GRESHAM'S CALLERS.

THE SECRETARY BESIEGED BY AN OF-FICE SEEKING ARMY.

Receptions at the State Department-General Grant's Advice to Haves Some Trying Scenes-Ronning the Gantlet-Offcial Perplexities.

WASHINGTON, March 23.-There is something very ludicrous about this office seeking business. For two or three weeks the capital has been the theater of many little comedies, and I fear not a few tragedies, among the men who are ambitions to serve their country in one capacity or another. Day after day the act is played over and over until at last it becomes decidedly tiresome to all concerned. Let us visit the office of one of the members of the cabinet this morning and see what we shall see. The office of the secretary of state will do as well as any other.

It is 9 o'clock, and the throngs of government employees scurrying through the streets to their work seem unusually large, and so they are, for among them are the office seekers on their way to the various departments, each to the great public office which contains his hopes, his fears. The office seeker gets up early in the morning. Hope, you know, springs eternal, and no matter what the discouragement of the day before a night's sleep and a good breakfast-as yet the ambitious ones are quartered at the best hotels-tend to restore self confidence.

Fifty or seventy-five enter the trensury department; several hundred wend their way to the general postoffice and the great interior department; many go to see Daniel Lamont in the war office; others set out for the department of justice or agriculture. When we enter the antercom of the secretary of state at half past 9, we find we are very late. Twoscore or more of gentlemen are ahead of us.

I wish I could vividly describe the scene for you. Men are sitting about on sofas, chairs, even tables. Many are compelled to stand. An usher informs them that seats may be had in another anteroom, and he beckons the way, but none follows. Their eye is on the big door at the other end of the apartment, behind which Secretary Gresham is known to With surprising unanimity they silently agree to stay near this door, seat or no seat. So they sit and stand about. watching that door and looking askance at each other. There is very little conversation. For some reason men who know each other well are not inclined to talk. They are too serious. Every man of them appears to be turning over in his mind what he will say to the secretary when they stand face to face-if they

These candidates for the minor appointments, as ministers abroad and consuls, are a well appearing lot of men. They have good manners, good clothes, good faces. Many of them are known to be prosperous in their business or profession, and it is not dire distress but fell ambition which has driven them to this extremity. It is plainly evident that each of them has carefully made his toilet this morning. He has arisen early enough not only to breakfast, but to shave. But he hasn't had time to enjoy his after breckfast cigar, and he and all his fellows, who dare not be seen calling on the secretary of state with cigars in their mouths, cast envious glances at the only man in the room who is smoking-a newspaper correspondent who seeks news and not office.

There is something Indicrously pathetic about this great and general effort to appear at one's best-this sprucing up. this petty self denial, this careful study of words and deportment as if they were juveniles awaiting catechization and inspection by the merchant who is about to hire an office boy. Not all are really well dressed. One has indulged the luxury of a very shiny hat in order to offset the glisten of a well worn coat. Another covers his frayed and greasy underegat by keeping his overcost tightly buttoned down before. And a third-a tall, gaunt, colored man, with a face so serious that it would make his fortune in the undertaking business-hides his ragged shoes as well as he can with a pair of new, gray and unusually large

An incident which is almost tragic now occurs, and this colored man is a tongue of the foremost. Thus man after central figure in it. He chances to sit | man rolls up, grabs the hand that runs at the end of a desk, and his hat is not in | the state department and signs commisview. Somewhat naturally, therefore, a Georgia man mistakes him for a servant say which, with others, he has been wait. Chinaman has decamped with both and then commands, as a white man in Geergia unthinkingly commands almost

any negro "Sam. put my overcoat on the window over there in the corner.'

The colored man, who, I happen to in the consulship to which he aspires. and without any show of anger:

ly made a mistake. I am a stranger in this office and not an employee.

the grain to apologize to a colored man.

in. How the crowd envies the latter, and how it studies the face of the former! Has he been successful or not? that man take so much of the secretary's | Come and see me again."

Mr. Vilas was for a time postmaster gens | the office seeking scenes of the day. eral. He made senators and representa-



were very indignant, and one day Senator Voorhees, I think it was, kicked in the door which a messenger had closed in his face. Mr. Vilas is now a senator. and though one of the most courteous and consider ite men in public life finds a large number of his colleagues still cold and unforgiving because he didn't throw wide open his doors for them eight

years ago! senate gallery a few days ago as she are only big boys.

