AUTOGRAPHS OF THE CABINET

Peculiarities of the Signatures of President McKinley's Advisers.

Some Phases of Character as Revealed by the Chirographic Styles of the Writers-The Record for Signatures.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 48.-1f you the best time to see him is when he is engaged in signing his mail. Of course, messure of a daily interview.

Few people unacquainted with government methods realize the time spent by duties alone 100,000 signatures are required limit of their capacity, physicians, nurses department. The documents and letters are taken in natures to commissions and official docu- which will continue for many weeks. charge by a private secretary and by him classified. He also informs himself of the nature of each. Then the signing begins. The private secretary sits beside the cabinct officer indicating to him the nature of each letter or document. A messenger also stands beside him and as each signature is appended the messenger lifts letter or sheet and with a pad carefully dries the ink. With this assistance it is surpris-ing the number of signatures that can be appended in an hour. There are few days when a cabinet officer spends less than that time at the task. The work becomes more or less mechanical and that is why the cabinet officer will talk to you while

The secretary of state has a signature which his messenger and secretary declare is made always with a single nervous dash of the pec. That is a way Mr. Hay has of doing things. If he wants to see the secretary of war or secretary of the navy, with both of whom he has to consult frequently, he does not send his messenge for them, but with sudden energy pushes back his chair and darts down the broad halls of the state, war and navy building with short, quick, nervous steps that push the ordinary individual to a "dog trot" to keep pace with him. He never loops over the bottom of his "J" and the final "Y" of his signature ends in a straight line with a little hook adjusted at the end-

At the Treasury department the clerks say that Mr. Gage has the "sassiest" signaturin the cabinet. Just what they mean by that only the clerks know. Mr. Gage uses a blunt pen and always rolls his hand over so its weight rests on his little finger. He gets a firm grasp on his penholder by thrusting It between his first and second finger and closing his thumb firmly over it. Although Mr. Gage's signature is perhaps the most ornate in the cabinet few of his colleagues can best him for speedy signing. It is claimed by his private secretary that the size of the loops on his Y and J and G indicate the degree of good humor he enjoys on · given day. When matters in his department are moving smoothly and to his satisfaction and the same thing is true of his figestive apparatus he uses big and generous loops in his signature. When matters are in an unsatisfactory state he is stingy with

Paper Suowstorm by Secretary Root. Mr. Root, the secretary of war, comes nearer adopting the new style of "vertical writing," now being taught in the public schools than any of the cabinet members. He always joins his first name to the last and if there is room on the letter, commission or communication he is fond of making a single looped flourish under his name. He never accepts the initials or private mark of a clerk or assistant as a guaranty of the contents of a letter. On the contrary unless its full import is known to him he suspends further work, he sets the electric call bells attached to his desk to going and summen: the heads of divisions to him until he has satisfied himself on the point in doubt. Mr. Root's method of signing the thick parchment commissions for army officials is edd and original. He always uses a special ink which leaves a fine gloss. Piling the commissions on his desk he banishes everyone else from his private office and starts to sign. Knowing that the use of the blotter would deprive the ink of its gloss he lifts each commission by one corner and tosses it up In the air, allowing it to float gently to the floor. When he gets done the floor is literally carpeted with these commissions strewn about with only such care as prevents one from failing on top of the other and blurring the signature of the under commission. On completing his work the secretary carefully picks his way across the commission strewn floor to the door of his office. Then, as he goes away to luncheon, he directs his private secretary to pick up the commissions after the signatures have been allowed to dry for fifteen minutes

Stickler for Form.

spondence is Attorney General Griggs. He is a stickler for exactness of style and is prone to alter adjectives and adverbs, substituting carefully and with consideration sets a gong to ringing in the office of the



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ferent divisions hasten to the office of the creat divisions makerything requiring the chief clerk with everything requiring the chiefferney general. Mr. timature of the attorney general. lriggs has the peculiar faculty of being able to sign his mail very rapidly, all the time talking on any topic desired, but never missing the contents of the letter. His office displays on its walls an unusually extensive "morgue," which is the official have held the office under past administraions, done at government expense. His f the score of faces which look down upon im at his work gives him a sense of re-

sponsibility even in the smallest details. Trouble With the Name of Smith.

