OUR RICH PRESIDENTS

Two Were Independent When Taking Office.

OTHERS WELL TO DO

Washington and Van Buren Were Wealthy.—Arthur Said to Have Been the Most Extravagant, His Famous Dinners Costing Thousands of Dollars.

Washington. — George Washington and Martin Van Buren were the wealthiest men ever elected to the Presidency, but nearly all the Chief Executives managed to leave the White House well off, although some possessed little wealth when elected.

Van Buren was so wealthy that he did not trouble to draw his salary until the expiration of his four years, when he signed for $100,000. Every expense of the White House outside of that provided for by Congress was paid by Mr. Van Buren out of his own pocket.

George Washington did not need the money for living expenses, but he drew his money with as much regularity as the department clerks. He had so much property to dispose of that his will covered twelve closely written pages, and if put in type would make five columns of a newspaper.

James Monroe's will contained only 162 words. He was a poor man. He lived well, but not extravagantly while President, yet he left the White House almost penniless.

Polk, Fillmore and Pierce were wealthy men, and left large estates when they died. Madison, too, had a good bank account and plenty of real estate, but the money he left to Dolly was scattered to the winds by a worthless relative. For her husband's papers Congress paid her $20,000, and this was all she had.

Andrew Johnson was comfortably well off, owning a mill, farm, store and other properties at Knoxville and Greenville, Tenn.

Buchanan was wealthy, too, as was also Andrew Jackson, but the latter was impoverished before death by assuming the debts of his son.

John Quincy Adams died rich. He owned much property in Boston and Washington. His will is filed in the Recorder of Wills' office in this city, and is of great length. Like Andrew Jackson, Mr. Adams had a large collection of walking canes, and these were bequeathed to his friends.

Thomas Jefferson always, according to history, made much display and was rated as wealthy, but in old age he was reduced in circumstances and was forced to cease entertaining with such a lavish hand at Monticello. Congress paid him $28,000 for a large portion of his valuable library, and this sum was economically spent during his last days.

William Henry Harrison was known as an everyday man, and when in the White House he cared little for style. He saved a good portion of his salary and died moderately rich. His grandson, Benjamin Harrison, was likewise economical, saved money and enjoyed a good law practice after his term.

General Grant while in the White House lived well, but at the same time he saved money, the salary of the President being raised from $25,000 to $50,000 while he was serving his second term. General Grant had a larger stable of thoroughbreds than any President, and when he took a fancy to a horse he generally managed to buy it regardless of the price. He was not wealthy, although worth considerable, when his second term expired. An entanglement in a wildcat financial concern led him to pledge his swords, medals and gems to W. H. Vanderbilt for the loan of $100,000 to clear his name of the disgrace others had brought upon him.

The most extravagant President was Arthur, who not infrequently gave dinners costing as much as $5,000. When he went into the White House he was worth probably half a million. His predecessor, Garfield, died a poor man. The people raised $300,000 for Mrs. Garfield, and Congress voted her a pension of $5,000 annually.

Hayes was accused of parsimony during his incumbency of the White House because he offered no wine to guests. Mr. Hayes entertained little but it was not because he was not financially able, but simply because he did not believe in great social functions. Mr. Lincoln was poor when he entered the White House, and had he lived to serve out his term he would perhaps have been retired worth only a few hundred more than he began with, for he was not economical. Employees of the White House say that Mr. Lincoln gave away much money to people whom he believed or knew to be in distress.

Grover Cleveland was paying taxes on less than $8,000 when he was elected President the first time, but today he is wealthy. Mr. Cleveland was not a lavish spender during his incumbency of the White House, drew his salary with regularity and made investments in Washington suburban real estate.

Mr. McKinley was poor when he entered the White House. He was in debt, but by frugal management and the assistance of friends he was accumulating money when the assassin's bullet ended his life.

President Roosevelt was comfortably fixed when he was called to the chief executive's chair; not wealthy, but far from poor.

His Idea of It.

Caller—So your Papa and Mamma are going to take you to Europe with them?

Willie—Yes'm.

Caller—Aren't you afraid to go on the ocean?

Willie—N'm, I ain't afraid o' nothin'. I'm been vaccinated.—Coast Seamen's Journal.

