

NEW YORK STATE TWENTY-THREE MILLION DOLLAR CAPITOL BUILDING.

## New York State's Big New Capitol Swindle.

It Has Cost \$22,250,000 to Date and Is powers, and is supposed not to have Yet Far from Finished.

Albany Letter, in Times-Herald.

New York's state capitol building has cost more money than any other structure in America, and it is by no means finished yet. The people of the state have thus far been taxed the stupendous sum of \$22,250,000 for the mere building. Its maintenance is quite another item, costing upward of \$100,-

This building, with its porticos, occupies an area of three acres. The national capitol building at Washington covers an area of four acres and cost Snly \$13,000,000.

Governor Black has announced his intention of pushing the work on the capitol and of having it finished before the term of his office expires. The governor is an able man and one who generally carries out his plans, but New Nork people who have seen what it is possible not to do in the matter of the statehouse smile with pity when they fancy Mr. Black or any other governor turning over the building to the people in a completed condition.

A WASTE OF TIME.

In fact, most of the people of New York who pay any attention whatever to the big "job" are reconciled to the chronic demands for more money for the work and have made up their minds to be robbed until they die and to die without ever seeing the building finshed. Protests are regarded as a mere

Seldom does the legislature of New sum of money, ranging from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000, for the carrying forward of the work. Into this insatiable vortex of jobbery enough money has thus far houses of magnificent design and ma-

cannot be found among the historic churches and palaces of Europe, and it is doubtful whether the tombs of the Rameses dynasty, constructed to preserve the memory of Egypt's kings, of the Empire state to have a headquarters for their business.

BEGUN THIRTY YEARS AGO.

The statehouse was begun in 1867 Since that time nine governors have sat in the chair of New York. Nine governors have attempted to do some thing with the incubus, and nine governors have failed. Investigations have been made of charges of fraud Legislators have come to Albany full of enthusiastic purposes to "do some shing" and have left it hopeless and rushed in heart. Contractors have grown rich out of the enterprise, died and left great fortunes to their children. A generation has passed away, and no one knows today when or how the capitol will be finished, if ever, Indeed, its unfinished condition has come to be regarded as the normal one, and New York would not feel natural if there were no more work to be done and no more appropriations to be made

The legislature which recently journed made an appropriation of \$1,-250,000 for the capitol, but expressly on the condition that it should suffice to finish the structure. Of this amount \$800,000 is to be expended this year. All this is only a repetition of what has gone before. There is no reason now to suppose that the end is any nearer than

PROLIFIC OF SCANDALS,

The size and cost of capitol are not its sole claims to notoriety. No public institution in the country has been so prolific of scandals. From the very outset politics has figured largely in the construction of the building. has always been the same whether Democrats or Republicans have been in charge of the state administration. The patronage connected with the immense work has been the undoing of

In the early days of the building's construction contractors grew sudden ly wealthy at the expense of the taxpayers. All sorts of impositions were practiced in order to get money from the state without rendering an adequate return. The original plans of the structure were juggled with, with the result that they bear only a partial resemblance to those used in the final stages of the capitol work.

Occasionally the legislature ordered an investigation into the way in which the work was being pushed ahead, and then another scandal was almost sure to be added to the list of those with which the history of the building is

Some years ago the discovery wa made that the foundations of the great eastern staircase on the assembly side vere settling. An examination disclosed the fact that an unequal distribution of weight had caused some of the us stones and pillars to crack. The defect was remedied by means of some delicate engineering work at a ost to the state of several hundred thousand dollars.

ASSEMBLY CEILING A FRAUD. When the assembly chamber was complete its ceiling was of sandstone,

meter, sustained the largest groined arch in the world, the keystone being fifty-six feet from the floor. The dimensions of the chamber are 84 by 100 feet. In order to keep the keystone securely in place it was weighted down with tons of stone, making the total weight of the ceiling something enormous. Despite the protestations of the architect that everything was safe enough, the assemblymen who had to sit beneath the cailing never felt at their ease, and their feelings were often harrowed up by "scare" stories in the local newspapers about the

threatened collapse of the big arch overhead. After a few years it was found that the pressure on the celling was too great for its component parts to withstand. Pieces of stone were frequently being chipped off, and before long it became dangerous to occupy the chamber. Then it was decided to replace the stone ceiling with one of quartered

The work was done during the legisoak ceiling was a great success. One of the newspaper men, however, disovered that the new ceiling, which had cost a small fortune, was not oak at all. It was nothing but papier

PROMINENT MEN ACCUSED.

