

NEW YEAR'S AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

Washington's Social Season Opened with a Brilliant Reception.

The Executive Mansion Transformed into a Garden of Tropical Verdure.

More Than Five Thousand People Greeted by the President and Mrs. Cleveland.

RECEIVED IN THE BLUE ROOM.

Beautiful Women in Exquisite Gowns, Diplomats in Gorgeous Uniforms and the Army and Navy Formed a Notable Picture.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 1.—The New Year's reception at the Executive Mansion ushered in the social season at the capital. A brilliant gathering of resident society called to pay their respects to the Chief Magistrate, and more than 5,000 people passed before him.

The White House was in holiday attire. Huge palms formed the background for smaller plants with brilliant foliage in the centre of the spacious East Room. The crystal chandeliers were artistically formed with Christmas holly. Smilax was intertwined with the autumnal hued foliage banking the mantels. The heavy plate mirrors, with their wide gold frames, were made more attractive by the graceful drapings of holly. The Marine Band, in red coats, was stationed in the corridor.

The White House does not change much, no matter how swift the movement may be elsewhere. Though here there are freshening touches which brook no effort at a change. The furniture in the Blue, Green and East rooms has new coverings, and the rooms are very fine in their new adornings.

There are old friends at the White House who can be relied upon to appear arrayed in their very best on fete days. They are the plants from the conservatory, and very proud members of the President's household. Were it not for the tall rubber plants, the camellia bushes, with their waxy white blossoms, the pink and white azaleas, the rows of primroses, the languishing periwinkles, the hyacinths, the spicy odors of the carnations, and a glimpse of the aristocratic orchids, the whole show would be a disappointment.

All the old favorites were on hand to-day, as were the old-timers, who could shut their eyes and imagine they saw any one of the last half dozen Presidents standing just where Mr. Cleveland stood, and then tell you to a dot just what was going on.

One of the mantels of the blue parlor was banked in polka-dot leaves and red camellias, making a vivid ornamentation. The other was covered with white camellias, sprays of holly, the valley and hyacinths. The south windows had tall palms reaching nearly to the ceiling and plants and polka-dot holly in front. The walls were draped prettily with smilax garlands, and a pyramid bouquet of old-time flowers decked the centre divan.

In the East Room the mantels were banked with foliage plants, the windows hidden by the tall palms, and polka-dot bushes massed about them. The red and green capers had their places of the same welcome reds and greens.

RECEIVING PARTY FORMS. Promptly at 11 o'clock the receiving party formed. The President and Mrs. Cleveland entered the Blue Room and stationed themselves at the head of the line.

Mrs. Olney wore an elegant gown of gray satin and velvet. Mrs. Carlisle was gowned in green silk, with a rich bertha of lace, edged with fur. Mrs. Lamont was becomingly gowned in a blue silk, finished with red and white lace, and a collar of broad satin ribbon. Mrs. Harmon wore an attractive shade of old rose, partially concealed with white pearls, the youthful face of Miss Herbert was made more lovely by the light blue gown, trimmed with white chiffon. The last of the receiving party was Miss Morton, sister of the Secretary of Agriculture. Her gown was of wine-colored silk, finished with a full black.

The Vice-President was the first to clasp the hand of the President and Mrs. Cleveland. He was followed by the Hon. Mr. Carlisle, Lamont, Herbert and Smith Attorney-General Harmon, Postmaster-General Wilson and Secretary of Agriculture Morton.

THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS. Sir Julian Pauncefote was the first representative of the Diplomatic Corps. He entered the Blue Room with Lady Pauncefote, M. and Mme. Patenotre, the French Ambassador and attaches of the Legation, were the next to greet the receiving party. Italy was represented by Baron de Fava and the Baroness. The next in line were the Baron Max von Thielmann, the secretary of the Legation, followed by Baroness von Thielmann and Baron von Kettler, first Secretary of the Embassy.

Colonel Wilson introduced the members of the Supreme Court. Chief Justice Fuller was the first name mentioned. He was accompanied by his wife and daughters. Commissioner of Pensions and Civil Service, Senator Sherman was among the first representatives of the upper house of Congress, and with graceful bow to the receiving party and friends back of the line he passed into the Red Room.

