

# When Washington Keeps Open House

by EDWARD B. CLARK

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**T**HIS is one of the few cities in the country where the old-fashioned custom of keeping open house on New Year's day holds unchanged. The men who are fond of digging into matters historical say that the New Year's calling practice originated among the Dutch on Manhattan island.

Washington began the practice in the year that the city was founded, and it has kept it up with all its social formalities from that day to this.

The greatest New Year's reception that the world knows is held every year in the White House with the president and his wife and the cabinet officers and their wives in the receiving line. The guests are a multitude, and they come dressed in all sorts of raiment from the blue and gold trappings of the ambassadors and army officers of all nations, to the toil-stained clothing of the laborer and the calico gowns and bandannas of the old-time plantation negroes.

The White House, of necessity, must be democratic, for this is a democracy, and the same greeting is given the workmen that is given to the ambassador of all the Russias. There is no more picturesque affair in the country than the White House reception on New Year's. Long before the gates are thrown open the avenues leading to the executive mansion and Lafayette square, which outlines the president's grounds, are jammed with people, and it is the duty of the police to



## MEN TO LIVE 120 YEARS

Rev. Newell Dwight Hillis in Chicago Lecture, Foresees Human Longevity—Advocates Suffrage.

Chicago.—That man may by his own methods of living sustain life until he reaches the age of 100, or even 120 years, is the contention of Rev. Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis, pastor of Plymouth church, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dr. Hillis arrived in Chicago in the course of a lecture tour which carried him through the middle West, bringing with him the excellent good news that the time is near at hand when we will "all be ashamed to show our faces in heaven before we are 100 years old." Dr. Hillis is convinced that present day conditions are such as to make for the longevity of the



race. He believes that in a thousand years women will own all the property.

He was talking about "The America of To-day and To-morrow" before the Cook County Teachers' association when he expressed the opinion that the span of life is to be lengthened.

"It has been proved," he said, "that the men of to-day are on an average four inches taller than the men of 500 years ago and that the women are five inches taller than the women of 1789.

"The women are getting the most of the education of to-day, and before long, if the men continue to go into business and get their recreation in the evening playing billiards, while the women follow intellectual pursuits, the latter will be the only educated persons of the country.

"I don't know why the women should not vote. I am tired listening to these false statements about the women to the effect that they were made inferior to man and should be kept subject to his authority and should have no say in politics or in religion. We are having too much trouble over that statement of Paul's that women should not talk in the church."

## OLEO MAN FOR CONGRESS

Sixth Illinois District Voters Choose Moxley to Fill Lorimer's Place.

Chicago.—Unless the plans of one of defeated opponents succeed an oleomargarine manufacturer will represent the Sixth Chicago district in congress. This manufacturer of a substitute for butter is William J. Moxley and he was elected after a hard campaign. So far as the records show he is the only oleo maker in congress. The government has had considerable trouble with men in Mr. Moxley's business and a Chicago paper which opposed his election called attention to the fact that Mr. Moxley had not been without his own clash with Uncle Sam.

Mr. Moxley was elected to succeed William Lorimer who was elevated to



William J. Moxley.

the rank of senator last spring. He is wealthy and his friends are certain that he will give the people of the Sixth district satisfactory service.

## "Touch Wood."

While we are on the subject of evil spirits let us listen to a correspondent who informs us that he has lately noticed a curious superstition among the children of his village. "When a motor appears the children within sight all run to touch something made of wood, retaining hold of it until the motor is out of sight. When asked to give a reason for this they say that it brings good luck. I wonder if any of your correspondents in other places have noticed this." We think it not unlikely. And except where the road is paved with wood, we should judge the incantation very effective.

new them. These mistakes are confined largely to the officials and their wives who are new to Washington society and new to the political life generally. Men are appointed to cabinet positions frequently who never before held office. The congressman who finds himself promoted to higher office knows what is called the social game as well as he knows politics, and his wife by association knows it as well as he does.

So it is that at the great receptions on New Year's and other days, the hosts and hostesses who are accustomed to the ways of Washington, manage to get through the trying hours of crowded receptions without giving offense to anybody.

It is the bounden duty of every subordinate official in Washington to call on his chief on New Year's day. After all the officials have paid their respects to the president, they go at once to the home of the chief of the department in which they serve. From the ranking major general of the army to the youngest second lieutenant on duty at the capital, all the officers call upon the secretary of war. The naval officers from Admiral Dewey down to the stripling ensign, make their way to the house of Secretary of the Navy Meyer, and there, in order of rank, pay their respects.

The New Year's day reception at the White House is the only formal reception of the year that is open to all citizens. There are other receptions given by the president and his wife during the winter which are semi-public in their nature, but to which admittance is by card only. The first of these receptions is given on the second Thursday after New Year's day, in the evening. It is called "the diplomatic reception," and the guests are invited to meet the ambassadors and ministers who are accredited by foreign governments, to the United States.

