

WHITE HOUSE DINNERS.

MARVELS OF THE CULINARY ART DISPLAYED AND THOUSAND OF FLOWERS USED.

Flowers, Birds and Figures Sculptured Out of Frozen Stearine and Fat—Roses, Carnations, Lilies and Other Blossoms Sacrificed.

Washington Post.

"How much time does the preparation of an elaborate State dinner require?" asked a Post reporter, who descended the other day into the realm of pans and pots at the White House, of Mr. A. Fortin, the chief of the culinary department of the Executive mansion.

"We are usually notified four or five days ahead, although we can get a dinner ready on much shorter notice," replied Mr. Fortin. "But we can do better justice to the occasion when we have ample time to prepare."

"Do you find the President hard to please?"

"He is very pleasant and appreciative. Like every true gentleman, he delights in a perfect, well-appointed table, and frequently expresses his satisfaction when he notices some peculiar effort in artistic arrangement, culinary skill, or elaborate design of table ornaments."

"Where do the table ornaments come from?"

"They are sculptured by my assistant, Mr. A. Costa, and myself."

"Sculptured?"

"Yes; sculptured, or modeled, right here. Sometimes we expend considerable labor upon them, when the subject is one of more difficulty of execution than usual. Our material is stearine and fat, mixed and frozen, which, in its pure whiteness, resembles marble very closely under the gaslight of the State dining-room. For last Wednesday's dinner we made six low, round stands, representing ornamental baskets, with laurel wreaths and acorns around them. For the previous dinner we made stands for pate de foie gras, about twelve inches high, with the top-bowl representing a convoluted sea shell resting upon three mermaids gracefully turned downward. At the base the space between the heads of the mermaids was filled with choice flowers in natural colors, imitations of fresh moss, and every hair-line of the work was executed in this composition of fat and stearine, the coloring being done before the freezing."

"What other works of art have you executed in that style?"

"There is a different subject selected for every dinner. At the one previous to the last I have mentioned we had a Goddess of Liberty; before that an American eagle; then an archangel blowing his trumpet, Cupid in a basket, a flower-piece, ornamental stands, pedestals with wreaths at the base, and other subjects."

"Have you followed your vocation long?"

"Oh, yes; I have been with the Prince of Wales, Prince Salm-Salm, the Duke de Croix, Prince de Ligne, the President of the Belgian Senate, John Jacob Astor, and was with Mr. Jay Gould before I came here to the White House. My assistant, Mr. Costa, has served at the Kursaal of the famous German watering place, Baden-Baden, and was with the late Viceroy of India, the Earl of Northbrook, and other noted gentlemen."

"How many courses does a State dinner usually consist of?"

"Twelve to fourteen, although we have had as many as twenty-two courses."

"How many guests are generally invited to each dinner?"

"From forty to fifty, and on Wednesday of last week we had fifty-four—the highest number of guests, I understand, that were ever seated in the State dining room. The largest number ever accommodated at that table in former years was thirty-six. While giving fewer dinners President Arthur has therefore probably had more guests at his table than any other occupant of the White House. The table is shaped like this: [Diagram]. In this manner all the available space of the dining-room is ingeniously utilized."

"How do the White House accommodations for dinners compare with the arrangements of private residences that you have seen?"

Mr. Fortin shrugged his shoulders in a significant, diplomatic way. The state dining-room is rather small," he said, "compared to the elegant dining-rooms of some American private houses that I have seen, and it must seem queer to visitors to the White House to find the State dining-room no greater affair today than it was at the beginning of the century. But," he added, with another shrug and smile, "I have no fault to find with it."

Just then, Mr. H. Pfister, the White House gardener, passed by the windows, and the reporter, taking leave of Mr. Fortin, followed the briskly-walking gardener into his sanctum at the conservatory.

"Where do the flowers come from?" asked the Post reporter, "that are used in the decoration of the White House table during the State dinners?"