There has been much discussion as to

YELLOW JACK'S RULE IN CUBA Dreaded Scourge in Havana Overtaxe American Military Resources.

hief clerk suggests that the surveillance Thorough Work of the Disinfecting

Corps and Its Unpopularity Among the Present Epidemie.

but there is a disposition to concede the prehended in this country. Still less, per-

and Telegrapho hotels, the Louvre and Siggs attraight through the city cafes, the new and handsome Delmonico's. restaurants and apartments, which are filled palm to the postmaster general. A single haps, is it understood that yellow fever hospital they neglected it to such an extent sengers and private secretaries will not item among the scores which are included has attained the proportions of an epidemic that it was necessary to take it away from know your features, find out what time the changes occur which result in his being as great as hat year, the number of deaths fullitary government for the prevention of cabinet officer signs his mail and you are obliged to sign two or three commissions being seventy-seven against seven. A few yellow fever, and resented the provise of for some of the offices, it is conservative days later Las Animas hospital and Mill- the late proposed charter that the United to say that for this feature of his office tary hospital No. 1 were crowded to the States should retain control of the sanitary

the heads of the different departments in annually. When Mr. Smith became post- and even the disinfecting corps were appending their signatures to public documents and letters. In each department the fice was turned over to him he was asked partment had cabled to New York for more house. Some twenty Cubans in charge of a

reception given by the Emperor Kanghi in 1722, when on the sixtleth anniversary of

his reign he invited to the palace, as his guests, all the men of the empire over 50 years of age. North beyond this building

we passed the Palace of Earth's Repose.

Here "heaven's consort," as the Chinese

empress is called, rules over the imperial

wall of the forbidden city were the imperial

gardens, full of dainty pavilions and marble

bridges running across the canals and reach-

ing out to artificial islands which stood in the little lakes, covered with groves and

On the right, as we marched past the

empress' palace, stood the Hall of Intense Thought, a temple devoted to Confucius and

the other great sages of China, while just

north of it stood the imperial library, or the Hall of the Literary Abyas, as the

white man is likely to see again. The building were closed, eunuchs stood about on

watch and most things of value seemed to

have been removed. The city looked as if

it had been abandoned for some time, for the

courts were dirty and unkempt and the

There were cheers and considerable elation

and a decided disposition, not too well sup-

pressed by some of the officers, to make the

spectacle as humiliating as possible to the

Chinese. As they marched out the north

gate the Japs and Russians lined up on

stood at salute, cheering the rest of us as

we marched through between their lines. It

profound effect upon the Chinese. They

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tations on which the sellers make money!

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are not likely to forget it for a long time

either side of the stone causeway, and then .

was a great demonstration and has had a

buildings decidedly old and dusty.

dotted with temples.

harem. Between this place and the northern

the Tacon theater, the Union club, Havana's gate leading to the palace itself. The pallargest club, the Diario de la Marina news- ace consisted of four buildings, the cinital paper building and a heat of cafes and one being the emperor's own residences on night and day by the crowds that help to the Eastern palace and the Western palmake Havana picturesque and attractive, ace, while the fourth building which was AN HOUR A DAY OF NAME-SIGNING slang for the portraits in oil of those who LOCAL HOSTILITY TO SANITARY MEASURES This very summer yellow fever cases ornately gilded, is called the Hall of the several of them fatal—have been taken from Golden Dragon. The emperor's palace was the Inglaterra, the Louvre, the Sturo and overed with cloth of a deep red color. the Taron theater, and the Diario de in the Chinese vermillon. The center of the Marina building developed so many cases foom was covered with a large rug of a that the sanitary department finally ordered | sort of rough velvet worked with yellow it closed. Yet, in the very face of the permanent conditions which make such an veniences except the thrane itself, for alarming state of affairs possible, it is a fact among the Chinese no one, however high which of the members of the cabinet is | The actual sanitary conditions now exist. that when some time ago the American his rank, is permitted to assume any other are well acquainted with a cabinet officer required to sign his name most frequently, lng in the city of Havana are little com- authorities tried the experiment of letting than a kneeling position while in the presthe Cubans have charge of the yellow fever once of the emperor. The throne was placed on an elevated dais, ascended from boli no by a splendidly carved staircase, and supallow you to pass the entrance to private in his allotment is the signing of the comthere this summer. It is a startling fact to the presidency to the pre ing the palace, was for the use of the orhestra, which plays while official receptions are going on. This palace is considered by the Chinese as the most important of all the imperial buildings. It was the scene of the famous

exact hour at which the "head" will sign what style of signature he would adopt nurses. By the middle of the month the captain go to the premises and within the mail and documents is known and in the Promptly enough he said he would always record was broken for the year with forty- next hour the house looks as though it had five minutes previous to the hour a stream sign his name in full, "Charles Emory seven new cases and thirty-six "suspects." been through a combination earthquake. of messengers pours out of the offices of Smith." His predecessor in office ventured the different bureaus and down the long tured the prediction that when he learned exceedingly serious and the American aulatter, for after you are turned out of your marble corridors, converging at his office, the extent of the daily tasks of affixing sig- thorities in Havana are having a fight room and your belongings hastily thrown

the loops and makes them shortened, lean ments he would surely shorten the signanature, "Ch. Emory Smith," slurring the city of Havana is a permanent reservoir of of the clearest and most legible signatures. A certain amount of nervous energy and the pressure of official routine has altered the signature to what it is now.

