TOIL FOR BREAD AND BUTTER.

Reduction of Working Hours Demanded Around the World.

A LEADER OF THE GREAT MOVEMENT

Shoe Clerks Have Applied to the Knights of Labor and a Boycott Has Been Suggested.

Evolution in Hours.

At the last regular meeting of the central labor union of this city Congressman Connell's eight-hour bill was discussed at considerable length. The result was that strong resolutions were passed endorsing its provisions and urging the congressmen from this state to vote for its passage. The bill reads

Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled. That eight hours shall constitute a day's work for all laborers, worknem and mechanics now employed, or who may hereafter be employed, by or on behalf of the government of the United States, except in cases of extraordinary emergency which may arise in time of war, or in cases where it may be necessary to work more than eight hours per calendar day for the protection of property or human life: Provided, That in all such cases the inborers, workmen, or mechanics so employed and working to exceed eight hours per calendar day shall be paid on the basis of eight hours constituting a day's work.

Sec 2. That all contracts bereafter made by

ceed eight hours per calendar day shall be paid on the basis of eight hours constituting a day's work.

Sec. 2. That all contracts hereafter made by or on behalf of the government of the United States with any corporation, person, or persons for the performance of any work or the furnishing of any material manufactured within the United States, shall be deemed and considered as made on the basis of eight hours constituting a day's work; and it shall be unlawful for any such corporation, person or persons to require or permit any laborer, workman, or mechanic to work more than eight hours per calendar day in doing such work or manufacturing such material, except in the cases and upon the conditions provided in section one of this act.

Sec. 3. That any officer of the government of the United States, or any person acting under or forsuch officer, or any contractor with the United States, or any contractor with the United States or the person violating any of the provisions of this act, shall for each befores be punished by a fine not less than \$50 nor more than \$1,000, or imprisonment not more than six months, or be both fined and imprisoned in the discretion of the court.

In speaking upon the subject the prominent

In speaking upon the subject the prominent members of the Knights of Labor in this city advanced the theory that it is only a question of a short time when such a rule, if not a law, will be in force in every state in the union. They say this is only the beginning of the great reform that in time will sweep over the entire land, and to prove their theory, point to the advancement made in this direction

within the past fifty years.

In conversation with an old man yesterday, one who has been a Knight of Labor since the order was in its infancy, the latter said:

"Wedl do I remember fifty years ago when a day's work begun at sunrise and ended at sunset. We thought nothing of the practice as the example was set by our forefathers, and what was good enough for them was good what was good enough for them was good. as the example was set by our forefathers, and
what was good enough for them was good
enough for us. But as time rolled on and we
became educated, we concluded the hours
were too long, and that by shortening them
we would not only be benefitting ourselves,
but would be adding to the intererts of our
employers. We made the demand and a day's
labor was reduced to twelve hours. In this
rut we worked along for years, but again we rut we worked along for years, but again we commenced to think, and observing the im-provement the twelve hour system had wrought, we made another demand, insisting that ten hours should constitute a working

that ten hours should constitute a working day. This met with opposition at first, but after a little time we were victorious and the concession was granted, both employer and employe being satisfied.

"To make a long story short we arrived at the conclusion that in creating the world God had divided time in such a manner that the day was composed of twenty-four hours of time, and in this division He had intended that eight hours were for labor, eight for sleep and eight for rest. Following out the example of His infinite wisdom, we are now example of His infinite wisdom, we are now before the people with our demand, which to every thinking man must seem just and right."

The Father of Shorter Hours. The 14th of May stands in the calendar of industrial progress as the anniversary of the birth of Robert Owen, the most famous labor

champion of the nineteenth century

In these days of struggle for shorter hours the virtues of this great philanthropist are naturally called up. Nothing could have been more pitiable that the condition of the working class in England when he began his grand efforts to ameliorate it, about the beginning of this century.