TERRORS OF DEATH VALLEY.

Death or Madness Threatens All Who Attempt Long Journey to Mines.

San Francisco.—Recent discoveries of gold in the heart of what has for a long time been the famous Death Valley district, at a point known as Furnace Creek, have attracted the attention of thousands of would-be miners, but only a few have had the temerity to brave the terrible valley during the warm months.

Only the experienced desert prospector can endure the heat, which seems to dry up the tissue and to cause an intolerable thirst. It will surprise anyone who is unfamiliar with the desert to see the results of this heat on men, animals and even on inanimate things like wagons and harness.

All through Death Valley as well as along the fringe of both the Mojave and the Colorado deserts the atmosphere is so devoid of moisture that everything is as dry as bone. The new arrival finds that all superfluous fat and flesh appear to melt away from him. He has to take up several holes in his belt and he has to drink gallons of water every day where he ordinarily drank glasses.

In fact, the system craves so much water that when it cannot be procured the man's strength fails rapidly, and to be without it, even in the shade, is sure death after a day or two. To run out of water on the trail and to be forced to travel over the desert in the fierce glare of the sun means insanity in a few minutes and death in a few hours.

Not even the seasoned resident can resist this heat for long. The only recourse of the old resident who loses his water supply in any way is to seek shelter under a mesquite bush and to wait until the sun goes down. Then he must hit the trail and reach a well before sunrise, or, unless he has wonderful vitality, his skeleton will be added to the large collection that lines all the roads through Death's Valley.

Nothing else puts the terror of the desert into the tenderfoot like coming upon one of these skeletons, usually with no trace of clothing near by. If search is made one may find the clothing not far away, where the poor victim, crazed by the heat, has cast it. The tendency of every one who goes insane on the desert from heat is to strip and then travel in a circle till he drops from weakness.

By many of these skeletons will be found holes which despairing hands have dug in the hot desert sands in the vain search for the life-giving water.

All the papers printed near the Mojave Desert are trying to discourage miners, especially of the tenderfoot class, from rushing into Death Valley during the hot weather. The only big company in the whole region is the Borax Company, on Furnace Creek. The managers have stringent orders not to sell hay or horse feed to any one, and several prospectors have been compelled to return after reaching the new mining district, as their horse feed gave out and they couldn't buy any. The company has given water, food and horse feed to several prospectors who would have perished except for such aid, but it is dangerous to venture into a country where money will not buy the necessaries of life.

DURHAM WHITE STEVENS,

who has been designated by Japan as diplomatic advisor of the Emperor of Corea under the new Japanese-Corean alliance, was born in Washington, D. C., in 1854, and was educated there and at Oberlin college, from which institution he graduated in 1871. In 1873 he was appointed secretary of the United States legation in Japan by President Grant. He served in that capacity until 1883, when he resigned and returned to the United States. He then entered the service of the Japanese government as English secretary to the legation at Washington. In 1884 he was ordered to Tokio for service in the foreign office. In the winter of 1884-85 he accompanied Count Inouye to Corea when the latter went as ambassador to negotiate a settlement of the difficulties arising from the assault upon Mr. Takezoye, Japanese minister to Corea. For the services he rendered on that occasion Mr. Stevens received from the Emperor the decoration of the third class of the Order of the Rising Sun. For services rendered in the war between Japan and China Mr. Stevens received the decoration of the second class of the Sacred Treasure.

Georgia Plans Silk Culture.

Atlanta, Ga.—Louis Borris Magid, of Georgia, has completed arrangements to obtain in Europe machinery and labor which will give a powerful impetus to silk raising in this country.

Enthusiastic Southerners who have watched the enterprise say that soon such a thing as a bad year will be unknown and that farmers of Dixie will be raising silk at $5 a pound.

AMERICAN DENTIST TO ROYALTY

Once Noted Bicyclist Court Dentist in Spain.

Boston, Mass.—Once a noted bicyclist George Fulton Taylor, is going to be dentist to the royalty of Spain.

