THE VICE PRESIDENCY.

MR. MORTON PROPOSES TO FILL THE OFFICE ACCEPTABLY.

It is Not Important 'Politically, but It May Be Made of Social Consequence. Some Incidents at the New Year's Receptions Recorded.

[Special Correspondence.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9 .- Again the people of the capital city and of the country have a vice president. They were reminded of that on New Year's day, when for the first time in sixteen years the wife of the vice president stood in the line of ladies at the president's right hand on the occasion of the annual reception at the White House, and for the first time in many years the vice president and his wife gave a grand reception at their own residence. The people are likely to be often reminded of the existence of the vice president and his wife, for one easily perceives a determination. a very praiseworthy one, on the part of Mr. and Mrs. Morton to make all that can be made of their office and station.

A singular fatality has attended the office of vice president for a long time. Mrs. Schuyler Colfax was the last vice president's wife who was able to take to have it referred to the committee on her proper place in the social world. She was a lady much admired here, and chairman. The echo in the chair sings from the day of her debut in Washington society, New Year's, 1869, till her fairs." Aside from simple duties like husband's retirement from office, she bore a prominent part. The next three vice presidenta-Henry Wilson, William A. Wheeler and Chester A. Arthurwere widowers. Vice President Hendricks did not live long enough to enable his family to contribute much to the president pro tempore of the senate is a social activity of the capital. Mrs. Morton comes, therefore, to fill an aching constitutional president. He can step void. She brings great wealth, abun- down from the chair and speak, he can dant culture, long experience and rare sit in the chair and vote, and as the rectact to her task of taking the social leadership of the new administration which Secretary Whitney's wife bore in the last lation.

On going from the White House to the Morton mansion on New Year's day I could not help contrasting the two buildings, to the former's disadvantage. It is a fact that a private house in Washington seems better adapted to social and ran the country nearly six months withceremonial events than the president's house, in which the whole public should take so much pride. There may be a little more room in the White House than in the Morton mansion, but the latter excels in beauty and conveniences. At the White House an amusing incident occurred just as the annual reception was at its height. The diplomatic corps | taining its growth. He must bow to the was passing along in a brilliant line of gold, silver and gay colored trappings and uniforms, greeting the president and the ladies of his court, when some one in the blue parlor, where were congregated the members of the cabinet and the beay'y and fashion of the city, complained of the temperature.

And what do you suppose then happened? Postmaster General Wanamaker, who is very zealous about proper ventilation of rooms, called one of the servants of the house, the veteran Pendell, and Pendell presently appeared bearing in fittingness, from the fact that it was a his hands a long pole with a hook on one

cal factor or from its influence upon leg-islation. It is an office of great possibilities and very small power. The only authority the vice president can claim is that of making the distinguished members of the American house of lords behave themselves with becoming dignity

and respect for the rules while on the floor of the senate. He can call a senator to order, and he can rap on the oak desk with his gavel, and he can sign bills, and that is about all he can do.

He has not the power to appoint the committees of the senate, as the speaker of the house appoints the committees in that body. If he had this power, the vice presidency would be actually instead of nominally the second office in the government. The only appointments the vice president can make are those of senate telegraph operator and his own private secretary. That is all, and for many years it has not been the custom for the president to consult the vice president concerning other matters of patronage, except, perhaps, in the latter's own state. The vice president has not as much

actual power as one of the senators over whose deliberations he presides. He can neither speak nor vote, but must sit all the day long, merely echoing the requests and formal references of business

offered by the men of real power in that body, the senators themselves. Senator Sherman presents a resolution and asks foreign affairs, of which he is himself out, "To the committee on foreign afthese the vice president has to recognize "the senator from Massachusetts," or "the senator from Kansas," or whatever the state may be, when a senator claims the floor, and devote the remainder of his time to an effort to keep awake. A veritable king in power compared to the ognized leader of his party in the senate he has tremendous influence upon legis-

It is pretty certain that the framers of the constitution did not intend making this office one of such little importance. They did not foresee that it was to become a sort of fifth wheel in the governmental machine. The first president out a cabinet officer, and during that time frequently called upon the vice president for advice and assistance. The earlier vice presidents were all treated with more consideration than is now accorded the occupants of that office.

