

SOCIAL RIVALRIES AT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

CONFLICTING CLAIMS OF OFFICIAL CLASSES AND WEALTHY PERMANENT RESIDENTS

THE merry social war at the National capital is rapidly resolving itself into a civil conflict. It no longer merely presents the spectacle of social queens competing for the position of supremacy, although this phase of the matter is not lacking, to be sure. But, underlying and influencing all the individual campaigns for popularity, and transcending them in importance, is the general contest between the people in official life as a body and the coterie of wealthy residents of the city on the Potomac, sometimes denominated as the "smart set."

This warfare, of which the country at large already has some inkling, is the result of latter-day conditions at the American seat of government. In the early days of the republic, when Washington was so unattractive that the Nation's rulers and their families, who were compelled to reside there, cordially detested it and fled immediately after the adjournment of Congress in the Spring, the social circle was not divided into two great rival factions. The present general struggle has come about slowly through the gradual transformation of Washington into the most beautiful city in America. This and the absence of vast industrial activities make it an ideal city of leisure and the most attractive place of residence on the continent. It is not surprising that there has grown up a colony of wealthy folk, whose social ambitions have increased with each new recruit added to the fold.

The Two Sets.

There are not less than 2000 persons in the official set, which means that there are that number of individuals directly or indirectly connected with the political life of the capital who are sufficiently prominent to entitle them to invitations to a certain number of social functions. In this list is embraced everybody from the President, Senators, diplomats and members of the Supreme Court, together with the ladies of their households, to the families of assistant secretaries and bureau chiefs of the various government departments, and the Army and Navy officers. The list does not stop with the immediate members of the families, even; there are not a few people in public life at Washington who industriously use their positions to pry open the social gates for nieces, cousins and friends.

The members of the fashionable residential circle are not so numerous, possibly, as their opponents. Exclusiveness is the pride of this elite contingent. However, this residential set is a house divided against itself as to whether wealth or lineage shall constitute the password for admission. There are a number of millionaires—some of whom have made their money too rapidly to satisfy the social arbiters at home—who have come to Washington to live. While these affect a certain exclusiveness, they are yet inclined to admit to the social forerunners any possessor of a large bank account who is willing to dispense it by lavish entertaining, unless, perhaps, the applicant be one of those who has refused to let down the bars for the "newly rich" at a former place of residence. Such a one generally encounters the opposition of someone on the inside who is thirsting for revenge. On the other hand, there are living in Washington a number of old Virginia and Maryland families who are unwilling to accept this new standard of social eligibility, and in self-defense have grown clamorous and ultra-exclusive.

The Antagonism is Growing.

The antagonism between the two general divisions of Washington society, which, despite the covering of good breeding and social tact, is growing in bitterness, is due primarily to the difference in tastes and sources of power, and to the exalted opinion each set holds with regard to its own claims of superiority. The official contingent has the advantage in some respects, but must needs be chary of those manifestations of disregard for public opinion in which many of the well-to-do residents delight. It will not do for the office-holders to displease the people on whose votes they are dependent to keep them in Washington.

There are bound to be certain occasions on which the official crowd has a monopoly of the social events. This was forcibly illustrated during the recent visit of Prince Henry of Prussia, and in-

identally it might be mentioned that no other cue event has been provocative of so much envy and jealousy. The ambitious rich folk who had the houses and the funds wherewith to entertain the royal visitor in regal style did not get the opportunity, and indeed very few of them even enjoyed the boon of meeting him. So, too, the people who are in Uncle Sam's official retinue have the best of it with reference to social functions at the White House, to which, of course, a certain popular interest always attaches.

The reverse of this picture of the advantages of social officialdom is presented by the people who have the Government positions, but lack the money to maintain them, socially speaking. The family that comes to Washington hugging the popular delusion that in official life one's social position is cut out and only awaits assumption is bound to be rapidly disillusioned. The Congressman who comes to the capital with nothing but his salary is likely to find that he is no larger a figure on the social horizon than is a policeman in his own home town. With wealth he may be enabled to climb to one of the pedestals in the society gallery, but without it his only chance is to wait until he has made a name in Congress, a process which, under the existing rules in the House of Representatives, is a sadly tedious one, necessitating a strong and unflinching political "pull" at home.

