

WASHINGTON.—The interest in the personality of Grover Cleveland has naturally recalled many incidents of the days when his was the most forceful figure in American public life. Nothing which he ever did while president attracted more attention than the famous message he sent to congress in December, 1895, on the subject of Great Britain's controversy with Venezuela over the boundary between the latter country and British Guiana. In an interview with a New York Times correspondent Hilary A. Herbert, then Mr. Cleveland's secretary of the navy, now for the first time tells the true inwardness of that historic episode.

"The foundation for Mr. Cleveland's celebrated Venezuelan message," said Mr. Herbert, "was the note of Secretary of State Olney to Lord Salisbury, the British minister for foreign affairs. That note was written during the congressional recess, three months before congress convened, and before Mr. Cleveland's message was prepared. The Olney note was drafted after a consultation between the secretary of state and Mr. Cleveland during the summer at Great Gables on Buzzard's bay. Mr. Olney went there, as I have always understood, to confer with the president about the Venezuelan question. The note was submitted to every member of the cabinet. I remember distinctly I was in Washington that summer and a copy of the note came to me and Mr. Carlisle, the secretary of the treasury, and Mr. Lamont, the secretary of war, and we considered the policy together.

"I remember that as the note developed it almost took my breath away, and I was inclined to oppose its presentation, but before the reading was finished I realized its force and value and I heartily approved it. Between Mr. Carlisle, Mr. Lamont and myself some

GROVER CLEVELAND

in The SUNSET of his BUSY LIFE

the two countries which were so closely allied in blood and business. Of course, such measures as could be taken with the means in hand to be prepared in case of trouble were taken by the navy department, but there was neither time nor money nor opportunity to make any extensive preparations."

A REGULAR CHURCHGOER.

CLEVELAND'S father was a Presbyterian minister. When the son was elected president the Rev. Dr. Sunderland of the First Presbyterian church in Washington determined to make every effort to induce Mr. Cleveland to attend his church. Immediately after the inauguration Dr. Sunderland called upon the president, and the latter agreed to be enrolled among his parishioners. Cleveland was very regular in attendance. Always a large crowd assembled in front of the church to see him entering and leaving. The crowd was amazed to find that when the carriage stopped Cleveland would leave the vehicle and start for the door, while some one else would have to assist Mrs. Cleveland to alight. Then she would hasten after

Cleveland was made candidate for governor particularly because of his vigorous administration of the mayor's office. His most conspicuous act was the veto of an ordinance of the council granting a contract for cleaning the city to personal friends. Cleveland regarded this contract as against public policy, and, notwithstanding the pressure exercised by his closest advisers, he disapproved the measure, and by this act attracted the attention of the state. There is not the slightest doubt that what Mr. Cleveland did on that occasion had a greater bearing on his future political career than anything he had done.

A FRIEND OF THE PEN.

MR. CLEVELAND took a great interest in pension legislation. Observing a discriminating attitude, which was most important, both for the public treasury and from the point of view of those veterans of unblemished records, it was his custom to examine each act and all the facts connected with the claim of the beneficiary with the greatest care. If he found a flaw in the record he would put a veto on the back of the act in his own handwriting. Cleveland rarely dic-

Those who knew the charming relations which existed between the president and his wife were indignant at the publication. That it was absolutely false I quickly discovered for myself. Crossing the White House grounds, I saw Mrs. Cleveland bending over a bed of pansies in which she took special interest. She was a beautiful picture that morning. Her eyes were as clear as crystal, showing that she had slept well, and her skin without a blemish. The alleged brutality of Mr. Cleveland towards his wife was frequently described by the paper referred to, but never did I see any justification or foundation for the statements it published. Because the president and Mrs. Cleveland refused to exhibit their children to the gaping crowd reports were published that they were idiots and that one of them was blind. These reports were not only false, but so cruel as to arouse the hearty indignation of the friends of the president and his wife.

It has been often said, and with justice, that Mrs. Cleveland made an ideal "First Lady of the Land." Probably Mrs. Cleveland did what no other wife of a president attempted. At receptions she would take a step forward and shake hands with the caller, returning to her position before saluting the next in line. This was a task which only a woman of tremendous physical endurance could carry out successfully. At the New Year's receptions, for example, 9,000 persons greeted the president and his wife. So that Mrs. Cleveland took 9,000 steps and shook hands 9,000 times on each of these occasions.

AS FRIEND AND LAWYER.

CLEVELAND was more of a social man than a social one. He enjoyed few social relations in Buffalo, rarely visiting the houses of

STOESSEL IN PRISON

DEFENDER OF PORT ARTHUR NOW A BROKEN MAN.

Loss of Uniform His Greatest Humiliation — Watches from Window Winter Palace Where He Once Was an Honored Guest.

St. Petersburg.—An American newspaper correspondent recently was permitted to interview Gen. Stoessel, the defender of Port Arthur, in prison. Here is what he writes:

Two cold blue eyes examined me through a tiny wicket in the door, and a rough voice said:

"What do you want?"

"I wish to see Gen. Stoessel," I answered.

"Have you permission?" said the wicket.

"Here is my ticket," I said, producing a card on which it was stated that the commander of the fortress of St. Peter and St. Paul had the honor to accord me leave to see the "nobleman Stoessel."

