

## VISIT THE CAPITOL.

### TYPES OF THOSE WHO FREQUENT THE BIG BUILDING.

People Who Haunt Congressional Lobbies and Corridors Seeking Audience with Member from Their Home District—Hopeful and Hopeless.

#### Always on Hand.

Washington correspondence:

All sorts and conditions of men—and women—visit the Capitol in the course of a day, on pleasure or business bent, but there are some types of character that may be said to be chronically and epidemically prevalent there. The old habitue of the building comes to know them "by the cut of their jib," as the sailors say. The persons themselves may change, but the types they represent do not. Death and the mutations of time or circumstances may shift the actors themselves, but their parts are always represented, and the play is constantly on the boards.

All day long they surge through the Capitol on the stream of humanity that sweeps along the corridors, or remain stationary in niches and nooks, like drift-wood caught in a sluggish shoreward eddy. Here you will see some of them standing for hours, watching and waiting for the Congressman whom they will not see if the Congressman sees them first. There are others who do not haunt the corridors with wistful face and despairing step, but who sally boldly in, and are greeted effusively, joyously and with enthusiasm by the Congressman, as he stumbles over others to get to them.

A daily visitor at the Capitol is the ward politician, who runs down to Washington for a day or two to see his Congressman and report upon the condition of the district. You cannot fail to recognize this chap when you see him. The Congressman walks through the corridor with his arm resting familiarly on the visitor's shoulder, and listening to the account of affairs at home with eagerness.

Out in Statuary Hall, in a corner filled with chairs and sofas, you will often find a certain type. This is the ladies' reception room in the House wing of the Capitol, where ladies desiring to converse with a member of the House can send in their card and meet the man they desire to see. The majority of those who

frequently supplemented by a dainty little woman in black, soft of speech, persuasive of tongue and with a world of trouble in her past. One of the stock characters at the Capitol is the old soldier, the applicant for a pension or an increase of pension. He is perennial. You can find him in almost any part of the building at almost any time of the day. He is unobtrusive, however, because he is patient, long-suffering and accustomed to delays. He stumps around the corridors with his cane, or perhaps, a THE OLD SOLDIER.

Another visitor in this ladies' reception room is the young woman who wants a position in the departments. There is a prevailing impression among many that she is always beautiful, vivacious and bewitching, but this is not necessarily the case. Plain girls are sometimes poor and in need of work. The chances are ten to one that the young woman will support two or three other people, or perhaps educate a younger brother or sister, and she is in dead earnest about her application.

A cheery sight is the honest farmer who drops into the Capitol on a visit to Washington or the East, and must call upon his member. He is often accompanied by his wife, and sends in his card and waits with an expectant air, as though anticipating a hearty welcome and effusive greeting from the Congressman. If the visitor is a man of consequence in his neighborhood, known to the congressman, the latter will come forth in a hurry and escort the visitor to the reserved gallery, whence he will point to him the dignitaries upon the floor of the House or Senate and there leave him in a state of awe and admiration.

Like the poor, whom we have always with us, is the disappointed office seeker at the Capitol. He is there every day; hopeful in the forenoon, dejected in the afternoon, and despairing in the evening, but coming again on the morrow to renew his suit and revive his hopes. You can see him almost anywhere in the building, and know him by his listless air, his anxious, careworn look and the frayed fringes of his coat-sleeves and trousers.

In all seasons of the year, when Congress is in session, and when it is not, the newly married couple forms an interesting feature of the visiting class at the Capitol. Of course, everybody is

THEIR BRIDAL TOUR "on to them" the moment they get into the building. He has hold of her arm as though fearful

that she will get away from him, or that some bad Congressman will steal her, and they go ambling through the corridors, blissfully unconscious of everything except themselves.

The crank, of course, is always on hand. Usually he is harmless, although sometimes he is not. A great many people, with nothing better to do in the world than to develop eccentricities, find Washington a congenial field, and to this class Congress seems to be as the lamp that attracts the silly moth. People with all kinds of hobbies come to the Capitol to put them into operation. The dangerous crank is an occasional visitor, but as soon as he makes his presence known he is promptly ejected.

