

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Following is a summary of the main points of President Taft's message to the Sixty-first Congress, which convened on Monday, Dec. 1, 1909.

To the Senate and the House of Representatives—The relations of the United States with all foreign governments have continued upon the normal basis of amity and good understanding and have been generally satisfactory.

Pursuant to the provisions of the general treaty of arbitration concluded between the United States and Great Britain, April 4, 1908, a special agreement was concluded between the two countries on January 17, 1909, for the submission of questions of boundary between the North Atlantic Coast to a tribunal composed of the United States, Great Britain and a permanent court of arbitration at The Hague.

In accordance with the provisions of the special agreement, the United States and Great Britain have agreed to submit to the court of arbitration the question of the boundary between the United States and Great Britain in the Gulf of Mexico.

The question arising out of the Belgian annexation of the Congo, which has long and earnestly proceeded the attention of the United States, is still open, but in a more hopeful stage. This Government was among the foremost in the great work of uplifting the uncivilized regions of Africa and of extending the benefits of civilization, education and trade to the people of that continent.

A convention between the United States and Germany, under which the nonworking provisions of the German patent law are made applicable to the United States, was concluded on February 23, 1909, and is now in force.

Under an appropriation made at the last session of Congress, the United States has sent an expedition to Liberia to investigate the interests of American citizens in Liberia. Upon its arrival at Monrovia, the expedition has been everywhere met with the hearty cooperation and assistance of the Liberian Government and people, and the hope was repeatedly expressed that the expedition would be able to determine its way clear to do something to relieve the critical position of the Liberian Government.

The Liberator Government afforded every facility to the expedition for the purpose of ascertaining the interests of American citizens in Liberia. It was found that the United States has a large number of citizens in Liberia, and that the Liberian Government is doing much to promote the interests of these citizens.

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CONGRESS OPENED

Usual First Day Ceremonies Held in Both Houses.

MANY CONTESTS ARE EXPECTED

Sixty-First Congress Is Likely to Go Down in History as Law Session

—Will Investigate Nicaragua.

Washington, Dec. 6.—The keynote of the Taft administration will be sounded at the first regular session of the sixty-first congress, which opened today with the usual ceremonies and benedictions by the chaplains of the two houses.

That important action and quick action will be taken on the Nicaragua dispute over the execution of the two Americans, Groce and Cannon, is a foregone conclusion, as the president and Secretary Knox are much wrought up over the move of President Zelaya of the Central American republic.

It is probable that action on this dispute will develop into a controversy between the supporters of the administration and the advocates of peace in the two houses.

The president's message of 16,000 words will be read tomorrow asking for radical action in the alteration of the laws regarding interstate commerce and the big corporations of the country, public lands and the conservation of natural resources.

On all these subjects a majority is apt to develop between the president and the conservative element in his own party, headed by Senator Nelson W. Aldrich in the senate, and Speaker Joseph Cannon in the house on the one hand, and the president and the insurgents of both houses, who seek more radical action than the president, on the other hand.

The insurgents will make themselves heard in an effort to amend the tariff law, and in the senate they will endeavor to force some action on a tariff commission.

President Taft's belief in the issuance of bonds for the completion of irrigation projects now under way as well as the development of navigable rivers and harbors will meet with some opposition among the eastern states, but the west to a man will undoubtedly be with him on the irrigation proposition.

An effort to have congress make a rigid investigation of the sugar-trading frauds, opposed by the attorney-general as hampering the prosecution, will be a subject of controversy between Secretary Richard A. Ballinger, of the interior department, and Chief Forester Gifford Pinchot, will undoubtedly come up at this session.

Locks self in fiery furnace. Moving-picture operator takes desperate chance to avoid panic. Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 7.—Joseph Pierce, the machine operator at the Hermann moving-picture show, 460 Fowler street, in the fire which broke out last night, when he closed the steel and asbestos door of his den upon himself and remained in a furnace of exploding and burning films, while the audience started in a panic.