"Three-fourths of the flowers not raised in the conservatory are brought from New York, ice-packed," replied Mr. Pfister, the rest are procured here. Buy-

ing them in large quantities, of course we get considerable reductions in prices. We pay, for instance, about three-quarters of a cent for a flower which you can not obtain for less than five cents at retail. In this way we are able to make a display that would ordinarily involve an expense of five or six hundred dollars at an outlay, besides the flowers raised and the work done here, of about \$75 on an average for each State dinner."

"What is the number or quantity of flowers used on such occasions?"

"Few people have any idea how many flowers it takes to cover a large surface. One carnation, for instance, is required for every square inch; large flowers, of course, like some kinds of roses, cover considerable space, but cannot be applied too frequently in ornamental designs. In the 'Hanging Garden of Semiramis' we used 800 flowers; in the 'Temple of Justice' about 2,000; in the 'Budge and Ships,' including lamp-posts, canoes, etc., about 2,200; of roses alone we used about 1,000 for each State dinner, and about the same number of carnations. During the past winter we used 6,000 sprays of lilies-of-the-valley, and about 400 strings of smilax, and from 2,000 to 3,000 other flowers, such as heliotropes, camellias, azaleas, begonias, bigonias, violets, marguerites, calla lilies, liliun longiflorum, and so on. Of roses the principal varieties used are the Jacqueminot, Marechal Neil, Catharine Mermet, Paul de Jardin, Cornelia Cook, Bon Silene, La France, Nephites and others. Of carnations we give the preference to the Lady Emma, President Garfield, Philadelphia, crimson king, Peter Henderson, Hinzes White, white perfection, etc. For the mantels in the dining-room the decorations usually are made up of carnations, hyacinths, potted plants, etc. The centre decoration at the last dinner was an Indian canoe under full sail. The wire frames for these decorations are made under my direction by Messrs. L. Schmid & Sons, of this city, and require sometimes three days for their completion. The decorations I mentioned a little while ago were new conceptions, and never before attempted."

Taking leave, the reporter went west a short distance, and soon found himself surrounded by the toothsome sweets of Madame Demonet's confectionery.

"We have furnished the White House," said Madame Demonet, in response to the inquiries made, "ever since President Buchanan's time with confections, deserts, fine imported bon bons, fancy creams, charlottes and jellies, caramels and imported frosts. We also furnish the small fancy cakes, and pyramids of different designs. The ices are usually in some ornamental shape, for instance, representing asparagus, with sauce in natural colors, or lobsters in natural colors. Two weeks ago the ice came upon the table in the shape of a large, beautiful fish, and the President, who is a devoted disciple of Walton, was much pleased with it. Before that we had fiery bombshells, and at the preceding dinner cantaloupes, fruit and vegetables, in natural colors, of course, and natural size."

Daniel Webster's Home for Sale. Boston Daily Advertiser.

The announcement that the Webster estate at Marshfield is for sale will evoke many interesting and tender associations in connection with the life and death of the great statesman. It was here that he spent many of his happiest hours, gathering rest and refreshment for those conflicts of the Senate and the forum which are identified with the history of New England and of the entire country. It was Webster's taste for rural life—for fishing and shooting, the pride he took in his fine stock and in his large crops—which attested the healthy vigor of his nature; and it is a depressing reflection that he has left no male descendants to keep up the endeared establishment at Marshfield. Were his old house standing, there might be some chance of preserving the estate as a permanent memorial of its illustrious owner, but the historic mansion was burned down several years ago. Yet Webster's law office and his broad acres still remain to recall the past.

The Advantage of Being a Married Woman. Yonkers Gazette.

"Are you as happy now as you were before you were married?" asked Mrs. Yeast of young Mrs. Crimsonbeak.

"Yes, indeed," replied the lady; "and a great deal happier." "That is strange," suggested the philanthropist's wife.

"Not at all strange," came from the young married woman. "You see, before I was married, I used to spend half my time worrying about what dress I should wear when Daniel called."

"But don't you try just as hard to look well when your husband returns home at night?" interrupted Mrs. Yeast.

"Well, you see," went on the bride of two summers, "I don't worry any about it now, as I have only one dress to my name."

A Possible Bargain. Philadelphia Telegraph.