Ever since the war a familiar figure has haunted the corridors of the Capitol. He has not been the same person all the time, but has been the same kind of person or persons and with the same kind of a plea. He is tall and thin, with a long Prince Albert coat, soft hat and turndown collar, and wears a black string tie. He draws in his speech and is very punctilious and polite in manner. This gentleman is looking after a Southern claim. The claim that he is trying to get through Congress is for supplies furnished by loyal relatives of his to Union troops during the war, or for some cotton in the possession of loyal families which was sent North and sold, and the proceeds of which sale are now in the treasury. This gentleman, or one of his kind, turns up at every Congress, and is

WARD POLITICIAN.

THE CRANK.

THE FARMER.

OFFICE-SEEKER.

HEART PARTIES.

FOR A SON'S MEMORY.

TO THE NORTH.

ACHES.

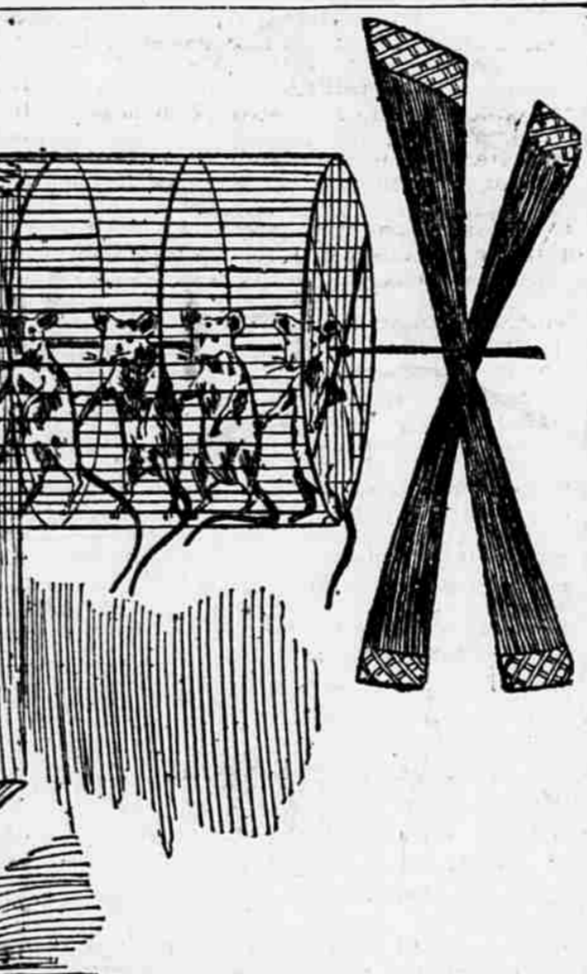
THE WAR DEPARTMENT IS EXPERIMENTING WITH ALUMINUM FOR CUPS, PLATES, HORSESHOES, BAYONET FIXTURES AND OTHER ARTICLES.

## FAMILY OF INDUSTRIOUS MICE.

### Six Interesting Little Rodents that Are Trained to Work.

Brooklyn has a family of mice consisting of six little rodents that earn their living in an interesting manner, and assist in supporting an ingenious German, whose devoted servants they are. Their home is a veritable spinning room, and they are as regular and methodical in their habits as any human beings. When the sun rises old papa mouse pokes his head through the small aperture leading to the revolving wheel to which a loom is attached, and, after blinking his eyes, gets down to work. He takes a few whirls at the treadmill and then announces to the sleeping laborers on the inside of the adjoining room that it is time to go to work, and all is in readiness to receive them. So far as the witnesses are able to state, there is a general awakening among the rest of the family, while the old boy gets down to his labor and spins the fan for at least an hour. It whirls, hums and buzzes under his motive power, and about 7 o'clock the children going to the markets and bakeries stop and take a look at their friend, who is much older than some of them. At the conclusion of his shift he pipes a call and Mrs. Mouse bounces out of her apartments and takes her turn at the wheel. She chirps, squeals and runs over the revolving cylinder until the fan is throwing a good breeze all over the store. Customers come in, stand and look on in admiration, and pass out smilingly at the persistence of the little creature.