The army and navy were next in order. The handsome uniforms of dark blue and gold brightened the effect of costumes. General Miles and Adjutant-General Rogers were in the next line. The staff were followed by the cavalry gorgeously uniformed. The retired army and naval officers and the commandant of the Marine Corps, with his full staff, brought up the rear of the military section, followed by a more general public reception.

Many strangers were among the callers who for the first time beheld the President in his official home. The staff were followed by the cabinet, diplomatic and Senators circled charmingly by ladies of social distinction.



New Year's Day at the White House. The President and Mrs. Cleveland receiving the Diplomatic Corps, the officers of the army and navy, Senators and Congressmen and Washington society in the Blue Room, Washington. Mrs. Cleveland was assisted by the ladies of the Cabinet.

ALL FEARED THE ORDNANCE BUREAU.

Naval Officers Dared Not Antagonize It, Knowing What Would Result.

Judgment of Experts Ignored by the Steel Board in Choosing Material.

Chandler Resolution Develops Facts That Officials Have Long Been Cognizant of.

SECRETARY HERBERT'S OPPOSITION. He Has Held Out Manfully Against the Determined Band of Nickel-Plate Advocates—Investigation Will Be Opposed.

Washington, Jan. 1.—"It has been considered suicidal for years past," said a prominent naval officer to-day, "for any officer of the Navy to antagonize the Bureau of Ordnance."

There were good grounds for such an impression. Under Folger's regime, when things were run with a high hand, the rapidity with which any objections to the operations of the Ordnance Bureau were removed was nothing short of remarkable.

The influence of the Ordnance Bureau seemed to ramify in every direction. Criticism was deadly. Dissent from the views of the Bureau meant official displeasure.

Naval officers stationed in Washington, or even outside of it, soon learned that unless they wished sea duty or petty annoyances from and displeasure in high circles they had better keep silent and avoid placing themselves in opposition to any recommendations made by the Bureau of Ordnance.

While this may have been the fact during the time when Folger was introducing Harvaged plate in every direction, and just prior to the time when he became a salaried official of the company which was a contractor with the United States, it has not been so much in evidence since Secretary Herbert assumed charge of the Navy Department. There has been vigorous and open opposition on the part of high officials in the Navy Department, including the chiefs of the Bureau of Construction and of Steam Engineering.

The recommendations of the Ordnance Bureau an opposition has been made a matter of record in the public press, and which has been commented upon by leading journals of the country.

Two prominent instances were the protests of the Bureau of Steam Engineering against the universal use of nickel steel for boiler plates and engine material, and of the Bureau of Construction against the double turret absurdity which is or has been a part of the two battleships, the keels of which are soon to be laid. The opposition to the methods of the Bureau of Ordnance has also taken the form of

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POLICEMEN ON THE ALERT.

They Overhaul a Night Watchman and Frighten Him So That He Leaps and Breaks Both Legs.

Policemen Gannon and Murray, of the Mercer Street Station, walked abroad early yesterday morning to see if they could find any burglars walking through the streets carrying market baskets full of diamonds.

They didn't happen to see any, but they found a door at No. 19 Bloeker street, that apparently had been forced open. Their entrance so badly frightened Watchman Hirsch Levitt that he jumped out of a third-floor window and broke both his legs.

Levitt was hired to sleep in the trousers factory of Louis Rubin. The place was entered by thieves a week ago, and the door had not been repaired. Levitt forgot to secure it when he went to bed, and was greatly alarmed when the officers appeared, and declared, with groans afterward, that he had been dreaming about burglars.

The policemen first knocked on the door and asked if anybody was inside. There was no answer, for Levitt's hair was standing on end. He had prepared to see burglars, and to fall them by climbing to the roof as soon as they should appear.

When the knock came he adjusted his ladder as quickly and quietly as possible. The policemen heard him, and knew that they had at last come upon a whole outfit of diamond thieves, sorting their plunder.

They ran out of the house and gained the roof by way of the Florence Mission, next door. They were just in time to see Levitt jumping ready for his mad plunge from the window ledge. He was clothed in his nightgown only, and his teeth were chattering as he fell.

Gannon drew his pistol and yelled, "Stop!" Levitt leaped into the yard. Gannon was greatly alarmed when the officers appeared, and rang for an ambulance from St. Vincent's Hospital.

SUPERVISOR FITCHIE'S VETOS. He Retired from His Office After Refusing Payment of Two Bills.