Another reception is given two weeks later and the guests of honor whom the other guests are invited to meet are the justices of the supreme court of the United States. The third reception is for the senators and representatives in congress, and the fourth and last, is for the officers of the army and navy.

Nearly every day of the year the president greets visitors in the offices of the White House at noon, and so it is possible for the American citizen to exchange greetings with the chief executive even though circumstances prevent his saying "Happy New Year," on January 1st, at the great White House holiday gathering.

## Thought Much of Pet Dogs

Four metrical epitaphs reveal to us a pleasing and unexpected side of the Roman character. They are epitaphs on pet dogs. One was a great white hunting dog named Margarito, who coursed through the trackless forests, as she tells us on her tombstone. Another "never barked without reason, but now he is silent." Myria, the little Gallic dog, barked fiercely if she found a rival lying in her mistress's lap. The stone of Patricus, an Italian dog, at Salerno contains this tribute from his mistress: "My eyes were wet with tears, our dear little dog, when I bore thee (to the grave), a service which I should have rendered thee with less grief three lustrums ago. So, Patricus, never again shalt thou give me a thousand kisses. Never canst thou lie contentedly in my lap. In sadness have I buried thee, as thou deservest, in a resting place of marble, and I have put thee for all time by the side of my shade. In thy qualities, sagacious thou wert like a human being. Ah, me! what a loved companion have we lost!"—From "Society and Politics in Ancient Rome."

trail come the senators and representatives in congress, and then come the officers of the army and the navy. Then the bureau chiefs and the higher officials of the various departments of government greet the president, and after them the ordinary citizen has his place in line.

On New Year's day President Taft shakes hands with something like 8,000 of his fellow citizens and citizenesses. Mrs. Taft does not shake hands, for if the president's wife should attempt it she could not hold the pen for a good many days thereafter. Shaking hands is a more trying occupation than most people may imagine. Grover Cleveland had to give over the practice for some time because he actually lamed his right hand and right arm until he could not lift them without pain. Mr. Roosevelt had a handshake which enabled him to give a seemingly hearty grip to everybody and yet to spare his own hand the slightest muscular strain. Mr. Taft must have had the Roosevelt secret imparted to him, for he gives the same kind of a hand greeting that was given by his predecessor.

At the White House reception on New Year's day affairs move forward as smoothly as the proverbial clock work. The guests enter at the main doorway which opens toward Pennsylvania avenue. Their course toward the president is lined with watchful men in civilian dress. The line moves quickly and it is accelerated in its course by the politely worded requests of the ushers, requests by the way which have the force of orders, although the words are spoken in such a way that the guest has no thought that he is being unduly hurried. When consideration is given to the fact that thousands upon thousands of people must greet the president within a limited time, there is every excuse for the championship by the ushers of what may be called the "forward movement."

President Taft has said that he will carry out the Roosevelt policies. He does not consider it necessary, however, in order to keep his pledge to say: "delighted" to everyone whom he greets. "Glad to see you," is the president's stock phrase of welcome and as his intonation is as heartily sincere as is his smile, he leaves a pleasant impression. Once in a while in the course of a New Year's reception, the president will "hold up the line" long enough to chat for a moment with some one whom he knows well personally, or with some

get the immense crowd in line and to maintain order.

President Roosevelt came into office in the month of September, and because of the assassination of President McKinley while holding a public reception in the Music hall at Buffalo, it was urged that the New Year's receptions at the White House should be given over. It was feared that some half-crazed person might succeed in getting to the president's person and repeat the awful crime of Buffalo. Mr. Roosevelt, however, would not listen to the arguments of the fearful ones, and the reception was held as it always had been held, and Mr. Taft will keep up the custom. There have been no interruptions to the New Year's day receptions during the history of the republic.

Precedence of necessity has to be considered to some extent at the president's receptions. When the officials of Washington life have passed in front of the president and his wife and have exchanged the greetings of the New Year, the plain civilians and their wives, daughters and sons, follow in whatever order they may have happened to reach their place in line. If the millionaire does not want to be preceded by the poverty-stricken he can stay at home unless he chooses to get up early enough to make sure that he can get a first place. If any discrimination were shown the president would hear of it, and there would be no end of a row.

Out of courtesy to the men who in a sense are guests of the nation, the ambassadors and ministers and the attaches of legations are received first. The ambassador who has been longest in the Washington service heads the line and it makes no difference whether he comes from a great power or from a weak power, for the length of his Washington residence alone decides the matter. The master of ceremonies at the White House takes the diplomatic list and the American official list and studies them for a week prior to the reception. If he should give place to some official which by precedence right belonged to another, there would be sulking, indignation and very likely loud complaint. It is one of the most delicate tasks in the world to arrange the official guests at a New Year's reception so that there will be no friction and no heart-burnings.

Following the ambassadors and ministers of foreign countries come the members of the supreme court of the United States. In their