The scandal that followed this exposure gave the politicians of both par-ties a great shaking-up. A protracted cipals in the fraud. The speaker of the house, several members of the assembly, and a number of state department attaches were shown to have been more or less implicated in the job. Their only punishment was being retired to

private life. When the capitol was first occupied early in the winter of 1879, one of its features was what was styled the "golden corridor," which was on the ner court. This corridor was gorgeous with its brilliant frescoes, and cost thousands of dollars. Now it is but a memory. In its place are legislative ommittee rooms, handsomely furnished, but in no respect equaling the famous corridor. Its beauty lasted but oon began settling and their frescoed surface became grotesquely marred as a consequence. Nothing remained but

No doubt the cost of building the capitol would have been several millions of dollars less had the original plans been adhered to. As matters have gone on, however, there has been a congreat outlay, and other changes in construction, all of which has served to of the people's interests.

FAR FROM COMPLETION.

A good deal of work still remains to be done before the capitol can be con-sidered in any sense completed. The Europe? Militarism is the controlling beautiful western staircase, while well advanced, has still to undergo much its base 110 feet square, has only just een fairly begun. The magnificent lion dollars, is probably half finished. The same is true of the entrance to the uth. The northern entrance has not

The foundation of the capitol is a depth of nearly 16 feet. The subbaseontains 735,000 cubic feet of stone, while the brick walls, some of them feet in thickness, contain 11,000,000 In the subbasement are no less than 144 different apartments used for heating, storing and ventilating pur-

Inasmuch as some half a dozen architects have had to do with the construction of the capitol down to the present time, it is not at all surprisng that the result has been a mixture of ideas that makes it difficult to determine just what particular style of architecture is most in evidence, want of something better, it has been dubbed the free renaissance, although some experts claim that there is pronounced French touch to the plans as now agreed upon.

CONQUERING THE ORIENT.

Purposes of Russia in the Eastern World Are Subtly Being Carried Forward -- An Interesting Article by Henry Norman.

Russia is a nation that moves in the dark. Its statesmen are crafty and persevering, accomplishing far more by diplomacy than they could by force of arms. Where Germany threatens, Russia cajoles, and its victim is often lulled into a sense of false security by the honeyed words of the Muscovit ambassadors. England, in Disraeli's day, was ever on the alert against Russian schemes for increased domain at the expense of the British. Now Salisbury tamely submits to Russla's leadership in diplomatic affairs and and four great pillars, four feet in dia- raises no protest at the continued ex- York World.

tension of the Russian domain in Asia

Henry Norman, the English Radical, gives in the Contemporary Review a graphic account of the advantages that Russia has acquired within the past few years. By the czar's alliance with France, Russia has secured the aid of the French army and navy, and of the given anything in return more valuable than a shadowy promise to aid France if the republic ever risks a war of revenge with Germany, which is also a great commercial rival of Russia. Today Russia holds a practical protectorpieces. Bulgaria is completely under Russian influence. Montenegro is friendly, and Servia and Roumania are lowly but surely losing their independence under the all-compelling pres-sure of the great Northern power. Even Abyssinia down in Africa is now designated as a Russian ally.

SITUATION IN ASIA. But in Asia the situation is most clarming, viewed from English eyes. A w years ago England was aroused to a patriotic fury by the cry that Russia was at the gates of India. Yet today Muscovite engineers are building a rallway straight to the city of Herat, which is the most important position from a strategic viewpoint on the frontiers of India. Persia has come entirely under the influence of the czar's diplomats. But the greatest of all its achievements has been wrought by the lative recess. To all appearances the new treaty between Russia and China by which the Chinese grant not only the right to construct the great Trans-Siberian railway across Manchuria, but many commercial advantages as well. The New York Tribune thus summarizes hir. Norman's statements regard-