Already stories are whispered round to the effect that there is trouble between the government who suffer. Senators the new president and the senate. They and congressmen are overwhelmed. are not going to confirm some of his They fly to Fortress Monroe for a few nominations. There is to be a big row, days' respite, or to New York-any place We always hear these stories when a but Washington or home. Their mail is new president comes in, and they remind dumped upon their desks by bushels and me of the advice which General Grant all singing the same tune. A dozen gave to General. Hayes when the latter clerks and stenographers could not keep came down to Washington to be presidup with their correspondence these days dent. Colonel Corbin of the army was | Their private and family letters lie burwith Mr. Hayes then, and he tells me ied in the mass which they do not get

for some hints about the work, and the while the would be host is cursing the old soldier replied:

"You will get along all right with people, General Hayes. They are reasonable and not difficult to please. You may even satisfy the house of representatives, but the man was never born of woman that could win the approval of estimate that between 18,000,000 and the United States senate."

retary Gresham's anteroom. The can-based on the assumption that the fair didates wait and wait, twirl their hats will be open Sunday. The great days in their hands, wonder what their neigh- will be; First, Illinois day; second, In- slightly in advance of the remainder of bors are after and if they are going to diana day; third, Wisconsin day; fourth, get it, say to themselves they'd give it Michigan or Missouri day. up and go home if it wasn't for being laughed at by the people who know they are in Washington and for what purpose, and suddenly all in the room spring gold mines to the publishers. The ento their feet.

his overcoat and carries his hat in his of "When Other Lips," a similar sum hand. Forty pairs of feet edge in his direction. Forty hands have an itching to Hails" and \$25,000 from "The Heart erous in her gifts of jewelry to the artists grasp his. There is no stampede, no rush. Bowed Down. no crowding. The aspirants are too well bred for that. As one of their number reaches the secretary's side the others fall back a little to give him a chance. but shuffle eagerly forward when Mr. Gresham disengages his hand and politely removes his ear from proximity to the ing for days, and falls back.

It is a trying scene for all concernedtrying to the aspirants, for each of them instinctively feels he has not helped his cause a whit; trying to the secretary, because he would if he could give every caresed his nose with his handkerchief. know, is a college graduate, a successful one of these men a fair chance to state teacher and one who would make a cred- his case, and because he knows that not table representative of this government one in a dozen of them will carry home with him anything but disappointment. replies with nice dignity and bearing. The secretary of state is only human weak and frail. He can endure only so They your pardon; you have evident- many hours a day the ordeal of receiving asked the laundryman of his assistant callers. He must have sleep, rest, meals and exercise, and if there were 72 in-The Georgian, too, proves himself a stead of but 24 hours in the day lie gentleman. Perceiving his error he apol- | couldn't enjoy these and see even one ogizes, though I can see it goes against half of the aspirants and give to each the time desired. Besides the secretary lin Now and then the door leading to the has much other and much more imporsecretary's inner office opens, one man tant work to do, and so he runs the emerges, and the usher shows another gantlet toward the corridor, shaking hands and exclaiming:

"You must excuse me, gentlemen, as I must go to the executive mansion at "Possibly he is my rival and will beat once. I am glad to see you, but you Then another long wait en- must excuse me now. I remember you sues. It is very tedious. "Why will very well, sir, but I must pass on now

And thus he presses his way to the half Some of these callers have been here and is off. His bearing is admirable. every day for a week and haven't seen | He is simply trying to do the best lie the secretary yet. There are senators can to be courteous, gentle and considhere, too, and they fret and fume be erate under trying circumstances. Day cause the doors do not open before them. after day he is fatigued by ordeals like Senators are so unreasonable! During this. Yet he works on, and the aspirants Mr. Cleveland's first term as president hang on, and here we have a glimpse of could find a good name for baby.

What I have told you of one morning Ocean' tives wait in his antercom just like other | in the rooms of the secretary of state is | people. He believed in fair play and true of every morning of every cabinet first come first served. The congressmen | minister's office, of the White House it-

seif. On the part of the representatives of the government there is patience, and also keen appreciation of the fact that these men who seek official appointment have their rights and that they are worthy of respect and consideration. It is not disgraceful, though decidedly uncomfortable, to seek office amid this scramble. But how wearisome must be the grind, how sad and useless must all the pushing As I heard a bright woman say in the and pulling seem to the cabinet ministers, who know that 15 out of every 16 of this has been set up after all the others have looked down upon the floor, "You men | long procession must have only bitter ci of pointment for their pains!

It is not alone the executive officers of even time to open. Invitations to dinner General Hayes asked General Grant are discovered days after the feast and guests who never came nor even sent their regrets. WALTER WELLMAN.

World's Fair Receipts.

The managers of the World's fair are already figuring upon receipts. They 20,000,000 persons will pay 50 cents for But I am wandering away from Sect the admission tickets, but this estimate is

A Fortune In Music.

The works of the composer Bulle were terprising centlemen who published "The The secretary has entered. He has on Behemian Girl" made \$10,000 profit out

Way Up.

Figg-They tell me that Blumley is a man of high principles. Fogg-You may well say that. His principles are so high that he has never been able to come within a thousand miles of them himself. Boston Transcript.

A Great Loss.