That White Man's Republican party which certain citizens of Georgia are proposing to organize, will be an interesting curiosity when it gets into working order. Barnum ought to start some negotiations for its purchase; for he can doubtless get it, and at tolerably moderate figures.

TELEGRAPHIC SPARKLES.

THE LATEST NEWS FROM ALL PARTS BY WIRE AND CABLE.

CINCINNATI, April 18.—A decline here to-day of three cents in the quotation of high wines causes some excitement in whisky circles. It was done without the orders of the whisky pool. The sales reported to-day were those of leading members of the pool in this city. The decline is regarded as the necessary result of a dull market and the large quantity of Kentucky goods pressing for sale.

WASHINGTON, April 18.—The Chair laid before the Senate a communication from W. W. Corcoran, Chairman of the Washington Monument Association, transmitting a resolution of the Association relating to the approaching completion of the monument and appropriate ceremonies for the celebration thereof. Senator Sherman, from the Committee on the Library, reported adversely the Newspaper Copyright bill. It was, however, placed on the calendar. Also, from the same committee adversely the joint resolution providing for the erection of a bronze equestrian statue to Simon Bolivar. It was indefinitely postponed.

FLORIDA IN THE SENATE.

The following bills were introduced and referred:

By Senator Call, to provide for the repair of Fort Marion, at St. Augustine, Fla., and the inclosure of the grounds attached thereto; also, for the establishment of a life-saving station on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of Florida, as follows: One at or near St. Augustine, one at a point between Jupiter Inlet and St. Augustine, one at or near Key West, and one at a point between Charlotte Harbor and Pensacola.

The House Committee on Territories to-day by a vote of 7 to 5 adopted the substitute offered by Mr. Alexander to Mr. Cassidy's bill providing for the appointment by the President of a Commission to govern Utah. The provision relating to marriages requires that they shall be solemnized by a Minister, Judge or Justice of the Peace and that any person so officiating shall file a certificate of marriage before the county recorder of lands within thirty days after the ceremony. Failure to file a record is punishable by a fine of \$500. The substitute makes the solemnization of marriage, when either party to be married has a husband or wife living, a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in jail not less than six months or more than twelve.

BOSTON, April 18.—A special from the City of Mexico via Galveston, dated April 17th, says the reports of an attempt to assassinate General Diaz have no further foundation than this: While returning from a three weeks hunting trip in the country by a train on the Irolo railway, the pilot of the locomotive running ahead hit a large stone on the track and threw it off with the cowcatcher. Another special of the same date says: Recent reports of the disturbances in Northern Mexico are false. The country is tranquil, and no bridge was burned on the Mexican Central railway. A train was simply delayed by a slight accident to its locomotive.

LOUISVILLE, April 18.—Henry Watterson makes an address to the Kentucky Democrats, declining to represent them in the next Democratic convention. He says: "I can see no reason why I should put upon myself the sacrifices and responsibilities of a service, which, at all points difficult and thankless, is doubly so at a time when party strifes and private aims give the people such scant assurance of disinterestedness in their public men. I have no doubt that the policy of revenue reform, now fairly inaugurated at Washington, will be completed at Chicago, and that a ticket will be named in accordance with the integrity, traditions and spirit of the party."

LONDON, April 18.—The Standard's Paris dispatch says: "A letter received here from an Irish sympathizer with the dynamite party states that the dynamite campaign has not yet ended. Two hundred and fifty pounds of dynamite have been sent from France to England within the past three weeks, a girl, a resident of Corfi and a sister of a dynamiter living in Paris, carrying it across the channel. The girl is also a medium of communication between the dynamiters in Paris and those of Great Britain and Ireland. The woman who conveyed the dynamite used in the Victoria depot explosion in London has gone to America. The dynamiters in England are opposed to an isolated attempt. They contemplate a general explosion in various parts of the country on a certain day and hour."

SEZ, April 18.—The steamer Inchgarvie arrived here to-day from Bassein. There had been two deaths from cholera on board. Cholera at Calcutta is increasing. There were 257 deaths therefrom last week.