Mr. Morton will not be able to change We system which has been so long in obinevitable. I happen to know that Mr. Morton, who is by no means a brilliant, but an earnest and conservative, man, has for months been studying with a good deal of application and zeal to prepare himself for the discharge of his duties as presiding officer of the senate. Inasmuch as that task is imposed upon

him by the constitution, it is his desire to perform it as well as possible. It is in the social field that the vice president will be compelled to seek his greatest triumphs, and in this there is a peculiar vice president who made the social laws end-such a pole as is used in some old which to this day govern at the national

ble touch, Mrs. Morton will do well. She is a woman of fine manners and tact. Though speaking with a slight accent, acquired abroad, she is without affectation, simple, earnest and not a subscriber to the theory that polite society is hypocrisy refined. When Mr. and Mrs. Morton were going to Chicago a few weeks ago to be present at the opening of the great Auditorium, there was some question as to who should entertain them. The family of Mr. Ferd Peck, who had built the Auditorium, were to entertain the president and Mrs. Harrison, but for some reason, which at first appeared rather mysterious, they did not appear to wish to have the Mortons also. Finally the reason became apparent. Mrs. Peck, herself an accomplished woman of society, was actually afraid of Mrs. Morton, upon whom she looked as "a grand dame," a leader of society in Paris and New York, who would be likely to overawe and overshadow a simple Chicago woman, But Mrs. Peck did entertain Mrs. Morton, and the two became fast friends

"If I had known how simple and lovable she was," Mrs. Peck afterward confessed, "I should have been as eager to have her with me as I was, in fact, timid about it." A cabinet minister said to me the other day: "Mrs. Morton is a woman of the finest culture, with a great big heart in her. She is a woman whom one would naturally go to if he were in trouble. If any one can put heart and humanity into this cold official society of ours she can, and heaven knows that is what our society needs.

WALTER WELLMAN.

CHOCTAW LEGENDS.

Some Interesting Facts Brought Out in a Talk with Peter Pitchlynn.

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 9 .- During a recent conversation with Peter Pitchlynn, the great Choctaw chief, I learned that the Choctaws have a legend of "The Deluge," and that they once flattened the facts I shall attempt to show is confirmatory of their original habitat having been far in the southwestern portion of the continent, as they claim, and not the northwest, as those who advocate the 'Lost tribes of Israel" theory claim. Now the Mayas, those strange people

who built the wonderful structures, the ruins of which are found at Uxmal, Palenque and elsewhere in Central America, flattened the heads of their children, and all the Isthmian Indians have a tradition of a deluge (Atlanti's sad fate, probably). Is it not probable that the Choctaws, as they claim they did, came In the morning or evening, 'twill never be found from that region, where at one time in remote antiquity, jostled, as it were, No. 732.-A Rhyming Numerical Enigma. with the Mayas, and brought here with them some of the corrupted legends of