Standing on a hill overlooking his factories this rich and powerful manufacturer reflected that they were filled with wretched men, women and children, doomed to from twelve gratfifteen hours of daily labor, and to enjoy at'ly more of the comforts and refinements \$1,5 % than his horses and cattle. His heart ar Thecience were stirred, and from that Fine determined to devote his fortune to making labor attractive and remunerative and blending it with education and self-

respert.
One of the first means adopted by Owen was to secure shorter hours. Not being able with all his wealth to enlist the London Times

in the cause he hired its space has bis ideas as advertisements.

No sooner did the ten-hour movement spread than all the leading journals of England streuwously opposed it. They said it would ruin British industry, encourage idle-cass and increase crime. In short, such a big to transon to vement, they said, was akin to treason to Yet the movement went on, and a campaign

of education gradually succeeded in winning over other manufacturers, members of parlicment and the press, until at last ten hours came to be a legal day's labor in Great Brit-

In the debates in parliament all the arguments of conservatism were exhausted to show that twelve or fourteen hours was the proper thing for the highest moral welfare of labor. The Joseph Cooks of those days were especially zealous in showing that if the work-ingman was given any considerable margin between their labor and sleep he would be sure to make a bad use of his time and money. Today the man who should raise in parlia ment and move for twelve hours as a legal day's work would probably be carried out as a

This movement for shorter hours is proper ly an educational one. The workingmen now agitating it are moving steadily, rationally and peacefully forward. The constant increaso of productive power makes it just that the workingman should enjoy his share of the saving of labor, and in the end justice will

Will It Be a Boycott?

Although little is said, the movement on the part of the clerks in the retail shoe stores of the city for a reduction of hours of labor is

by no means dead. Some time ago, when the subject was taken under advisement, a petition was circulated among the dealers, and signed by all the leading firms with the exception of three.

After that, a committee waited upon the three firms with the hope of presenting arguments which would convince them it was for their best interests to close their stores at 6 o'clock, at least during the summer months. The arguments were without avail, the pro-

prictors claiming that, by so doing, they would lose an enermous amount of trade which would go to the general stores, hand-ling boots and shoes, in addition to their The clerks conferred with the houses favor

ing early closing, and although no public demonstration has been made, have silently waged a warfare that in the future they hold will crown their efforts with success.

A few days ago a number of the clerks in the stores favoring the early closing plan, in behalf of themselves and their fellow clerks, held a meeting and decided upon the course

e matter was presented to the Knights of Labor who, after approving of their action. referred the complaint to the Central Labor

union, where it will be acted upon no doubt at the next meeting of that body.

The question now arises, "What can the Central Labor union do to ald the clerks?"

Upon this a number of the delegates have been seen and the sentiment seems to prevail that but one course is left to be reveal. that but one course is left to be pursued,

which is to boycott the houses refusing to

Yesterday a prominent worker in the cen-tral labor union said: tral labor union said:

"The shoe clerks have asked us to aid them and as co-workers in the same cause, we are in duty bound, by the orligations of our order, to give them the assistance we can in the way of affording relief."

"How will you go about it!" was asked.

"There are various ways," he replied, "but the most effective is the boycott.

"In Omaha we have from 10,000 to 15,000 men, who belong to societies organized to

men who belong to societies organized to further the interests of the laboring classes, and should we order a beycott, there is no doubt all, or at least nearly all of these men and their families would give these stores a most severe letting alone.

most severe letting alone.

"The shoe clerks have just cause for complaint, as it is a most notorious fact that, under the present system, they are compelled to labor from twelve to fifteen hours each day, while men in other lines of trade work only from nine to ten hours, and receive as good, if not better, wages.

wages.
"We don't care to go before the public just "We don't care to go before the public just at present upon this proposition, as the clerks have not yet entered into full fellowship, but when they do, and then come to us, they can make their demand, and rest assured it will be granted, with no half-way ground.

"I feel safe in saying that not a merchant in Omaha has any desire to see a firm boy-cotted, because it means the loss of business; but, if the occasion demands, and the boys want our help, the manifesto will go forth."

The clerks fully understand what course

forth."

The clerks fully understand what course the central labor union will expect them to pursue and will act accordingly. There is now no doubt but that within the next ten days or two weeks they will perfect an organization and apply for the protection which the Knights of Labor are only too willing to grant, if the application comes through the proper channel.

through the proper channel.

