

CAPITAL AND NEW YORK.

WASHINGTON PURELY AMERICAN.

Absence of Foreigners, Apart From Those Attached to the Various Embassies and Legations—Courtesy to Women and a Prevailing Air of Leisure Disregard for the Metropolis—No One Ashamed of Doing Nothing—Three Bar-Rooms for Every Soda Fountain—Visitors the Only People Who Hurry and Wait.

Washington, Nov. 11.—It was a warm moon and one side of the open car was hot. It was shady on the other side. The car stopped and a man got in and sat at the extreme end of an empty bench in the shade where he could be comfortable and see everything in the street.

Washington Irving called the national city "the most cosmopolitan place in the country except New York. It might have been in his time, but it is not now. There is Chicago, for example, and San Francisco, not to mention Los Angeles and New Orleans.

And these Americans drink a vast quantity of liquor with alcohol in it. for the bar-rooms are very numerous. A retail license costs \$300. The total revenue from the tax must be very large. One would expect to find on Pennsylvania avenue from the Capitol to the White House more soda fountains than bar-rooms. But it is just the other way.

Washington is an ideal city for the man of leisure. In other cities, there are some who spend their leisure time working regarded as a noble thing in itself, though most people really hate it. But he need not be ashamed to tell anybody in Washington that he has nothing to do and does not care if he hasn't. He can find company enough among the "retired" persons of the army, the navy and other professions any time he wants to and of course when Congress is in session, he can choose any number of men of leisure among the national legislators.

Washington is a city where a man can find a good deal of amusement. The government departments are full of people looking for "soft snags" and who get into the government service with the idea that they would have a nice time. Judging from the way they have it, though, there are plenty of grumblers among them, one man telling me that the office he worked in was a "hell-hole." He is a South Carolinian and he has been in the office with him who, with impunity, also, treats him as an equal.

But the majority of government clerks look prosperous and cheerful. Indeed, an atmosphere of prosperity and cheerfulness pervades the entire town. There is a restful absence of hurry. Everybody seems to be plenty of time and nobody appears to be overworked. I sat a long time in one of the city parks the other day without seeing any bums, tramps, seedy, post-haste-looking fellows, or the numerous darkeys were well-dressed. There was no sign of suffering, yes, one. A woman came hurriedly along a path, her eyes on the ground, distress in every line of her face, young, blonde, good-looking. She wore deep black. "Her grief is fresh," thought I: "what a mockery this glorious day of sunshine and wondrous autumn foliage must be to her. She had merely lost her watch! In a few moments she had found it, and the glorious sunshine reflected in her happy face."

The only people who do not look happy in Washington are the visitors who try to see everything in the place in about a day and a half or less. They rush about the city early in the morning to get a good seat in the huge automobile seating about forty people which takes them around the city, and are bored to death by the points of things they don't care for. Then they get out and plunge through the enormous government buildings, one after another, with grim energy, walking upon miles of over marble floors until the soles of their feet feel as if they had been bastinadoed, and looking at such a multitude of things that their brains reel and they long to just keep their eyes closed in a dark room for a week. When all is over, they breathe deep sighs of satisfaction and depart from the city, feeling as if they had done their duty.

The officials, or rather the underlings, who show people about the government buildings, are usually very polite; but sometimes they are started into business. A lady told me the other day that, being desirous of seeing the Corcoran Art Gallery, she strolled along Pennsylvania avenue until she came to an iron gateway which opened into beautiful and spacious grounds in the midst of which stood an imposing edifice. At the door stood two bankers imposing of message and faultlessly attired. "Is this the Corcoran Art Gallery?" she inquired sweetly. The bankers gazed at her with astonishment. "No," said one, "it is the White House. You come from New York," asked the other, "and you are here to see the president?"

He laughed; for she was from New York and not a bit ashamed. On the street she was to the Corcoran Gallery, and finding it a pay-day she opened her purse to get the necessary quarter. It contained, besides her railroad ticket home, two dimes, a penny and two postage stamps. She calmly extended these to the man at the door as her entrance fee, thinking she told him that the government issued postage stamps for Washingtonian would refuse them. The man looked at them doubtfully and said, with Washingtonian politeness: "I guess I'll let you go in free;" and she went in.

DAVID T. DUNCAN.

DAY OF CHRIST'S BIRTH.

December 25 Must Approximate It—First Miracle at Cana Clearly Performed on the 25th Birthday Before Which Ministration as a Priest Was Not Permitted.

Written for The Observer. I do not regard it a very important matter that we should know most positively, whether the 25th day of December is the true birthday of Christ, as it is a question that does not in the least affect our salvation. But let us see whether we have not some statements in the New Testament from which we can draw conclusions that will settle this question.