ing the treaty: places the whole of China north and retary. east of Peking, and Peking itself uniron it with railroads, dot it with fortesses and garrisons, make its best orts armed naval stations for her fleets. She is to have a practical monopoly of developing its trade, mines and agriculture, and it comprises some of the richest provinces of the whole empire. Manchuria alone has a population of more than 22,000,000. She is to occupy positions giving her absolute control of the Gulf of Pe-Chili and of the seaweed approaches to Tien-Tsin but the Hoang-Ho is to be the southern boundary of Eastern Siberia. The total foreign trade of China in 1895 was nearly 315,000,000 taels, of which Great Britian had 213,500,000 and Russia only 17,500,000; yet henceforth Rusa short time, as the ponderous walls sia is to have the regulating of the

whole!" Strangely enough Great Britian raised no protest against this great blow to its power in Asia. The British lion allowed the Russian bear to take up his abode in China without so much as a roar. Taking advantage of China's weakness, resulting from the war with Japan, Russia relentlessly stant pulling down of walls erected at grasped at everything in sight and of China without the firing of a gun So much has diplomacy accomplished waste money with a wanton disregard for Russia. What limit would there be to its empire if a really great ruler should arise, another Peter the Great to recognize its antiquated system of government and lead its united people spirit in Russia. In spite of misgov ernment the Russian masses show a arving. The big eastern tower, with devotion to their Emperor that is not found elsewhere in Europe. What could not a military despot accomplish astern approach, to cost nearly a mil- if a few wise reforms should give him a united Russia at his back? Every European nation has had its dream of universal conquest. Spain, England, Sweden, Germany and France, have all played the part of the world conquror. onder in itself. It extends down to If it is now Russia's turn, Europe may well tremble. There is something very ment extends down over 19 feet and like destiny in these constant advances of Russia.

AFTERNOON.

Lookin' at the sunshine, Slant'n' on the wall, Watchin' where the shadders

Jest a lazy swayin', Wav'n' to an' fro Where the sun 'n' shadders

Ain't a-thinkin' nuthin'. Jest a-layin' here, Soakin' in the gladness, Soak'n up the cheer. What's the use o' doin' Anythin' at ail? 'D ruther watch the sunshine Slaut'n' on the wall. Thad Stevens Varnum, in The Clock

IT WAS ON.

"Aha!" and he laughed fiendishly as he ad from the morning paper: "The end from the morning paper: "The orgiar shot at the man, whose life was itton of his clothes." Well!" snupped his spouse, "what of

coffar going up steadily to the nape of his

Hors du Combat. "My man can't meet you tomorrow," said the ambassador of one pugilist to "He has aprained his-"
"Ankle?"

## Personal Traits of President McKinley

An Insight Into the Character of the Man.

From the Washington Star. Very little is known among the thousands of office seekers who flock to Washington and go to the White House of the personal characteristics of President McKinley. This is also true of hundreds of men in public life who have known McKinley for years. They have met him as a dignified man, with solemn and important duties resting upon his shoulders. They have not twinkle of humor in his eye and a good joining the president's rooms. met ihm as McKinley, the man, with a story on his lips. It is only those who have been intimately thrown with him for years who enjoy and appreciate the lighter and more jovial side of his nature. This part of the chief executive of the nation does not develop itself except to those he knows closely. Among such men are Senator Hanna and James Boyle, who for six years has been the private secretary of McKinley, but who now goes as consul of this country to Liverpool. It is doubtful if there is a man living who knows more every man. It may be that this smile

relations to. He knew little of McKinday Russia holds a practical process
ate over Turkey, with the prospect the man he is now serving. So far that it will get the best picking when that it will get the best picking when neither the president nor Secretary a good speech. Of his power than the subject of the process of the subject of the subj or rather how they will like the personal traits of each other. From 9.30 temporaneously, He had to write every o'clock each morning until 12 o'clock erything down. He was campaigning each night they work together, more one time with a brilliant young feleach night they work together, more one time with a brilliant young fellike machines than anything else. \$\vec{\*}t\$ low named Chance, a fellow Republi-

A GREAT TEASER. After a while, when the horde of office seekers get all which is then in sight, and the disconsolate return mournfully to their homes, the president and his secretary will then be thrown together so they can talk about affairs less important than those of state. Then, if the president thinks that his secretary is not himself too dignified for that kind of fun, he will begin to tease the Connecticut man. He won't do that unless he likes Mr. Porter more and more each week. The better he likes him the more he will tease. Former Secretary Boyle and a number of the young men who have been close to the president for years know how thoroughly he enjoys this innocent sport. Mr. Boyle has often been the victim of the president's sportive turn of mind. That fact en-"That extraordinary instrument deared the president to the former sec-

