

Notes From My Travels.

BY MRS. ELIZABETH DAVENPORT.

[CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK.]

June 29.—I next visited the Museum of Art, and as we stood there admiring those fine pictures, "The Horse Show," by Rosa Bonheur, and the "Farm" scene, by her sister, Augusta Bonheur, we noticed a gentleman and lady admiring the pictures, and, to our great pleasure and surprise, found that it was Mr. Til. Ford of Salem, Oregon, and his sister, Dr. Ford-Warren of Portland, Oregon. After a pleasant visit and a look together over that fine art gallery, Homer invited them to his home for dinner the next day, where we all had an enjoyable visit. Homer has one of the loveliest homes in East Orange, a beautiful location and a well-arranged house and yard. There are elegant pheasant parks and the finest and largest variety of pheasants in the world, four fine and valuable horses, one an Arabian. Last, but not least, he has two beautiful and intellectual children to bless his home. Our visit with Homer and family, though pleasant, must end. I took the train at 4 p. m. for the historic city of Washington. My husband goes a southern route to visit friends in California, and I take the northern to visit relatives in Olympia and Seattle, Washington. I arrived in Washington at 10 o'clock p. m., took a cab and was driven to the home of Robert Stenner (a nephew by marriage) and his wife, Eva Kirkendall-Stenner.

June 30.—We took a little ride through the city today, taking a hurried view of the streets and noted buildings. In the evening we visited the White House grounds. The impressions people have on entering this city are as varied as humanity itself. I have often heard that it was one of the loveliest residence cities in the world, and people seem so delighted with the city of Washington, I naturally expected a feeling of ecstasy and delight, but from the first look over those ancient buildings, those marble statues and magnificent parks so perfectly kept, a mantle of sadness and depression seemed to envelope me, and while nature and art seem to vie with each other in showing their grandeur to the passing stranger, I can't say I like the city. It seems to me that the fate of the nation has hung, and is still hanging, over that old, ancient White House and the great Capitol, where the father of our country proclaimed freedom when freedom came from the hearts of a true, patriotic people. Today it is simply a form and a phrase which means little.

July 1.—We visit the Arlington cemetery, the resting place of 11,276 of the patriotic sons of our

country. A little on to the left, the large gate you pass through to enter the grounds has this inscription:

Rest on, embalmed and sainted dead,
Dear as the blood ye gave,
No impious footsteps here shall tread
The herbage of your grave.

The Arlington Cemetery is surely one of the most beautiful locations of this earth. The surroundings seem to impress people with the solemnity of their visit. We had the surprise, as well as the pleasure, of meeting there a man and wife, formerly residents of Oregon, who were present at the interment of the boys who fell at the battle of Santiago, so we had little difficulty in locating Lawrence Vanvaulkenburg's grave, having the number with us. Lawrence was a Silverton boy, at which place he had many warm friends. I plucked some wild flowers and pressed them for his loved ones at home. As I stood there I thought of the broken hearts whose quivering lips asked me, when I started east, to stand by the grave of their boy if possible; and so I complied with their wishes. While speaking of Arlington cemetery, I must not forget to mention the General Lee mansion. It stands on the brow of a hill, whose slope stretches away a half-mile to the Potomac, 200 feet below. The view here has been famous for a century. Lafayette was a frequent guest at the Arlington home. From the porch the view is one of the rarest I ever beheld. Below flows the placid Potomac, and the hillside is adorned with flower beds, a profusion of ornamental shrubs and trees.

July 2.—We took a carriage ride and visited the noted places and mansions of the city, including the different legations, the Talmage home, the old Ford theater, where Lincoln was assassinated, and the Dewey home, besides the homes of various other noted people. We went to the Bureau of Engraving and printing, the Smithsonian Institute and National Museum. The Smithsonian Institute was established and has been maintained on an endowment by James Smithson, an Englishman, who, in 1829, bequeathed his entire property to the United States of America to found at Washington, under the name of Smithsonian Institute, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men. The original fund of \$500,000 has been increased to \$700,000. We next visited the Washington monument. It is an imposing shaft of white marble, rising from an elevation on the Mall near the Potomac. It is seen towering against the sky long before one reaches Washington, and in the city its tremendous height confronts one at every turn. Go where you will, it is an ever-prominent feature of the landscape. The monument is an obelisk; its

height from the floor of entrance to tip is 555 feet 5½ inches. It is the highest work of masonry in the world, and is exceeded in height only by the Eiffel Tower, of iron, 984 feet high.