Presently at the entrance hole four little heads appear, and the children indicate by a variety of strange noises that they are ready to lend themselves to the industry of keeping a little breeze floating around the German's shop. The mother gives the treadmill an extra whirl and lightly hops out, while her



FAMILY OF MICE THAT RUNS A FAN IN A SHOP.

babies scamper in and go on with the occupation that has been part of their early bringing up. Presently at noon they all come out in the main room for lunch, and about 12:30 they are once more earning their living, which, by the way, is mere play for them.

### Bogus Diamonds.

Some curious stories can be told about the thousands of false diamonds sold yearly in London. As a working goldsmith I have seen a good deal of the trade in imitation stones. People of all ranks buy them. A nobleman is in immediate want of cash and must find it somewhere. He will perhaps turn to his family diamonds. Possibly £10,000 could be raised on them. He takes the jewelry off to the false diamond provider, has the real stones removed and the false ones put in, and deposits the actual gems with some one as a security for a loan. No one is a bit the wiser. His wife appears in her jewels just the same as usual. If she didn't her husband would be made bankrupt by his creditors the next week. A large amount of business is done in this way, and you may depend upon it that the false diamond merchant has many a chuckle when he reads in his paper about Lady So-and-so's magnificent diamond bracelet and the Countess Bareacre's "superb tiara."—Ashton Reporter.

Large Lobsters. The largest lobster ever caught on the coast of America was taken by a Belfast, Me., fisherman in 1891. It weighed twenty-three pounds and measured thirty-seven inches from the end of its tail to the tip of the long front claw. The monster was too large to enter a common lobster trap, but as the trap was being drawn up it was caught in the netting and safely landed. Many years ago a lobster weighing twenty-two pounds was captured near the same place, and the event was considered to be of enough importance to be given a place in Williamson's "History of Belfast."

To the North. It is doubtful if any particular benefit is derived from sleeping with the head to the north. It has, however, been asserted by nervous people that a difference was noticeable in their temper and composure with changes of sleeping position with regard to the magnetic polarity of the earth.

Aches. Essence of peppermint, applied with the finger tips over the seat of pain, often gives relief in headache, toothache, or neuralgia pain in any part of the body. Care must be taken not to put it directly under the eye, on account of the smarting it would cause.

The War Department is experimenting with aluminum for cups, plates, horseshoes, bayonet fixtures and other articles.

## NOTES ON EDUCATION.

### MATTERS OF INTEREST TO PUPIL AND TEACHER.

Raising the Standard of Scholarship—The Social Side of a Teacher's Life—Lawrence University Semi-Centennial—Cost of Detroit's High School.

Much has been said of late of the low condition of American schools, primary and secondary. There is only one way to reform them, and that is to make those who teach in them masters of their craft and really capable of doing that which they propose to do. The education question to-day is a question of the qualification of school teachers. And it is to be solved by filling a worthy standard both of liberal education and a professional training for every grade of teacher.

As regards scholastic attainments, the point must be emphasized that no one can teach all he knows. Much is lost in the friction of repression, and still more is doomed to remain below the expressible level. One man can convey to another only a small fraction of what is in his own mind on any particular subject. Consequently, the teacher must know a good deal more than his most advanced pupil. The only safe rule is that the teacher in a primary school shall have had a secondary education, and the teacher of a high school, academy or normal school must be a college graduate. The practical observation of this rule would do more than any other single reform, not only to dignify the teaching profession, but to elevate and improve the schools.

