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NEW YEAR'S GREETING.

THE PRESIDENT SHAKES HANDS WITH MANY CALLERS.

Brilliant Society Event at the White House—Representatives of All Countries Pay Their Respects—Gay Uniforms and Rich Costumes Displayed.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—The new season opened gaily at Washington. All society ladies of note kept open houses, and their calls were numbered by the thousand. The president's reception was an event of attraction, and the fact of its being the first New Year's reception of Mrs. Cleveland gave it a peculiar interest. All Washington went to it, and all praised the grace and tact of Mrs. Cleveland. These president's receptions held on the first of the new year are the great social events of the capital. All the officials and people in authority are in duty bound to go to them, and any one who pretends to be in Washington society would



THE PRESIDENT AND WIFE. make a great mistake by remaining away. I went early to the White House on New Year's morning and was enabled to witness the various receptions from the beginning to the end.

The executive mansion looked bare and bleak in its whiteness as I walked up the crescent-shaped drive. Entering the front door I found the Marine band stationed in the vestibule with their leader in front of them. They were dressed in bright red suits and their brass instruments shone brightly as they practiced softly the music which they were to give during the reception. Everything within the White House was decorated with flowers and green. The mantels of the East room and the Blue room were banked high. There were tropical plants in the alcoves of the windows, and walking through the grand promenade corridor, from the walls of which look down the oil-painted portraits of all the presidents, seemed like going through a garden of the south, the wide path of which was carpeted with the richest of velvet.

A few minutes before 11 President Cleveland came down stairs with Mrs. Cleveland on his arm, and the line of reception was formed in the Blue room. The president stood at the door leading to the Red room with Mrs. Cleveland at his right hand and with the several ladies of his cabinet, Mrs. Manning, Endicott and Vilas below her. The ladies were attired in full dress. The president wore a Prince Albert coat, buttoned about his throat.

In the meantime a number of ladies had taken their places behind the president and this line of ladies, and these including a few newspaper correspondents, were among the favored few who were permitted to see the whole of the reception which continued from 11 o'clock until 2.

Promptly at 11 came the members of the cabinet and the diplomatic corps. They drove to the White House in carriages, with coachmen and footmen in livery. The footmen opened the doors of their carriages under the port cochere. I wish I could describe the stiffness and airs of these coachmen and footmen. They strutted about in their gay liveries and big buttons as though they owned the White House and as though the reception of the day was gotten up for them.

The members of the cabinet came in double-breasted frock coats and dark clothes, but the diplomats appeared in all the gold lace and gold medals of their court uniforms. Each of the ministers had enough medals on his breast to start an antique coin collection, and some of them had great silk sashes about their waist, wide gold bands over their shoulders and under their arms, and a thousand and one other furbelows, making them look like the pastboard kings of the masons or like the pastboard kings of the stage.

The Turkish minister wore his fez and the Chinese minister with his attache came out in the gorgeous silk, satins, and furbelows of his nation. I took a sketch of him as he trotted across the vestibule and as he bowed low to Mrs. Cleveland in the Blue room. I saw him again in the East room an hour later when he was chatting with Gen. Drum, of the United States army. Drum was dressed in his full uniform with Chinese minister and sword at his side.

After the diplomats had passed the president and had gone on to chat in the East room, Chief Justice Waite and the other fat judges of the supreme court were announced. They walked by with a good word for every one, and they were the healthiest looking men at the reception. But who could not be healthy on \$10,000 a year? How these judges with fixed salaries for life enjoy themselves at all great receptions! They are as fond of society as girls in their teens, and I doubt not they enjoyed the New Year's reception as much as did the daughters of Secretary Manning, Vilas and Lamar, who stood behind

the president in the Blue room and who were taking their first taste of society this year.

At 11:30 the senators and representatives marched in, and it took a long time to receive the hundred who came. I noticed John Sherman with a lady on his arm, and in fact nearly all the congressmen had their wives with them. The ladies came in street dresses and not a few of them stopped and chatted with Mrs. Cleveland for a moment as they went by.

Following these came the army and navy with Gen. Sherman at the head. He was the biggest man in the delegation in point of rank, but the smallest in stature. Little Hill is nearly as broad as he is long. His face was as red as the rising sun, and with his white moustache and gray hair it looked like that of a very distinguished man. He chatted and laughed with everyone, and he was the most democratic member of the army and navy present. Admiral Porter and he were standing at one time side by side. The head of the army and the head of the navy together. Both of them are men who have won their places by service, and there are not two kinder nor nobler men in Washington. There is nothing snobbish about either, and it was amusing to compare their unostentatious at this reception with the braggadocio of the lieutenants and majors as they strutted about looking contempt

on every man who did not wear a uniform.

After the army and navy, came the leading officers of the departments, and I noted Civil Service Commissioner Edgerton who walks as spry now as he did in congress over thirty years ago. Speaking of SHERIDAN and PORTER, the scope around us he said: "I don't see that these receptions change much from generation to generation. I have seen just such a crowd here in Pierce's time. It is like the story of the brook. Men may come and men may go, but the brook goes on forever."

After these the soldiers of the war of 1812, veterans of the Mexican war and other old soldiers came by. Some of these hobbled on crutches, and not a few had empty sleeves. President Cleveland spoke kindly to them all, and a sympathetic look came into Mrs. Cleveland's eyes as they shook her hand.

