

A NEW TRADE TO LEARN.

THAT'S WHAT NEWLY ELECTED CONGRESSMEN HAVE TO DO.

Walter Wellman Offers Them a Few Words in the Nature of "Pointers," the Fernald of Which Cannot Fail to Be of Advantage to Them.

(Special Correspondence.)

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20.—Three months hence about 400 men from every state and territory in the Union will come down to Washington to pass a winter and a summer making laws for the government of the realm. Nearly one-half of these statesmen were never here before in the capacity of legislators. They have a new trade to learn and a new lot of experiences to go through. Perhaps a little advice will not do them any harm. If I were a new congressman coming to Washington, with an ambition to make my mark, or at least to show those who had elected me that I was not unworthy the honor, I should be grateful to any one of experience or observation in this field who would give me a few useful hints. The new congressman should not come down here with any large notions concerning his own importance. In a country town a congressman is a very important personage, and so he is, intrinsically, everywhere.

But here there are so many congressmen, and so many men of even higher rank and greater importance, and the people have been so accustomed to rubbing shoulders with great men of all states and degrees, that a mere congressman, particularly an unknown congressman, can't travel very far on his title. The congressman is just like everybody else in this busy world, this world of struggling to get to the top and elbowing your neighbor out of your way. He must do something, say something, accomplish something, if he would gain recognition. The least that he can do is to be "a good fellow." Being "a good fellow" will bring him friends, but it will not enable him to save anything out of his salary, nor will it bring him any permanent honor. If I had a dear friend coming to congress I would advise him not to strive to be "a good fellow," for I have noticed that the congressional "good fellow" is as a rule a chap who has nothing else than his companionship, his story telling qualities and drinking capacities to recommend him.

The new congressman who wants to succeed will of necessity make up his mind that he has hard work to do—as hard work as he has ever done in his life. Being a congressman—a good congressman—is not a soft snap. The good congressman will get up early in the morning, read the papers, look over his mail, answer the most urgent letters, run through the departments on business for his constituents, go to his committee room, write or dictate more letters, attend a committee meeting if there be one, study up questions pending before his committee or the house, look at the history of any legislation in which his state or people or party is interested, confer deferentially with the old members, give studious thought to the rules of the house, and in short seek in every possible way to add to his usefulness and to place himself as near as he can on an equal footing with the members who have had long experience.

All this he will do before 12 o'clock noon, or as much of it as he can. At noon, or at 11 o'clock in the morning a part of the session, for often the house meets at this hour, he should have his letter writing and department work out of the way, so that at the sound of the speaker's gavel he may take his seat in the hall of the house, prepared to give close and studious attention to what is going on there. The new congressman who is wise will determine at the outset that he will make an effort to understand everything going on in the Capitol. He will assume that nothing is trivial, nothing too small for his attention. He will remember that in the dull and seemingly most unimportant legislation is where the jobs are slipped in.

A smart man, ambitious to make a name for himself, will not be anxious to speak. Few men make fame on speeches. A speech in the national house of representatives is, as a rule, a bore, a thing which is tolerated merely because it is a member's right. A "leave-to-print" speech, which is never delivered, but which is spread broadside in The Congressional Record, is an abomination, and a man of fine instincts and intellectual pride will not engage in this cheap and tawdry method of making an impression upon his constituents. The young congressman who wants to speak should take care that he is well prepared. He should make sure that he has something to say which the house and the country want to hear, and that he knows how to say it. Making a speech at a political meeting or in a courtroom is a different matter from making a speech in congress. Here a man is easily disconcerted. He is actually in the midst of a pack of wolves, ready and eager to jump upon him and tear him in pieces.

The man who makes a maiden speech or any other speech in congress should be so well informed on the matter under discussion that he may with confidence endure interruption and with intelligence and force reply to all inquiries. Rather than a long speech—which is sure to empty the benches and the galleries and make the speaker a dreaded man in future—the young congressman should seek to say in a few words the most striking and effective things he can think of. Beware long speeches and beware long sentences. Don't try to be stately and wise and declamatory. Spit out in short, pithy sentences what you have to say. If possible create a sensation, but not at the expense of decency or truth. The man who will watch and study, be alert and thoughtful, will have no difficulty in finding opportunities to get the ear of the house and the ear of the public. There are wrongs enough perpetrated under the dome of the Capitol, frauds enough, steals and sharp practices enough, there is demagoguery and rank partisanship enough to give any

bright and gleaming free lance a glorious field for operations. Perhaps there never was a better time than the present for a new man to make his mark in congress.