Most of the pupils in the United States are in the common schools—96 per cent., indeed; but as the teachers of the common schools are educated in the high schools, it is apparent that these institutions of secondary instruction have a unique importance in the system of public education, and deserve a consideration and fostering care far above anything to which they might be entitled on the score of their numerical proportions alone. In a word, the schools of the people cannot be efficient unless the high schools, academies and normal schools which furnish them with teachers are taught by men and women who have had a collegiate education and a thorough pedagogical training.

The State of New York has recently ordained that "no person shall be employed or licensed to teach in the primary and grammar schools of any city, who has not graduated from a high school or academy having a course of study not less than three years," and who, "subsequently to such graduation, has not graduated from the school or class for the professional training of teachers, having a course of study of not less than thirty-eight weeks." The extension of this important regulation concerning the scholarship and professional training of elementary teachers to the teachers of the high schools, academies and normal schools would mean that they should have a college education and, thereafter, professional training in a pedagogical seminary especially adapted to the need of college graduates.—Popular Educator.

### The Social Side.

Although morally the status of the teacher is high, socially it is found to be lower than the status of the average lawyer, the physician, or the theologian. Teachers do not give proper time and thought to the social side of life. To begin with, they are thought to be like the old-fashioned scholar in matters of personal appearance. Fortunately, there is no special style of dress by which they are known, but there is a carelessness that characterizes the rank and file of them. They do not feel the desirability of meeting people in a social way. The fault, however, is not in the occupation, but in the persons who take it up. Whenever teachers meet other men and women on equal terms, they get all the esteem their character and personality deserve. Undoubtedly, as many complain, they are overworked, and have not strength left for society; often the drudgery of the school robs them of time for social duties, and tends to quench any social desire. Moreover, many are not paid enough to dress properly. In school we teachers are associated with less mature minds, and it is easy to become self-satisfied. Unless we come in contact with men and women of equal or higher intellectual attainments, we fail to realize our littleness.—F. W. Atkinson, in Atlantic Monthly.

### The Memory.

The fault of the schools which some of us in our earlier years attended was that they did not teach us to think. Whether it was known that we could think, I am unable to say, but none of our school work required thought, except in applying rules. In arithmetic the definitions of terms and the rules for the solutions of the problems were memorized, though few of them were understood. Grammar, geography and history, where these (then considered higher branches) received attention, were learned in the same way as arithmetic.

Only a few years ago a somewhat popular institute instructor said that he thought the best way to study geography was to memorize it word for word; even psychology he thought should be memorized. He believed that memorizing a subject secured more thoroughness than any other method yet devised.

While no teacher now would advocate the pure memory method, it is not true that many teachers, in their simple innocence, have come to believe that memory is a useful faculty, a mere ornamental accompaniment of the other

mental powers, and that to give it appropriate training in connection with the activities of the other powers indicates that one is slightly behind the times, probably "a back number?"

I have been told that there are "teachers" who advise their pupils not to memorize anything. This advice is founded on what is believed to be the "new education." If such advice can be deduced from any new education, the education must be too new to be true.

Not to memorize anything may mean not to memorize what is not understood, and in this sense the advice is sound. But if meant in the sense in which it was received by those to whom it was given, namely, that they should not try to remember anything, it is worse than nonsense.

There is a rational or proper use of the memory as well as an irrational or improper use. Memorizing that which is not understood, "blind memorizing," is a misuse of the remembering power; but memorizing what is understood, if it is needed for future use, is rational.