The marriage of Cana in Galilee occurred on our Lord's birthday. How can we prove it? From the narrative in John II, 3-5, and particularly the clause "and the wine ran out, but yet come." A little later He performed the desired miracle, showing that then His hour had come.

What does it all mean? Simply this, that according to the Jews, a priest had to be full of years old before he could enter upon the duties of his office. Numb. IV, 3, 4, 23, 25, 30, 35, 48 and 47. All these verses speak of men fifty years old and upward entering into the service, for the work in the tabernacle of the congregation.

This was our Savior's age as recorded in Luke III, 23: "And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age." The miracle of Cana was His first public act as we read in John II, 11: "This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth His glory."

Jesus would not perform the least act in His office, an act which was not strictly legal, even as to time: His hour had not yet come when His mother Mary suggested the performing of His first miracle, but later on He performed it when His hour had fully come, proving most conclusively that the marriage of Cana of Galilee occurred on our Lord's birthday.

But when did the marriage of Cana of Galilee take place? It occurred a short time before the Jewish Passover Feast. The narrative continues in John II, 12 and 13: "After this He went down to Capernaum, with His mother, and His brethren, and His disciples, and they continued there not many days. And the Jewish Passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem."

The Passover was always celebrated in the spring of the year, about the vernal equinox. Now count backward and make a deduction from that time of the "not many days" and the "at hand" of the Passover, also the time it took to walk from Cana to Capernaum, and from there to Jerusalem, making only a liberal allowance of time for all these expressions and journey on foot, and you are brought back to the marriage of Cana occurring about (mid-winter; certainly some time before the Feast of the Passover.

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The Great Library Contest Starts Off With a Boom.

INDICATIONS POINT TO THE MOST SPIRITED AFFAIR CHARLOTTE HAS EVER KNOWN. Young Woman's Christian Association Takes the Lead With 12,883 Votes, Y. M. C. A. a Close Second and Carnegie Library Third, All the More Reason Why the Friends of the Rest Should be Up and Doing. Some Surprises Are Expected Next Week so Get Busy, Hustle, Work, No Time to Loose. HOW THE VOTE STANDS.

On account of the Football game between Universities of Virginia and North Carolina, at Richmond, Va., Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24, the Southern Railway Co. will sell round trip tickets to Richmond from Charlotte and intermediate stations at rate of one first-class fare plus 25 cents. Tickets on sale Nov. 23, with final limit Nov. 26. Round trip rate from Charlotte will be \$8.75.

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Belles and Beau of the Future

Copyright, 1904, by McClure, Phillips & Co. "Well, sir," said Mr. Dooley, "I must be a gran thing to be a college professor." "Not much to do," said Mr. Hennessy. "But a great deal to say," said Mr. Dooley. "I've day the night I pick up the newspaper after I've read the 'critic' and other political news, the monthly news, the rate estate advertisements, the invitation from the cultured foreign gent to meet an American lady in some means, oh yes, matter, I've more money, the sportsman's news over again, the editorials, I happen to find out what the college professor had to say yesterday. I wish the editor would put it in the same column in the paper every day. This he wouldn't have to collect any other funny column. Humorous. Professor Winchell at Harvard makes a savage attack on Abraham Lincoln. As it is sometimes have to hunt through the paper for the Newport scandal on page two, the religious notes on page two hundred and four before I come across favorite funny sayings and funny fellows.

ZELPHIA GUY WHITE.

Mr. Dooley on the Intellectual Life.

me milkman how to vote an' gone down to the polls an' driven them from power. Well, there was consolation about it all; the country won't last long. I noticed the other day it had begun to crack. Whin it sinks, ye'lls thruly will be near th' edge ready to jump off. Anyhow, it don't matter much. Th' American people ar-ra-all gettin' to be Indians again. Walkin' down today I observed twinty-two people who looked to me like Indians. Nex' week I intend to verify me conclusions by buyin' a picture in an Indian. But I'm intirely convinced that in three or four years at last, we'll all be livin' in wick-ups an' scalpin' each other. With these few remarks, let us inquirers of knowledge go out an' comb milkie on th' fut-bull field. Tut-ruh-ruh-ruh-ruh! Bazzybuzzo. Tufts!" "I like it, Hennessy. What I like most about it is that a college professor never speaks from impulse. He thinks everything out fully before anouncement' his opinion. Th' theory is me learned friend down in itockeyfeller's college that very soon ye'd see me rushin' down Archedy Road with a tommyhawk in me hand, tryin' to thrade off a pony for a wife an' a wife for a bottle of wood alcohol! didn't leap out by his great brain in a scandalous way. It's a good thing Livovis was dead before he was assaulted. He never would have survived th' attack.

In 1822 Franklin Pierce received 251 votes for 22 for Winfield Scott, a majority of 22.