

The Diplomatic Corps.

The recent change in the title and dignity of some of the representatives of foreign countries at the nation's capital has apparently had no appreciable effect on their style of living. Although now the diplomatic representatives of England, France and Italy are able to write the title of ambassador before their names, they seem to continue to live much as they did when they were plain ministers. Probably one explanation is that the accession of rank means no addition to their salary. That is certainly the case with the representatives aboard of this country who were not long ago elevated to the dignity of ambassadors, and in recognition of which the countries honored by the presence of such august personages raised their own representatives to the same rank. The British minister, or, rather, ambassador, lives in a spacious residence on the fashionable driveway of the city, which was built by British money and is the property of the British government. The British ambassador gets \$30,000 a year, which, with a number of allowances, gives him a rather snug sum to enable him to keep the wolf away from the door.

The French ambassador cultivates his newly acquired dignity in the pleasant and old-fashioned house which has been the residence of the French legation for a number of years past. He recently married a wealthy American girl, and therefore the size of his salary does not necessarily restrict him in his style of living. The representative of Italy is the other ambassador accredited to this government. At present he has rooms at a good but not expensive hotel. A year or two ago he found the rooms in the second story of a modest private residence quite sufficient to satisfy his dignity. He was then, however, a plain minister, and had not attained the glory of a full-blown ambassador. While the diplomatic colony are not characterized by the same glitter and show in private as they are when they appear on full dress occasions, yet some of them hold the same position in the competition of the Western peninsula as they do in the German legation.

There are no doubt of its own, which has public school for the addition of a bill room, and is the seat of a good deal of social splendor. The Mexican minister, however, has a fine residence and is a lavish entertainer, while the first secretary of the legation resides in one of the swell houses of the city, and keeps up an establishment that in point of lavishness is equal to anything in that line that is seen here. Recently Brazil has come to the front, and now her legation is splendidly housed in a fine residence which has been specially fitted up for the purpose. The representatives from Russia have always made more or less of a splurge. For a number of years they occupied the mansion which Boss Shepard built in his palmy days. Now they have taken possession of a fine, old-fashioned, roomy residence in a fashionable locality, which has been especially remodeled for their use.

Perhaps some might have the impression that the Argentine Republic is rather a second-rate country, but you would not get the impression by visiting the legation here. The minister occupies a stylish house in a stylish locality, and is right in the social swim. The Chinese minister, ever since there has been a representative from the Flowery Kingdom in this country, has lived in fine, not to say sumptuous, style. The present minister, who is also the diplomatic representative at the court of Spain and Peru, occupies a showy residence which, singular to say just at this time, he is enlarging by the addition of a ball room, and it is understood that he proposes to give a round of social entertainments during the coming winter that will surpass anything done by his predecessors. The Japanese minister is contented with a less pretentious mode of life, and lives in a small house on a private street. The Koreans, however, follow the mode of life of the Chinese, and occupy a great big house, where they are fond of entertaining the people who come to see them. The minister has his own carriage and is one of the familiar figures about the city. Everybody stops and looks at the singular people from the hermit nation with their funny little hats, which they wear in and out of doors. These hats resemble an inverted cullender, or perhaps, a pepper box that comes to a point.

The representatives of such nations as Turkey and Spain live modestly, and cling to their saffron.

estly and quietly. A similar mode of life is followed by the diplomats from Columbia and Costa Rica, while those of Chile and Peru find luxurious quarters in the leading hotels. The new republic of Hawaii makes a very creditable showing among the representatives of the older nations, and her minister has cozy rooms in a fashionable apartment house.

But wherever the representative of a foreign country makes his home whether in a palatial mansion on a fashionable thoroughfare or in the second-story front of a cheap boarding house, he lives on the soil of his own country. The laws and the authority of the United States government, great as it is, cannot invade the sacred precincts. When the minister or an attache walks abroad, he is beyond the jurisdiction of local laws. The police cannot arrest him nor enter his home. Sometimes a lively attache becomes hilarious and while in that condition smashes windows and defies the police. The local authorities can make complaint, but cannot touch him.

On the other hand, while the dignity and rights of the diplomats are carefully guarded, at the same time any violation on their part of the requirements of good taste and good behavior would result in their quietly receiving a recall from their home government. In this way the careers of many a promising young diplomat has been brought to a close. Everybody recalls the termination of the official life here of Mr. West, the representative of Great Britain, because he had imprudently written a letter in which he expressed opinions about a political campaign and the candidate, who happened to be Mr. Cleveland.

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