Illegible Signatures.

secretary of the navy. Washington rumer for a total extermination of yellow fever has it that he was obliged to have the name in Havana until the city is properly "John D. Long" placed at the upper left sewered and paved with an hermotically hand corner of all the department and even sealed paving. Then, with due restrictions of his private stationery because of the illegibility of his signature, Mr. Long is olieagues in the cabinet as well as his predecessors in his way of conducting his de- thorities, Havana and other Cuban cities partment. His manner of signing his mail, may become safe residences for Americans documents and commissions indicates this and other foreigners and the danger of imoriginality. At one side of his private office porting the fever thence into our own counhe has had a small walnut stand with a try will be removed. standing top erected. Its top is at such a under General Ludlow has been continued against the desk sign his mail. A shelf is didly organized sanitary department which so adjusted that he can raise his left foot and rest it there. The thick walnut slab and check the spread of the disease. Major of which it is made has long been worn deep Havard, the chief surgeon of the Perhaps the most particular of any of with the imprint of the secretary's boot. the members of the cabinet as regards the He is particular about the way his typemode of expression of his official corre- writing is done and will reject a letter because two letters in a word are transposed. terior Hitchcock is very particular about and hospital staff. There is also what is understanding every phrase of any commuother words which suit him better. The mication to which he signs his name, and if of Drs. Guiteras, Finley and Albertina mail and vouchers which require his sig- there is any doubt in his mind always lays and Major Gorgas, who is a surgeon and nature are never brought to him until he ande anything not fully understood by him, physician, the duties of this board being to touches a certain button in his desk which signs up the balance of his mail and then inspect and give a decision on all reported sends for the chief of clerks responsible. chief clerk. It is called the "mail bell" Mr. Hitchcock possesses an infinite capacity sent here to study the disease and report and immediately the clerks from the dif- for details in consequence of his years of upon it is made up of Drs. Carroll, Lazar business training and never delegates to and Reed, Americans, and Dr. A. Agramonte. another a task which he can dispose of him- the Cuban specialist in yellow fever and self. His signature is one of the clearest

> abinet autographs. An Agricultural Autograph. Mr. Wilson, the secretary of agriculture. ays good humoredly that he signs his name just like a farmer," and just as he was aught to do in a country school house years go. He never indulges in flourish except in aising a perpendicular line when he finshes up the "W" of his name and he sually forgets to "dot the i" in his last

The record in the United States, and probbly in the world, of the rapid signing of e name consecutively many times is held Washington, and the distinction belongs Colonel J. G. Berret. During President olk's administration Colonel Berret was ennected with the Treasury department. onds to the amount of \$13,006,000 were tssed and it was necessary for either the cretary of the treasurer, R. J. Walker, sign them, or for some one in his stead. delegated Colonel Berret to affix his gnature to each one of the forty coupons their infested and frequently flithy courts each bond, 120,000 coupons in all. Colonel ly of the work and kept this average up very day, completing his task in thirty

Mothers endorse it, children like it, old and lung troubles.

'Emory" so as to greatly shorten it. When infection, which is freely permitted to pass know of one Cuban landlady who refused t other through the sewers.

Infection from Sewers.

This earthbed contains untold millions of yellow fever germs which are constantly escaping from the open sewer traps and Few cabinets in the past have contained through the crannies of the abominably less legible writer than Mr. Long, the paved streets. There is absolutely no hope on immigration from fever-infected parts. chiefly Panama and South America, and original in most things. He differs from his with a continuance of the stringent sanitary precautions now enforced by our auis now working night and day to save lives island, has general supervision everything; the immediate work under the charge of Major

. Gorgas, assisted by Dr. Theodore C Like Secretary Root, Secretary of the In- Lyster, Dr. Shocker and a complete office known as a yellow fever board, consisting suspects. The regular fever commission other tropical diseases. and most carefully written of any of the physicians, by the way, who have received their education in this country or abroad rank with the best yellow fever experts in the world. The work of the Cubans trained in the sanitary department under American methods has also been highly efficient. All these, with the American women nurses who the forces of the disinfecting and houseleaning departments, makes up a small fight against the fever is about \$5,000 a

over certain points. The city is divided into ten districts, each n charge of an inspector, whose duty is to have the men of his corps inspect twent; houses within that district each day, and to send in every night to the chief office s printed blank filled out with a report of the condition of different houses, recommendations as to what should be done, etc. This is the house-cleaning department, and their surveillance of these Cutan houses, with heir incredibly vile sanitary arrangements erret signed his name 4,000 times the first and their general lack of decent living conlitions, is indispensable and is the mosvaluable precautionary measure possible.

