

the most crowded interval on the calendar are almost wholly in the nature of social obligations rather than business tasks.

Moreover, the responsibilities of this busy day rest equally heavy upon the envoys of the various foreign powers-that is, the ambassadors and ministers-and upon the secretaries, counselors and attaches who make up the official staffs of these dignitaries. Even the women

of the official foreign colony-the wives and daughters of the diplomats of high and low degree-share in the feverish activity of the dawning year. Indeed, their participation begins weeks in advance with frequent visits to the dressmakers, for, one and all, these fair foreigners must have striking new gowns for the momentous occasion.

The explanation of this display of energy on the part of a class of people who ordinarily lead the most leisurely existence imaginable is found in the fact that New Year's day of each year marks the opening of the official social season at Washington. It is a day of receiving and calling and dining (all in the most formal way), for everybody in national official circles from the president down to the least important public official, but the social merry-go-round, spins at a more lively gait for the diplomats than for any of the other participants in Uncle Sam's great annual dress parade. Not only do they have to go more different places in carrying out the day's program, but they have to do more dressing than any of the other celebrities, not even excepting the high officers of the United States army and navy, who don their full dress uniforms for this occasion.

Indeed, it is the chore of getting togged out in their gaudiest raiment that compels the diplomats to arise somewhat earlier than usual on New Year morning. Official etiquette prescribes that each foreign representative shaw appear in full diplomatic uniform or court dress on this significant occasion Now be it known, it is no slight undertaking to put on such garb. The average diplomat, accustomed as he is to fastidious dressing, finds it pretty nearly as formid-

able a job as the average American workman or farmer regards the donning of a dress suit. The diplomat's viewpoint will be the better appreciated when it is explained that not a few of these costly broadcloth uniforms are so heavily encrusted with gold lace and other ornaments that they are well nigh stiff enough to stand alone. It is a twentieth century coat of armor, so to speak. In many instances high boots are an item of the court dress and usually a heavy helmet or fur turban and a long cloak that reaches to the feet are included in the costume. Finally, the diplomat, of any standing, covers the entire front of his coat with the glittering insignia of royal orders and jeweled decorations-each several times as large as the ordinary badge and adding in the aggregate, considerable weight to the trappings of state.

With the time-consuming prelude of dressing out of the way, the diplomats, more gorgeously garbed than any operatic chorus, are ready for the first formal function of the day. This is the president's reception at the White House. The foreigners, all of whom have carriages or automobiles (rented for this busy day, if they do not already possess them), must leave home for the presidential mansion about 10:30 o'clock, for they are to have the honor of being the first persons received by the president after he has greeted his cabinet, and they must be in their duly assigned places in the waiting line ere the presidential party at 11 o'clock sharp, descends the grand stairway and takes station in the Blue parlor for the reception. Hard and fast rules must be observed as to the order in which the diplomats file past the president. There are two divisions. First the ambassadors, each accompanied by all the members of his staff and their wives, and then the ministers, each similarly attended. Places in each division are assigned in accordance with the length of time each envoy has represented his government at Washington. That is, statesmen who have been here for years take precedence over the newcomers.

At the head of the line walks the ambassafor who by virtue of the most lengthy service in Washington is the dean of the diplomatic corps. This post of prestige is now held by Baron Mayor des Planches of Italy. The foreigners are introduced to the president by the secretary of state, who has the best of his cabinet colleagues in that he is thus temporarily in the limelight.

After the White House reception the diplo-

can citizen would declare it a luncheon, but in social-diplomatic usage it is a breakfast. Considerably more than 200 persons are expected at this breakinst, so that it can be seen that it taxes the housekeeping arrangements even in a mansion such as the \$150,000 dwelling of Philan-

HERMAN DE LAGERCRANTZ, MINISTER OF SWEDEN AND HIS SECRETARY SENOR DE LA BARRA HOME OF SECRETARY OF STATE KNOX HEW AMBASSADOR OF WHERE THE GREAT "DIPLOMATIC BREAKFAST" IS SERVED ON NEW YEARS DAY MEXICO

der Knox. Then, too, the same importance attaches as at the White House, to who goes first, so that servants have to be carefully drilled and the utmost care exercised lest some lesser diplomat receive more honor than is his due, while some greater luminary is correspondingly slighted.