In the first place, nearly one-half of all the members are new. The inevitable result of the appearance of so many tyros in the hall will be an abandonment to some extent of the old tradition that new members must during their first terms sit silent. Not all the old men who remain in congress are forceful or eloquent. Some of them are such bitter partisans that the country has long since ceased to take much interest in their utterances. The time is ripe for the appearance and the rise of a young man who will at times forget his party and remember that he has a country. Extreme partisanship, that which leads to bigotry, demagoguery, suppression of truth, overriding of right, moral cowardice, is the bane of American legislation and American legislators. Of course parties are necessities, and, of course, a man elected by a party must adhere to it and help fight its battles, but his duty of loyalty does not demand that he shall deform himself—that he shall on occasion be deaf and blind and dumb.

The new congressman who is wise will be jealous of his reputation. He will not assume that some one is all the time trying to bribe him or corrupt him, but he will take good care that his conduct and associations are such that the finger of suspicion will not be pointed at him. There are men and women hanging about the Capitol whose friendship means ruin to a public man. Old congressmen know them and avoid them. New congressmen, when in doubt, should frankly ask advice of older members; or, if they want to be put on their guard against all such dangers and against certain destructive influences within the house itself, let them counsel with some of their newspaper friends. The newspaper correspondents at the capital know pretty much everybody and nearly everybody's business. It is their business to observe, to inquire, to ferret out, to smell out by instinct.

Let a crooked woman or corrupt man come into the Capitol, haunt the galleries and corridors, with a scheme or a purpose in view, and in forty-eight hours the chances are Newspaper Row will know what he or she is there for, and, more than likely, the stranger's antecedents and character. An old congressman, now a very conspicuous and successful one, told me that he had made it a rule throughout his congressional experience to trust and rely upon his newspaper friends, not only as to such things as these we are now speaking of, but as to matters of policy and effects upon public opinion. So I say to the new congressman, by all means cultivate the friendship of newspaper men. Do not, however, make the mistake which a New England man did two or three years ago. He came down here to attend his first session of congress, filled with a consuming desire to be famous. He thought the easiest way to accomplish his desire was to make friends with the correspondents and get them to write him up as a great orator and statesman.

The first newspaper man he met after arriving here he asked to send out a fulsome notice of himself, and as a reward therefor tendered the scribe, who chanced to be one of the older and more dignified men of the row, a five dollar note. Instead of taking umbrage at the insult and giving the green congressman a kick or a tongue lashing, the correspondent sat down with the offender and pointed out to him that he had made a fool of himself. But in some way or other the story got out, and as long as that congressman remained in public life, which wasn't long, the correspondents made his existence a miserable one. The statesman in this instance got more fame than he had aspired to. New congressmen who thoughtlessly attempt to cultivate the friendship of newspaper men at the capital by means of cigars and drinks and lunches will make a mistake too. They should remember that a majority of the newspaper correspondents here earn incomes almost as large as the salaries of senators and members in congress, and some of them very much larger. In come aside, newspaper correspondents are almost without exception averse to having their favor sought by such cheap means. They do not object to companionship and the amenities of social intercourse, such as an occasional cigar or drink, but they will be found ready to play the part of host quite as often as they play guest.

What newspaper men like is the genuine friendship of members of congress—a frank, confidential relationship, in which either side may be trusted to any extent; a willingness on the part of public men to help them to get the news, which is their business in life. The public man who makes this sort of connection with newspaper writers, and goes out of his way at times to serve them, will never have occasion to regret it. It is bread cast upon the waters to return a thousandfold, sometimes in a few days, sometimes in many.

For fear that some of our new lawmakers may not have read the statutes as vigilantly as they should have done, I want to call their attention to a few sections from that great volume. In the code it is provided that every person who promises, offers, gives or causes or procures to be promised, offered or given, anything of value, or makes or tenders any contract, undertaking, obligation, gratuity or security for the payment of money, or for the delivery or conveyance of anything of value to any member of either house of congress, either before or after such member has taken his seat, with intent to influence his vote or decision on any question, matter, cause or proceeding which may be at any time pending in either house of congress, or before any committee thereof, shall be fined not more than three times the amount of money or the value of the thing so offered, promised, given, made, tendered or conveyed, and, moreover, shall be imprisoned not more than three years.

