the article itself.

**ADVENTURE**—Andree: His Balloon and his Expedition, from materials furnished by the brother of Mr. Stringberg, Andree's companion. Sven Hedqvist: Explored Asia, a story of remarkable adventure and endurance. Lendor in Tibet. His own story. He was captured, tortured and finally escaped to India. Jackson in the Far North. The famous explorer writes of the years he lived in regions far north of the boundaries of human habitation.

**NANSEN**—The great Arctic explorer has written an article on the possibilities of reaching the North Pole on the methods that the next expedition should adopt, and the important scientific knowledge to be gained by an expedition; concerning the climate, the ocean currents, depths and temperature of the water, etc. This knowledge will be of the greatest value to science.

The best artists and illustrators are making pictures for McCLURE'S MAGAZINE. A. E. Frost, Peter Newell, C. D. Gibson, Howard Kyle, Kenyon Cox, G. K. Linson, W. D. Stevens, Alfred Brennan, and others.

The November number will be given free with new subscriptions. This number contains the opening chapters of Dana's Reminiscences, Mark Twain's Voyage From India to South Africa, the account of Edison's great invention, and a mass of interesting matter and illustrations.

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Stories by the Way.

The time for swearing off is here. This beautiful custom of stifling the bad habits dates back so far that no one knows when it originated. It is such a delightful thing for a man, when he rises from his downy couch on the first morning of the year, to tell himself that hereafter he will swear no more at his wife, will take her to church every Sunday morning, will bring in the wood and make a fire for her to cook the tripe, will stop smoking, will "chew the rag" less—(also less tobacco) and will not shoot off his mouth when it is not his shot.

There are many more bad habits that might be mentioned but these are the principal ones.

**Which requires a constitutional remedy.** It cannot be cured by local applications. Hood's Sarsaparilla is wonderfully successful in curing catarrh because it eradicates from the blood the scrofulous taints which cause it. Sufferers with catarrh find a cure in Hood's Sarsaparilla, even after other remedies utterly fail.

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**THE MARKETS.**  
BLOOMSBURG MARKETS.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Includes Butter per lb., Eggs per dozen, Lard per lb., Ham per pound, Pork, whole, per pound, Beef, quarter, per pound, Wheat per bushel, Oats, Rye, Wheat flour per bbl., Hay per ton, Potatoes per bushel, Turnips, Onions, Sweet potatoes per peck, Tallow per lb., Shoulder, Side meat, Vinegar, per qt., Dried apples per lb., Dried cherries, pitted, Raspberries, Cow Hides per lb., Steer, Calf Skin, Sheep pelts, Shelled corn per bus., Corn meal, cwt., Bran, Chop, Middlings, Chickens per lb new, Turkeys, Geese, Ducks, COAL, No. 6, delivered, 4 and 5, 6 at yard, 4 and 5 at yard.

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