NEW YORK, April 18.—Mr. Riveria, editor of the Cuban organ here, El Separatista, states: "I have just had news that General Aguiro has already made use of dynamite he bought in New York. He took with him a pupil of Prof. Mezeroff to form a dynamite corps and he

has already blown up several sugar plantation works and wrecked a village called Calimete."

The fire at Rangoon raged two days, and destroyed forty-one houses. The loss is \$1,200,000.

The chief Bonapartist journal in the Department of La Charente has proclaimed its adherence to Comte de Paris.

The Roman Propaganda has completed an account of the discussions of the American bishops here, which will be sent to every bishop in America as a guide for the forthcoming council at Baltimore in November next.

The semi-official journals, anxious to remove, if possible, the impression that Minister Eisendecker is receding before hostile agitation, are denying his recall from Washington. The journals continue their efforts to cast discredit upon Mr. Sargent.

The business failures for the past week were 160 in the United States and 16 in Canada. The previous week they were 176 in the United States and 38 in Canada.

The Governor of Texas has restored the law against carrying concealed weapons in the border counties of Texas. The law was removed on account of Indian incursions some time ago.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS.

BENJ. PUTNAM CALHOUN, IRVING GILLIS, WM. LOWMEDES CALHOUN, Calhoun, Gillis & Calhoun, ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW PALATKA, FLORIDA.

Special attention paid to Insurance, Real Estate and Collection of Claims. Will practice in State and Federal courts.

A. W. ROYSDON, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW Office opposite St. John's Hotel, LEMON STREET, PALATKA, FLA.

E. R. MCKEAN, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW Agent for Sale and Purchase of FLORIDA LANDS PALATKA, FLORIDA. Notary Public State of Florida.

W. H. WIGG, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW Office Lemon st., Mann's Building, Upstairs. PALATKA, FLORIDA.

PALATKA HOTELS. GRAHAM'S HOTEL. S. GRAHAM, Proprietor, Corner Lemon and Water streets, PALATKA, FLORIDA.

THE WESTMORELAND, PALATKA, FLORIDA. WHITE SULPHUR WATER, HOT AND COLD SULPHUR BATHS. Bus meets all trains and steamers. OPEN ALL THE YEAR.

LARKIN HOUSE, PALATKA, FLORIDA. Addition built last summer of forty-five rooms. Accommodations for 300 guests. Open December 15, 1883. LARKIN & ALLEN, Proprietors.

PUTNAM HOUSE, December to May, PALATKA, FLA. WINDSOR HOTEL, Dec. to May, JACKSONVILLE, FLA. EQUINOX HOUSE, June to Oct., MANCHESTER, VT. No Dogs Taken. F. H. ORVIS.

COUNTY COURT, PUTNAM COUNTY, FLORIDA. Office hours, 10 a. m. to 3 p. m. JUSTICE COURT—First Monday in each month. BENJ. HARRISON, County Judge.

LEGAL!

LEGAL BLANKS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION and of the most approved forms printed and sold by the undersigned. Stationers and members of the legal profession furnished at reasonable rates. WARREN, THAYER & CO., Reid street, Palatka, Florida.

A. J. BEACH & SON, NURSERYMEN PALATKA, FLORIDA. ALL FRUITS GROWN SUITED TO THIS climate. Catalogue free.

O'KEEFE & M'KINLAY, Machinists, Boilermakers and Blacksmiths. REPAIRING SPECIALLY ATTENDED TO. Bought and sold. Engineers supplies cheap. Corner Reid and Second streets.

PRACTICAL TAILOR. I HAVE MOVED MY TAILORING SHOP up-stairs over Mr. Gus Mann's Butcher Shop, on Lemon street. Repairing neatly done. A share of public patronage solicited. JOHN HEWSON.

NOTICE TO TAX PAYERS. THE UNDERSIGNED WILL BE AT PALATKA Election District, No. 8, on Monday, May 20th, and remain during the week ending on Saturday the 24th. For the purpose of assessing the State and County Tax for the year A. D. 1884. All tax payers wishing tax blanks will please call at either the office of clerk of Circuit Court or Tax Collector, where they will find them. J. W. WOODS, Tax Assessor Putnam County.