First Swell-Cholly sent his diamond sions, whispers a few hurried words, to stud to the laundry with his shirt, and the Second Swell-Ye gods! That shirt was worth *?' - Clothiers and Haberdashers'

A Mistaken Idea. "Dodsedse" grouned singleberry as he "Adybody that says cold always colleagts is a base deceiver. By cold has been ex-

Not Unished.

Are those shirts of Wigsby's ready?" No, sir," she replied. "I haven't had time to tent of the neekbands yet." Buf falo Expres-

Punishment.

Trivvet-That's right. It deserves it .-

Appropriate.



Binga - Why not call him "Atlantic

Mrs. Bingo- What for?

THEY LIKE THE PLAY.

Fow Great Sovereigns of Europe View Theatrical Performances. (Special Correspondence.)

LONDON, March 15.-Nothing is more remarkable than the pronounced fondness of the crowned heads of Europe for the drama. Even Queen Victoria who, up to a year or two ago was believed to regard theater going in the light of a sin and the drama as a device of the devil. has now blossomed forth into an enthusiastic patron of the stage. Indeed in proportion as her British majesty grows. older in years she appears to become more youthful in her tastes, and there are few things more strange than the extraordinary interest which this septuagenarian sovereign has suddenly and at so late a period in life developed for theatrical

One of the London companies after the other has been called upon to transport itself bag and baggage to Windsor for the purpose of giving performances in the presence of the queen and her court on a temporary but yet elaborate stage erected for the occasion in the superb ball known as the Waterloo Gallery The queen has even gone so far as to or der one of the metropolitan troops up to Balmoral at an enormous expense for a single performance, and since she has been at Osborne this winter tableaux vivants, charades and amateur theatricals have been following one another in quick succession in the great Indian durbar, or ballroom, one of the most notable events of the kind being the recent rep resentation of "She Stoops to Computer" by a company composed of Princes Louise and her husband, Lord Lorne, Princess Beatrice and Prince Henry of Battenberg and of several members of the household.

In the early days of her married life the queen was quite a familiar figure at the various leading theaters and was especially fond of the opera, which she would attend with a considerable amount of state, youmen of the guard, or "beef eaters," arrayed in their picturesque mediaval costume, being stationed not only at the entrance of the royal box, but also on the stage in front of the latter. The lords and gentlemen in wait ing in attendance on the queen and her husband on such occasions as these were arrayed in uniform and were required to remain standing in the rear of the royal box throughout the entire performance.

The queen witnesses these perform ances with every possible comfort to her self. She enters the hall where the stage



EMPEROR WILLIAM AT THE PLAY. able crimson velvet and gilt armchair the audience, with a small table by her side, on which are placed her pink satin and geld lettered programme, her fan, her handkerchief, etc. The orchestra is almost concealed by a bank of flowers and foliage. Flowers indeed abound everywhere. No applause is permitted save when initiated and led by the queen, who is, however, very liberal in her manifestations of appreciation, as well as genwho have especially pleased her.

sovereign now living except the sultan PROMPTLY of Turkey who adopts this method of FILLED having the theater brought to her at a comparatively large expense instead of going to it. The Turkish monarch maintains as part of his enormous household an entire troupe of French and Belgian actors, whose principal duty is to perform the farces and dramas composed by the sultan. He does not write them himself, it is true, but contents himself with communicating his ideas of the projected piece and the character of the plot - if there is one - to the chief of the troupe, who thereupon writes the play in accordance with his imperial master's | instructions. It is on the strength of this that the present commander of the "faithpaddig for the last seved days,"-Harper's full lays claim to be considered as a quite remarkable playwright.

Emperor William of Germany, on the other hand, who is quite as passionately. foul of the drama as his fellow monarchs, is a frequent visitor to the various theaters of his capital. The manager usually only receives notice of his coming a few hours is ferchand. The emper or is very demonstrative in his man-Rinner-Pve written a poem on the crino festations of applicase, as well as of disatisfaction, and makes a practice of summoning the actors to the royal box between the acts for the purpose of communicating to them his criticism of the performance and his instructions as to how they should act their parts. Auother feature of Emperor William's visits to the theater is the supper which he invariably partakes of during the wait previous to the last act.

The emperor of Austria is likewise a constant attendant at the Viennese theaters and rarely makes use of the royal box, preferring in lien thereof one of the lower stage boxes. King Humbert of Italy is seldom seen at the theater, his wife, Queen Marguerite, however, at-Mrs. Bingos-Ob, dear! Charles, I wish I two or three times in week during the and find a good name for baby. Remain leason. The coar is exceedingly Bingo (weardy)-Because he never dries shape of dramatic performances at the A. D. DEMING.

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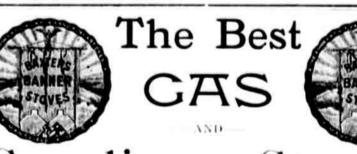
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