Any member of either house who asks, receives or accepts any such reward for

such a purpose is subject to the same fine and imprisonment.

No member of congress shall be interested in any contract of a public nature under a penalty of \$3,000 fine, and if any officer of the United States shall make such a contract with a member of congress he is subject to a like penalty.

No member of congress shall practice in the court of claims. Every member of congress or any officer or agent of the government who takes any consideration whatever from any person for aiding to procure any contract, office or place from the government or any department thereof shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and be imprisoned not more than two years and pay a fine not to exceed \$10,000. Any such contract may, at the option of the president, be declared null and void, and any member of congress or officer convicted of violating this section of the statute shall be disqualified from holding any office of trust, honor or profit under the United States. No member of congress or officer, clerk or employe of the government shall receive or agree to receive any compensation whatever for any services rendered by himself or another in any proceeding or contract or claim in which the government is a party, and whoever violates this law may be fined \$10,000, imprisoned two years and be rendered forever thereafter incapable of holding any office under the government.

Indeed, the way of the transgressor is hard, and I trust that none of the new congressmen who place themselves under my tutelage will come to such a sad ending. WALTER WELLMAN.

A GREAT WORK BEFORE THEM.

The Architects of the Protestant Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

(Special Correspondence.)

NEW YORK, Aug. 22.—The committee appointed to select a design for the Protestant Episcopal cathedral of St. John the Divine, in New York, have chosen Messrs. Heins and La Farge as the architects. This firm had a plan in the competition, and this plan doubtless led the committee to think that these young men could do pretty nearly anything that was desired. It is likely, however, that the competing plan in many of its features will be adopted. It will take at least twenty years to build this great cathedral, and it is therefore quite well that the architects selected should be young men. It has been very rarely the case that the architect who has designed any of the great ecclesiastical monuments of the world has lived long enough to see his work finished. Mr. Ronwick, who built St. Patrick's cathedral in New York, was one of the fortunate few, and is still at a vigorous old age practicing his profession.



MR. HEINS.

Mr. George Lewis Heins is a native of Philadelphia and thirty-two years old. He was at one time a student of the University of Pennsylvania, though most of his boyhood was spent in European travel. It was in Italy that he determined to become an architect. Returning to America he went to the Institute of Technology in Boston. There he met young La Farge, who was also a student and destined to be his partner. After finishing in Boston Mr. Heins practiced for some time in St. Paul and Minneapolis, but soon came to New York to work with Mr. John La Farge, the great artist and father of the young architect.

Mr. C. Grant La Farge, the son of the artist, as has just been said, was born in Newport, R. I., twenty-nine years ago. His mother is a granddaughter of the great Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, of Lake Erie fame, and his mother's mother, a Miss Sergeant, of Philadelphia, was a great-granddaughter of Benjamin Franklin. This is a high lineage as we look upon things in America, and it is gratifying to see the descendant of great men showing himself worthy in this republic of labor where each individual is judged by his own capacity to produce.

No person with knowledge of contemporary art needs to be told of Mr. John La Farge. It is not generally known, however, that his father, when a midshipman in the French navy during the time of the first Napoleon, was taken prisoner in San Domingo and kept for many years there by the negroes. He was compelled to act as the secretary of Christophe. During the second massacre he managed to escape and made his way to New York, where fifty years ago he was well known.

This young firm has done what work has come to it, and has built several churches, notable among them being the Blessed Sacrament at Providence. They bear themselves at this time of triumph with modest dignity, and show no undue elation over the good fortune which has brought to them the best architectural commission ever given out in America.

Still a Political Factor.

Ex-Secretary of the Senate George C. Gorham is but little heard of these days, but he is said to be still a potential factor in politics. He carries himself youthfully, dresses well, and his face is handsomer than ever in its frame of grizzled hair and beard. Before he entered politics per se Mr. Gorham was an editor and had been trained to write by a long newspaper course. He was always remarkable for his ready and thorough grasp of a political situation. These qualities rendered him conspicuous in Washington and by comparison has made the position of those following him difficult.

THAT LULLABY.

"SLEEP, PAPA WILL COME AGAIN."

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Words and Music by DELLA BRICE.

Musical score for 'That Lullaby' with lyrics: Sleep, my darling, Thy dear papa will come a-gain! I will guard you, I will sing hush-a-byo!... Slumber softly; Yes, dear papa will come a-gain; Dar - ling, slum - ber, Close your pret - ty bright eye

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