

UNCLE SAM'S CABINET.

TALK ABOUT SECRETARIES BAYARD AND FAIRCHILD.

Besides a Lot of Interesting Gossip About the Department of State and the Department of the Treasury and the Way They Are Conducted.

(Special Correspondence.)

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10.—Now that the whole country is interesting itself in the job of cabinet making which Gen. Harrison has on his hands, it may be profitable to open the doors of Uncle Sam's cabinet and see what he keeps therein. Our first peep is at the secretary of state, "the premier." Following the European precedent, our minister of foreign affairs is the ranking cabinet officer. In line with all the old traditions was the presidential law passed in 1886 making the secretary of state the next in line of succession after the vice president. After the secretary of state come in order the secretary of the treasury, the secretary of war, the attorney general, the postmaster general, the secretary of the navy, the secretary of the interior. Probably the state department has not so much real importance politically, or in relation to the affairs of the people as the treasury, or even the interior. Unless important foreign complications arise, its operations are largely routine and perfunctory. It is but rarely called upon to consider the momentous and delicate questions so common in the diplomacy of the nations of Europe, where foreign ministers and their assistants are more like huge corps of detectives organized to keep zealous watch of each other. Nor does custom make of our secretary of state a political leader of the administration. Indeed, the tendency is in the other direction. He has nothing directly to do with domestic or financial questions. Having no home patronage to bestow, he is brought but little into relationship with the active men of his party. His mind naturally drifts toward the foreign and away from the local field. It is becoming, too, a part of the cabinet etiquette for the secretary of state to devote his attention exclusively to his own department, steadfastly refusing to meddle with the affairs of other ministers. When in Garfield's cabinet Mr. Blaine made several bitter enemies by declining to interfere with certain matters in departments other than his own. A "premier" may be the president's chosen chief adviser on the general lines of his administration, as Blaine was Garfield's adviser, but this depends upon the man rather than upon the office, for before his death Mr. Manning, the secretary of the treasury, was President Cleveland's chief adviser, as Mr. Whitney, the secretary of the navy, has been since. Few men have made great reputations as secretary of state. Opportunities for anything beyond the merest routine come but rarely. And yet there is always before "the premier" the possibility of being called suddenly to face the gravest questions, involving the peace and prosperity and perhaps the very existence of the nation.

But for the privilege adhering to its name, the possibilities of foreign complications of first importance, and the very high social rank belonging to it, the office of secretary of state would not be highly prized by men of ambition. There is no perfect analogy for our secretary of state in the governments of Europe. He is not a premier like Gladstone, nor is he simply a foreign minister. Besides being charged with all correspondence with the public ministers and consuls, and with the representatives of foreign powers accredited to the United States, and with all negotiations of whatever character relating to the foreign affairs, he is also the medium of correspondence between the president and the governors of states, has custody of the great seal, publishes the laws and resolutions of congress, etc. This is a strange admixture of duties, and yet the department is not devoid of business of real national importance that in the absence of foreign complications the first post in the cabinet is, so far as the work of the office is concerned, little better than a clerkship.

Socially the secretary of state is of the highest importance. Fifteen minutes after the New Year's reception at the White House had begun, Secretary Bayard was seen with a tired, worried face, hurrying his daughters to their carriage. No wonder the secretary's countenance bore marks of anxiety, for one of the most perplexing duties which the first cabinet minister has to perform is to give a breakfast to the diplomatic corps immediately after their call at the White House New Year's morning. The secretary of state has charge of the arrangement of all state occasions, not social, in which the president



SECRETARY BAYARD.

is principal, and is thus a sort of foreign minister, executive clerk and grand chamberlain rolled into one. He greets, in the name of the president, a member of a royal family or ruler of a foreign state visiting the capital. He must be present during the visitor's call on the president and attend the president in returning the visit. He must arrange the audiences accorded diplomatic ministers, and during every social season must entertain the members of the foreign legations and their ladies at a series of dinners.

The secretary of state occupies beautiful rooms in the main floor of the great state, war and navy building. From his windows may be had a charming view of the Potomac, Washington monument, the Virginia heights, and Arlington house with its acres of gravestones glistening in the sun. Secretary Bayard works from 10 to 5 o'clock at a big desk which he does not like to leave unoccupied. Scattered about in pleasing confusion are many letters and manuscripts. Ranged round the room are portraits in steel of all the presidents of the United States. Over Secretary Bayard's desk hangs a large and beautiful chandelier

filled with incandescent electric lamps, from which the secretary obtains a flood of light simply by touching a button. Unlike the other cabinet officers Secretary Bayard has his private secretary in the room occupied by himself. A fact which everybody does not know is that changes of staff are rarely or never made for political reasons in the state department. Adjoining the secretary's room is the diplomatic room, a beautiful apartment 80 feet long by 25 feet wide. Its walls are hung with portraits of former secretaries of state, to which has been added, for reasons which nobody appears to know, a portrait of Lord Ashburton. Here is a big table, known as "the treaty table," on which several important international agreements have been signed. In this room the secretary receives representatives of foreign governments with much ceremony and with more French than English on the tongues of the callers. Secretary Bayard can speak French, but he doesn't. Uncle Sam would be seriously offended if his foreign secretary should indulge in French or any other un-American language in his official intercourse with the representatives of other governments.