Then came the best people, and what a crowd there was of them. By 1 o'clock there was a line extending from the door of the White House out to the gate and down Pennsylvania avenue. They pushed and crowded up to the front door and went on in without leaving their hats in the waiting room. Some of them forgot to give their names when they came before the president, and a few failed to shake hands with Mrs. Cleveland. I noted shamed off in one corner an old woman dressed in black, with a black veil over her face, and with an ear trumpet a yard long in her hand. This trumpet was of shiny tin, and it caught the reflection of the bystanders as it shone against her black veil when she had one eye to her ear and turned the other up to the mouth of the man she was addressing. Near her was Dr. Mary Walker, in her attire of black broadcloth pantaloons, double-breasted frock coat, stand-up collar and white shirt. I noticed also the little man who has the biggest head in Washington. This man's head is nearly the size of a peck measure, and he forms the only instance I have ever heard of a man who has eaten his own head. By this I mean that he has sold his head to a medical society, to be delivered to them after death, and has received therefrom \$150. This \$150 he has used to pay his board bill, and has consequently eaten his own head.

There were plenty of policemen in attendance, and these were needed to keep the crowd back. It is said that there were detectives in the various rooms to watch the audience, but they were in ordinary clothes, and it was not possible to pick them out.

WILLING TO BE SENATOR.

Several of Tennessee's Sons Offer Their

NASHVILLE, Jan. 3.—The general assembly met at noon today. The session will be an important one, as, in addition to the election of a successor to succeed United States Senator Whitthorne, the convict lease system and prohibition questions will be acted upon. Among the gentlemen whose names are mentioned in connection with the senatorship are the Hon. William B. Rife, the present governor; the Hon. Albert S. Marks, ex-governor; the Hon. John F. Moore, ex-member of congress; the Hon. John L. Sneed, a prominent lawyer; Col. Arthur S. Colyar, editor in chief of The Nashville Union; Gen. John C. Brown, former counsel for the Gould southwestern system of railroads; the Hon. James D. Porter, assistant secretary of state at Washington; the Hon. James D. Richardson and the Hon. Benton McMillan, members of congress; the Hon. Robert L. Taylor, governor-elect; the Hon. W. C. Whitthorne, and Solen E. Rose. The leading candidates at present are Messrs. Rife, Marks and House. Efforts are being made to secure a caucus for the selection of a candidate for senator. But it is believed the movement will fail. There are strong indications that some gentleman not yet named may be chosen, and the struggle is being watched with great interest. An earnest fight will be made to bring about the abolition of the convict lease system and the adoption of a resolution to submit to a popular vote a constitutional amendment prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors.

TRYING MESCAL.

An Experiment With the Famous Mexican Mixture.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—The Capital publishes a humorous account of the results of an experiment made here by several gentlemen in drinking Mexican mescal. It says that soon after the alleged misfortune of Minister Manning was made public here a number of officials connected with the scientific bureau of the government determined to test the effect of the famed mescal. In order that they might try the "real stuff" they sent for a supply to Piedras Negras. The tipple arrived last week, and Friday afternoon about a dozen of them met in a club house and tried the drink in very small doses. Only one of the party was able give his experiences. He says the others may be able to put in an appearance at their respective offices in a few days if they suffer no relapses, but they all curse mescal from the bottom of their hearts. This gentleman says he drank less than a quarter of a gill of it mixed with about the same quantity of port wine. He remembers nothing since a o'clock Friday evening, but gives it as his opinion that if it can be proved that the citizens of Mexico really did put any of the stuff in Minister Manning's wine the United States has good cause for a declaration of war. The experiment was entirely satisfactory and will not be repeated by the same gentleman.

\$50,000 for a College. 7898

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 3.—The will of Sidney M. Sabine, of La Porte, provides that \$50,000 shall be donated to Washburn college, at Crawfordsville.

The Philadelphia Times.

The Daily Times. The Weekly Times.

THE PHILADELPHIA TIMES is delivered by carriers in all the cities, towns and villages surrounding Philadelphia for SIX CENTS a week, and is sold by agents and newsdealers for ONE CENT a copy. It is universally conceded to be the BEST NEWSPAPER IN THE WORLD for the price, publishing all the Associated Press News, Quotations of the Produce and Money Markets and ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD in a compact and readable form. Independent in everything. It is not excelled in Quality or Quantity by any paper at any price. By mail—four months, One Dollar. One year, Three Dollars, post-paid. One month 30 cents.

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FARMERS MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE CO.

of Centre County, Pa.—Centre Hall, Dec. 15, 1896.—The annual meeting of the members and the election of 12 Directors to manage the affairs of the company for the ensuing year, will be held at the house of D. J. Meyer, at Centre Hall, on Monday, January 10, 1897, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. of said day. Members generally are requested to attend. H. F. LINDSEY, Sec'y. FRED KURTZ, Treas'r.

ADMINISTRATORS NOTICE.

Letters of Administration upon the estate of Will L. Snyder, deceased, late of Gregg township, having been lawfully granted to the undersigned, they would respectfully request all persons knowing themselves to be indebted to the estate to make immediate payment, and those having claims against the same to present the same duly authenticated for settlement. JOHN SNYDER, Administrator. 10dec67

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at Centre Hall station. Highest price paid in cash. 11

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