June 3.—We visited the Corcoran Art Gallery. The gallery was founded and endowed by the late William W. Corcoran in 1869, as a gift to the public, "for the perpetual establishment and encouragement of the fine arts." It occupies a building of Georgia white marble. Above the entrance is the inscription chosen by Mr. Corcoran, "Dedicated to Art." We then visited the Pension Building. It is an immense structure, covering an area of 200 by 400 ft. The building was completed in 1885. Some notion of its magnitude may be had from the fact that at the inaugural balls which are held here, 18,000 people have been gathered within it. The floor space is filled with rows upon rows of cabinets, in which are filed the hundreds of thousands of documents relating to pensions. So perfect is the system, that within five minutes after inquiry the entire record of a pension case may be put before one. Among the 2,000 clerks here may be noted many an old soldier, wearing in his coat lapel the bronze button; and there may be seen, too, many an armless sleeve.

July 4.—We took a ride on the steamer down the Potomac, and visited Mt. Vernon, the home of Washington. The house in which he lived was built in 1743, by Lawrence, his half-brother. On the death of Lawrence and of his only daughter, Washington inherited the estate, and came to live here soon after his marriage in 1759. Here he managed his farm until called to the field. To Mt. Vernon he returned after Yorktown, and again after his terms as President. Time and space prevents further description.

July 5.—We spent a few hours in the Government Printing Office. This is the largest printing office in the world; about 3,000 people are employed. It is a four-story building of white brick. On the first floor are the presses, all are operated by women, except two; second floor, the composing room and private offices; third floor, the bindery; and on the fourth floor, folding and sewing and the completion of books. Work was begun on the new office several months ago. It is to be an imposing structure of red brick, and will take three years to complete it. In the evening we visited the Library of Congress. It is one of the most magnificent buildings I ever beheld. As we enter the front door, thousands of electric lights beautifully-polished white Italian marble columns and stairways greet our vision. The net cost of the building, exclusive of site, was \$6,032,124.54. The Library grounds

adjoin those of the Capitol, and for the convenience of members of Congress, the books which they wish to consult are sent direct from the reading room to the Capitol through a tunnel connecting the two. The tunnel is of brick, 1,275 feet in length and 4 by 6 ft. interior. Book-carrying trays pass through the tunnel, making the trip from one point to the other in from two to three minutes.

July 6.—This morning I was shown through the Capitol. This building is distinguished for its commanding situation and majestic proportions; for the dignity, grace and beauty of design; and the adornments and decorations which beautify it without and within. From an elevated site on Capitol Hill, 97 ft. above the level of the river, it overlooks the amphitheatre of the Potomac, and is a conspicuous feature of the landscape from miles on every side. It is set amid grounds, whose extent and arrangements add much to the architectural effect.

The central building is constructed of Virginia sandstone, painted white; the extensions are of Massachusetts marble, white. In the afternoon we visited the White House. The prevailing characteristic of the White House is a stately simplicity. In situation, in character and in surroundings, one reflects that the White House is becoming as the home of the President. From the vestibule one passes through a corridor to the magnificent state parlor, famed as the East Room, the only one usually shown to visitors and used for receptions. The apartment is 40 feet wide, 82 feet long and has a ceiling 22 feet high, from the panels of which hang three immense chandeliers of cut glass. The eight carved mantels are surmounted by mirrors, and in the wall panels are hung full-length portraits of Washington, Martha Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln. The White House was the first public building erected at the new seat of government. Washington himself selected the site, laid the corner-stone October 13, 1792, and lived to see the building completed. It is told that, in company with his wife, he walked through the rooms but a few days before his death, in 1799. John Adams was the first occupant, in 1800. In 1814, in John Quincy Adams' term, the house was fired by the marauding British troops, and only the walls were left standing. With the restoration, the stone was painted white to obliterate the marks of the fire, and, outside of official usage, it is as the White House that the Executive Mansion is universally known. The surroundings are worthy of note. In front is historic Lafayette Square. On one side is the Treasury; on the other, the State, War and Navy buildings. Concerts, open to the public, are given in the east grounds by the Marine Band on Saturday evenings from June to September, inclusive.

THE END.