The entire afternoon of New Year's day the diplomats devote to making ceremonial calls. Almost all the prominent hostesses in Washington, except the wife of the president, hold receptions on this eventful afternoon. Most of the diplomats go first to the home of the vicepresident, then "down the line" of cabinet homes in the order of their official standing; after which they pay their respects at the restdence of the speaker of the house of representatives, and then follows indiscriminate calling upon the wives of senators, representatives, army and navy officers and other official hostesses who are keeping open house. Everywhere they meet other diplomats and public officials of all grades, for calling is general at the seat of government on the first day of the year. In accordance with the Yankee idea, only the men of the American households go calling on New Year's afternoon, but the diplomats are in almost every instance accompanied by the ladies of their households. It is past sundown when this round of calling is concluded, but that does not end the day for the tired diplomats. Most of them have been invited to the ceremonial dinners that, in great numbers, close the day in Washington, hence they must hurry home and change to evening attire in order to greet yet another hostess before 8 o'clock.

A RUSKIN STORY

In 1858, when Ruskin was in his fortieth year, he was asked by a friend to give some lessons in drawing to a child named Rose La Touche-whose name indeed was French, but whose family were Irish. There sprang up between Ruskin and this young girl a very charming friendship, which, of course, at the time could be nothing but a friendship. They wrote each other letters and exchanged drawings and then for awhile they did not meet.

Ten years passed by before they saw each other. Meanwhile the child whom he had remembered as a blue-eyed, saucy, clever little blonde with ripe, red lips and hair like fine spun gold, had become a very lovely young

woman of 19 years. They resumed their old acquaintance, but in a very different way. Though Ruskin was nearly 50, he gave to Rose La Touche an adoration and a passion such as he had never felt before. On her side she no longer thought of him as "very ugly," but was singularly drawn to him, despite the difference in their years.

The two met often. They took long strolls together in the pleasant fields of Surrey, and at last Ruskin begged her to make him happy and to be his wife. Oddly enough, however, she hesitated, not because he was so much older than herseuf, but because he had ceased to be what she regarded as "a true believer." Some of the things that he had written shocked her as being almost atheistic. She was herself, underneath all her gayety of manner, a rigid and uncompromising Protestant. She used phrases from the Bible in her ordinary talk and when she spoke of marriage with John Ruskin she said that she could not endure to be "yoked with an unbeliever."

Yet her heart was torn at the thought of sending him away; and so for several years their intimacy continued, he pleading with her and striving hard to make her see that love was everything. She, on the other hand, read over those passages of the Old Testament which seemed to bar all compromise.

At last, in 1872, when she was 24 and he was 53, she gave him her final answer. She would not marry him unless he could believe as she did. His honesty forbade him to deceive her by a pretended conversion, and so they parted, never to see each other again. How deeply she was affected is shown by the fact that she soon fell ill. She grew worse and worse, until at last it was quite certain that she could not live. Then Ruskin wrote to her and begged that he might see her. She answered with a note in which she feebly traced the words:

"You may come if you can tell me that you love God more than you love me."

When Ruskin read this his very soul was racked with agony and he cried out: "No, no-then I cannot come to her; for I

love her even more than God!" When she died, as she did soon after, the light of his life went out for Ruskin .- Munbeen at work for several years on the site of the Roman Susa, the Shushan of the Bible and later the capital of the Emperors Darius and Art-

According to details furnished to the Jewish World, a mound marking the site of the city has been excavated by M. de Morgan and was found to mark the site of the ancient Elamite acropolis of the city. The excavations have produced most astonishing results. Here the explorthe other, the remains of three cities, the oldest dating back to B. C. 4000, and below these the signs of older settlements of prehistoric

The recent discoveries show that far more than a thousand years prior to B. C. 1800 the city was occupled by the Babylonians, and that most of the kings of that country set up their monuments in it. When the powerful Semitic dynasty of Babylonian kings contemporary with the age of Abraham was overthrown, the Elamites regained their independence and retained it until B. C. 649. when the city was sacked by Assurbanipal, king of Assyria, who destroyed the palaces and temples. Explorations show that the chief

feature of the ancient city, as of all those of the ancient east, was the temple of the city god, in this case the god Susinak, which stood upon the acropolis. An exploration of the foundations revealed the records of Gudea, king of Chaldea, B. C. 2800. Fortunately, considerable information as to the nature of the sacred edifice and its precincts is preserved by an interesting monument, which

was discovered in the ruins. In the center of the model are the figures of two nude men, one holding a water jar. These, no doubt, are the king and priest performing the ceremonies of lustration, or ceremonial purification, which are a great feature of the oriental temples and frequently mentioned in the religious inscriptions.

Primitive Mills in Brazil. Vice-Consul De Young, writing from Santos, calls attention to the small corn grinding machines in Brazil:

"In the interior of Brazil a primitive method of producing cornmeal by pounding instead of grinding is practiced. The instrument known as a 'mojollo' works automatically, and consists of a tree trunk balanced on the bank of a stream, one end of the trunk being hollowed out to form a large cup, while the other end is in the form of a pestie. Water filling the cup depresses that end of the log, whereupon the water runs out and the other end falls back to its original position, the pestle striking the corn. Some modern corn grinders have recently been introduced, but there is a good field for a very small and inexpensive grinder to take the place of the 'mojollo' in the interior, where flour mills are rare and each family grinds its own corn."

