CAPITAL CITY COURIER, SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 1889.

WASHINGTON LETTER. **HEYMAN & DEICHES**, Farnam St., New Paxton Block, MANNERS AND METHODS OF THE

MODERN OFFICE SEEKER.

How Senators and Members Are Compelled to Protect Themselves-The Blue Places to Seek for Small Offices? (Sciential Comparison denses 1

WASHINGTON, March 14 .- The office seeker now has the floor. He has taken ossession of the town. He gets up early in the morning and stays out late at night. He is to be found everywhere, anywhere. There is no escaping him. He is most numerous in the lobbies of the hotels. Here are his lairs, where he lays in wait for senators, representatives, men of influence. He carries in his pockets a big bunch of letters of recommendation, and to these he is continually seeking additions. Names of great men are what he wants, but a small nan ... is better than no name at all. He will wait all day to secure the signature of a senator, but miss no opportunities meanwhile to get the autographs of representatives, ex-representatives, small fry politicians, men of little or no influence with the president or anybody else. It is refreshing to see a lot of office seekers swapping influence -signing each other's papers. Proceed-ing on the general though not infallible principle that if one name is good a hundred names must be better, they paste sheet after sheet to their indorsements and industriously fill them out. In the lobby of the Ebbitt house the other night a strange discovery was made. An In-diana nian found he had signed the indorsement of a friend who was seeking the identical office he himself wanted, and the friend had in turn signed his papers. This was the result of a misunderstanding, and it is a wonder more such mistakes do not occur, considering the haste with which these recommendations are signed.

Nobody pretends that it is dishonorable to seek public office. Nor does anybody hereabouts hold to the fine old sentiment that the office should seek the man. But there are good and proper ways in which to seek places, and bad and ridiculous ways. The man who comes down to Washington and makes a nuisance of himself dogging the footsteps of persons of prominence, sitting on their doorsteps, as it were, following them to church and intruding upon the privacy of their families, is not pursuing the proper way. Don't think this an ex-aggeration. Senator Cullom, of Illinois, boards in the Arlington hotel. He cannot go from his room to the dining room, nor from the dining room to the hotel office, without being stopped two or three times by place hunters. Senator Spooner lives away up on Capitol Hill, in the building which was formerly the Capitol prison, and in which congress itself met just after the British burned the Capitol. One recent morning the senator had five office seeking callers before breakfast. Senator Hiscock, of New York, says he was approached by a place hunt-er in the vestibule of his church last Sunday.

At the senate chamber, where the senery day at

Probably any one of them can make two or three thousand dollars a year at home, and make it easily. Can you understand why he should come here and run his legs off after some little office which will afford him a bare living? I can't, and the best advice I can give, or anybody can give the man who thinks of joining the scramble is—don't. As long as you can make an honest living at your profession, business or trade, stick to it. If you have no profession, no business or trade, learn or acquire one. If you take office let it be as a last resort, like going to the poor house.

The evolution of office seeking is a curious study. Two weeks ago something like modesty was discernible. The aspirant had a nice and unctuous way of saying: "I have come down to see the inauguration. I am not a candidate for anything. Some of my friends think I ought to take something under this administration, and to please them I don't know but I might be willing." All this has disappeared. Modesty as a characteristic has played out. Now the candidate has no hesitation in saying he is here for something, and that he is working

his hardest to get it. It is almost pathetic to make the rounds of the departments these days. Step into the ante-rooms of the cabinet ministers, particularly the interior, postoffice and treasury, and take a look at the crowds of men there assembled, waiting for a chance at the car of the chiefs. They are a discontented, eager looking lot, respectable enough, but with the strain of anxiety showing in their faces, in their eyes, in the cat like manner in which they watch each other, and the solemn, hardened man who stands guard at the door. The pity of it is so many of these candidates are old men. Here a former United States senator has sat for an hour. All he wants is a clerical place worth \$2,500 a year. There sits a man who once had a law practice which earned him \$20,000 per annum. He wants a second class postoflice in a western state. Great numbers of office holders under former Republican administrations are here trying to get their old places again. and serving to exemplify the axiom, "Once an office holder always an office seeker."

There are plenty of "guides to Wash-ington" for the use of sight seers, but the most popular manual just now is the "guide to office getting." It is a very pretty little book, and was admirably written by a Washington newspaper man. In passing it may be remarked that newspaper men do not escape the importunities of the ambitious. They are appealed to for favorable mention in their dispatches, and sometimes are asked to indulge in downright lying. For instance, a certain aspirant for a place in the department of the interior asked the representatives of the papers from his state to send out a report that his name had been virtually decided on by the president and secretary. He knew his selection had not been decided on. but he explained that he wanted such an impression to go out in order to discourage two or three possible rivals and also to encourage his friends, who were keeping him supplied with funds for his expenses. It is needless to add that the newspaper correspondents declined to

grant the gentleman's request.