Great Cost of Entertaining.
A host and hostess may spend \$50,000 a year in entertaining in Washington without their entertainments being exceptional in any respect or attracting even

passing attention. Therefore, many a Congressman who appears wealthy in the eyes of his rural constituents finds it out of the question to attempt to dispense hospitality in Washington. The members of the House of Representatives who entertain other than on the most modest scale may be counted on the fingers of one hand. There are Senators Hanna, Depew, Lodge, Kean and Elihu—each of these expends several times the amount of his salary every year in entertaining, but they are few in proportion to the total membership of the upper house of Congress; there are veteran members of the toga today who are almost solely dependent upon their salaries, and who year in and year out, reside in boarding-houses.

For most of the assistant secretaries, or bureau chiefs of executive departments, entertaining in a formal way is out of the question, since none of them receive salaries in excess of \$4500 a year, and it is by no means an unheard of thing for a member of the Cabinet to reside at a fashionable apartment house and ignore all but the most urgent social responsibilities.

Were it not for the straitened circumstances of a number of the people in political life at Washington, the struggle between the official set and the residential set would be a very unequal battle. As it is, a number of the people who have been given social standing by reason of their occupancy of Government positions are forced either to withdraw from social life altogether or else accept the invitations of those who are willing to extend hospitality with no expectation of reciprocity, and thus the wealthy hostesses of the residential set is always able to fill out her guest list with people of official prominence. It will thus be seen that each of the two main sections of Wash-

ington society is indirectly and heavily dependent on the other, and yet each would be only too glad to cut loose with a declaration of independence if it but dared.

The Professional Dinner-Out.
This odd state of affairs has bred the dinner-out, usually of the masculine gender. Despite the number of statesmen and politicians who throng Washington in season, there are many social gatherings where men are at a premium, and if he be courtly and an entertaining conversationalist, the unmarried official or the Congressman who has left his wife at home need seldom be under the necessity of paying for his dinner. Even in the case of a married man, the ability to "pay back" does not figure at all. For instance, there might be cited the case of General Miles, who this season, and particularly since he was reprimanded by the President, has been one of the most extensively entertained men in Washington. Yet the head of the Army is in moderate circumstances and not in a position to return the compliment to more than a small portion of his hosts.

Even in the securing of the more desirable of these professional dinner-outs, the spirited rivalry between the wealthy members of the residential set and the possessors of private fortunes in the official set constantly crops out. Thus the young official who is open for invitations is often compelled to choose between two opposing claimants, and must make the decision with due regard to future invitations on the one hand and possible promotions or the forfeiture of official favor on the other.

This "dinnering" of officials has resulted in the almost utter neglect by Washington society leaders of the stage favorites who are the particular prey of the "thrillhunters" in other cities. The celebrities of the musical world are somewhat more fortunate, for they are usually entertained at the home of Reginald De Koven, the operatic composer, who, with Mrs. De Koven, an authoress of some prominence, maintains a salon that is the hub of the literary and artistic set in Washington.

Diplomats at the Top.
The really enviable positions in Washington society are held by the members of the diplomatic corps. As in the case of the Senators, only a small proportion of the envoys of foreign powers are possessed of great private fortunes, but practically all the representatives of leading nations receive from their governments ample allowances for entertaining in a manner commensurate with the dignity of their positions. These masters of statecraft are necessary among the guests bidden to every official function of any interest or importance, and they are eagerly sought by the entertainers of the residential set, who prize above all else the cosmopolitan atmosphere which the presence of the foreigners lends to a social gathering. In the show of the diplomatic contingent, with all its glitter and gold lace, however, lurks that omnipresent bugbear, the question of precedence, in the White House which is found the rock on which many a social ambition has been stranded.

After all, the competitive game in which the official and residential forces of the capital are pitted against each other, most keenly is the highly important one of picking the "coming man." The benefits to be derived by foresight of this kind are well illustrated by the Roosevelt regime. In the House of Representatives, the members of the official and residential sets who bestowed attention upon the Roosevelt family when the President was merely a Civil Service Commissioner, or Assistant Secretary of the Navy are now reaping their reward. So, too, the young man who springs into prominence suddenly, as, for instance, did Senator Beveridge, is watched most closely by the social forerunners. Coming events cast their shadows early in the social domain at the capital. For instance, if Senator Hanna is to be the next President of the United States, society in Washington will be indicating the probabilities, while yet the politicians are moving in the dark.

