

The return presented by the British admiralty shows that the British navy is larger than those of any two other great powers.

Bread as a daily article of food is used by only about one-third of the 1,500,000,000 people that constitute the present population of the earth.

Five years ago there were two direct steamship lines from Southern ports to Europe; now there are eleven cities, each of which have one or more lines across the Atlantic.

The European nobleman who is reported to have killed over 316,000 head of game in the last twenty years seems, to the Chicago Record, to have mistaken the vocation of butcher for that of "sportsman."

Criminal statistics for 1986 show that there were 10,652 murders in this country, with 122 legal executions and 131 lynchings last year. Murder undoubtedly is a pernicious habit, but it is not at all dangerous, is the sarcastic comment of the Chicago Times Herald.

Krupp, the great German manufacturer of cannons, has lately completed a number of paper field-pieces for the use of the German infantry. Their calibre is a little less than two inches; and the pieces are so light that one soldier can easily carry one. But the resistance is greater than that of a field-piece of steel of the same calibre. These paper guns are intended for use in situations where the movement of field artillery would be impracticable.

Since Pennsylvania has been a State she has had thirty-four United States Senators. The ages of these senators at the time of assuming office ranged from thirty-two to sixty-one years, while the average age was forty-six years. The average length of each senator's public service was seven years. The longest period in which any senator from Pennsylvania has occupied a seat in the upper branch is twenty years, the occupant being J. Donald Cameron.

Here's a pointer, furnished by the New Orleans Picayune, to young men who are ambitious to shine in crime. Two old hands at the business cleaned up \$6,000 in three months in North Dakota, more than they could have earned at honest labor in that many years, but one of them has been dead a week from heart failure caused by the shock from a bullet applied by a reckless sheriff, and the other is in custody with a long term in the penitentiary ahead of him.

The Clerk of the House of Representatives, whose duty it is to make up the list of members of each new Congress, was puzzled by the question of the proper classification of those members who were elected by the combined votes of Democrats, Populists, Silverites, Prohibitionists and Silver Republicans. What adds to his embarrassment is the fact that the members thus elected do not themselves know what to call themselves. One member from Michigan wrote to the clerk three times in order to suggest what should be his proper designation, and he isn't satisfied yet.

This world is never more than a year from starvation, maintains the New York Press. The food supply is limited, but there is always enough on hand to keep us alive for perhaps a twelvemonth. Nor is it probable that this supply will fail, for we hardly can expect drought or other conditions that produce famine to exist the world over for an entire year. When the wheat crops fail in Russia there is likely to be a season of plenty here or in India. If India suffers she looks to Russia, to America or perhaps to Australia, where the farmers are harvesting their crops now. South of the Equator the seasons are opposite to ours. There the husbandman sows when we reap, and reaps when we sow. It is not likely that a crop failure in the northern hemisphere would be followed by the same thing south of the Equator. Crop failures are local, not world-wide, so there is always somewhere to turn for aid. So it happens that while a famine produces misery in one country it causes a demand for foodstuffs that brings about good times in other countries. The business depression in the United States, particularly in Iowa, would be relieved somewhat if the people of India would eat corn. There is a possibility of educating them in time to know the value of corn as food. Meanwhile they demand wheat. Unfortunately this does not benefit the American wheat grower, for he sold his wheat before the extraordinary demand came. He got none of the high prices. The shippers resped the profits.

IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

A Description of the President's Mansion at the Nation's Capital as It Appears To-Day.

THE White House has been greatly changed within the past few years, writes Frank G. Carpenter in the Detroit Free Press. All kinds of improvements have been made, and the white hair of John Quincy Adams' ghost must rise in holy horror as he looks at the magnificent furnishings. Mrs. President Harrison expended something like \$52,000 on improvements, and a number of changes have been made by Mrs. Cleveland. The Harrisons spent a lot on the kitchen. When they came in the basement was full of rats. One kitchen floor had been laid on top of another, and they were all rotten. Mrs. Harrison ordered the wooden floors taken out and had the ground covered with concrete. Upon the top of this she put porcelain tiles and walled all the rooms of the basement as high as one's shoulder with the same material. The White House is now lighted with electric lights. The chandeliers have electric globes and the lights are kept burning in the basement and in most of the rooms of the building all night.