A number of the larger stores in the city have already agreed to meet the demands of the clerks and are only waiting until they shall ask for shorter hours, while others are holding out, claiming is would be ruinous to their business if their clerks were allowed to dictate terms.

The next ten days will settle the matter in one way or the other, as a point has now been reached where, if the clerks do not win, they will accept their defeat without a murmur and continue to labor as heretofore.

Eight Hours All Over.

There are but few people outside of the bread winners who stop to consider how earnestly the workingmen of America and Europe are striving to bring about a healthy and friendly sentiment upon the subject of shorter hours of labor.

The agitation now going on throughout the country is evidently not the result of a week's discussion. Neither did it begin last month or last year. Agitation and education have progressed alike, through various stages for the past twenty years. The labor-saving machinery of the present age, invention, advancement in skill and science, have made it possible to do the world's work in a few hours each day. Half a century ago it took long hours, from sun to sun, and even then the work was not done. Figure it out for yourself, Four hours of work every day by all who should work, and there should be no idlers, would not only supply all of the wants of the world, but would lay up a surplus as well. or last year. Agitation and education have

of the world, but would lay up a surplus as well.

If this be true, it is held that the hours of labor should be shortened so as to give steady employment to the idle hands and create a new demand for the manufactured articles. The great point that has been in controversy is the best way by which this one object may be attained without creating friction or stopping the wheels of progress.

This year the American Federation of Labor, following the instructions received at the annual convention, has made an effort in behalf of one craft—the carpenters—but whether they succeed or not in establishing the system of shorter hours, they have started the work of agitation, which the organization states will move steadily on until manufacturer and workman alike will see the manufacturer and workman alike will see the necessity for the adoption of a system that is not only practicable, but humane and abso-lutely necessary. It is not to be supposed that because there are different organizations in the movement there is an antagonism between them; and while all of them are not making special efforts this year, they dee none the less determined to y'grave reform for themselves at some time in the feature.

to v grace reform for themselves at some time in the future.

The plan adopted by the Knights of Labor to shorten the time one-half hour each year without any reduction of wages, has been adopted without any friction in many places, the most extensive of which is in the shops of the Union Pacific railway company. Between the management of this road and the Knights there is an agreement to this effect and the first steps looking to the desired end have

All over the civilized world the organized workmen are setting forth their claims for recognition in this direction; and, while they may differ in opinion as to the methods of de tail, they stand as one man upon the broad question that the hours of a working day must be shortened.

Upon this subject General Master Work-man Powderly, a few days ago in an interview said:

"I sincerely hope that as a result of the agitation of years the workmen and manufac-turers of this country may see the absolute necessity for a common understanding on this question. There will be no cessation, there can be none, in the agitation for the short-hour system until it is put into practical opetion. It is a waste of time and energy on a part of the employers to attempt to fight down the idea, for it will not down downed this year it will be up the next year and though every organization now in exist ence should be wined off the face of the earth in 1890, the coming years will see them reor-ganized and far more determined to win the reform demanded and fought for through so many years."

Organized Swedish Carpenters. The Swedish carpenters of the city have fallen into line and are about organized into one of the strongest unions in the city. Until recently the wood-workers of this nationality were opposed to unions, believing that they could secure better wages and have as muc

protection by staying outside the fold. About six weeks ago a number of them met and after discussing the situation in the east. determined to enter the brotherhood.

Last week, of the 300 Swedish carpenters in Omaha, 150 met in Green's hall, where, under the direction of W. B. Musser of the Central labor union they took the first step toward organizing a society of their own.

Enthusiastic speeches were made by a

number of the gentlemen present, after which they all signed an application asking for ad-mission into the Knights of Labor. The application has been forwarded to headquarters, and, upon its return, another meeting will be held, at which officers will be

elected for the ensuing year.
With the formation of this organization and that of the German carpenters, nearly all of the first-class wood workers of Omaha will be within the folds of organized labor.

Labor Notes. The Haverhill, Mass., plumbers and carpen ters struck for nine hours and their demands were granted.

