

OUR EMBASSY AT THE ENGLISH CAPITAL

Does Not Comport With Our Importance as a Nation.

SALARIES PAID ARE TOO SMALL.

Some of the Distinguished Men Who Have Represented the Sovereignty of the Republic at the Court of St. James--Our Ambassador Always a Much Sought for Man Socially, What is Done at the American Consulate General--Dress and Official Costume.

From the Strand Magazine. The first duty of an American ambassador upon his arrival in London is to obtain an interview with the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and to deliver to him a copy of his letter of credence. The secretary of the embassy usually notifies the foreign secretary of the ambassador's arrival, and in this way, prepares for the interview. Afterward, on a day fixed, the secretary of state presents the ambassador to the sovereign, to whom the ambassador delivers the original letter of credence, and the secretary of state presents the ambassador to the royal circle. The ambassador, meanwhile, pays visits to the wives, and in this way the social intercourse which continues throughout the ambassador's term of office is immediately established.

Important as the duties of the ambassador in the transmission of messages from the Department of State to the British government, and the return of certain messages to his labor and that of his subordinates consists in attention to social and court functions, and the most successful ministers are those who have most punctiliously attended to their performance. A glance at the diary of John Quincy Adams will show that he spent the greater part of his time in the evenings of that noted man were spent in society. He danced, talked, played cards and made himself generally agreeable to a host of aristocratic and diplomatic circles. The triumphs of Motley and Lowell were gained in the same way, and Mr. Bayard's present prestige in England is due to his popularity in the social world. The diplomatic battles of the present day are won at dinners and in quiet talks, and the man who most ably represents the United States in London is he who follows his government's instructions and omits "no occasion to maintain the most friendly personal and social relations with the members of the government and of the diplomatic body at the place of residence."

PERSONAL TACT VALUABLE. In such a work the value of personal tact, courtesy and education cannot be overestimated. The demands made upon them by the host are great, and at the dinner table or at the platform, at the country house or at court. In the possession of these qualities the ministers neglected the traditions of the United States in London. Adams to Phelps and Lincoln, have been peculiarly fortunate, and to the present ambassador--a title which he has long held--the American minister occupies a unique place in London. His speeches were quoted, and his presence sought by other diplomats were apparently not maintained by Mr. Bayard.

Society, however, costs money, and London is a most expensive place to live in. Consequently, the minister's expenses which the United States gives to its diplomatic agents in London quickly disappear, leaving them to depend upon their own private purse. For the minister in London is a diplomat in name, but a private citizen in fact. He has little influence with the home government. Adams at one time wrote to Jay asking him to "consider that the single circumstance of his going to a certain family at court would make a difference of several hundred pounds sterling in his inevitable annual expenses," but money was denied him, and he had to suffer from the "inevitable." The money goes in a variety of ways. If the queen holds a drawing room or the Prince of Wales a levee, the diplomat corps is expected to be present, and court dress costs anywhere from two hundred dollars. Besides this, the family of the ambassador is expected to be present, and every one of them has a portion of the bill for a lady's court dress as long as long as the train. Ambassadors with a goodly number of daughters are accordingly at a distinct social disadvantage. The ambassador, moreover, is supposed not to appear twice at a drawing room in the same dress, and in congress there is an additional financial burden. Then there are dinners to be given, receptions to be held on Washington's birthday and Fourth of July, and the regular reception which Mr. Bayard now gives to his compatriots to be maintained, and a turn-out to be supported, in order that the minister should not be in a position where time may not be wasted in the city of dreadful distances.

HEAVY EXPENSES. One can quickly estimate the amount of money which a necessary attention to such ceremonial costs to a minister on a small salary. The present wage is \$12,500. How can a minister on a salary beside the \$32,500 and the sumptuous mansion which the British government gives to Sir Julian Pauncefote, its representative in London, be expected to bear all the expenses which fall upon him, as is the case with our minister in London, who has a house in which he lived belonged to his nation. The United States in this respect stands in a unique and unequal position. All other nations give to their ambassadors a mansion which, through continuous use by successive ambassadors, becomes the real embassy. The American ambassador, on the other hand, is forced to hire a furnished house. He does not dare to buy a mansion, or to furnish one, because he knows that his term of office will not last longer than four years; and he cannot feel sure that his successor will relieve him from the burden of a costly mansion. If congress were the least bit sensitive to appearances, it would quickly put an end to the "furnished house" system, and give to the ambassador a mansion of which the nation might be proud.

THE COURT COSTUME.

"What shall I wear at court?" is a question which has puzzled every envoy which the United States, for many seasons past, has sent to England. A very amusing story is told of the ministerial struggles with this most important matter of dress. The trouble has been due to the strictness of the rules which govern the court functions, as well as to the restrictions put upon the ministers by congress. Of the one, it is well known that the official court costume is a detail which has to be rigidly conformed with, else a guest cannot pass her majesty. When Mr. Dallas was in congress he took two military dignitaries of the United States to court, but one of them was not allowed to pass the queen because he wore a black cravat, had no buttons and no sword. The minister thereupon withdrew gracefully with his friend.

Regarding the provisions of congress which require that the court dress of our ministers conform to the requirements of law prohibiting them from wearing any uniform or official dress, the provisions are somewhat hazy. The taste of congress has been expressed in favor of "the simple dress of an American citizen," and it is not surprising that several officials seemed to think that some mutually reacting kind of cyclone business had been let loose in their midst. For a moment they were all together, and just a conglomerate mixture of bees and men in midair, and by and by, when they came down, they were literally all together, and all together, the queen, who had no doubt been knocked "perfectly silly," was comfortably established on the hen's back, while the whole swarm clung around her. The poor men were bearded from tip to beak, and could not move a feather. Uncle Isham, very much surprised at this, and very much surprised to find the swarm safely survived, turned to the poor hen's relief.

ANCIENT BUILDINGS. A Mystery to the Learned Men Who Have Studied Them. From Tid Bits. For centuries past the ingenuity of learned men has been exercised on the Koraghe of Sardinia, but to this day they have not been able to discover the origin of these famous buildings. They are unable to say whether they were used for temples or for temples for trophies of victory, for observatories, or merely for human dwelling places. More than 3,000 of them have been counted in Sardinia, standing on artificial mounds thirty or forty feet high, and measuring at the base 100 to 200 feet in diameter. They are built usually in the shape of towers, built with immense blocks of stone, roughly hewn with hammers. No cement is used in their structure, and the masonry is so constructed to indicate their origin. A low entrance at one side leads into a long and lofty passage, communicating with a central room, and a chamber beyond. On either side of this small cell have been formed in the walls. A spiral staircase, rising steeply from the central room, leads to a somewhat smaller chamber above, and again beyond this to the broken top of the Koraghe.

THE EMBASSY. The embassy is the place through which the government of the United States converses and consults with the government of Great Britain, and the negotiations require the greatest secrecy, and it is therefore not surprising to find the embassy a very subtle and mysterious place, and one which the ordinary visitor never sees. The embassy is at 123 Victoria street, about five minutes' walk from Westminster. It is one of the most magnificent buildings in London, and its existence is a mystery. In the same vicinity other buildings have been built, which are no less puzzling to antiquaries. The general opinion is that they were built for the purpose of burying giants. The most interesting archaeological mystery of the country are the Domes of Essex and Middlesex. They are perpendicular shafts sunk in the earth, with lateral caves at the bottom, but the purpose for which they were dug out has never been discovered. It is possible, however, that they might have been used as granaries, or even as places of refuge for fugitives.

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