Should the president of the United States, the vice president and the secretary of state die, be removed or suffer disability, the secretary of the treasury would become president. In the opinion of many judges, the secretaryship of the treasury is really the third greatest office in the country, coming after the presidency and the speakership of the house. It is, indeed, a great post, with a wonderful diversity of responsibilities, and with a staff of subordinates and employes numbering ten or twelve thousand persons. Great in patronage, it is still greater in its relationship to, and influence upon, the political questions of the times. Party issues in this country are of late almost entirely on financial



SECRETARY FAIRCHILD.

cial matters, and the secretary of the treasury is thus brought into the forefront of the battle. Said an observing subordinate of the present secretary:

"I am an ambitious man, but I do not want to be secretary of the treasury. He is constantly in the rays of a calcium light, as it were. The slightest mistake or error of judgment on his part is caught up by the opposition and used against his party. In this office the routine work is something appalling. Secretary after secretary has tried to get rid of it, but the law puts so much work on the secretary personally, so many warrants and documents must be signed with his own hand, that the post is one of great drudgery. Senator Sherman says he never worked so hard as while he was secretary of the treasury, and Secretary Folger fairly killed himself. Mr. Folger wouldn't allow a piece of paper to go through the office without his seeing it, and nobody can stand up under such work. Mr. Manning worked too hard, but his trouble was largely with the office seekers. You know the secretary personally makes the appointments, and when the administration changes from one party to the other the office hunters become such a burden on the treasury that it is a wonder to me that any secretary can ever live through it. Mr. Manning learned a great many tricks about taking care of these people. When he first came here he admitted people to see him one by one, but that used to keep him till 7 or 8 o'clock in the evening, and then he adopted a new plan. After finishing his morning mail he would tell us to open the doors and let everybody in at once. I've seen him receive 100 people, including a dozen women, at one time, and every last one of them after an office. I have no doubt Mr. Manning's death was hastened by the hard work which he did here. Secretary Fairchild works hard, too. In fact, the office demands an awful lot of drudgery, and I am sorry for the man that takes it under Gen. Harrison. Secretary Fairchild does the work easier than any secretary I ever saw, and I have been here thirty years. Nothing worries him. He decides matters almost like a flash of lightning. He is not afraid to take responsibility. The way in which he took hold of business and rattled it off startled all the old heads. And then he is so calm and imperturbable. Nothing could excite him. I believe if somebody were to rush in here and say the capital had fallen down or the president was dead his pulse would not quicken the least bit."

The rooms now occupied by Secretary Fairchild have been used by all secretaries of the treasury for fifty years. Facing the secretary's desk is a portrait of Alexander Hamilton, and the portraits of former secretaries are scattered about. On the desk all is orderliness. At one corner lie half a dozen little blinks. To these the secretary gives hours of study every day. Probably there are no other little pieces of paper in all the world which represent so much bookkeeping, the clerical work of so many people, as these. Let us copy a part of one:

DAILY STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES. Receipts for the month. To date, from customs \$10,061,572.18. This day 634,017.00. To date, internal revenue 6,961,204.23. This day 441,648.19. Etc., etc. Expenditures for the month. War department, to date \$1,783,548.64. This day 174,538.39. Indians, to date 461,562.18. This day 48,417.08. Etc., etc.

There are a dozen varieties of these little blinks—the pulse beats of the national finances. Receipts and expenditures are set out by departments of the government by years, months, weeks, days, bond reports, currency reports, silver dollar reports, etc. The smallest blank in the lot gives the secretary most trouble. It reads: "Report of United States treasurer showing excess of available assets over the demand liabilities, \$69,165,276.84." That is all, but it is enough. In devising ways and means of checking the tendency of this surplus to swell up and grow fat the secretary spends many anxious days and sleepless nights. WALTER WELLMAN.

FOREIGNERS IN CHINA.

HOW THEY ARE RECEIVED BY NATIVES OF THE MIDDLE KINGDOM.

Officials and Literary Classes Know Too Much About Them to Love Them—The Ignorant Masses and Their Credulity. Some Incidents of Travel.

(Special Correspondence.)

