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FREELAND, PA., FEBRUARY 10, 1898.

The Passing of Gentility. A frankness that is almost brutal seems to pass current in society for up-to-date smartness, and the language that is now used by certain fashionable people among themselves is sometimes only a little short of billingsgate.

To be in the swim in certain parts of Maine, it is necessary to be a member of what is called "fresh-pork clubs." These clubs, it appears, are cooperative organizations for killing hogs and keeping the members supplied with fresh pork for the season.

Anconda, Mont., is getting ready to defy the rivalry of the world in its public fountain, with a perpendicular jet three inches in diameter and 230 feet high. Around the base of the fountain, constructed of massive rough masonry, a fringe of jets will rise to different heights and at many angles.

Li Hung Chang, now at the head of the foreign office in China, is the ablest of the Chinese statesmen. Gen. Grant became acquainted with him when on his journey around the world, and the general pronounced him to be one of the four greatest statesmen of the world.

A "horse lover" writes to the New York Tribune, urging very strongly the use of rubber horsehoes when the streets are slippery, and expresses "wonder why horse owners do not more generally use their horses in life and limb by using shoes made of rubber—not the pads which cover the surface of the hoof and are really a detriment, but the genuine shoe, made of rubber and steel."

No year passes in these times without the discovery of a new microbe. The whooping cough has yielded up the invisible, but by no means inaudible, little pest responsible for that disease. It is exceedingly small and club shaped. Only the most powerful microscopes reveal it to the eye.

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CANADIAN PARLIAMENT.

INTERESTING DESCRIPTION OF THE OPENING CEREMONIES.

Governor-General of the Dominion Officially in the Senate Chamber—The Pomp and Splendor of the Event Attracts the Society of the Capital City.

Ottawa, Canada, February 4, 1898. The Canadian parliament for the session of 1898 was opened yesterday by Lord Aberdeen, governor-general of the Dominion. This was the first time that such an event occurred since my coming to Canada, and I was eager to embrace the opportunity of witnessing the ceremony.

CHIEF POINTS OF VANTAGE at their disposal. Everybody seemed bent on arriving first. As time went by, and we were still on the outside, and as the booming of cannon betokened the near approach of the governor-general and the commencement of the ceremony, we arose to the need of bestirring ourselves to get inside.

Our party consisted of six Canadians and two Americans. There was no prospect of our getting in en masse, so we decided to let each look out for himself. The first to go was a young Canadian, who espied the M. P. from his district and buttonholed him for a passport. He was successful. The next was also a Canadian, who obtained a ticket from a friend in one of the departments.

I searched my pockets for it, but failed to find it. I was at a loss to know what became of it. Finally I remembered having placed it as a marker in a new hat that I had purchased a short time ago, and on removing the headgear I found it safely ensconced under the band. It was a little the worse for the purpose it was serving. However, a careful straightening out made it passable.

With this sign of rank, I sauntered up to the brother of "Tommy Atkins" who guarded the door, a veritable disciple of Greeley, Raymond, Bennett, et al. I presented the card, accompanying it by way of introduction, with the statement that I was an American newspaper man spending some time in Canada, and neglected until too late to apply for the regulation passport. I was told that the press gallery was taxed to its full capacity, but if I would accept a place in the visitors' gallery I might go in. Of course I went in. But if I had lost my hat in the crush I would have been unable to identify it.

After getting inside I found the chief object of interest to be the crowd which assembled to witness the ceremony. The opening itself was a mere formality, which required no special skill or uncommon intelligence to perform. It served simply as AN OCCASION FOR SHOW.

and in this respect it was thoroughly satisfactory. Canadian society was out in force, arrayed in its finest trappings. The governor-general arrived at the parliament building under escort of his special aids and a company of dragoons. Several heavy guns fired a salute, and a regimental band played "God Save the Queen." He went immediately to the senate chamber, where he took his place on a temporary throne. The desks of the senators were removed and the whole room was giving up to seating the crowd. About as many women as men were in attendance. The former were handsomely attired, while the men, other than the military officers, wore evening dress. As the opening took place in the chamber of the senators no invitation was necessary for them to attend it. But as this was not so of the house of commons, Lord Aberdeen sent a special messenger to invite them.

This messenger is styled the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod. It is a unique position and is filled by a unique official. The insignia of his office is an ebony rod, surmounted by a little brass lion. His salutation as he left the presence of the governor-general, and his bowing before the speaker of the house, was quite amusing. It was one of the delightful features of the opening. When he went to deliver his message he picked up his rod, and marched with

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Wednesday, Feb. 2.

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Thursday, Feb. 3. The United States senate continued consideration of the Hawaiian annexation treaty. Senator White (Iowa) made a second installment of his speech against the treaty. In the house there was a discussion of the defenses of New York harbor brought out by items in the table before the speaker's desk.

Friday, Feb. 4. In the United States senate a resolution requesting information in regard to the Prussian decree against the Klondike fruit was adopted. The claim of Mr. Corbett to the vacant seat from Oregon was discussed, and the agricultural appropriation bill was passed. In the house the fortifications appropriation bill was considered, in connection with which there was a sharp political debate in which Mr. Dreyfus (N.Y.) and Mr. Simpson (Kan.) were the principal disputants.

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