

PITTSBURG, SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 1890.

NAST IN THE HOUSE.

Bright Sketches of Some Well Known Public Men.

MR. BRINKER HUNTING PIE.

Cracking Jokes at the Expense of Congressman Faynter.

GEN. SPINOLA AND HIS MAINSAIL.

WASHINGTON, May 31.—Mr. Nast and I



THE EFFECT OF A CYCLONE UPON BEAUTY.

were strolling through the corridors of the Capitol when I asked him if he would like to visit the whispering gallery.

"What is that," he asked, "the place

where the lobbyists meet the Congressmen?"

I was about to answer him for so suggestive a question as this when it occurred to my mind that they have recently fitted up one corner of the whispering gallery with chairs and sofas and turned it into a reception room where ladies come to meet members of Congress. I explained to Mr. Nast, however, that, while his question might not be a wholly irrelevant one, this is called the whispering gallery not because the whispering gales assemble here, but because the acoustic properties (which the guides persistently call acoustic properties) of this hall are so peculiar that whispers may be heard at surprisingly long distances and under astonishing conditions. For example, as I told him and afterward showed to him, one person may stand against the extreme eastern wall of the large hall and

world upon his shoulders.

"No," said I, "he is only pondering whether he will take pie or milk, or both."

"It reminds me of the bird called the adjutant," said Nast, "as I dragged him to the House gallery."

"Now, Mr. Nast, I wish you would pick out the most striking-looking character in the House."

Mr. Nast leaned low over the gallery railing and reached down as far as he could.

"I can't reach him," said he.

"Why the most striking-looking man in the House. And if I could reach him I don't believe I could pick him out; I am not strong enough. If you would like to see how I should look in the act of picking out the most striking character in the House, here you are," he said, tossing a hastily-drawn sketch over to me.

"But I don't mean that," I said, "I should not expect one little man like you, without the aid of any machinery whatever, to do what the entire Democratic side of the House, with all its machinery, would be only too glad to do, and would have done long ago if it could."

Mr. Nast sat for some time regarding a member who was passing by and otherwise making his toilet in the presence of the well-filled galleries.

"Why don't they have a washbowl and towels on each desk?" he asked, but this was another of his absurd questions.

Presently he jabbed me with his elbow, saying: "Quick! Quick! Who is that? That gentleman over there who would be so handsome if he had not been struck by a cyclone; that man with the splendid and luxuriant hair and the gorgeousness of mustache?"

"Do you mean Mr. Faynter, the Kentucky member?"

"Is that his name?" and Mr. Nast set for a long time in philosophic contemplation of the gentleman.

"Is he not a striking illustration of the effect of wind on whippers?" he said at length. "Does he always appear with that hurricane-swept look upon him?"

"I presume he is a little more than usual wind-swept just now," I said, "for he sits square in draft, with Mr. Mills on one side on him and Major McKinley on the other."

"Well, if it were any shorter Mr. Breckinridge would have no place to rest his glasses on when he reads."

"So Mr. Breckinridge is the man you would pick out as—"

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name of a member who stood in one of the aisles on the Democratic side.

"That man with his hands in his hip pockets."

"Yes," said he, "the one whose chest is so far behind him."

"I don't know his name. Nobody knows his name. In fact, he has no name to speak of."

"Well, anyway, replied Mr. Nast, "if he has no name, you must admit he has a great position."

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The parents have hired a lawyer to sue for damages. He claims the soap made the boy vomit and ended in diphtheria which caused death. Miss Hornden has also hired a lawyer and will fight hard.

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In the course of municipal events it became desirable to change this order of things. I don't recall what arguments were used in urging the change; but one was that the old arrangement was too cumbersome and complicated. Another, as I recollect, was the increasing growth of the city and the consequent multiplication of the short streets, finding names for them all involved to great a strain on the inventive faculty of the governing powers. This last, however, was the suggestion of a satiric enemy who opposed the alteration. If the two systems of streets had only been continuous the matter would have been simple enough; but their ends did not correspond at all. St. Clair street, for example, did not reach Liberty street opposite the foot of the old Sixth street, and the other streets were not so thoroughfare. So it was decided that the two systems should henceforth both be numerical; but those below Liberty street would retain their old names. Liberty street should be numbered, St. Clair street become Sixth street and Fifth street become Fifth avenue.

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proved to him that the whispering gallery in the Capitol is no joke, but that a whisper can really be heard clear across it, he put his nose against the westerly wall and whispered an abject apology across the hall to me, and, reaching out his hand, said: "Come, let's shake and be friends."

Then I illustrated some of the peculiar cataclysmic properties of the hall to him. I took him upon one of the diamond-shaped tiles of the floor and went myself to another many yards away. There we stood and chatted, while people passing between us could not hear a word we said.

"Do you hear me distinctly?" I asked.

"Perfectly," said he.

"Have you \$3 to spare until to-morrow?" I asked.

Mr. Nast must have moved off his tile. He made no answer, and I concluded he had not heard.

"Will you have a mint julep with me, Mr. Nast?"

"Thank you, I will."

Then Mr. Nast pointed out Congressman Brinker, with the remark that he thought he might be Atlas with the weight of the

world upon his shoulders.

"No," said I, "he is only pondering whether he will take pie or milk, or both."

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