In a comparison, based on the hard cash expended, the advantage is not all on the side of the newly established residential set who have selected Washington as the best place in which to scatter gold. Secretaries of State Hay, who occupies the most desirable residential site at the capital, has a home which, with its furnishings, is reputed to represent an investment of a million of dollars. Senator Depew pays \$15,000 a year house rent, and Senator Hanna pays nearly as much. Attorney-General Knox recently paid over \$100,000 for an unfurnished house, and Senators Taft and Foraker have homes each of which is worth fully as much. However, most of these houses appear insignificant in comparison to the million-dollar mansion of Mr. and Mrs. Lott, the parents of the late Chief Justice of India, the decorations of whose hall are understood to represent an expenditure of \$60,000, or the other notable palaces of the residential set.

WALTON FAWCETT.
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Mrs. Reginald De Koven.



Mrs. Mark Hanna.



Mrs. Thomas F. Walsh.



Mrs. H. G. Hansbrough.

Countess Marguerite Casini.

George Ade's Modern Fable

OF THE LONG-RANGE LOVER, THE LOLLYPALOOZER, AND THE LINE OF CONVERSATION

ONE evening while at a dramatic Entertainment consisting of 22 Coon Songs, a Rising Young Lawyer looked across the Parquette and nearly blinded himself. He thought he had seen some 2-carat Tizama when he had attended College and hung around the Fem Sem, but the girl that he now beheld was in a class by herself. She made Cleopatra look like Marjorie the Sewing Girl. And Venus arising from the Sea was a squizzly old Soap Advertisement in three elementary colors.

The fair unknown had a pair of Incandescent Headlights that beat the Anna Held Lithographs, a Complexion like the Sunset Flush on a Snow Bank, and enough hair rising above her to fit out two girls of her size. She was somewhat attired in a Whipped-Cream delicatessen Delirium with mauve-colored Galluses. When she fanned herself it could be seen that she had put some Jewelers out of the business.

It is very seldom that one sees anything of that kind except in the back part of a Magazine.

Of course, she did not know that the Opera Glasses were being pointed at her, even by those who sat two rows in front. If she had known that, it would have annoyed her a lot. It always annoys a Young Woman who has put on \$1200 worth of Hurrah Clothes to have a lot of strange men do the Waldorf-Astoria inspection. The only thing that annoys her more than that is to have these same Goodyear Specialists overlook her entirely.

When some 47 would-be Lady-Stealers are giving a Circus Maiden the Grand Stand Eye, she has to be in fine condition if she can sit through it and not let on. The Unknown was still a Bud and yet she was thoroughly up in the Part. She was unconscious of her own Hit, and she was determined to keep on being unconscious.

Among the other things she wore that

Evening was a feather-weight Escort who had Percy written all over him. The men were wondering why any Peachette with a Kentucky Snipe, who could take her Pick of all Markings, should want to carry such a sad specimen of Excess Buggage. He was one of these 30-pound Wrapp-Holders who showed his teeth when he was pleased. He belonged out at Mother's Place in the Country, feeding the White Rabbits. Every Man who saw him snuggling up to the Unknown hoped that he would fall down and break his leg.

The Rising Young Attorney crooned on both sides of the aisle when he went out, for he was still looking at the Dream. He hid behind a Bill Board and saw her come out with the Human Wessel. In her Opera Cloak she certainly was very easy to look at.

On his way to the Boarding-House he walked two Blocks past the Place. The Unknown had him transfixed. He imagined himself riding with her in a Golden Automobile through a Grove of Violets. There was a Music-Box Attachment under the Seat and she was fighting to hold his Hand. He came to just in time to see himself from walking into the River. This Attorney was an emotionable Proposition. He had a high John C. Calhoun forehead and the yearning Look of a Genius, who would like to trade a College Education for a Meal-Ticket. From the Moment when the Goddess flashed across his Pathway, he was Stung in eight different Places. All during Business Hours he looked off into Space without seeing anything in Particular, and he was thinking of Her. No Clients ever came stamping in to pull him out of his Reverie and slip him a few Retainers. He was a good Union Lover and put in his full 8 hours per working up Day-Dreams. He called her a good many Names that would have been New ones on the other side.