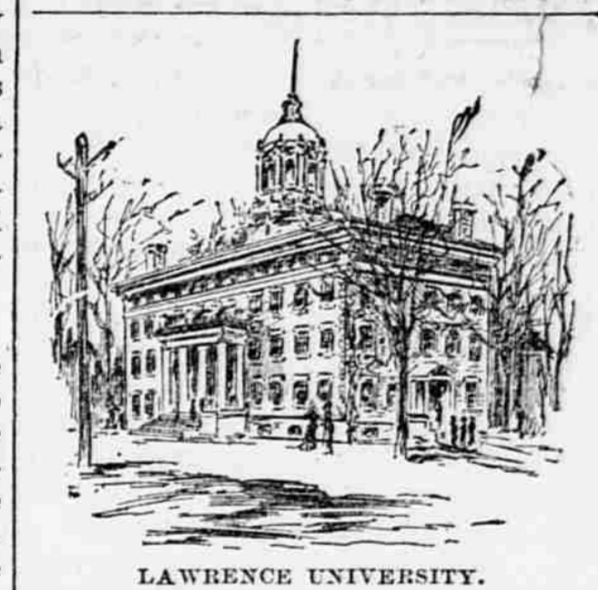
A teacher should be familiar with the sequences of topics of every subject he essays to teach. If he is obliged to open a book to see what the next topic is, he can scarcely be said to be master of his subject. In the earlier days of our schools, pupils found comparatively little difficulty in committing to memory, but at present it seems a task from which they shrink; and when they do undertake it they fail more frequently than they succeed. To recall even only eight or ten topics in the order of their presentation seems almost an impossibility for some.

To make our schools what they should be, wiser counsel must prevail among the teachers; teaching must be vastly improved; in most instances entirely changed. But this improvement will not introduce itself; it must come through the teachers; through their own improvement. They must learn to do sound, sober thinking, and much of it; must stop teaching according to customs or fashion; avoid riding wild, unpedagogic hobbies; and not accept, without the clearest evidence or certainty, advice, no matter from what source it may come.

When this state of advancement shall have been attained by the teachers, the memory will find its proper place in the school room.—Educational News.

### Lawrence University.

Lawrence University, of Appleton, Wis., which celebrated its semi-centennial, is one of the oldest educational institutions in the State. The college dates its foundation to 1846, when Amos Lawrence offered the Rock River conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church \$10,000 for a university, providing the conference could raise a similar sum. The money was raised, and among the contributors were George Harris of Rhode Island, Morgan L. Marty of Green Bay, Charles Durkee and Rev. Sereno Fisk of Kenosha.



LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY.

The charter of the college was signed by Gov. Dodge in 1847. Other philanthropists donated the land, and the school was opened in 1849 with thirty-five pupils. In two years the number of students had increased to 200, and its prosperity has been great and gratifying ever since. Students of all religions have been educated within its walls. Recently the institution has been endowed with \$100,000, and today it is one of the most useful schools in the country.

### Detroit's New High School.

The total cost of the new Central High School, of Detroit, has thus far aggregated more than a half million dollars. The Cotteral contract has turned out to cost \$227,977.32; the carpenter contract held by Spitzley Bros. was originally \$81,500, to which a bonus of \$2,000 was added to get the building ready for school on Sept. 14; the site cost \$130,000, and the heating, plumbing and furniture, together with many other extras, bring up the total more than \$500,000.—Educational News.

### Where Our Public Lands Are Going.

Uncle Sam is losing his grip on the domain he once owned. According to the report of Silas W. Lamoreux, commissioner of the General Land Office, there were patented to twenty railroads during the year ending June 30, 15,527,844 acres of the public land. Of this number the Northern Pacific Railroad obtained 12,208,579 acres and the Huntington roads over 3,000,000 leaving only 177,978 acres to the other companies.

In three years there have been patented to railroads 24,577,734 acres of land, of which the Northern Pacific received over eighteen and a half millions. This portion of the public domain transferred to a single corporation within three years comprises a greater area of territory than that embraced in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island.

### Disappearing Islands.

In some oceans, particularly to the south of Japan, islands have a way of appearing and disappearing without notice.

Learn a little, and remember it.

## KUELAI KHAN.

### The Revolt of Nayan, a Great Chief Against His Nephew.

Now this Cublay Kaan is of the right Imperial lineage, being descended from Chingis Kaan, the first sovereign of all the Tartars. And he is the sixth Lord in that succession, as I have already told you in this book. He came to the throne in the year 1256, and the Empire fell to him because of his ability and valor and great worth, as was right and reason. His brothers, indeed, and other kinsmen disputed his claim, but his it remained, both because maintained by his great valor, and because it was in law and right his, as being directly sprung of the Imperial line.