What Gold Cannot Buy

By MRS. ALEXANDER

Author of "A Crooked Path," "Maid, Wife or Widow," "By Woman's Wit," "Boston's Bargain," "A Life Interest," "Mona's Choice," "A Woman's Heart."

CHAPTER IX.

Mrs. Dacre was a very persevering young woman, nor was she restrained by any sensitive delicacy in pursuing her designs. Hitherto she had rather liked Mrs. Saville in a surface fashion, flattered herself that she was a favorite with the stern little woman.

On this supposed favoritism she was always ready to presume. Hope Desmond and Mr. Rawson were therefore somewhat appalled when the sounds of voices and approaching footsteps in the pleasure-ground to which the windows of the smaller drawing-room had opened made themselves heard about ten minutes before Mrs. Saville had come in from a short stroll with her confidential adviser, and Hope had descended from her own room, where she had enjoyed a couple of hours' solitude.

These sounds were followed by the appearance of Mrs. Dacre, Saville, Lumley and Lord Everton.

"So sorry you were not able to come to church this morning, dear Mrs. Saville!" said Mrs. Dacre, effusively, and with the unconcerned assurance of the class which does not hesitate to rush in where the sharper-sighted fear to tread.

"If her pockets had always been empty, she would have known better how to hold her tongue."

"This story came to me in a letter to the wife of a cousin of mine. His cousin was eye-witness of the adventure," Mrs. Dacre was saying, as she posed herself on an ottoman and every one turned towards her. "Scene a dark, stormy night, a distant sea of Her Majesty's big ships tossing about on the waves, which make nothing of her bigness. Young sailor, do I can only admire his forgiving nature and accept the olive-branch."

"You are, as ever, just and generous," returned the impecunious peer, with a delightful bow and smile. "I am quite charmed with the vision of myself as a dove, which you kindly suggest."

Mrs. Saville turned from him with undisguised contempt, and addressed herself to George Lumley.

"So you are staying at the Court? How does your regiment, or your troop, get on without your valuable assistance?"

"Disagreeable old cat!" thought Lumley, while he said, "Oh, I ride over every other day, and the interference ones they stumble on as best they can without me."

"I thought you were going down to Herondyke?"

"Here's metal more attractive," said Lumley, melodramatically, with a wave of his hand towards Mrs. Dacre, who was deep in conversation with Mr. Rawson, on whom she was smiling with her habitual belief in her own power to fascinate all male creatures.

"Metal! Yes, I dare say. I sometimes wonder if I am as foolish as you seem, George."

"Oh, a good deal more so," said the handsome peer, showing his white teeth in a pleasant smile. "You know I haven't many ideas."

"Yet I dare say you would be less easily taken in than men who have," scornfully.

"Very probably, my dear aunt."

"What is the matter with you?" asked Mrs. Dacre, in a low tone, drawing a chair to the tea-table, where Hope Desmond presided. "You look pale and ill, and as if you had been crying. Pray forgive me," she added, seeing the quick color rise in her victim's cheek. "But I know quite well you could not stand Mrs. Saville for long. In a low tone."

Lumley, pushing a chair forward.

"Come, Miss Dacre, you have done your best, and your best is very good. Now take a cup of tea, and pardon my aunt her scant courtesy. I am going to write to Hugh, and I'll tell him of your championship."

"You ought," said Miss Desmond, who had not spoken before, but whose voice showed she had not been unmoved. "Very few can count on such courageous advocacy of the absent and of a losing cause."

"You are very kind to say so. Yes, I will have a cup of tea. My mouth feels parched."

"I am sure!" cried Lord Everton. "I am sure my tongue would have cleaved to the roof of mine, had I dared to utter such words to the Lion of Ingwood. Excuse me, my dear Richard."

"Do not mention it, my dear uncle." "I wish you would come out and take a little walk with me, Miss Desmond," said Mrs. Dacre. "I feel frightfully upset."

