

LESS than a dozen working days remain of the Fifty-second Congress before its expiration on the 4th of March. Only one of the annual appropriations—the Army bill—has become a law, and from this time on until the close of the session both Houses of Congress will lend every energy to the completion of the remainder of these important measures, upon which the running of the Government machinery depends. The House, though the largest and consequently the most unwieldy body, has done better than the Senate in pushing legislation. Now that the silver question is definitely shelved for this Congress, the leaders in the House do not see anything ahead between now and the 4th of March to cause trouble except the balance of the appropriation bills and the anti-option bill. It is intended to keep the House pounding away on the appropriation bills with but little intermission until the last one of them is sent over to the Senate. Those still remaining before the House are the Pension (now under consideration), the Post-office, the Indian, the Agricultural, and the Naval bills.

"GALLERY PARTIES" are all the rage at the capitol just now, and they bid fair to rival theatre parties in attraction and interest. For some time the galleries of the Senate and House have daily contained parties of young ladies, sometimes with chaperons and sometimes without. Many of these handsomely attired and attractive are recognized as prominent belles in society, and their presence was alike a source of curiosity and pleasure. Now the secret of a popular custom which has just been inaugurated is out. As everybody who goes to Washington wants to see Congress in session, and as the sights of the great white building are apt to be more or less stupid to the solitary stranger, the Washington girls have introduced the pleasant scheme of escorting their visiting friends to the capitol en masse. They form jolly crowds as they chat and laugh in the galleries, and innocently point out every occupant of the speaker's chair as Mr. Crisp. They don't know a thing about legislation, of course, but they think they do, and no one could have the heart to correct all the mistakes they make as they gaily prattle at the lunch table after they have tired of the galleries.

It is charged that the foreigners of the various legations in Washington are the most dissipated people there. Some of the young men, while favorably regarded by the American girls, are looked upon with more or less disapproval by prudent mothers. Some of them have behaved outrageously on occasions, cheating their creditors, getting into drunken rows and otherwise taking advantage of their immunity from arrest and prosecution for debt or other causes. According to law they are entirely exempt from the jurisdiction, either civil or criminal, of United States authorities, and if anyone ventured to sue one of them for money due

that person would be liable to a fine and three years' imprisonment as a "violinist of the laws of nations and a disturber of the public repose." Several years ago some of the diplomats stationed in Washington at that time made themselves particularly objectionable. They thought they could do about as they pleased, and their insolence was carried to such a point that it became necessary to check them. They have since improved somewhat in manners and conduct, but occasionally indulge in escapades and breaches of decorum that would not be tolerated if committed by Americans.

THE arrangements are being completed for the inauguration of Mr. Cleveland on a very grand scale, and little else is being discussed in Washington as the event draws near. There is danger of a clash in a most important feature of the ceremonies, unless some understanding more definite than now exists is reached between now and the 4th of March. The point at issue relates entirely as to how the outgoing and incoming Presidents shall go from the White House to the Capitol on inauguration day and then return to the reviewing stand. The local inaugural committee has arranged to have two four-horse teams for use on the occasion, a carriage drawn by four white horses for the President and a carriage drawn by four black horses for the Vice-President. President Harrison has, however, it is said, announced that he will provide his own carriage and will have his own horses harnessed to it, with his own driver and footman in charge. It remains to be seen which programme will be carried out.

OF the 120 collectors of customs in the United States but three who were appointed by President Cleveland will be found in office when he is again inaugurated next month. The three "holdovers" are the collectors at Nantucket, Mass., Newark, N. J., and Vicksburg, Miss. The terms of collectors of customs are for four years from the date of commission, and it is possible that the commissions of these three have not expired. This item will indicate how Democrats have fared under this administration.

IF the amendments to the pension laws, which have been approved by a majority of the House Appropriations committee, become laws the Pension office will be transferred to the War Department and be under the control of detailed army officers, and the payment of pensions will be stopped to those having an income of \$600 a year; to widows who married soldiers since 1870, and, except in cases of total disability, to all alien non-residents.

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