In New York city 170 Italian marble cutters went out for nine hours and their places were filled by other workmen. The wood-carvers in the Grand Rapids, Mich., furniture factories are on a strike.

They demand nine hours. In this city the waiters in one of the chor houses struck for higher wages last week They had been receiving \$8 per week and de ded \$9. Instead of securing the addi-il dollar they were discharged and their places filled with new men.

In Toledo, Ohio, the bakers and brewers who have been working twelve hours per day, have had their time reduced and are now working ten hours and receiving twelve

The Consolidated pavers of New York city have fixed the scale at \$1.50, nine hours and no sub-contracting. Conductor Jarris, of Division 49, Order of

Railway Conductors, is at the Rochester con-vention. No. 49 has headquarters at Mo-Conductor William Flynn of the Union Pacific represents the Omaha divisions in the convention of railway conductors now convened at Rochester, N. Y.

Last week all the granite-cutters in Nian-tic, Groten and New London, Coun., went on strike, demanding nine hours, without any reduction in pay. In the Atlantic copper mines at Hancock

Mich., 500 miners are on a strike. They were receiving \$40 per month and demanded \$1.75 At Youngstown, O., last week all painters,

Every Pair of Our Men's Shoes to be AT COST.

We have Decided not to Keep Men's Shoes.

And will close out at cost, our large stock bought this spring direct from the eastern manufacturers.

This is Positive and Absolute.

Men's fine kangaroo sewed shoes flow | made, now \$3.85, regular price \$5. \$2.20, regular price \$2.75, in congress and bals.

Men's fine russet calf shoes now \$2, regular price \$2.75. Men's fine B calf shoes, regular price

\$2, now \$1.60, in bals and congress. Men's best quality hand made patent leather shoes, regular price \$7, now \$5. Men's best quality hand made shoes in cordival, kangaroo and calf at \$5, reg-

Men's fine French calf shoe, hand bargains in oxford ties of all kinds.

Men's 2-buckle plow shoes now \$1.10, egular price \$1.35. Men's calf boots of all kinds at less

Men's kip boots at 1 price to close.

Our men's shoes are all the latest styles. We have them in all widths and sizes, They were all make to order for us and include many of the best makes. Come early and get first choice. ular prices \$6.50 and \$7; in bals, button Our stock of ladies', misses' and chil-

dren's shoes is large. We have great

All Men's Shoes, At Cost to Close. Kelley, Stiger

10 pieces bleached damask at 45c; worth 60c.
10 pieces bleached damask at 75c; worth 90c.
10 pieces bleached damask, 68 and 72 in wide, at \$1; would be cheap at \$1.25.
10 pieces 72 in bleached damask, in very choice patterns, at \$1.25; weil worth
\$1.65. 3-4 napxins to match, at \$3.75; worth \$4.5 0.

Cream Damask 15 pieces extra cream damask at 50c; worth 65c, This damask is very suitable

for boarding houses and restaurants.

Half bleached damask, extra fine, at 65c; good value for 85c. Odd Cloths

We have a small lot of odd cloths that we have no napkins to match, in sizes 8-4 and 8-4 by 10-4, this little lot will be sold out regardless of cost, anyone that can use these sizes will do well to come early as the lot is small and they are

ry cheap.

8.4 fine damask cloths at \$2.25; reduced from \$3.35.

8-4 fine damask cloths at \$3.75; reduced from \$5.

8-4 extra fine damask cloths at \$4.50; reduced from \$6.

8-4 finest damask cloths at \$5.50; reduced from \$7.00.

8-10 fine damask cloths at \$3; reduced from \$4.

8-10 extra fine damask cloths at \$6.50; reduced from \$8.50.

Napkins Extra large 5-8 bleached napkins \$1.95; worth \$ 2.35. Special—Extra fine 3-4 double damask napkins at \$5.50; reduced from \$7. 3-4 fine damask napkins at \$2.37\(\frac{1}{2}\); well worth \$3.25. 3-4 extra damask napkins at \$3.50; good value at \$4.