One Day he saw her on the Other side of the Street. It made him google-eyed and he walked off the Curb. Another time she slipped past him on a trolley. Every time he spotted her she looked at least 40 per cent better than the time before.

"I'm for her," he told himself.

Once he saw her coming out of a Department Store and she made the others look like Odds and Ends of a Rummage Sale. He heard her Rippling Laugh, and there was enough Music in it to carry a whole Season of Grand Opera. A Friend who was with him said that her name was Clarence. So he told his Friend: "Any time that you run about Clarence being engaged start in to drag the River."

When he heard that she had gone to a Summer Hotel he trailed her and continued his long-distance Worship. He was afraid to get too near for fear that he would curl up and have a Spasm.

Who was he, a Legal Worm, that he should dare to crave a Word from those Rosebud Lips or hope for a meeting Glance from those star-lit Lamps? As for sneaking a Glance and swinging into the Slow and Dreamy, that seemed only a vague and far-away Hope of Paradise, and it was a Sin to waste time on it.

The best he could hope for was to send her a Box of long-stemmed Roses and then go and let a Train run over him, and maybe she would condescend to attend the Funeral. That, or else he could save her life in a Runaway and die with his Head in her Lap. All he wanted was a Romantic Finish that would leave a Sad, Romantic Finish behind. He wanted a Guarantee that she would think of him a couple of times, and he would be satisfied to play Village Dog and die any kind of a Death.

While in this desperate Frame of Mind, he met Mr. Buzzer, the moving Graphophone and He-Vampire, sometimes known as the Burned Edge of the Crust of Society. When the unspeakable Buzzer said that he knew Clarence and stood Ace and Eight, the soulful Attorney wanted to throttle him, for he could not believe that a real Diana would trifle with a blue Cat-Fish.

However, he accepted the Opportunity to hold converse with the Star of his Soul. Buzzer led him around the long time and at last he stood in that radiant Presence.

"Sir, I want you to know a Friend of mine," said the well-known Safe Blower and Social Outcast known as Buzzer.

He stood enthralled for at least one-

twentieth of a second. Then Clarence got under way.

"Oh, Crickets! I seen you at the Theater one Night," she said. "I was there with Ollie Pozzole of Minneapolis. Me and him came out just behind you. Say, wasn't that a Grand Show? I'm just crazy about that 'Mafie, Mamie. Aint it a shame? When did you land here? Huh? Oh, sure! This is a small joint all right, but they stick you for everything. Gee! but I'm glad Mr. Buzzer came out. He's a awful good Company. I'm going out ridin' tonight with He and a Friend of his. Come along! I'll stake you to a Girl."

When they found the Sentimental Attorney in the Woods an hour later, he was barking like a Sea-Lion and butting his Head against the trees.

MORAL: Don't go round Cutting In and then you won't know any Different.

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Tying Her Bonnet Under Her Chin.

Tying her bonnet under her chin, She tied her raven tresses in; But not alone in the silken snare Did she catch her lovely flowing hair, For, tying her bonnet under her chin, She tied a young man's heart within.

They were strolling together up the Hill, Where the wind came blowing merry and chill; And it blew the curls a frolicsome race, All over the happy peach-colored face; Till, scolding and laughing, she tied them in, Under her beautiful, dimpled chin.

And it blew a color, bright as the bloom Of the palest fuchsia's toasting plume, All over the cheeks of the prettiest girl That ever impersonated a romping curd. Or, in tying her bonnet under her chin, Tied a young man's heart within.

Steeper and steeper grew the hill, Madder, merrier, chillier still, The western wind blew down, and played The wildest tricks with the little maid, As, tying her bonnet under her chin, She tied a young man's heart within.

O western wind, do you think it was fair To play such tricks with her floating hair? To gladly, eagerly, do your best To blow her against the young man's breast, Where he has gladly folded her in, As she tied her bonnet under her chin.