Engaged on the Spot. Dry Goxis Merchant-You have called in response to our advertisement as a floor walker! Well, sir, what are your qualifica-

tions for the position / Applicant—I am the father of three pairs of twina —Boston Courier. A Friendly Caution.



Mr. Weepleigh (who has come around the orner unexpectedly)-Good moring, Uncle

Philip! Uncle Philip-Good mornin', squire; good mornin', sah! I war jist a comin' up to yo' house fer ter warn yer dat dey's a new fambly ob coons moved in ober on d'hill, an' dey's li'ble ter be fond ob chick'ns. How's yo Leghorns a gittin' long, sah !-- Judge,

Their Mother.

My boy sat looking straight into the coals, From his stool at my feet one day, And the firelight burnished the curly head And painted the cheeks with a dash of red, And brightened his very eyes, as he said, In a most confidential way

Mamma, I think, when I'm a grown-up man, I shall have just two little boys." I smiled, he was six ! but he did not see, And I said: "Yes, how nice that will be! But if one were a girl, it seems to me, It would add to your household joys."

"Well, yes," reflectively, "that would be nice, And I'll tell you just what I'll do; I'll name one Robbie, for me, you know." Then the bright eyes shone with a deeper glow, "And there's just the two of us now, and so I'll name the girl, Annie, for you."

"But how would their mother like that?" I asked. "Do you think that she would agree For us both to have names while she had none? With the mystified, puzzled look of one Wholly befogged, said my logical son, "Their mother! Why, who is she?"

-Good Housekeeping. Not So Prosperous, After All.

At a religious convention held in a western own each minister was required to give an account of the condition of his charge, and if prospering receive congratulation, or, if not, to receive advice and encouragement, with perhaps aid.

In his turn arose a very deliberate speaker and reported that his congregation "was lookin' up." Before he could add another remark the next delegate in order was called for his report, and so on until all were heard from. Then came the chairman's remarks to each delegate. When he came to the aforesaid deliberate speaker he said he must congratulate his brother from the far west upon his being able to report that his congregation was "looking up," whereupon the deliberate speaker arose and said that he should probably have added that, as they were "flat on their backs, it was the only way they could look."-Philadelphia Press.

Practical Philosophy.

Al.-Say, why are you reways treating that Miss La Fattee to ice cream in winter? Ed.-Because cold contracts, you know



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fool them by going out the side doors and by using the private stairways to which none but senators have access. Another cute trick of the senators is to pass most of their time in the cloak room, and thence the doorkeepers are forbidden to take cards. That is a senatorial sanctorum which no outsider dare invade. It is no exaggeration to say that a sort of hide and seek game is going on between the hungry hordes and the patronage purveyors.

One of the Washington papers, know-ing from experience that the town would be full of place hunters, printed on inauguration day a list of the principal places in the government. That edition is still selling rapidly. On the news stands in the hotels are displayed for sale little "blue books," also containing incomplete lists of offices. Half the men one sees about the hotels have these little books in their pockets. They have been studying them. The official "blue book" is a large affair in two volumes, each as big as Webster's dictionary. I was in the rooms of Congressman Cannon, of Illinois, last night, and I asked him if he had a copy of the blue book. "I have one," he replied, "but I dassent keep it here in my rooms. My friends would spend all their time here looking it over and asking me questions." Representative Laidlaw, of New York, sent a blue book to a constituent of his two or three weeks ago, and he says now he'd

give a thousand dollars if he hadn't done it. There seems to be a general craze in the country to go abroad. Public men say they never saw anything like it. The desire to travel at the government's expense appears to be contagious. Senator Farwell showed me a stack of applications two feet high, and he said about half of them were for consulates. In a ma-

jority of cases the applicants didn't know what consulates they wanted; all they were certain of was that they wanted consulates. When the office seeker first reaches

Washington he registers at a first class hotel. Four or five dollars a day is a mere bagatelle to a man who expects to get a three or four thousand dollar position. In a week or two he takes a cheap room on the top floor, and in another

Atchison, Leavenworth, St. Joseph, Kansas City, St. Louis and all points South, East and West. week or two he removes to a cheap boarding house. In the end he may be The direct line to Ft. Scott, Parsons, Wichita, Hutchinson and all principal compelled to borrow money to pay his expenses home.