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 4.—In the United States the isolated Celestial has a hard road to travel. He is insulted and stared at by the people generally. Small boys torment him, and police and police judges arrest and fine him for slightest pretext. These facts are familiar to all. But when I found myself in the home of the Chinese, and awakened to the fact that I was looked upon as an alien, and that the jeers of the rabble and the gaze of the curious were directed toward me, I appreciated the feelings of poor John in my own land.

The servant and mechanic classes in the open treaty ports are disposed to welcome Europeans, because they have money and spend it freely. The so-called literary classes and officials look with distrust and strong aversion upon their unwelcome guests. This is not all due to the fact that they do not have ready access to the purse of foreigners, but rather to the fact that they are better informed, and can better interpret the trend of such intruders. These classes are informed of the history of Chinese contact with China. They know how much gold, blood and humiliation their presence has cost the Chinese people. They understand the fate of India. They appreciate how sharply the British appetite is whetted for the rich agricultural and mineral resources of China. They have learned from sad experience, how ready John Bull is to seize upon the slightest pretext to extort money and demand territorial concessions. The entire history of the opium traffic in China, and the wars and indemnities growing out of the earnest efforts of the imperial government to suppress that traffic, stand as a monumental disgrace to Great Britain.

The real secret of the interference of the "allied armies" of the French and British in the Tai-Ping rebellion was not that they saw any bad results to the Chinese contact with China. They saw that Great Britain learned the rebels were intending to put an end to the opium traffic. It is not generally known that every open port in China is an outgrowth of these opium wars. Every such door was opened at the mouth of British cannon, and every chest of opium entering China comes in under cover of British bayonets and against the Chinese will. Hence it is, in proportion as the people are informed of the political significance of the presence of foreigners, in the same ratio do they disapprove of their being admitted. The viceroy of Li Hung Chang is the best informed and most intelligent citizen of the Middle Kingdom today. He is pronounced by many as liberal and friendly to European ideas and innovations. It is evident to my mind that Li does not welcome foreigners, but fears them more intelligently than others, and that alone is the secret of his attitude toward railroads and telegraphs. In his "memorials" to the throne on these subjects he has always based his arguments upon military expediency. He recognizes the defenseless condition of his country against the designs of foreigners, and he foresees with a clear vision that the only hope for the Chinese is to retain to the national existence for any length of time lies in her ability to defend her interest with arms. The control of China on one pretext or another is the inevitable end whither European encroachments are tending, just as in India and Australia, and the American continent, too, for that matter. The white race aspires to rule the earth, and, judging from the present outlook, it is only a question of time when that will be the case. It is not a wonder, therefore, that the better informed Mongolians, who have given the matter thought, should feel hostile toward all foreigners.

Travelers in China have but little, if any, contact with the better classes of the natives, and for the above reasons. Hence, in what I shall say of the crude ideas and foolish beliefs of the people regarding foreigners, it must be remembered that I refer only to the common and ignorant masses. The higher classes utterly ignore our presence and do not hesitate to show their contempt for us. The interior cities and farming districts know less about us, and hence look upon us more with curiosity than with fear or hatred.

There are some queer traditions and beliefs regarding the ways of the white race which has led to quite serious complications and results. One of these is the oft-asserted statement that foreigners use the contents of the human eye in compounding their medicines. Women have held this over their children as a menace to enforce discipline. It is a common thing to hear parents tell their children that unless they keep quiet and do as bidden, they will be given to the "foreign devils." This notion is that the average youngster is in constant fear of his eyes when foreigners are around. They fully expect to be pounced upon and have their eyes plucked out for medicinal use. I knew of one instance where a boy had wandered from his home and lost his way. The rumor spread and soon a great mob gathered, believing that the boy had been kidnapped by a couple of missionaries, who had a chapel in the city. The chapel was attacked by a thousand men bent on rescuing that boy, and the building was razed, not one stone being left upon another.

The infuriated people were dispersed only when the native magistrate, being appealed to by the missionaries for protection, sent a regiment of soldiers to restore order. The local merchants were compelled to rebuild the chapel, which they did. But the incident shows one source of danger to tourists in that country. One has no means of knowing when some absurd rumor will set a mob of angry men upon him. As we pass through the country, we are greeted on every hand by women and boys shouting at us "Yang Kivei tse" and "Hung Pae Kivei tse." These greetings, being translated, mean "foreign devil" and "red haired devil." The people generally are great cowards. They will not attack a foreigner upon an equal footing. Two of my friends visited a city some thirty miles inland from the Yang-tze river. News of their presence spread rapidly, and just before nightfall a mob of no less than 2,000 men attacked the two unarmed Americans. They sought refuge in a magistrate's office. The people threatened to demolish the yamen (office)