The gate in the high stone wall was opened and a soldier appeared. He then showed the way to the reception room in one of the buildings in the court beyond.

We had not long to wait for Stoessel. Punctually at one o'clock he came into the room. He was dressed in a black frock coat, his voice was weak and he looked older and more wrinkled than when he was on trial a few months ago.

"Oh, yes, one can live here, and in sufficient comfort," he replied to our inquiries about his life, "but it is a vegetable existence. More than anything I feel the loss of my uniform.



First Photograph of Ex-President Cleveland and His Family Taken at Their Princeton Home. From stereograph, copyright, 1907, by Underwood and Underwood, N. Y.



MADAME STOESSEL

For 40 years I have worn the dress of an officer and now I am not allowed to put on the coat of a common soldier or to use a military cap."

"How does your excellence spend the day?" I asked.

"It begins very early for St. Petersburg," he replied, "at nine o'clock they bring the samovar and I take tea. The authorities do not provide bread and we have to provide that for ourselves. After a light breakfast I dress and go out for a walk in the little garden. At one o'clock I and the other officers imprisoned in the fortress dine together and after the meal I always find my wife waiting to see me. We have a right to receive friends only once a week, but the czar has accorded me the special privilege to see my dear wife every day. She remains until three o'clock and is not permitted to stay longer. When she is gone I stroll in the garden for a little and then I settle down to work. I am writing my memoirs."

"Perhaps you will allow me to see your room," I said. "I have special permission from the governor to do so."

"Certainly," replied Stoessel, "but I warn you it is not very imposing."

We crossed the courtyard together, entered another building and were soon in a vaulted apartment, furnished with great simplicity. There was a little bed, a square table, a cupboard and, behind a screen, a wash-stand and two comfortable armchairs. The lapping of the waters of the Neva could be heard on the stone walls, a monotonous, plaintive sound, half sad and half soothing. Through the barred windows a glorious view could be seen. Far across the broad expanse of the river stood out in the bright sunshine the winter palace.

"I have often been there to see the emperor; I have dined there and years ago danced at the court balls. I never expected to see it day by day from a prison window."

The heavy door was suddenly thrown open and a harsh voice said: "Your guest must go."

"Come and see me again," said my unhappy host, and I left him still gazing at the palace across the Neva.

suggestions were made as to amendments, perhaps slight, and my understanding is that these amendments were subsequently adopted. All the cabinet knew for three or four months before congress convened that this bombshell had been prepared. Nevertheless, it was kept absolutely secret. Nobody knew anything about it. As Mr. Cleveland himself said, he did not believe in doing public business on the sidewalk. The message that Mr. Cleveland afterwards wrote was prepared by himself just after he had returned from an outing. He had gone down the river on a fishing excursion, and when he got back the message was written, occupying him for two days. The message was read to the cabinet before it was sent in. I do not remember whether any suggestions were asked or offered, the message being a condensation of the very powerful Olney note.

"Did you anticipate that war would result from the message?"

"No, I did not think so, because I did not think there was enough in the controversy to cause a war between

her husband and catching up with him, the two would walk up the aisle together to their pew.

A BAD CAMPAIGNER.

CLEVELAND was known always as a bad campaigner. It was an extremely difficult thing to get him to take an active part in politics, even when he was running for office himself. When he was nominated for mayor of Buffalo, a quarter of a century ago, his political managers were in despair because of his indifference. The future president would promise to speak, but when the time came he would fail to appear, and then it was necessary to send carriages for him and drag him to the meeting. But his popularity was so great that he experienced little difficulty in polling a large vote for mayor. This campaign occurred during a time of political upheaval, when Buffalo was one of the doubtful cities of the state. From the close of the war up to the '90s no one could foretell just how the municipal elections in Buffalo would turn out.

tated. He found his ideas flowed better when his pen touched the paper. His handwriting was small, but clear. It was like copper-plate. Probably no president of recent times used a pen with as much frequency as Cleveland.

The painstaking character of Mr. Cleveland's work will be realized when it is known that he made a personal examination of every paper that came before him. This particularly was true of the records of courts-martial of officers of the army and navy. Whether the defendant was an ensign or an admiral, a lieutenant or a general, he could depend on Mr. Cleveland to give fair consideration to the report of his trial.

CLEVELAND'S HOME LIFE.

ON ONE occasion a New York paper which was especially virulent in its treatment of Mr. Cleveland printed a story to the effect that on the previous night he had gotten beastly drunk and had kicked his wife down stairs, bruising her terribly and blacking both her eyes.

At the same time he was most convivial with his male acquaintances. He was fond of playing cards in his youth and spent most of his time with the boys. As a lawyer he seldom practised in court, and, while never regarded as a close student, he had the facility of grasping a legal problem, which made him invaluable as counsel. His practice was confined almost altogether to his office, his associates making the arguments in court.

PRESIDENTIAL LOVEMAKING.

ACCORDING to a story in circulation at the time, Daniel S. Lamont was the John Alden of Grover Cleveland in connection with the latter's marriage. Lamont was sent by the president to Buffalo to ask Miss Folsom to marry his chief. There was no "Speak for yourself, John," as Miss Folsom accepted the offer. Miss Folsom, of course, knew her future husband very well, as she had been his ward and had come into frequent and intimate contact with him.