Step into the Ebbitt house or Willard's. The only road to the Great Hot Springs Arkansas. PULLMAN SLEEPERS AND or any of the other hotels, and you will see a hundred place seekers. A vigor-ous, intelligent, seemingly forceful and prosperous lot of men they are. This one FREE RECLINING CHAIR CARS an all erchant, that one a banker, an-Gen'l Agent. other a lawyer, and a fourth a farmer.

According to "The Office Seekers' noon, a crowd of persons willing to serve Guide," an applicant should obtain lettheir country is always assembled. They ters of recommendation from the leadstand out in the lobby or prevail upon the doorkeepers to let them into the ing citizens of his neighborhood, without regard to their political affiliations marble room. But the sly old senators He should "endeavor to get a separate antograph letter from each indorser, couched in the writer's own language. The appointing officers at Washington are never much impressed by a circular letter of recommendation, apparently drawn up by the applicant or a friend. and passed around for signature; and the frequent practice of several persons writing and signing the phrase, 'I concur,' beneath a preceding recommendation should be avoided."

Next, the would be public servant is informed that after securing the indorsement of the senators from his state and the representative from his district, he must "thenceforward, for a definite time (say a short month), devote his whole surplus of time and energy to keeping his personal and political friends at work upon his case, writing or speaking to anybody and everybody likely to be of any service, and always acting upon the theory that everybody, no matter how much interested, apparently, in his case, forgets all about it as soon as he is out of sight or hearing." Senators and other persons of consequence say they think all the aspirants for office have read these fragments of advice in the guide, and that they are determined to follow them out to the very letter.

It is also refreshing to read in the

guide that if no progress be made after a few weeks of this sort of effort the applicant should "desist long enough to enable his friends and backers to get ever fatigue and doubtfulness, and then begin afresh.'

One more quotation from the guide will show why senators and representatives dread this period of discontent, this era in which patience becomes exhausted and hair turns gray. "The applicant should never feel sure of appointment till appointed," says the handboob, "nor should he ever fear that he is saying or doing too much for himself, or that others are doing or saying too much for him, or that any help he can get, of any kind, from any quarter, will be useless."

There is no more office hunting now than there was four years ago. The itch for office is no more prevalent in one party than in another.

WALTER WELLMAN.

Are You Going to Build a Lawn? There are about 6,000 species of grasses growing here and there all over the planet we inhabit-6,000 species, and yet a man can spend two summers and \$300 on a half acro lawn and then have nothing to show for it but the biggest, healthiest, coarsest crop of plantain that ever spread itself all over the earth like a green bay tree and hollered for more room. This also is vanity.-Burdette.

and I thought by applying it inside when the weather was applying it outside, I might, perhaps, get her reduced so as to put my arm around her.-Detroit Free Press.





Mabel (passing the Whippersnapper club) -Mamma, dear, what do all those men always sit at that window for, 1 wonder! Mrs. N .- They sit in that window, pet, in

order to let all of us see that they have that

window to sit in.-Life. Mr. Vanderbilt Got In. A good story is told about one of the Maine Central engineers. Last summer, when the Vanderbilt car was at Bar Harbor, the manager of the Maine Central sent an engine down there to take the car to Portland. The run was made in very quick time, and at Brunswick the train stopped to take on water. While there Mr. Vanderbilt got out and said to the engineer that he didn't want him to drive so fast. The engineer, the veteran Simpson, looked at him a quarter of a minute, and then said: "I am running this train under orders from Payson Tucker to be in Portland at 1:07. If you want to stop here all right. If you want to go to Portland get

in." He got in.-Bangor Commercial. **Delicate Treatment of Constituents.** The other day a western congressman came into the senate restaurant with two constituents, good men, but a little rustic in appearance and manners and unused to conventionalities and points of etiquette that are unknown in Wayback. The restaurant was full of ladies and gentlemen. As the congressman scated himself he of course removed his hat, A moment or two later he noticed that his untutored friends had not removed their hats. He hastily put his own hat back on his head and wore it during the meal. Chesterfield could not nave done anything finer than that,--Washington Post.

A Smart Boy.

"You see, my boy, that even the noble lo-"You see, my boy, that even the noble lo-comotive, the rugged iron horse, seldom lasts over thirty years, from being a constant smoker," said a wise father to his tempted son. "Yes, dad," replied the boy, "but it don't seem to work that way with some of the noble chimneys we have read of that have sto-id it over three hundred years." Readiness of reply in young people is always untertaining. -Boston Globe.

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