

representative of the Palladian Society and myself agreed on two things. First, that university reminiscences would be waived aside as a subject that is usually overworked upon such occasions. And secondly, live political issues were of too inflammatory a nature to allow them to be worked at all, three weeks preceding election. Then I thought of European universities, having spent some time in making myself acquainted with a dozen or so of the most prominent, but I remembered that the monthlies and quarterlies and even some of the weeklies had published from time to time many an article upon this theme; and I remembered also that if this straw needed any more threshing, the chancellor that *is* was quite as competent to handle the flail as the chancellor that *was*. So that subject was allowed to pass.

Then I bethought me that when I returned home after having spent four years and four months in connection with the consular service in France, every old acquaintance whom I met, was full of questions pertaining to the country in which I lived, the people among whom I had sojourned, and especially as to the nature of the consular service itself, how consuls receive their appointment, how they get their pay and how much they get, what was their main business and how they filled up their time, and so on and so on, and although the larger part of these inquiring friends were men and women of university education, yet I did not at all wonder at their questions when I recalled the fact that there was no book to which I could refer them for information nor even a magazine article within my knowledge that had undertaken to answer such inquiries."

Referring to the 500 persons in the consular service, the speaker said that there were, perhaps, more than 50,000 persons living who dream of holding such posi-

tion before they die, and that, in fact, it is said that not less than 10,000 names were sent to President Cleveland at the beginning of his second term for such appointment. After naming the five grades of consular service, viz: consul general, consul, vice consul, consular clerk, consular agent, he told of the manner of appointment and of the salaries which each grade of consuls get. Some amusing inconsistencies were told about the matter of salary, as for instance, the fact that the consulate at Lyons pays only \$2500 while two neighboring consulates pay \$3000 and \$4000, although neither of the latter does a tithe as much business as is done at the Lyons consulate. In speaking of consulates in general, the speaker said that the salary of the consul at London is \$5000 but that in addition to this he has fees amounting to \$25000 besides that. The manner in which dishonest officials very often cheat the government was very vividly presented. In speaking of the Lyons consulate, Mr. Fairfield said that \$12,000,000 in 1892 of silks, satins, plushes, velvets, and other silk fabrics passed through the consulate. He showed that the consul could easily cheat the United States government out of a very large sum of money by being careless in the manner in which he inspects the goods that pass through his office. The ex-chancellor then showed how each day of the life of the consul is passed in signing his name to documents, a thousand times a day more or less, and in investigating the quality of the goods of which samples are brought to him. Many things come in the way of the consul to do for the citizens of his own country who are sojourning abroad. Many specific instances of this were shown, some very pathetic ones and others very humorous, which happened to the Lyons consul, when Mr. Fairfield and the consul were one. One amusing