I think it was Martin Van Buren who was denounced all over the country for buying a set of gold spoons for the White House. The new china which has been recently bought is worth almost its weight in gold. I know nothing about the late purchases of Mrs. Cleveland, but there is a new set of cut glass in the cupboards of the executive mansion which cost \$1973, and I happen to know that Mrs. Harrison sent one order to Europe for twenty-four dozen china plates and five dozen coffee cups of a special design. Congress allows each President something like \$40,000 a year and more to run the White House, and a large part of this goes into new furniture and dishes. The linen costs a small fortune. The table cloths are of the finest damask, and the napkins shine like silk.

New carpets are bought about every six years, and though the ones which I found on the different parlors are good, Mrs. McKinley will probably have a chance to select new ones. I don't believe she will care to redecorate the rooms. When the blue room was last fitted up the artists received more than \$5000 for the work. The walls of the blue room are now padded and draped with silk as fine as that of the ball dresses of the ladies who will come here to shake hands with President McKinley. The silk is of the most delicate blue, and it is interwoven with silver. It is the same with the red room, which is also hung with silk and whose furniture has been designed and cushioned to match. The carpets of all the ground floor parlors are fine. That on the east room is so soft that one's foot sinks into it as if it were a bed of moss. It takes almost 500 yards of carpet to cover the floor, and the one now tacked down cost \$950. It takes more than a thousand yards to carpet the White House parlors and dining rooms, and the carpets everywhere match the furniture and hangings.

But let me tell you just how the White House looks in this year of our Lord 1897. It is bigger than it seems, for it covers the third of an acre. You do not see the basement as you look at it from the street, and the basement is almost a house in itself. Its rooms are high, and, with its recent improvements, it is now as dry as a bone. The White House is some distance back from the street. A big park surrounds it, and going up to the front door you walk about a drive which leads in the shape of a half moon to Pennsylvania avenue. On one side of this drive there is a flag



WHITE HOUSE VESTIBULE, OR "CAVE OF ALADDIN."

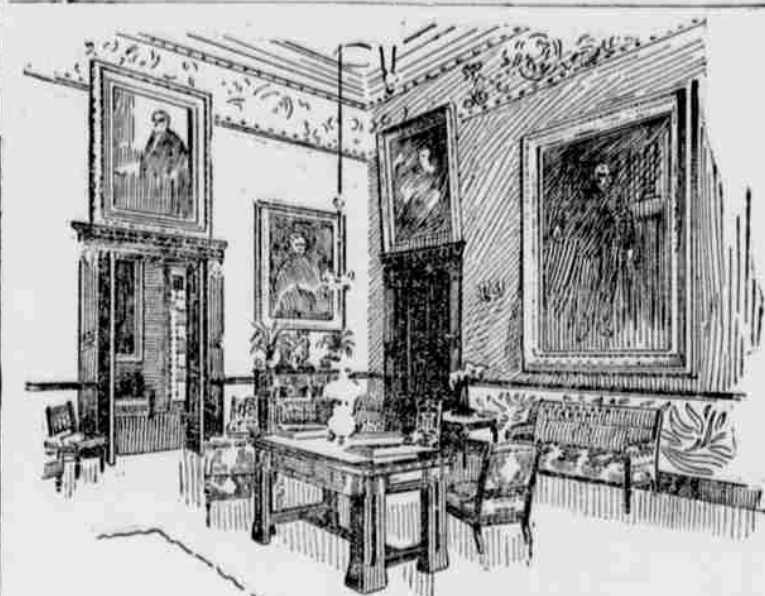
pavement, and in coming into the side of the yard nearest the Treasury you walk half the length of the building before you reach the front porch. As you do this you can look right down into the basement and see the servants at work. The room below you is devoted to the laundry, and you may see colored women here almost any day of the week rubbing away at our President's shirts. Passing these you reach the large portico. The columns which uphold this are as big as the biggest oak tree, and the stone platform within them is so large that a regiment of soldiers could be stationed upon it and have room to spare. You reach this platform by stone steps and stand at last

before the front door of the White House.

