

HER CAJOLERY TOO MUCH FOR GROVER

Fair Office Seeker Obtains Cleveland's Signature to Her Petition.

SAYS HE'S GROWN THIN.

Also Admires the Pictures, and Gives the Baby's Nurse a Specific for Colic.

There is a brown-eyed little woman in Newark, N. J., who is the despair of veteran politicians and place hunters. She made a trip to Princeton yesterday, called at the residence of Grover Cleveland and sent to the former President a card inscribed:

MISS CELIA WILBUR, U. S. Internal Revenue Department, Newark, N. J.

When Mr. Cleveland appeared she smiled bewitchingly, shook his hand with tenderness and reminded him that she had met him often in Washington, when she held a Government position there. Without giving her heat time to speak, she went on to say that he had grown quite slender since then.

The former President smiled, pulled down his waistcoat and would have spoken had not Miss Wilbur admired the pictures on the wall, praised the view from the window and said she adored baby boys. Thereupon Mr. Cleveland rang the bell for Master Cleveland, who appeared in his nurse's arms, all a-dropper with pink ribbons, a nose, or two later.

The visitor dandled him in her arms, remarked that he had his father's thoughtful and distinguished air and communicated to the nurse a specific for teething colic which was, she declared, infallible.

"No, I want stay and have lunch," said the visitor, in response to a cordial invitation from the baby's papa, "because I must go over and see President Patton, at the university, before catching my train back to Newark. But, before I go, dear Mr. Cleveland, I have something to show you. Will you just glance over this?"

Smiling brightly, Miss Wilbur extracted from her reticene a roll of paper which she handed to the former President. Mr. Cleveland's official manner returned to him as he glanced at it. It was a petition addressed to President McKinley, praying that Celia Wilbur might be appointed post-mistress of Princeton. Mr. Cleveland noticed among the signatures those of State

Senator Gardner and W. A. Jackson, of Newark, both men of influence.

"Petitions, my dear young lady, are hardly in my line," said Mr. Cleveland in a pained voice. "The last one I signed produced—quite an uproar in—them—certain quarters."

"Oh, dear!" cried Miss Wilbur sympathetically. "Wasn't that Princeton inn agitation absurd? Do you know, Mr. Cleveland, I admired you immensely for the broad-minded, tolerant spirit you took in that matter. But then, it was in line with what was always your policy, public as well as private. As for my petition, as the most distinguished citizen of the State of New Jersey, your signature will carry the greatest weight. So, you need not ring; I have a fountain pen here. There! If you'll just sign at the top of this page, where I kept a place for you. Thank you, ever so much!"

And a moment later Celia Wilbur was tripping gaily to the university, where President Patton affixed his signature to her petition with the greatest alacrity when he saw the autograph of Grover Cleveland.

Then the fair candidate returned to Newark, and when the news of the progress she had accomplished in one day reached the ears of her male rivals for the postmistresship they ground their teeth in despair.

\$50,000,000 WIRE TRUST.

J. Pierpont Morgan's Combination Will Buy Every Plant in Any Way Inter-ested in the Trade.

Pittsburg, Dec. 3.—A local newspaper prints to-day what purports to be the details of the proposed wire trust. The facts are gathered, it is asserted, from an authoritative source, and are vouched for by parties interested in the deal. The combination will have a capital of \$50,000,000, and is backed by J. Pierpont Morgan and other New York capitalists. It will take in wire, wire rod and wire nail plant in the United States, two blast furnaces, one of which has its own ore supply, and three steel plants.

The proposition is to buy outright every plant which is in any way interested in the manufacture of wire in any shape, pay two-thirds of the purchase price in cash and the other third in stock of the new company. Appraisers are now at work getting the value of the different plants which are to be bought up, and they are expected to get through with their work by February when the consolidation of the interests will probably be finally effected.

ENGLAND IN PANAMA.

It is Said That British Capital Will Finish the Canal if France Can Be Supplanted.

Washington, Dec. 3.—Acting under orders, Consul-General Guder, of Panama, has made a report to the State Department upon the condition of affairs in regard to the Panama Canal. He declares that every one in that country thinks that England is doing all in her power to obtain control of the canal. France may not push the work forward, but some other nation or some other company will surely do so if those in charge forfeit their rights.

All along the route, he says, are sheds full of new and costly machinery, and it is estimated that there has been expended on the canal a total of \$275,000,000. A conservative estimate is that the canal is about one-third finished, but with the new machinery on hand it is said the remainder of the work can be completed for \$150,000,000. The report is that a force adequate to finish the project in from seven to ten years will be put to work.

During the next sixty days a committee is to investigate the progress of affairs, and an effort will be made to get more money to continue operations. The canal is practically completed from Colon to Bejeo, fourteen miles, but this is the least expensive part. The great difficulty is in passing the Galiebra ridge.

Biggest opportunity—Christmas Journal to-morrow. Have your "Wants" in early. Greatest circulation—most profitable results.

Editor of the New York Journal:

As a resident of New York and an admirer of the good work of the Journal in bringing contractors and public officials to check for dereliction of duty I appeal to you for assistance.

Can nothing be done to hasten the closing of the trenches in Fifth avenue and relieve the merchants of the financial embarrassment caused by the terrible condition of the finest thoroughfare in this great city? My business has been simply ruined by the tearing up of Fifth avenue in front of my store.