O Mervyn Vane, you little thought, An hour ago, when you bought This country lass to walk with you, After the sun had dried the dew, What perilous danger you'd be in, As she tied her bonnet under her chin.

—Mora Perry.

Questions and Answers

CONDENSED INFORMATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF BOTH THE CURIOUS AND THE LEARNED.

LETTERS asking for general information will be answered in these columns. Letters should be written on one side of the paper, and must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not for publication, however. All letters without the name of the writer go to the waste basket.

New York City's Population.

Please give the population of New York City and her environs. I mean the towns and cities close enough to be considered suburbs.

The World Almanac thus sums up the population:

New York City, comprising four counties 3,437,202
Yonkers (Westchester County) 154,257
Bergen County, N. J. (Newark, etc.) 18,441
Essex County, N. J. (Elizabeth, etc.) 309,083
Hudson County, N. J. (Jersey City, etc.) 386,048
Union County, N. J. (Elizabeth, etc.) 99,353
Total 4,544,354

When Girls Reach Majority.

Can a young lady claim the right to inherited property at the age of 13 or 21 years? And is the law uniform throughout the United States? J. J.

A minor can inherit at any age, even before birth. A girl attains her majority in this state at the age of 18, or at marriage, which is equivalent to majority. The law is not uniform, as state statutes differ.

Rebates for Broad Tires.

What is the law concerning the refunding of road taxes where a man uses broad tires? Where can he have his taxes refunded? FARMER.

The Legislature of 1899 passed a law for encouragement of the use of broad tires. It authorizes the County Court of each county, for four years, to make a rebate on the road tax of each person who habit-

ually uses on the public highways tires not less than three inches wide, or \$1 for each wheel of the vehicle. It also provides that where tires are not less than four inches wide and one axle is eight inches shorter than the other, so that all four wheels will not run in the same groove, there shall be a further rebate of \$2 a year. This rebate refers only to wagons used for hauling heavy loads.

Homestead and Fence.

1. I put a fence of two wires on posts two rods apart; can I recover damages for trespass of range stock (cattle or horses) who break through fence?
2. If a person takes up a homestead and improves and cultivates it, and is on it less or more nearly every day, but can be seldom on it over night in six months, will that meet the spirit, if not the letter of the law?
3. If a man marries a woman who has already proved up on a homestead in her own right, can he file and prove up on a homestead, too, or does he forfeit his right through his marrying her? H. B.

Ask your nearest Justice of the Peace to show you Nos. 3452 and 3453, Hill's Code.

2. Yes, if it is your home.

American Battle-Ships.

Please give the names and tonnage of the completed battle-ships of the United States Navy. C. D.

Alabama, 11,265; Illinois, 11,235; Indiana, 10,288; Iowa, 11,940; Kearsarge, 11,025; Kentucky, 11,525; Massachusetts, 10,288; Oregon, 10,288; Texas, 6115.

Tax Titles.

1. Can a delinquent taxpayer in the State of Washington redeem land that has been sold for taxes, and a tax deed given by the county or state, as the case may be? 2. If so, how long after the land has been sold has he to redeem it in?

3. What interest must he pay the holder of the tax title? 4. Does the delinquent have to pay full value for all improvements put on the land? 5. Do you consider a tax title a good title to land in Washington? W. F. H.

Recording a Deed.

If the husband deeds the property to the wife, but does not have the deed recorded, in case the husband dies and she then has the deed recorded, would it be legal, there being no debts? Would she have to administer on it after having it recorded. M. E. H.

If the deed was delivered to the wife, it need not be recorded. No administration is necessary.

All.

Please give the meaning of the word "Pan" as used in Pan-American, Pan-German, etc. O. P.

To Various Correspondents.

R. L. P., Oregon City—Any newsdealer will get a stamp catalogue for you.
D. C.—Apply to a newsdealer for coin catalogue.
J. H., McMinnville—Grover Cleveland was born March 18, 1837.
C. C.—Labor day is a legal holiday in Oregon.
J. L. S.—At the election in June, 1900, M. A. Moody received 23,083 votes; William Smith, 23,040.
Housewife—The recipes you ask for are published on page 21.