As a boy he was tall and wiry, fond of all outdoor sports, and particularly bicycling. Soon the neighbors began to remark on the prowess of that Taylor boy, and in a little while he was a full-fledged racer. Although only a boy, young Taylor's success was remarkable. Trophies of all sorts, gold and silver cups, pianos, diamonds, gold and silver medals and money prizes, poured down upon him.

He made so much money that he entered Harvard and paid his way by his earnings on the track.

In Cambridge Taylor won a reputation as a wrestler and was a general favorite.

Later he went to Philadelphia and studied dentistry, earning enough in the summer to pay his tuition and live on all the year round by the profits of his successful racing.

The young bicyclist graduated from the dental college in Philadelphia, and went into practice in Salem, not far from his Ipswich home.

At first Doctor Taylor was associated with Doctor Warren Porter, an aged Salem dentist, but shortly after his marriage he opened an office for himself in his home, in Federal street.

The young doctor and his wife, coming to Salem, soon formed a large circle of acquaintances.

The chance that has made the former bicycle king dentist to the court of Spain is a remarkable one.

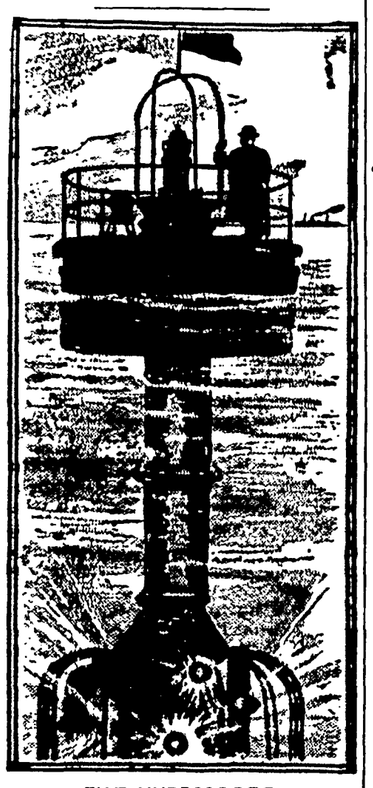
A college friendship, started at Harvard, is the cause. Last winter Doctor Taylor, to his great surprise, received one day a letter from a stranger, a Doctor Portuando, practicing in Madrid.

The Spanish doctor wrote that he was desirous of taking a two months' vacation and that, wishing to intrust his practice to a young American during that period, he had been recommended by a friend to write to Doctor Taylor.

In the next mail came the letter from the mutual friend, his college chum, who urged Doctor Taylor to accept.

The invitation was accepted, and at the close of the two months' vacation Doctor Portuando made the American so tempting an offer that he decided it would be madness to refuse.

A five years' contract was drawn up between the elderly Spanish doctor and the young American, and members of the royal family of Spain will intrust themselves to the hands of an American dentist, who may repeat the experience of the late Doctor Evans—once dentist to Empress Eugene.



THE HYDROSCOPE,

by means of which the inventor expects to spy out treasures at the bottom of the sea. The hydroscope is the invention of Cavaliero Giuseppe Pino a resident of Naples. It is constructed of steel and in shape is like a huge telescope pointing downward into coral caverns or sunken ships. Its complex system of lenses, twelve in number, answer to the objective glass of a celestial telescope. Together with the internal mirrors they produce a very clear picture of the sea-bottom the rays of light passing up the tube to a sort of camera-obscura house, the top of which floats above the surface and is capable of holding four people.

One of the most romantic things yet accomplished by the hydroscope and its accompanying raising apparatus has been the bringing to the surface of an old Spanish galleon, one of a numerous fleet sunk in the Bay of Vigo in 1702 and recently brought to the surface by the aid of Pino's invention.

Eagle Swoops Down on Boy.

Colorado Springs.—An immense bald eagle tried to carry away to the mountains Alfred, the 8-year-old son of Cornelius A Starr, sexton at Evergreen Cemetery. The timely arrival of the lad's father and another man with a shotgun saved the boy from death or serious injury.

The boy's cries attracted a man living near the cemetery, who came running to the spot with a shotgun. By this time Alfred's father appeared on the scene and attacked the eagle with a club.

The eagle started to attack Mr. Starr, but three or four hard blows from his club soon drove the bird away. The man with the gun was unable to shoot for fear he might injure Starr or his boy.