if the "foreign devils" were sheltered. The magistrate promised my friends to send them to their boat under escort. This was only an excuse to get rid of their presence. When the men got into the street they found themselves surrounded by a howling mob of thousands, all clamoring for their lives. They discovered their escort in the act of preparing to leave them to their fate. Each took him by an arm and told the frightened man that for every blow they received they would give him two blows. Thus they gained time, and reached the outskirts of the city. At this juncture night came on, and seeing an open field they broke away, having been almost entirely denuded of clothing by the crowd. They ran but a short distance, then fell over an embankment into a river. Somewhere upon this river was their boat, but where they could not tell. The people heard them splash in the water, and raised the shout that the "devils were drowned." The fugitives swam the stream and wandered at random down its course. The boatmen in their employ, though natives, were loyal to them. They had followed every movement, and now that the Americans were across the river from the enemy, the boatmen set their boat adrift in the current and noiselessly dropped below the city. Sending one of the crew to overtake the naked and half dead fugitives they were safely stored in the boat, and traveled thirty miles without food, sleep or clothing. One of them has since died from disease contracted that night. They made complaint to the United States minister at Peking and he demanded indemnity. The matter was finally settled by the magistrate who refused them protection being required to make good their loss in the way of clothing. They got \$100 each for their bitter experience.

It was told of the above instance soon after my arrival in the interior of China, and I immediately provided myself with a seven chambered 44-caliber revolver and a breech loading shotgun and a Henry rifle. I never went on a boat excursion without these guns, loaded "for bear," and I never went on foot or chair journeys without either the revolver or the shotgun, or both. I never expected to be forced to use these arms. The knowledge of the natives that I had them rendered their use unnecessary. The cowards would never attack an armed foreigner in the open day, and when I slept at night I either kept a watch upon the deck of the yacht or depended upon my dog (an Irish setter which was my constant companion) to give notice by barking of the approach of another boat. The people are not armed, fortunately, and they have a wholesome fear of foreign arms and marksmanship.

One of my traveling companions on numerous inland excursions was an American who spoke the Chinese language fluently. He stood over six feet high and wore a full grown, reddish beard which came down upon his breast, giving him a striking appearance. This gentleman related a strange adventure he had with an ignorant priest who had never seen a foreigner. The American in one of his excursions inland came upon a Buddhist temple in an unfrequented place. When the resident priest saw him a piteous, pleading look caused a smile to come over the American's face. This the priest interpreted to signify approval, and he fell full length upon the ground, and, seizing my hand with his legs, he said, "I am ready, I am ready."

"Ready for what?" asked the amused American. "Ready to go with you; ready to go home. I have waited long for your coming, oh, Shang tai!"

At this declaration, my friend's laugh, gave place to apprehension. The man had mistaken him for God, and now he insisted that he would, like not let him go. Clinging to his legs with desperation, my friend could not convince the old priest that he was only a man, as himself; and he finally had to confess that he was God and told the poor ignorant worshiper at his feet, that he had come now to see that all was well, and that he would soon come again and take him to his Nirvana. With this assurance the man let him go, but not until he had literally "waded" at his feet. My friend said he never again wished to be taken for the deity.

This man and myself were one day walking through a Chinese city and we came upon a street show. A native had a trained monkey performing on a trapeze. We laughed aloud at some bright caper of the monkey. The beast detected a sound strange to him, and looking in our direction caught sight of our heads above the crowd. Seeing the huge red beard of my companion the poor monkey was worse frightened than the old priest had been. The monkey fled to the top of his perch, his teeth chattered and he screamed and trembled. The incident broke up the show, and the man actually followed us and claimed damages for having ended his performance.

I was surprised to see with what readiness the people believe the most absurd things and yet discredit the most palpable facts. One day told the crew of our boat, as we lazily drifted with the current, about the shape of the earth, as illustrated by a small globe. They laughed in my face and hooted the idea as absurd. I then asked them if the Chinese could take their teeth out of their mouth and put them back again with one hand and my head with the other and asked if I should lift my head off for their amusement. They all begged me not to do so. But they never for a moment doubted but that I could. They knew nothing of dentistry or false teeth, and hence there could be no greater mystery to them than for a man to lift his teeth out and insert them again. B. N. TON.

The greatest national debt among the nations of the globe is borne by France. It is about \$6,250,000,000. Russia comes next with \$3,000,000,000; then England with \$2,500,000,000; Austro-Hungary with \$2,485,000,000; Italy with \$2,225,000,000; Spain with \$1,207,500,000; and Prussia with \$1,000,000,000.

There is a dog employed in the postal service in the office at Allentown. The mail bags are laid on the pavement and the dog sits on them till the proper person takes them away. No one else dares to touch the bags while in the dog's custody.

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