The front door of the White House! What stories it could tell of grief as well as joy. Through that door Abraham Lincoln was brought after he was shot by John Wilkes Booth. Step with me to that side window and I will show you an old man who was one of the White House messengers at the time, and who is still stationed at the door. His name is Pendle. He told me once how little Tad Lincoln came running to him the morning after the shooting and cried:

"They have killed my papa; they have killed my papa!"

He will tell you how he picked up Tad and tried to comfort him, and how he carried him upstairs to his



THE RED PARLOR OF THE WHITE HOUSE.

room and talked to him until he dropped off to sleep.

It was through that same door that Garfield was brought after he was shot by Guiteau. He had been but a few weeks in the White House, and, tired and worn out by fighting with the office-seekers and the Senate, was just about to go to Long Branch for a few days of much-needed rest. He came out here and took the carriage for the depot, not half a mile away, and was waiting for the train to start when the assassin's bullet brought him back. He was carried in through this door and lay here for weeks, racked with excruciating pain.

We passed policemen when we came into the yard. They patrol the streets about the White House night and day. There are now more than a dozen on duty within the White House grounds, and President McKinley will be watched almost as carefully as any king. There are guards within the vestibule on the other side of the door. There are guards in the basement, and the messengers who conduct you from room to room, though they look very harmless, have by long watching become expert detectives, and can tell a crank almost at a glance.

There are only four hours of the day when strangers without urgent business can be admitted to the White House. This is from 10 a. m. till 2 p. m. After this, if you call and ring the bell, you will see a guard's face at the little round hole filled with plate glass in the mosaic window of the door and a pair of sharp eyes will examine you before the knob is turned which lets you in.

If you are so fortunate as to pass this inspection, you will see the doors open inward and a moment later you will find yourself standing in what

been wonderfully beautiful. It was, however, not much larger than a chair. I visited the room where it stood during my stay in Delhi some years ago. The throne room was, I venture, not as large as this White House vestibule, and here, instead of a chair of jewels, there is a whole wall made of bits of glass and costly stone put together in the form of a magnificent mosaic. It has cost not as many thousand dollars as the peacock throne cost millions, but when the electric lights shine behind it it is, I venture, far more beautiful. It is in this vestibule that the Marine Band, dressed in their gorgeous red uniforms, with their brazen instruments shining like so much gold, play at the President's receptions, and over this mosaic floor step the diplomats of all the Nations of the world, clad in their gold lace; the gay uniformed officers of our army and navy, and the powdered and bejeweled throng which makes up what is known as Washington society.



ARTHUR, THE WHITE HOUSE MESSENGER.

You will go to the left through this vestibule to reach the second floor of the White House, where the offices are, if you have business with President McKinley, but if you wish to see Mrs. McKinley and are so fortunate as to be a friend of the family, you will be taken right across the vestibule, and a door in that wonderful wall will open for you and admit you to the parlors of the White House. At the President's evening receptions the



ARTHUR, THE WHITE HOUSE MESSENGER.

rooms to the left of the White House will be fitted up with shelves, where the hats and coats of the men can be put away, while the wraps of the ladies will be stored for the time in the state dining room.

It will be in the blue room that President McKinley will receive at such times. This has been the custom from time immemorial, and it will not be changed. I doubt, however, whether Mrs. McKinley will be able to be with him. She is not at all strong, and she could not stand the wear and tear of an evening reception. It took all of Mrs. Cleveland's vitality to enable her to carry out her part during her first years in the White House. I know of receptions at which she shook hands with at least 5000 people, and at which it seemed to me she gave a smile to each one and no two alike. Mrs. Harrison tried to save herself by not shaking hands, and at some of the receptions she carried a bouquet in order to show the people that she could not do this. Some think that it was the care, overwork and worry of the White House that killed her, and the same is said to have caused the death of the first Mrs. Tyler and also of Mrs. Fillmore, although she survived, I believe, until a few weeks after she left the White House. It was in the blue room that Mrs. Cleveland was married, and here she bade goodby to her guests and took the carriage with the President to the special car on the Baltimore and Ohio road, which was secretly waiting almost half a mile from the station to take the White House bride and groom to their honeymoon cottage at Deer Park.