that people! The Choctaw tradition of "the delage," as related by Chief Pitchlynn, is 8. this: "Our people have always had a tradition of 'the deluge,' which happened n this way: There was total darkness for a great time over the whole of the earth; the Choctaw doctors, or mystery men, looked out for daylight for a long time, until at last they despatted of ever seeing it, and the whole nation were very unhappy. Finally a light was discovered in the north and there was great rejoicing, until it was found to be great mountains of water rolling on, which destroyed them all except a few families who had expected it and built an immense raft, on which they were saved!" Of the primitive religious belief of the Choctaws, as, related by Pitchlynn, the following is a synopsis: "Our people all were firm in the faith that the spirit lives in a future state; that it has to cross a dreadful, deep and rapid stream, which is hemmed in on both sides by high and rugged hills. Over this stream, from hill to hill, there lies a long and slippery pine log, with the bark peeled off, over which the dead have to cass to the delightful hunting grounds! On the other side of the stream there are six inhabitants of 'the good hunting grounds,' with rocks in their hands, which they throw at all who attempt to cross when they reach the middle of the log! The good walk on safely to the 'delightful hunting grounds,' where there is one continual day; where the trees are always green; where the sky has no clouds; where there are constant cooling breezes; where there is one everlasting scene of feasting, dancing and rejoicing; where there is no pain or trouble and people never grow old, but forever live young and enjoy the youthful pleasures! "The wicked on the log see the stones coming and try to dodge, by which they fall and go down thousands of feet to the water, which is dashing over the rocks and is stinking with dead fish and animals, where they are carried around and brought continually back to the same place in whirlpools; where the trees are all dead, and the water full of toads. lizards and snakes; where the dead are always hungry, but have nothing to eat; are always sick, and never die; where the sun never shines, and where the wicked are ever climbing up by thousands on the sides of the high rock, from which they can overlook the beautiful country of the 'good hunting grounds,' the abode of the happy, but never can reach it."

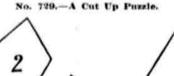


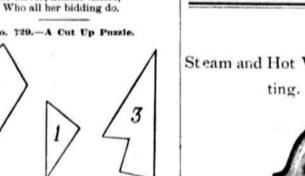
CAPITAL CITY COURIER, SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 1890

No. 728.-Enigma: A Little Fairy Within my walls of silver A little fairy lives, Whose presence in a household Great joy and comfort gives.

She sows no tares of anger, And ugly weeds that spoil, But to sew tears in garments She willingly will toil.

Now, name this useful fairy, Her shining palace, too, Her clever, nimble sisters,





First cut out, with a penknife, in

card,

The designs numbered one, two and three-Four of each-after which, as the puzzle is hard, You had better be guided by me Fo a certain extent; for in fixing take care

That each portion is flitted in tight, Or they will not produce such a near little square As they otherwise would if done right.

No. 730.-Beheadings Transposed. Each word contains five letters. The beleaded letters form the name of a famous naturalist.

Behead an extensive mountain range, and transpose the remaining letters to make a word meaning the objects aimed at. Behead imposing; transpose to make to nend

Behead to diminish; transpose to make a stroke.

Behead to strike down; transpose to make opportunity. Behead possessing flavor; transpose to

make settled Behead a reflection; transpose to make a contest

Behead an animal; transpose to make an animal.

No. 731.-A Charade.

My first, like a laggar 1, is always behind. In the form of one thousand my second you'll find. And yet, for my whole should you search the

A word in much demand, 'tis true, Is this little word, 5, 1, 2, A well known foreign plant you'll see, Is spelled by using 5, 2, 3. This very morn I found alive In my new trap a 4, 3, 5, If you would hear a little more,

You must lend your 2, 3, 4. "There is nothing new under the sun,"

Is said on 2, 3, 4, 5, 1. Because my boy fell on the floor. Fell many a 5, 2, 3, 4.

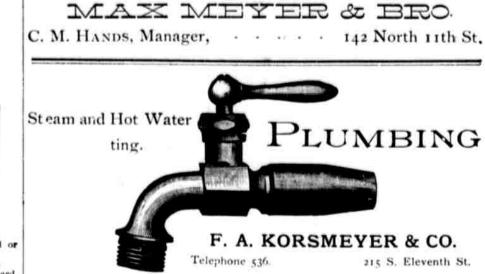
A statement 'gainst which none will strive All have a 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

No. 733.-A Riddle.

Back and down trodden is my line,



We have decided to ship nothing to Omaha, and having some stock yet we will continue the sale until sold. We have some Upright Pianos, slightly damaged, that we can make you at a great bargain. Six second-hand Pianos at your own price. Good second-hand Organs at \$35 to \$50.



≪E. HILL,≫



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I shall display for your inspection a new and very carefully selected Stock, comprising many of the latest and newest designs of the European Manufacturers, and I am now prepared to take all orders for making up garmants for gents in the latest styles.