Towels

Fine huck, size 175; x33, at \$1.50 per dozen; would be cheap at \$2.

Fine huck towels, size 19x38, at \$2 doz. This towel is very cheap and is well worth \$2.75. doz

Fine damask towels, knotted fringe, at 15c; worth 25c.

At 15c we show an elegant assortment of fine damask and huck towels, they are worth 25c.

At 25c we show the finest line of damask and huck towels that can be found in the city,

many of the towels in this lot are well worth 35c and 40c.

Bed Spreads

10-4 crochet bed spreads at 75c; worth 90c.

10-4 crochet bed spreads at 75c; worth 90c.

10-4 crochet bed spreads in marselles patterns, at \$1; good value at \$1.25.

11-4 crochet bed spreads at \$1.50, this is a special bargain and is well worth \$1.85.

10-4 Marselles at \$1.55; reduced from \$2.25,

Special—At \$2.50 we show a marselles spread that is worth \$1.25

Special—At \$2.50, extra fine Marselles spreads that are worth \$4.50. We call att ention to these marked special, as they are the best value we have everoffered.

Raw Silk Table Covers

6-4 rawsilk covers at \$2.50; worth \$2.50.

5-4 raw silk covers at \$2.50; worth \$3.

8-4 tapestry cover at \$2.50; worth \$3.

Extra fine slik covers, at \$2.50 and \$7.50. These compinional and accordings.

& Company

Corner Dodge and 15th Street.

bricklayers and masons were granted an advance in wages and hereafter will work but nine hours a day.

The carpenters at Washington, Pa., went on a strike last week for nine hours, eight hours on Saturday and the discharge of all non-union men. The bosses have not yet come to terms and work is at a standstill. Within the last ten days work has been re sumed in the Dorrance and Prospect collieries of the Lehigh Valley coal company in Wilkes-

barre, Pa., and employment is now given to Since the first of last January the rolling ills at Birmingham, Ala., have been shu down because the owners refused to recog nize the demands of the union men. Las week negotiations were entered into by which

the mills were started and employment given The Boston Globe, in commenting upon labor affairs, says: The labor question is the the great portentous issue of modern times, overshadowing all others and making the petty bickerings of kings and parties seem small. About the only political questions that now command respectful hearing are those that are essentially fragments of the great labor question: How shall the workers get a fair share of the fruits of their work, and how shall every man's natural right to supply his own wents of his own labor be

ecured to him? There was a meeting of D. A. 16, Knights of Labor, in Wilkesbarre, Pa., last week. Resolutions were adopted declaring that the present mine districts are too large for the mine 'nspectors, who, under the existing cir cums ances, are unable to visit the various mines as often as necessary for the proper projection of the miners. The legislature will be asked to subdivide the present dis-tric s. It was decided to levy an assessment of \$1 per member to aid the strikers at the axle works. This will swell their fund over \$10,000.

CONNUBIALITIES.

Mary Queen of Scots' marriage contract with Francis II, of France is to be sold by austion shortly in Loadon. It is a quaint old manuscript of nine folio pages.

When the deceased wife's sister act was passed in Canada, the logical necessity of its extension to the daughter of the deceased wife's sister was overlooked, and a bill has been brought into the senate to remedy this

Edward A. Greenwald, ir., nephew of wealthy dry goods merchant, suicided in New York city the other day on account of an un fortunate affair of the heart. He was the son of the manager of the New Orleans opera house and had been jilted by the dark-eyed daughter of a wealthy southern planter.

As Rev. Mr. Rohrbough was going to an appointment in Phillips, W. Va., he was met on the highway by Peter T. Reed and Miss Martha McDaniel on horseback. They were eloping and irate parents were in hot pursuit. The minister was halted, the license handed over, and in a twinkling the knot was tied. Four years ago a young Georgian asked a charming belle of the pretty town of Thomas-ville to marry him. "I will," she said, "when you are an officer in the United States army Coo old to get an appointment to West Point this young Georgian enlisted as a private in an artillery battery, his purpose being to rise from the ranks to a lieutenancy. He accomplished his purpose in just two years.