> Those who have enjoyed the honor of ercise on the part of the president say that the better he likes a man the harder he teases him. He never se lects a subject on which his victim is too sensitive, but picks something not personal enough to be disagree able. The young men who know and love the president have found their love affairs with the charming sex touched upon at times, without references which were too personal. The state of their pulses beat each minute such little things have given the president topics for merriment at their ex-Of course there has been little of this for some months, because of the multitude of duties devolving upon Mr. McKinley, but occasionally finds friends on various matters.

The president is not a wit, but he ever heard him tell a coarse story. which many men think contain the pith of humor. His stories are of the kind which can be told in the presence of women. He enjoys a joke on himself and tells it more often than others do. there is a splendid story going to show that he loves a good joke and has a keen sense of humor. What the story was is not recorded. The facts are that some one of the president's friends was telling a story after supper one night, when all were smoking. The story was so good that the president laughed almost immoderately. He con tinued to laugh and in trying to return his cigar to his mouth before his hilarity was over he put the wrong end between his lips. It didn't do much harm, but the warm end stopped his laughter for a few minutes.

'A SAMPLE STORY. A story which the president used to tell illustrates the character of his stories. He says he went to Oberlin. Ohio, several years ago to make an He stopped with Professor Monroe, the head of Oberlin college. Every man who has been to Oberlin knows what a straight-laced town it is. There is no drinking, no chewing of tobacco, no smoking. After supper, with his friend Monroe, McKinley told the professor he believed he would go to the smoking room to enjoy a cigar. "Why, we haven't such a thing as a smoking room in the town," said Monroe, "Nobody smokes in this, town, but we'll find a place." He led the way to a secluded room, where no one could see the operation, and McKinley lit a good cigar and began to contentedly puff away. In a few minutes he looked around for a cuspidor, but, not seeing one, he inquired for one. There is not such a thing in town, said the head of the college. "Well, I will see that you get some when I get back home," answered McKinley. True to his word, but more as i joke than anything else, McKinley wrote to a mutual friend of himself and Professor Monroe of the predicament of the latter.

The friend immediately sent a bar rel of cuspidors by express to Profes sor Monroe. Several months after the incident McKinley again went to Ober-lin, and, once more desiring to indulge in a cigar, called for a cuspidor. "My gracious, man I'm sorry," said Mon-roe, "but my wife used all of them for flower pots, not knowing what they were for." When he finishes this story, told in an attractive way, the president always has a good laugh.

Since those days the president smokes fewer cigars. He has had a number of boxes of the finest cigars sent him, but he never smokes when on duty at his office, and it is against | beauty of some attract him,

his wishes that there should be any smoking in any of the rooms. A good many congressmen have been reminded of this wish of the president, and few lighted cigars are found among the visitors to the White House. A dozen men puffing at an equal number of cigars of various grades of tobacco in a room is sufficient cause to have. the weed tabooed. Smoking is prohibited in the rooms and hallways ad-ANOTHER OF HIS JOKES.

McKinley made, as was his custom, a

tour of the counties of his district. All Ohio politicians know something of the rock-ribbed Democratic county of Holmes, the home of the Amish sect. Until last year it was never known to vary 100 votes in the Democratic majority it turned out. It was in this county that the Democratic politicians sold the country people tin dippers for \$1 each just after the pasof the nature of the chief executive of sage of the McKinley bill, and charged the land than Mr. Boyle, who has a that the enormous increase was due jovial smile playing on his face for to the high duties on tin. On his way to one of the almost solid Democratic is one which was acquired by Mr. Boyle towns in Holmes county to make a from political necessity. At any rate, speech McKinley noticed, a long time from political necessity. At any rate, before he got to the town, that the Secretary Porter has not yet begun to leading buildings were gaily decorated. learn the man he stands in such close | Conspicuously displayed on one of the principal buildings was a big placard ley until he was called to Canton and filled with words. His heart went out offered the position he now holds. Since in satisfaction. He thought the town he has been secretary to the president had been decorated in his honor, and he has had few opportunities to find that at least he was beginning to make out the sunny side of the man who is an impression upon the Democrats. admitted by political enemies to be Judge of the change in his sentiment making a popular president personal- when he got to the town and found or ly. After they are together longer, and the placard something like this: "This after some of the burdens of appoints town gave Foraker 13 votes in the ing Republicans to offices are laid aside, last election. This time it will give Mr. Porter will get a chance to study McKinley but 2 votes." Notwithstandthe man he is now serving. So far ing this dire prediction McKinley made