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LINCOLN, NEB



Special Correspondence.1

heads of their children, both of which

fashioned churches to pull the windows capital.

down. That is what Pendell had it for. but in order to get into the blue parlor he was compelled to drag the long stick through the line of diplomats and over the heads of the ladies of the cabinet and special guests in the rear of the republic must have a social code, unpresident and his assistants. Count Arco Valley, the German minister, was passing just then, and he looked up at the pole and at Pendell with his one eye glass in a half surprised manner which was very suggestive. It was well he did so, for at that moment Pendell turned from the passageway to the blue room, and the count came near having his single optic knocked from its roosting place to the floor.

In the Morton house there were two entrances, conveniently arranged as to the drawing rooms and the cloak rooms. People could come in by one door and go out the other. But at the White House the arrangements in this respect were most miserable. Only one door things in common. Mrs. Adams, who led was open. Through this people were arriving constantly, so, of course, it could not be used as an exit. Shortly after greeting the president, the members of the diplomatic corps had to take their carriages and drive to the residence of Secretary Blaine, where they were to partake of the annual diplomatic breakfast. But in order to leave can colonies was keenest, she filled her the building they found it necessary to part with rare tact, and on several occago out through a window and walk sions with better manners than were disacross a temporary bridge. Here they played by the occupants of the British emerged right in the thick of a crowd of grand army veterans who were coming to pay their respects to the president. The veterans had been standing for an hour in the rain, and many fine costumes were soiled, and many pretty tempers temporarily ruined by the enforced contact.

Of course the vice presidential reception was a great success. The diplomatic people seemed particularly delighted. and, as is well known, they are inclined to be somewhat critical. They lingered by the hour in the beautiful parlors. Mrs. Morton's experience as wife of the minister to France was seen to stand her good service on this occasion. She not only speaks French like a French woman, but is thoroughly familiar with those countless little things which make up the sum of perfect breeding and management. As one of the diplomats was heard to say on surveying the great dining room, with its Louis XVI ceiling, its fireplace and grand mantel of the Renalssance, and its sumptuous appointments and collation, "Ah, this is like home again." It will certainly be something if the Mortons can satisfy our friends from across the sea that we rude westerners do know something about society. after all.

But the Mortons want to do much more. They want to lift the vice presidential office up to all the dignity of have seen, is Mrs. Morton. which it is capable. It is not much of If the fates, which have hitherto been an office anyway, considered as a politi. so unkind, will withhold their unfavora- crat.

Washington had not been long in office before he discerned that polite society of an official sort needed rules and forms if it were to proceed harmoniously and successfully. In other words, the new written but obligatory, as well as a statute book. So he asked the vice president, Mr. Adams, and the members of his cabinet, Jay, Hamilton and Madison, to prepare a plan of court etiquette. The rules presented by Mr. Adams in response to this request were substantially adopted, and have continued the code of manners at the executive mansion through all administrations, that of Jef-

ferson alone excepted. But few vice presidents' wives have reigned with anything like such brilliance as is likely to mark the career of Mrs. Morton in Washington. It is a noteworthy coincidence that the first and the last vice president's wife had many society in New York and Washington during the eight years of her husband's incumbency of the office of vice president, was a woman of strong character and great experience. At the court of Great Britain, at a time when the chagrin of King George and of his royal spouse, Charlotte, over the loss of their Amerithrone. Jefferson, being a widower, did not contribute much as vice president to the social life of the capital. Aaron Burr's beautiful daughter occasionally presided at her father's house while that brilliant but unscrupulous man was vice president.

The wife of Elbridge Gerry, the fourth vice president, died in the first year of the administration. Some fatality like this has attended the office with great persistency. Vice President Daniel Tompkins was a widower. The wife of Vice President Calhoun reigned brilliantly, proving that all rules have exceptions. She was a great friend of Mrs. Donelson, the presiding lady of the White House during the stormy reign of Andrew Jackson, and sided with her against the president in the famous row about Peggy O'Neil. Martin Van Buren as vice president, attained some social prominence by doing entertaining which Mrs. Donelson wouldn't do, and then the office relapsed in social dignity till the Tylers came. This was eminently a social family, but in a month they were called to the White House. With the exception of the Dallases, who brought to Washington some of the best social manners of Philadelphia, there was no brilliant woman representing the vice presidential office till Mrs. Schuyler Col-

fax appeared, and first after her, as we

HENRY INMAN.