wedding has just taken place. Walter Lothair Stanley Langerman, a swell young lawyer of New York city, met in London last season Miss Gladys Stanhope, only daughter of Rt. Hon. Percy Ronald Stanhope of Gilford, Surrey, and is said to have carried on quite a flirtation with her. Recently the young lady arrived in New York and insisted hat her "own darling Lothair" should marry but he refused and persuaded her to re-

A Turk named Stephen K. Bobasinian CA Turk named Stephen K. Bobashian came to this country three years ago from Constantinople and engaged in business in Chicago. He got into a correspondence with Miss Bertha Beman, a pretty girl of Woodbury, N. J., became engaged to her, and just before starting to meet her sent her an acci-dent policy. He was killed on his way cast. The loss of her lover and the discovery of the fact that only his relatives could recover on the policy so preyed upon his flancee that she died of a broken heart. A workman sold his lawfully wedded wife

to a small tradesman, or rather lent her for two years, at the moderate price of one mark, The tradesman, well satisfied with his barrain, lived happily with the woman. At the end of fifteen months the husband demanded an additional fifteen marks, asserting that in handing over his wife he had overlooked the fact that she had an excellent set of teeth. The tradesman, would not budge a single pfennig beyond the original mark until the husband went into court. The wife was then ordered to return to her lord and master.

WICKEDNESS IN WASHINGTON.

The Slums and Plague Spots at the National Capital.

GIVEN OVER TO THE PUGHS

Bake Association-President Washington and Davy Burns-Inflexible Social Customs.

Washington, May 16 .- [Special to The Beg.]-Spooks and scenes of ribaldry, footpads, highwaymen, African midnight picnics, and blood-curdling familiarity with the razor. All this in what was once the central grounds of the nation's capital, and where the best society of our first reigns of government held their fashionable sway.

Decadence and retrogression seem to have centralized in one spot in Washington, and the story of it all can be related in a few thrilling paragraphs.

Although but a century old Washington is able to turn a retrospective glance on a past that is rich in romance and story, a past beginning in the troublous times of the new country just succeeding the great struggle from which it had emerged after casting off the bonds that trammeled freedom, and embracing in its chronicles the history of a nation. Washington is of all other American cities a city of strong and at times disagreeable contrasts. A city of magnificent distances it certainly is, and the visitor to the capital city who confines himself to the wide sweeps of perfect avenues and beautiful parks loses sight of the

SLUMS AND PLAGUE-SPOTS with which Washington like all other cities is infested.

Of all the dangerous localities there is none in this city so noted for desperate and outrageous acts as the now neglected house and grounds of the old Van Ness mansion, a princely home but a short century ago, and ow the resort of the lowest and vilest of Washington's tough population. The handsome old building, of the architecture of the colonial period, though built long after the colonies had ceased to exist, stands in a beautiful though neglected park just to the south west of the white house grounds. It is a suilding that bears upon every line and angle the imprint of the genius of the Architect Latrobe, to whose individuality and skill is due much of the beauty of the stately domed building that shelters our law makers. From his hands came the plans and designs of the princely edifice, and under his personal supervision the structure was reared. In its time it has sheltered highest dignitaries in the land, and its walls have witnessed the stately revelry of the old-fashioned minuet with presidents and premiers among the dancers. Now it is given over to the wild orgies held under the auspices of the "Hell's Bottom Claim Bake association." auspices of the "Hell's Botton Claim Bake association," or th "Foggy Bottom Herring Packers society." the quaint, picturesque costume of the time answered the bolder looks of some gallant in court dress and powdered wig, now is seen some negro belle engaged in the task of dis-sosing of her nith glass of flat beer in the presence of her rough companion, who nerv-ously feels for his ever-present razor and cal-culates his chance of escaping when

THE INEVITABLE PREE FIGHT ceurs. It is a degradation for the gods to

The history of this old mansion is inalien-ably connected with the history of Washingably connected with the history of Washington city. The mistress of that once happy home was the daughter of Davy Burns, "Obstinate Mr. Burns," as Washington was wont to call him in many of his letters. Burns was the original owner of the greater part of what is now the city of Washington, part of what is now the city of Washington, and at one time raised large and profitable crops of eorn and wheat on the place where the department buildings now stand. It may be interesting to the farmers to know that the ground where the treasury building now stands was at that time years. stands was at that time very productive, and there is a record showing that on this spot Farmer Davy raised the largest number of bushels of wheat to the acre of any farmer for miles around. Burns had that obstinate disposition that is often characterized as the chief element of the Scotch nature, and when Washington and the rest of the federal gov-ernment wanted to buy his acres and build a city. Burns was stubborn and would not sell.