CLOSING OUT SALE

To make room for New Summer Goods, I offer all Fall and Winter Clothing and Piece Goods at STRICTLY COST PRICES

A large stock of MISFITS AND ORDERED CLOTHING

Left on hand after deposits were made, will be sold at a sacrifice. buying elsewhere call and see H. W. KLICKER, The Tailor, Corner Lemon and Fourth Streets.

AT JACOBSON'S ONE PRICE STORE

DRESS GOODS OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS

NEW LINEN LAWNS, PIQUES, SATEENS AND SUMMER SILKS.

LADIES HATS AND TRIMMINGS IN GREAT VARIETY.

A FULL LINE OF HOSIERY, GLOVES AND CORSETS.

Gent's Furnishing Goods, Clothing and Hats.

FINE PHILADELPHIA MADE SHOES FOR GENTS AND LADIES EVERY PAIR GUARANTEED.

ONLY FIRST-CLASS GOODS KEPT AT THIS STORE

A. & G. C. C., and Okeechobee Land Co.

S. H. GREY, President, J. M. KREAMER, Engineer, HAMILTON DISSTON, Treas., F. W. PALMER, Secretary, R. SALINGER, Secretary.

LANDS FOR SALE IN LOTS OF FROM 40 TO 10,000 ACRES IN THE COUNTIES OF BREVARD, POLK, MANATEE AND MONROE.

For average Pine Lands \$1.25 per acre For average Prairie and Pasture Lands \$5.00 to 10.00 per acre For Lake and River Fronts 10.00 per acre For Sugar Lands 10.00 per acre The Lands of this Company are specially adapted to the Culture of Tropical Fruits, Rice, Sugar Cane, etc., and are generally accessible by steam navigation. W. T. FORBES, Land Commissioner, Jacksonville, Fla.

KISSIMMEE LAND COMPANY.

T. H. ASHURY, President, J. W. KLAHR, Treasurer, HAMILTON DISSTON, Vice-President, F. W. PALMER, Secretary.

200,000 ACRES CHOICEST LOCATIONS FOR RESIDENCE AND CULTIVATION OF Oranges, Lemons, Pineapples, Banannas, Coconuts, etc., in the counties of Orange, Brevard, Sumter, Polk, Hillsborough, Manatee and Monroe. Sold in Quantities to Suit Buyers. Prices \$2.50 to \$10.00 per acre, according to location and quality. KISSIMMEE CITY Five-Acre Lots \$200 to \$500 W. T. FORBES, Manager, Jacksonville, Fla.

B. F. MCGRAW & SON, LARGEST PUBLISHING HOUSE IN THE STATE.

"RED CROSS PRESS" Warren, Thayer & Co.

Buffalo Bluff Nurs'y ALL ORANGE STOCK

From Sour to the Best Varieties

ONE VARIETY OF STRAWBERRIES, VIZ: FEDERAL POINT, OR FLORIDA FOUNDLING

F. C. COCHRANE, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER AND DEALER IN FISHING TACKLE, FINE CIGARS Florida Curiosities, Florida Maps, Books, Canes, &c

WARREN, THAYER & CO., Reid street, near Putnam House. W. CONRAD, FLORIST & LANDSCAPE GARDENER

A LARGE VARIETY OF PALMS, RARE Roses and Semi-Tropical Plants in general constantly on hand. Correspondence solicited. Front street, next to Bank, PALATKA, FLA.

WILLIAM F. FORWARD, PIONEER ICE HOUSE AND DEPOT FOR Hay, Grain, Feed, Lime, Plaster, BRICK, CEMENT, LATH, Etc. Established in 1880. Reid's Brick Block, floating wharf, PALATKA, FLA.

Statement of an Eye Witness! FULL PARTICULARS IN NEXT ISSUE

3500 BUSHELS OF GRAIN. ALSO A FINE lot of Hay, Bran and Ground Feed being received this week, fresh and in good order, to be sold at prices as low as such goods can be bought anywhere. W. M. F. FORWARD.

ADAM H. FINLEY, GEM CITY HAIR DRESSING ROOMS LEMON ST., PALATKA, FLA.

FRESH, SALT & SULPHUR BATHS