Onion as Tale-Teller. There's a divorce. Tis a very sad affair. An onion is at the bottom of it. Of yore hubby was fond of onions.

He ate, and ate, and wifey stood it. Then he fell in love with a festive maiden. No more onions for him, much to his wife's surprise.

The more she thought of it, the more she wondered at the change. Not only did he desert the orodous onionspresently he deserted altogether.

USE HOTEL SAFES

MANY SEEM TO PREFER THEM TO DEPOSIT VAULTS.

Valuables Are Kept in These Receptacles by Guests for Years at a Time-Some Notable Instances of Fact.

A woman walked up to the counter of a fashionable hotel and asked for a package of valuables which was in the

"If I had not wanted one particular thing I suppose I should have left the package where it was for another three years," she said to the clerk.

"Yes," said the clerk in answer to a question after the women left, "that packet had really been in our safe for three years. Why, we have all sorts of valuable papers, jewelry and even money that are entrusted to our keep, ing for years at a time. People seem to prefer a hotel safe to a safety deposit vault. One reason, perhaps, is that it costs nothing. Another is that the standard of hotel clerks has improved.

"It is astonishing the amount of jewelry that people keep in hotel safes. Of course, the owners have originally stopped in the hotel, but they go away, leaving their valuables, and I have known such persons to be gone as much as two years and never make an inquiry about their property in that time.

To show you how much confidence people have in hotels and their employes, I might mention that the other day a man came in here and put four \$1,000 bills in an envelope, wrote his name on the latter and asked me to put it in the safe. Not long ago a man actually did the same thing with seven \$10,000 bills."

The clerks of several other hotels talked in a similar strain without any outside suggestion.

"I'll bet I have handled more than a million dollars' worth of jewelry today," said one. "Look here," and he opened the safe and piled six or eight big jewelry cases on the counter, but huriedly put them back. "In one of those I know there is over \$200,000 worth, and what I showed you was only a few of what the safe contains."

Up at a big hotel near the park the employes are greatly concerned about the freedom with which a wealthy foreign woman who is stopping there displays her jewels. Every evening she wears a rope of pearls that goes once around her neck and then falls to her knees, to which is attached a lorg-

Everybody who has seen the jewels has exclaimed at their size and perfect matching, and wealthy patrons of the house who have sold as well as bought jewels say the necklace is worth not a cent less than \$200,000. The owner went the other day into one of the big jewelry houses and business was immediately suspended while everyer found superimposed, one above body crowded about to admire the necklace.

How It Started.

Now, when Jacob had given the savory kid soup" to Isaac, and the latter, pleased with the gift, had given to his son the much-sought-after paternal blessing, lo, Esau stuck his head, through the tent flap and did pour. molten words upon the trick which had scabbed him of his birthright. And after some hours, when his anger was well-nigh spent, he shot the topic sentence straight;

"Why did you do it?"

Then did Isaac call him near and look into his face. Also did Isaac smack his lips and point to the remains of the repast and say:

"I love my Esau, but oh, you kid!" Whereupon Noah, who happened to be strolling by, carefully tucked the jest into oiled paper and did put it into the ark, whence, with much odor and more odium, it was brought forth by humorists some 4,000 years later. -St. Louis Republic.

Museum in a Prison.

Paris is to have yet another museum of the revolution. It is to be fitted up in the Conciergerie prison, and the two apartments devoted to it are to be the Salle des Girondins and the cell occupied by Marie Antionette. This cell is to be fitted and furnished exactly as it was when the unhappy queen awaited her fate in it, and a number of authentic relics are available. Among faem are included the queen's velvet-seated armchair, the lamp by the light of which she wrote her last letter, and the simple black wooden crucifix which she kissed on her departure to the place of execution. A credit of 1,000 francs has been voted for the purposes of the museum by the Paris municipal council.

Queer Use for Food.

The baked potato merchant is a comparatively modern institution in the London streets, the first potatocan having made its appearance, according to Henry Mayhew, about the year 1846, says the London Chronicle. Fifteen years later, when Mayhew. published his "London Labor and the London Poor," he estimated that there were 200 hot-potato venders in London, each selling on an average 300 halfpenny potatoes a day. "In cold weather," adds Mayhew, "the potatoes are frequently bought to warm the hands. Indeed, an eminent divine classed them, in a public speech, among the best of modern improvements, as forming an excellent medium for diffusing wormth into the system by being held in the gioved hand."