Of his power as a speaker it is recalled that when McKinley began his political career he could not speak exis altogether on matters relating to the political fortunes of other people. can, and they were booked to speak at Navarre, a small town. Chance was a wit and a wag. He and McKinley started to Navarre in a buggy together On their way Chance asked McKinley to let him look over his speech. Posessing a remarkable memory, Chance easily memorized the speech while going over it. The two men agreed that Chance should speak first that night, as McKinley had been in the habit of leading off. McKinley was almost paralyzed when Chance delivered his speech almost verbatim, making but few changes. When McKinley's time came to speak, he floundered around in helpless shape, and the Democrats present were tickled. As years rolled on McKinley began extemporaneous speeches, and is now fairly good in

HOW HE GOT A VOTE. President McKinley is a shrewd man in a political fight. Those who think that Chalrman Hanna exclusively furnished the generalship for the last der Russian control. Russia is to grid- being selected as the victim of this ex- campaign don't know McKinley. He vas consulted on many things, and his judgment accepted. His success pre ious to receiving the Republican nomination for president were largely due to his own political foresight. In the ampaign of 1890, when McKinley was beaten by 306 votes for congress, in a district which had been gerrymandered until it had nearly 3,000 Democratic majority, McKinley displayed wonderful generalship. Four days before the election McKinley and his managers knew how nearly every man in the district would vote. They saw the probability of defeat, but were plucky known in the district. In figuring up the prospects McKinley decided that every vote was needed. Some one told him that one of his best friends, then absent on a bridal tour, would probably return if he (McKinley) sent oves humor in a mild form, Nobody telegram. The young fellow had been New England with his bride. He had McKinley sent him this telegram:

"It is right to be married, and I congratulate you with all my heart, but every man owes a debt to his country. That debt can best be paid by voting as his conscience dictates on election

The young friend returned in time to

vote. This was long remembered by

GREAT RACE FOR GOVERNOR The great race which McKinley made then he was elected governor of Ohio in 1891, the year after his defeat for congress, was full of amusing incidents, besides illustrating the shrewdness of the Republican managers and of the candidate himself. Expecting that the Democrats would make the fight on the tariff issue, the Republicans, it is charged by Democrats, resorted to a scheme which was a telling one. At the various meetings the Republicans had imported men who would rise, declare that they were Democrats, but were going to support McKinley because of his protection views. This was done at hundreds of meetings, and was heralded all' over the state as showing a big change in sentiment. One day McKinley got on a train going to Cincinnati. He found er, on the same train. Neal was the Democratic manager of that campaign, and two years later was the Democratic opponent of Governor McKinley in the race for governor. Governor McKinley and Colonel Neal sat togeth er and chatted pleasantly. McKinley was booked to speak in Cincinnati that night, but was also to make a speech at Xenia on his way. When the train received Xenia a delegation of local Republicans boarded the train and proceeded to announce their programme. They did not know Colonel Neal, and coyly talked along. "And, govern said the leader, "we have paid five reached Xenia a delegation of local distance and are not known to and say they have always been Demcrats, but are going to vote for you. Governor McKinley smiled, and

ntroduced them to Colonel Neal. The coliticians were badly frightened President McKinley is as fond flowers as his wife. He loves to have them on his desk, and politicians who see him frequently notice a big boutakes a waiter of cut flowers to the president's room and puts them on his lesk. They are cut in the White House conservatory and consist of all kinds and varieties. The beautiful and the fragrant are mixed. The president likes fragrant flowers, but the

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DRY GOODS, FANCY GOODS Kresky, E. H. & Co., 114 S. Main

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Rice, Levy & Co., 30 Lackawanna.

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UNDERTAKER AND LIVERY, Raub, A. R., 425 Spruce, PHOLSTERER AND CARPET LAYER. C. H. Harlett, 226 Spruce street.

WALL PAPER, ETC. Ford, W. M., 120 Penn.

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