All the persuasive force of Washington was wasted on this obstinate Scot. On one memorable occasion the discussion had waged for over an hour. The president of the young republic and the owner of the land on which the capital of that republic was to be built were seated under one of the team shallow the Boundary or t of the trees shading the Burns cottage and

WASHINGTON WAS PEREMPTORY. Washington, tired and heated with argu

had been sitting with the remark: "I have been authorized to select a site for the national capital, and your farm is part of the site that I have selected. The city will be built on this ground and no other, and if von will enter into an amicable agreement you will receive ample compensation; if you will not, then the government will take your farm and turn it to its own use." This was an ergument too strong for the scotchman and he entered into an agreement

which made him the wealthiest man in the section. It also enabled bim to endow his daughter, the peerless Marcia Burns, with all that was needed to make her a belle of the new city. By this fortuitious circumstance new city. By this fortuitious circumstance the daughter of an humble Scotch farmer whose highest hopes would otherwise have been a marriage with some horny-handed laborer and a consequent life of drudgery, was enabled to wed with one of the brightest ights in the national constellation. father's fortune was not needed tenhance her worth, however, for sh was known as the most beautiful and accomplished maiden of all the surrounding towns. At her father's humble cottage called many of the leading men of the times, and often met in the little one storied house, Washington and many of his advisors and counsellers. The man that she married was fitted to hold a place with any of the many suitors who throughd to her father's cottage, and her life with him was most happy. John P. Van Ness, member of congress from New York, was married to Marcia when she was twenty years of age. They lived for a time in the primitive home where Marcia was born, but when their only daughter had grown to youthful womanhood the new manion was built. The cost of the structur was \$90,000, a princely sum in those days, the result justified the expenditure. mansion is even yet beautiful in its design and sturdy strength.

From the coming home from school of the oung mistress of the estate dated a period of

in the new city. The handsome grounds, laid out with all the skill of a landscape gardener, and blooming with the most beautiful of flowers, surrounded a house filled at all times with the cream of the society of the rapidly strengthening nation. Guy routs of all sorts were predominant there and the sounds of

irth and revelry were seldem stilled. The young mistress of the mansion was in her turn besought by suitors, and in time gave her hand in marriage to Arthur Middle-ton of South Carolina. After a short but brilliant reign at the handsome home that had been prepared for her and where she lived with husband and parents, she succumbed to a deadly illness. Her death was to her mother a shock too

great to be endured, and her life from that time on was largely given to works of charity. Much of her life was passed n the old cottage in which she was and after a while she passed away. Her hus band, then mayor of Washington, survived her for many years, and during his after life entertained royally in the stately edifice on the banks of the Potomac. He himself had in time to follow the absolute law of nature, and with his death began the downfall of the nouse so long famed for its generous hospi-ality. Then came the neglect that has since made the place a byword of scorn and contempt. The eye-pleasing avenues leading to the mansion and the pretty walks leading hither and thither throughout the grounds are overgrown with weeds. In many spots in the dense green of the thick shrubbery can

be seen a FAINT GLEAM OF COLOR noting the presence of a flower that has not been crushed to death by the rank growth around it. Here and there can be seen a rude shelter with a counter before it and the pleas-ing announcement of the brand of beer sold, while in other parts of the grounds swings and shooting gallaries attest the character of

The estate is now owned by the heirs of ex-Governor Swann of Maryland. Of course there is the usual ghost that

frequents the place, and the legend further avers that on the anniversary of the death of General Van Ness six headless norses—gallop about the grounds. Other spirits seem to save frequented the place at some previous time according to tradition, but the unhallowed uses to which the place has been put has been driven away all respectable spirits, and none are seen there now save when the negro picnic is in full blast and the black bottle circulates with freedom.