Opera in Volapuk.

One of the latest practical demonstrations of the use of Volapuk was made in Brisbane, Australia, where Meyerbeer's opera, The Prophet, translated into Volapuk and presented by Nicholson, the manager of the theatre in that city, made such a hit that he was compelled to repeat the performance ten times to standing room only. Mr. Nicholson contemplates the translation and presentation of the opera Traviata. This use of the language proves very conclusively that the sound of it when spoken is not harsh or bad, or it would have fallen flat indeed when used in an opera. Volapuk is made up of none but pure full sounds of the vocal organs; it has no flat or half tone sounds and but few double consonant sounds and triple ones. -Interview in St. Louis Globe-Demo-

Yet you may not despise For surely I was made to shine Before admiring eyes. Of all my wanderings o'er the earth, Though lightly you may talk, Your understanding owns my worth And blameless daily walk.

No. 734.-An Animal in Anagram. I saw on the street a descendant of Ham. Not ill o' disease, but "ill o' a dram, This anagram straightened you've seen, I

suppose, In pictures, and, mayhap, in animal shows; And if you have seen it you've noticed the lack Of even a semblance of fur on its back

No. 735.-Enigmatical Fishes.

A substance used for polishing; to find fault; a beam of light; a register of persons; a weapon; a person easily cheated; a meas ure of length

A Pastime for Winter Evenings.

The "Flour Merchant" is the name of one of the many conversational games that are so convenient for whiling away an evening by the fireside, because they are not noisy and require no special appliances.

One who personates the flour merchant will try in every way to dispose of his stock by asking questions of the others, who must in their answers be careful not to use the words "flour," "I," "yes" or "no." For instance, the merchant says:

"Any flour to-day?" "There is none required." "Let me persuade you to take some." "That is impossible." "Why sof It is excellent flour." "I will not take any. The flour no. chant, having succeeded in

naking her say "I," proceeds on his way.

At Christmas Tide.

Jack and Jill went down the hill. And Jack with rage was hopping. For all their cash they spent for trash, The treasures home they bore; A Chinese vase, a pocket case, And rugs and mats galore!

Key to the Puzzler.

No. 719.-Pi of the season December closes on the scene. And what appear the months gone past! Fragments of time which once have been! Succeeding slowly, fled too fast!

Their minutes, hours, and days appear Viewless in that small point, a year. No. 720.-A Charade: Hollyhock.

No. 731.-Crossword Enigma: Maple Sugar.

No. 722.-Easy Transpositions: Stop-spot -pots-tops-post. No. 723 -- Mental Arithmetic: Three in 9,

three times.

No. 724.-Riddle: A leaf.

No. 725 .- How Is This! There were in the coach an old lady, one of her daughters with two daughters, another daughter with two sons, and the daughter of an absent daughter.

No. 727.-Reverses: 1. Star, rats. 2. War,

map. 6. Reed, deer.

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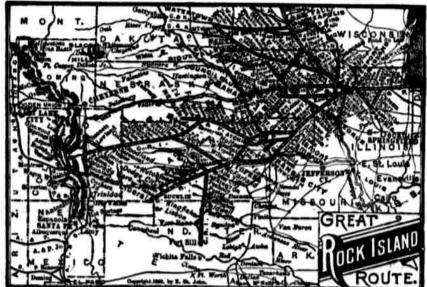
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Total, eight persons. No. 726.—Numerical Enigma: A stitch in

time saves nine.

raw. 3. Ned, den. 4. Yam, may. 5. Pans,

To do their Christmas shopping; It soon fell out that Jill did pout,

"You have my answer. "Have I! Will you please repeat it?" "My answer was 'Not any "But the price is reasonable."