Rest Localities Affected.

Strange though it appears to those unolks use it. We refer to One Minute familiar with the subject, it is a fact that the government printing office. We were ough Cure. It will quickly cure all throat one of the chief infected districts is in not, however, allowed to do any investigat the very heart of the city, lining both sides ing, and the procession was kept in the in-

The fight against yellow fever began with | loose with a solution of bichloride of ture. The postmaster general reached a the first days of the American occupation, mercury and every nook and cranny similar determination in a few days, but with General Ludlow as military governor drenched. Following this process the doors in a mock despair declared that the name of the city. With the immediate organiza- and windows are sealed, a nozzle inserted "Smith" was one which must have a dis- tion of the sanitary department and the in a door and formalin gas pumped into tinguishing Christian name to go with it, engineering corps heroic efforts were made the room until the hardiest germ must in view of the large family of Smiths in to clean the city and put it in decent succumb. The law forbids you to enter the the country. Then he tried "C. Emory living condition. The success which room for forty-eight hours. The warning is Smith," but after a day or two decided crowned these efforts has long been a superfluous-you have not the slightest that the style of signature was too much matter of record and it may be stated at inclination to enter it for twice forty-eight affected by cockneys. Then he tried "C. E. once that the principal reasons for this hours and then you come to grief, for even Smith," but immediately there came to him year's virulent outbreak are, first, a heavy the faintest odor of formalin gas causes the protest against his dropping the family immigration; second, favorable climatic poignant regret. The opposition of the name of "Emory." At last, as a final re- conditions. The actual and primary rea- Cubans to the necessarily drastic methods sort, he adopted his present style of sig- son, however, is that the earthbed of the is one of the most serious obstacles encountered by the sanitary authorities. Mr. Smith entered the cabinet he had one through the city from one end to the allow milk, ice or medicines to be brought into her house to an American guest who had the fever, in her wrath against the Americans who put her to the trouble of having her house invaded by the authorities. She made such a row at headquarter that her house was put "under the red star," which means that now only immunes are allowed there and that an inspector visits the place and questions the boarders weekly. In some instances the Cubans deliberately conceal the fever and report it as some other innocent disease; in all cases they are bitterly and un alterably opposed to the work of the disinfecting corps and the house cleaning and resort to various subtle Cuben devices to avert the much-dreaded visitation of either of these departments.

Stnister Attitude of Cubans.

The reason is not far to seek: Cubans height that he can stand erect and leaning under General Wood and there is a spien- fever they have a very light attack, usually in childhood, which they dread no more than we do the measles. A Cuban does not die of yellow fever; it is chiefly Spaniards and the unwelcome Americanos who do that, and, since the Americano is at least persona non grata to the majority of the Cubans, why, what is the difference if they do have it, anyway? A thrug of the shoulders-that significant Latin shrugand the equally significant and sinister Cuban smile represent the attitude of this people in the matter. Nor is there the slightest concealment of sentiment coneerning this. Many of the Cubans say openly that as soon as the unwelcome Americanes depart from the island and the Cuban flag floats over Morro these idle precautions will be abandoned. Shortly before I left Havana one of the ultra Cuban papers published an editorial of this tone The Cuban and concluded by saying that since the Americanos did not like to have yellow fever the sooner they got out of the island the better, so that the Cubans would have o more trouble about it.

The belief that yellow fever is contagious is, by the way, an error. Visitors are allowed at the yellow fever bospitals care for their stricken countrymen, and if they have business there, though they be non-immune, and out of thirty nonimmune nurses in Las Animas not one The expense of carrying on the took the fever. One thing is certain-that efficient measures against the scourge in month, and this is inadequate and fails to Cuba will not be undertaken or continued unless the United States government firmly insists upon them.

IN THE PORBIDDEN CITY.

Glimpses of the Abode of Royalty in the Chinese Capital.

The interior of the forbidden city, writes he Pekin correspondent of Leslie's Weekly, is divided into three parts by two walls running entirely through it from north to south, the eastern section of the city being given up to the offices of the Chinese boards of government and to the treasury of the palace, while that on the west con tains a great variety of buildings-memorial halls to distinguished sovereigns and scholars, the guardian temple of the city, and

of the Prado and including the Inglaterra | her space between the two dividing walls, Not Exactly Sick Back of the great audience hall was the cither side of this were buildings called ace, while the fourth building, which was

> Neither are you well. The frequent headaches, the fatigue after slight exercise; the lack of appetite, want of energy, a slight but troublesome pain here or there, the loss of flesh and strength; the ease with which you take cold; all this indicates that your health is not as it should be. What is the best thing to do?

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