Wintergreen Oil.
Distilling oil of wintergreen is now carried on to a small extent in northern Maine, but recent newspaper reports of its magnitude there are no doubt exaggerated. The bulk of all the wintergreen oil coming on the market is still produced in Pennsylvania, while practically all of the oil of birch, which is both chemically and commercially the same thing, is shipped from North Carolina.—New England Homestead.

JAUNTY AND NEW.

A COSTUME ADAPTED FOR GENERAL UTILITY WEAR.

Made of All-Wool Cheviot and Useful for Travelling, Shopping or Business Purposes—Pretty Flannel Wrapper.

THIS jaunty costume, depicted in the large illustration and described by May Manton, is particularly adapted to travelling, shopping, business or general utility wear. As represented it is made of all-wool cheviot and the free edges

This very serviceable negligee gown is simply fitted by shoulder and under arm seams, small tucks are laid to yoke depth on the fronts and back which cause it to fit smoothly across the shoulders and the fulness thus caused falls to the lower edge of the gown, being laid in back and front and arranged over a round yoke underfacing. A box plait finishes the overlapping right front, which closes in the centre with button holes. The neck is finished with a neat rolling collar. The sleeves, in modified Bishop shape, are extended to form a frill at the lower edge, the fulness being held at the wrists by a cluster of plaits at the back. Flannelette, outing or other woolen fabrics make useful and com-



A JAUNTY COSTUME FOR GENERAL USE.

are finished with machine stitching. The neck opens upon a linen chemisette and smart tie, and a leather belt with fancy buckle encircles the waist. The shaping of the basque is accomplished by single bust darts, while the back and side seams extend to the shoulder; the usual under-arm gores separating the fronts from the back. The close-fitting double-breasted front flap is laid and close on the left-front with handsome pearl buttons and buttonholes. The upper edges are reversed to form pointed lapels that meet the rolling coat collar in uneven notches. At each side of the front and back wide plaits are applied that they terminate in points. The stylish sleeves, of moderate fulness, fit closely below the elbow, the top being gathered in gigot style and the wrists are finished with pointed tabs.

The skirt emphasizes the latest cut of modified skirts. It fits smoothly at the top across the fronts and sides, with the back laid in close plaits that turn toward the centre-back, where the placket is finished, the lower edge having the fashionable flare is finished with machine stitching to the depth of a wide hem.

To make this basque for a lady in the medium size will require two and one-half yards of forty-four-inch wide material.

A PRETTY LADIES' WRAPPER.
Fancy figured French flannel in mixed wool tones is here decorated



A PRETTY LADIES' WRAPPER.

with fancy stitching in leaf-green silk and bows of golden-brown satin ribbon.

fortable wrappers in this style, percale, India silk or muslin being adopted if a lighter weight garment is desired. To make this wrapper for a lady in the medium size will require nine yards of twenty-one-inch wide material.

A DAINTY APRON FOR A GIRL.
Dotted Swiss, lace and insertion were selected for this dainty apron. The skirt consists of three sections,



MISSIE'S FANCY APRON.

that are extended above the waist line, the centre section at the waist line collected in alternate rows of gathers. The seams joining the side sections to the centre section are well curved, forming a trim adjustment to the figure. The extension above the waist line, falling well over the shoulders, is carried down in the back, terminating in a deep, square collar. The free edges are decorated with lace, and wide ribbons of milk-pink are fastened at each side of the front beneath the side sections, and are carried about the waist to the centre-back, where they are bowed and fall in long graceful ends. The model is adapted to muslin in plain, striped or cross-bar pattern, also Swiss, sheer lawn, nainsook and similar fabrics, with trimmings of embroidery, lace, insertion, etc. Black or changeable taffeta may also be employed in making with narrow satin bebe ribbon or ribbon velvet outlining the free edges. For school wear the design is both attractive and practical.