The last official act of Supervisor-at-Large Thomas Fitchie, of Kings County, was to veto George P. Chappell's bill for \$551 for plans and specifications for improvements at the Third Gatling Battery Armory, on Clermont avenue, Brooklyn. He said:

"The bill should never have been presented to this Board. When the battery armory was improved, its commanding officer requested that the plans and specifications drawn by a member of the board be accepted. It was stated that no compensation was desired and that it would be a favor of the board to accept the same. It is reported, however, that the bill for \$5,220 presented by John J. McLaughlin for services as engineer in the construction of the Newtown Creek Bridge. He says he vetoed the bill because Mr. McLaughlin failed to provide his bond, as agreed, when he made a contract with the county.

Mr. and Mrs. Ward Parted by Law. Mary Ward and her husband, Levin Ward, of No. 125 West Twenty-fifth street, were arraigned in Jefferson Market Police Court yesterday charged with malicious mischief by John McDonald, a barber, of the same address. New Year's Eve the Wards got drunk and smashed all the windows in the rear of the barber shop. Ward also struck James Saunders with a brick, Mrs. Ward was sent to the workhouse and her husband held in \$500 for the assault on Saunders.

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HEBREW IN HOT DEBATE.

Those of Socialistic Belief Discuss the Controversy of Their National Organ.

Shall the Arbeiter Zeitung Be in the Hands of Shareholders or the People Generally?

THE CHAIRMAN WAS KEPT BUSY.

Many Dialects Employed to Give Forceful Utterance for Recognition—Referred to the National Executive Committee for Decision.

New Year's Day was not a holiday for the Hebrew Socialists who are now in convention in Webster Hall, Eleventh street, near Third avenue. On the contrary, yesterday proved the busiest day the Hebrew Socialists have had since the convention began, the delegates being in almost continuous session from 8 a. m. to 8 p. m.

As a concession to the popular observance of New Year's Day, the hall was tastefully decorated with Chinese lanterns. These Socialists, though earnest in their efforts to revolutionize everything in general, are good-humored people and are willing, for the time being, to conform to the usages of society.

The business which absorbed all their attention yesterday was the question whether or not the Arbeiter Zeitung, the national organ of the Hebrew Socialists, should be controlled by its shareholders or the people generally. The ultra-Socialists contend that it is practically the capitalist system for the shareholders in the paper to appoint the editors and control the policy. They say that the ultra-Socialists everywhere in the districts where it circulates should appoint the editors by popular vote and dictate its policy.

A FEMALE CONSTITUENCY. All the ultras were out in force at the convention yesterday, as well as their opponents. The "ultras" had a strong backing in about thirty girl delegates, who are led by Mrs. Halpern, delegate of the Frances Green (Women's Society).

Mrs. Halpern, though a writer and an active worker on Socialistic matters, seems her living in a stocky, stout, and good-looking and non-aggressive in appearance, and does not look a bit like the conventional new woman. When the debate opened, the speakers talked so rapidly that the gist of their remarks was difficult to catch. At a speaker in Hebrew jargon, but as the jargon of delegates from other cities was different from that of New York, they were often at cross purposes. Several English speakers were constantly used, such as "point of order," "Mr. Chairman" and "sit down." The debate worked fast and furious in the afternoon. There were seldom less than three delegates speaking in as many different dialects at the same time. The debate finally narrowed down to leaving the question of the control of the Arbeiter Zeitung to the National Executive Committee.

AN INTERESTING OCCASION. About 4 o'clock the debate sounded something like this: "Mr. Chairman—" "Sit down!" "For why?" "Achsmuller! Arbeiterzeitung!" "Point of order!" "Schweig! Zelestit!" "Mr. Chairman—No! For why not?" "Sie sprechen zu viel!" "Sit down! Sit down!" "The chairman's gavel kept in a constant accompaniment of the speakers, but soon as one interruption was over another began.

At length the motion to refer the matter to the National Executive Committee was adopted. Among those who voted for it was Abe Cahen, the editor of the paper. Among the members of the National Executive Committee who were present were the following: Mr. Chairman—No! For why not?" "Sie sprechen zu viel!" "Sit down! Sit down!" "The chairman's gavel kept in a constant accompaniment of the speakers, but soon as one interruption was over another began.

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