The past season has probably been the most conservative in social affairs that Washalways set the example in official circles when the social season begins, has been lively with-out being vulgarly gay. The president and Mrs. Harrison have in a quiet but extremely enjoyable way entertained more people dur-ing the time they have been a position to entertain than any of their predecessors, ex-cepting perhaps President Arthur. There was a period of several weeks when crape was on the doors of some member of the ex ecutive household, and of course sadness filled the hearts instead of an inclination to be gay. President and Mrs. Harrison have entertained around their private family board somehody at dinner or luncheon almost every lay when the door was not closed on accoun-

of death There have been some instances where society people experienced disappointment during the past winter. This was owing to the fact that a great many new people that entered social official life in Washington were unused to the etiquette which prevails here. It is one of the unwritten rules of official society that the ladies of officials must make the first advances and call upon those whom they desire to be classed as their friends. I am told of a lady, the wife of one of the prominent officials,

in Washington society. When she came here she opened her spacious parlors and sat down, expecting the society people of the down, expecting the society people of the national capital to cluster about her on account of her wealth and social position at home. She was told by her friends that she must make the first advances if she wanted to be inything in society, and that no one would call upon her who had not first received a all. The lady said that she did not care for he red tape of Washington society, and that the only thing required was an announce-ment in the papers to make her house full on every reception day with the best society people. She arranged her first reception on a grand scale. The announcement was made n the local newspapers, and her ecautiful mansion was a perfect power of flowers and a glare of gaslights, Her dining room could not have been made more attractive. The lady had about her a beyy of handsome women and girls, all bright conversationalists and ready to win all strangers who should appear. There was but one caller at that house on that day—the wife of an old friend who has lived in Wash-ington many years. The hostess was almost heartbroken when her friend called, and ex-pressed in vivid language her mortification at having been passed by without a caller. She could not understand why it was till the old friend informed her that no one woman, and in fact no one set of women could break down the old established social lines of Washington. It took the lady almost three months to make up her mind to yield. A month later she spent almost an entire week calling upon the wives of private and public citizens. When again she opened her parlors for a reception, the effect of her work was readily seen. The street in front of her house

FILLED WITH FASHIONABLE EQUIPAGES during the entire afternoon and evening. Other women, new in Washington, who were willing to conform to the social require-ments and whose socials have not been a success, are unable to pacify themselves; but these are the only persons who do not look upon the last session at the national capital as

was

pelled, owing to the condition of the work in the seed department and the depiction of the appropriation for some of the work being conducted under him, to make a large number of removals of women who are employed pack-ing seeds. About fifty young and old, hand-some and homely, able boiled and invalid women were dropped from the rolls. Almost immediately a large number of congressment began to pour in upon the secretary, demanding the retention of these women. They, o ourse, were compelled to acknowledge the accessity and justice of the secretary whe key were informed that there was not more with which to pay any one for the work which these people had been employed to perform When one congressman called and insisted upon the reinstatement of a poor woman, who had been dropped from the rolls, no

the charitable work of the Secretary of agri-"I really believe," said this official, "that Secretary Rusk has for several weeks been

paying out to the poor women who have been discharged from his department, almost as discharged from his department, almost as much money from his private purse as he has received in the way of salary. They come to him almost every day and his generosity opens with his purse and he is constantly giving out to them \$5 bills. He has just completed a list of all the women who are empleted a list of all the women who are empleted. pleted a list of all the women who are employed in his department with an alphabetical indication after each name, as A B C, indicating "poverty," "extreme poverty" and "poverty with members of a family to support." He now intends to give people in either of these three conditions preference in employment, and preference when there are removals made on account of short appropriations or any thing which makes removals ions or any thing which makes removals

It appears that Secretary Rusk is getting an example for generosity in a great many directions which will make it very hard for his successors to follow, Perry S. Hetti.

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