"I should like to do so very much, but Mrs. Saville may want me to write for her, or something, and I do not like to be out of the way."

"What penal servitude!"

"You must not say so. I agree to perform certain duties, and it would not be honest to run away from them."

"Why do you always take her part?" and Miss Dacre made an impatient grimace. "That addressing the gentleman, 'Just walk back to the court, and I can follow by myself. Then I can have a quiet talk with Miss Desmond.'"

"Very well," said Lumley, rising. "I will escort my uncle to the court, and return for you." Miss Dacre gave him a nod and smile, and the gentlemen left them.

(To be continued.)

WHITE HOUSE CHINA

Is Never Given Away and Sold Only After Formal Condemnation.

Custom at the White House demands that no dish shall appear on the table (especially on state occasions) that is not absolutely without defect. Not merely a chip, but the slightest scratch in the gliding on the edge of a plate or cup, or the almost imperceptible wearing of a color design, is sufficient to condemn the piece. It is pushed aside, and by-and-by, under a number of such 'rejects' have accumulated, they are inspected by the steward (who is official custodian of all executive properties), and sent off to auction, writes Rene Bach.

Under the law, the official china cannot be given away under any circumstances, and can never be sold except in the manner described, after formal condemnation. Condemned White House china always brings very high prices at the auction sales—especially pieces of the Lincoln, Grant and Hayes sets. Even a badly cracked Lincoln cup or saucer, or damaged egg cup, may fetch \$15 or \$20.

On the other hand, a Franklin Pierce plate in good condition is not likely to command more than \$6. Washington and Jefferson crockery is always salable at fancy prices; but none of it comes from the White House, where only a few specimens remain and are kept on exhibition in the cabinets in the basement.

The first and original executive chinaware was imported from England by George Washington—who, of course, never occupied the White House. Nearly all of it has disappeared, but a few pieces still exist in the hands of collectors. But even more interesting, perhaps, are the rare remnants of the crockery set (likewise of British manufacture) intended for the Confederate executive mansion at Richmond, but which, it is understood, Jefferson Davis never had an opportunity to use. It was captured, confiscated, and scattered, only an occasional fragment of it being to-day discoverable in the cabinets of curio lovers.

At the time when (in 1902) the purchase of a complete new service of queensware was contemplated by Mr. Roosevelt, a careful inventory was made of all the china in the White House. It was found to comprise 143 pieces of the Lincoln set, 125 pieces of the Grant set, 371 pieces of the Hayes set, 30 pieces of the Arthur set, 1745 pieces of the Cleveland set, 459 pieces of the Harrison set, and 321 pieces of the McKinley set.

The Roosevelt china, which was ordered from England (\$23,000 being paid for it), is white and gold, and, as might be imagined, exceedingly handsome. Each plate and platter has the coat-of-arms of the United States, in gilt, in the border. This set originally comprised 3,000 pieces, including cups, saucers, etc., and is to-day almost intact, great care having been taken of it, so that very few of the pieces are broken. However, it is exceedingly unlikely that the Taft will be obliged to buy any more crockery for the White House.

A Delicate Hint.

"Poor Miss Oldgirl! Did you hear of the job she got at the seedman's?"

"No; what was it?"

"She told the man she had a little garden of her own and asked him to recommend some suitable plant. He gave her one look and then suggested a wallflower."—Baltimore American.

A Changeless Name.

De Quiz—Was that an unmarried woman you met just now?

De Whis—Yes, I knew her several years ago. How her face has changed!

De Quiz—Has it? Well, when a woman's face changes as much as that she can never hope to change her name, too.

The Old Man's Joke.

"Mary," called her father, "has that young man gone yet?"

"No, pa," replied the maid. "But he's going right now."

"Then ask him to empty the pail underneath the leechbox before he goes, will you? I forgot it!"—Detroit Free Press.

About the Size of It.

"All men are born equal," quoted the moralizer.

"Yes," rejoined the demoralizer, "and the quality stops right there."