These improvements are to be expected. They are probably necessary. But there is reason in everything; even in asking a city works contractor or a Commissioner of Public Works to kindly hasten the work of properly conditioning the streets again and not leave everything in chaos.

Appeals have been sent to Commissioner Collis in the form of a petition from the merchants doing business in Fifth avenue between Forty-first and Forty-second streets, asking him to defer the opening of the avenue in front of their places of business until after the Christmas and New Year's trade, that they might have a chance to exist during the holiday season. But Commissioner Collis did not even deign to acknowledge the receipt of the petition. Yours very truly, GEORGE F. ROBINSON, Artistic Japan, 418 Fifth avenue.

HOLIDAY TRADE IN FIFTH AVE. KILLED

Chaos Collis's Blockade of the Thoroughfare Has Ruined It.

THE MERCHANTS PROTEST.

But the Commissioner Heeds Not Their Plea and the Work Dawdles Along.

business and allowing them to remain there indefinitely. This is the condition in the avenue between Forty-first and Forty-second streets and the merchants feel they are justified in protesting. Their stores are hemmed in on every side, and carriages cannot drive up to the sidewalks. Commissioner Collis and the contractors could not have more successfully built up a blockade against these dealers in high-class art goods if they had tried.

George F. Robinson, Robert Graves & Co., Von Stechem, Lewand and many other business men joined in the petition to Commissioner Collis to push the work with all possible speed that the holiday trade might not be entirely ruined. But the Commissioner ignored them, and as a result business this season is a blank.

We have been particularly unfortunate," said Mr. Robinson yesterday. "The Easter trade was ruined by the tearing up of Fifth avenue at Thirty-eighth street, where we were then in business, so we moved up here, hoping we should be out of the way of contractors and avoid the nuisance and loss. But the evil pursued us. We thoroughly understand that this work must be done some time, but why is it not hastened? The avenue in front of our store has been torn up five or six times at the rate the work is being done it will take another month to finish the job. That ought to bring us into January, and by that time the holiday trade will be over and we shall have lost the only chance we have had this year to recuperate our losses."

Mr. Robinson's same complaint was made. Others along the avenue are equally indignant that the holiday trade has been ruined by the carelessness and indifference of the Public Works Department and its contractors. Meanwhile there are only about twenty-five men at work on the trenches between Forty-first and Forty-second streets.

NO HELP FOR DURRANT.

Blancher, Who Confessed the San Francisco Murders, Was in Atlanta When They Occurred.

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 3.—Joseph E. Blancher, better known as Arthur D. Forbes, who was manager and proprietor of the Southern Purchasing Agency in Atlanta, and who recently committed suicide in a county jail in Texas, was in Atlanta on the day when the murder of Miss Blanche Lamont and Miss Minnie Williams occurred in San Francisco.

This statement is made by persons in Atlanta who knew Forbes well and who had business dealings with him.

To support their statements the books and records which were in Forbes's office here have been consulted, and it is shown that between April 1 and April 14, 1895, the time of the two murders in San Francisco, Forbes was here and doing business with Kelly Brothers & Co. and other firms.

Go to your grocer to-day and get a 15c. package of Grain-O

It takes the place of coffee at the pure. Made from pure grains it is nourishing and healthful.

Insist that your grocer gives you GRAIN-O. Accept no imitation.

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ROASTED OUT A SPRAIN.

Doctors Subjected a Student's Ankle to 300 Degrees of Heat Fahrenheit and Cured Him.

Berkeley, Cal., Dec. 3.—The effect of heat in reducing inflammation has been proved in the medical department of the University of California. E. E. Hinman, sophomore in the academic department, has had his leg baked in an oven at a temperature of 305 degrees Fahrenheit to cure a sprain. This is 88 degrees higher than the temperature of boiling water; twice the heat at which meat is ordinarily roasted for the table.

The sprain disappeared with wonderful rapidity. The injured limb was treated in a specially prepared apparatus, consisting of a copper cylinder resting on iron supports, with a gas burner underneath. Hinman's leg was wrapped in absorbent cotton and placed in the cylinder with non-conducting rubber bags closing the interior, so that the heat could not escape. After the bickings the sprain was entirely cured.

SEVEN DAYS OF TALK.

The Syracuse Water Commissioners Are Listening at a Salary of \$50 a Day and Are Content.

Syracuse, N. Y., Dec. 3.—Although it was a great thing for Syracuse when she obtained a supply of water from Skaneateles Lake, it has been followed by a train of various afflictions. Not the least among these is a proceeding now going on before the Board of Commissioners appointed to appraise damages for taking the water.

Charles A. Hawley, attorney for the claimants, who demanded several hundred thousand dollars damages, has now been speaking continuously for four days, and says it will take three days more to conclude his argument. The commissioners are listening at a salary of \$50 a day each. If Mr. Hawley carries out his intention, it is said that his speech will be the longest on record.

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Smith Gray & Co. NEW YORK STORE, BROADWAY, COL. 31ST ST. BROOKLYN STORES, Broadway & Bedford Ave. Fulton St. & Flatbush Ave.

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Our \$15 Kersey Overcoat is a beauty. See our \$20 Imported Price Overcoat. Special value in Great Coats and Ulsters. Only two other firms in the city sell as good a store for \$1.00. Smoking Jackets and House Gowns at reduced prices.

Broadway, Cor. 31st St.

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