Up to the year now running, to wit, 1298, he hath reigned two and forty years, and his age is about 85, so that he must have been about 43 years of age when he first came to the throne. Before that time he had often been to the wars, and had shown himself a gallant soldier and an excellent captain. But after coming to the throne he never went to the wars in person, save once. This befell in the year 1281, and I will tell you how he went.

There was a great Tartar Chief, whose name was Nayan, a young man of 30, Lord over many lands and many provinces, and he was Uncle to the Emperor Cublay Kaan, of whom we are speaking. And when he found himself in authority this Nayan waxed proud in the insolence of his youth and his great power; for indeed he could bring into the field 300,000 horsemen, though all the time he was liegeman to his nephew, the Great Kaan Cublay, as was right and reason. Seeing, then, what great power he had, he took it into his head that he would be the Great Kaan's vassal no longer; nay, more, he would fain wrest his empire from him if he could. So this Nayan sent envoys to another Tartar Prince, called Caidu, also a great and potent Lord, who was a kinsman of his, and who was a nephew of the Great Kaan and his lawful liegeman also, though he was in rebellion and bitter enemy, with his sovereign Lord and Uncle.

Now the message that Nayan sent was this: That he himself was making ready to march against the Great Kaan with all his forces (which were great), and he begged Caidu to do likewise from his side, so that by attacking Cublay on two sides at once with such great forces they would be able to wrest his dominion from him.

And when Caidu heard the message of Nayan, he was right glad thereof, and thought the time was come at last to gain his object. So he sent back answer that he would do as requested; and got ready his host, which mustered a good hundred thousand horsemen.—"The True Story of Marco Polo," St. Nicholas.

### The Capture of an Orchid.

Among the flowers of tropical lands none are more prized for their beautiful and curious forms and fragrant scent than the orchids, which grow in all sorts of odd places, but mostly on the ground, or perched high up among the branches of the trees.

The orchids of the Guiana forests provide a home for the black ants—"free, gratis and for nothing."

Why? Because they prey upon the cockroaches, which would otherwise destroy the plant by eating up its juiciest portions.

So that when a human orchid-hunter tries to capture a plant, he has to reckon with thousands of tiny foes that fight to the very last.

After the plant has been dislodged from the tree—no easy task—it is usual to attach it to a long bamboo pole and throw it into the river, until the ants are thoroughly washed out of it. And all the time the boat has to be kept up stream and the pole carefully watched lest the ants come aboard.

By-and-by the insects confess themselves beaten, and the orchid-seeker retires with his dearly won prize.

### Mind and Health.

The mental condition has far more influence upon the bodily health than is generally supposed. It is no doubt true that ailments of the body cause depressing and morbid conditions of the mind, but it is no less true that sorrowful and disagreeable emotions produce disease in persons who, uninfluenced by them, would be in sound health; or, if disease is not produced, the functions are disordered.

Agreeable emotions set in motion nervous currents which stimulate blood, brain, and every part of the system into healthful activity; while grief, disappointment of feeling, and brooding over present sorrows or past mistakes depress all the vital forces. To be physically well one must, in general, be happy. The reverse is not always true; one may be happy and cheerful, and yet be a constant sufferer in body.

### Be Helpful.

Help ever the helpless, be it a drowning fly or a brother floundering through the difficulties of life's first tasks. It needs not vastness of resource, or extent of power to minister such heart-help as the true-hearted can render. I see you the friend of the friendless, the ungrateful, and ungracious; the raiser of the fallen, though perchance, only perversely to fall again; the cheerer of the cheerless, though it may be they drop again when your bright presence has passed away.

### The Turtle.

Formerly the turtle was taken by means of harpoons or spears; but this process injured the creature. It is now taken in nets or captured upon the beach. Certain fishermen prefer to dive and take the animal by hand, but when the reptile is powerful this is not accomplished without some difficulty.

Misery may love company, but people do not.