

better off if they could wear a uniform instead of being required to appear, as is the rule of the State Department, in the ordinary dress of an American citizen. Our usual dress is, you know, just the same as that of the waiters, and our ministers have, in fact, been taken for the waiters at some great diplomatic receptions. When Lambert Tree was minister to Belgium he attended such a reception. He was standing holding a cup of coffee in his hand, waiting for it to cool, when an attache of one of the other legations wearing a bushel of gold lace and a peck of brass buttons seized the cup out of his hand and carried it away before Mr. Tree knew what he was about. The man took him for a waiter. The other diplomats upon such occasions are clad in uniforms embroidered with gold lace. They wear swords and medals, and many of them have silk belts and sashes. If an American minister has been an officer of the army he usually wears a military uniform, and if not he tries to get over the regulation in some other way. James Buchanan compromised on a black suit, a white vest and a black-handled sword. Our first minister to China, John Ward, adopted the costume of a captain of the Georgia militia. He had been elected captain of a little company known as the Chatham Artillery, and the uniform which he had made for himself as captain had brass buttons marked C. A. When he was at the Chinese court one of the almond-eyed silk-gowned noblemen asked him what the letters C. A. stood for. Mr. Ward replied that they were made in honor of the friendship of China and America, and that in order to give the greater honor to China its initial, C, had been placed in front of that of America. This seemed to delight the Chinaman. General Lew Wallace wore his military uniform while he was minister to Turkey. It was his uniform that first attracted the attention of the sultan. The first Friday after General Wallace arrived in Constantinople he went to the building opposite the mosque to see his majesty as he went to prayers. As the sultan came out of the mosque he looked over at the party of foreigners about General Wallace, and asked who the fine looking man in uniform might be. He was told it was the new American minister, and he thereupon raised his sallow hand to his red fez cap and saluted the general. Shortly after this when General Wallace was presented the sultan referred to having seen him, and the two became strong friends. General Wallace spent much time at the sultan's palace, and among the other mementoes which he brought back from Turkey is a very fine pencil sketch of his majesty, which the general drew while his majesty posed.

Why should Secretary Sherman not inaugurate a new costume for our ministers? Mr. Sherman once appeared before Napoleon III in knee breeches. He wore an evening suit, knee pants, black silk stockings and pumps, and he says in his book that it seemed very awkward at first until he saw that all the other parties at the reception were dressed as he was. Clifton R. Breckinridge, our present minister to St. Petersburg, appeared at the court of the czar with his shapely shins clad in silk stockings. Now in these days of bicycle suits there is no reason why some such dress might not be adopted "as the ordinary dress of the American citizen." It was so in

the past. When John Adams was presented to King George III he wore a coat embroidered with lace, his fat calves were clad in silk stockings and his shoes were ornamented with silver buckles. Benjamin Franklin at his presentation to the King of France wore a plain suit of black velvet, with black velvet knee breeches, white silk stockings and black shoes. He had intended to wear a wig but when it arrived the hair dresser could not squeeze it upon Franklin's big head. The man worked and stretched and Franklin finally told him that the wig was not large enough, whereupon the French hair dresser angrily threw it upon the floor, saying: "Monsieur, that is impossible. It is not the wig which is too small; it is the head which is too large."

Most of our American ministers do good service. They labor under the greatest disadvantages, and have to compete with men who have spent their lives in the school of diplomacy. They have no money, and are under the shadow of probable removal at the end of four years. The method of their appointment is such that it is not strange that many inefficient men find their way to the head of our foreign legations, so that every now and then one of them does something which is a disgrace to the United States. I have heard of a number of such instances, and the stories of the adventures and mistakes of American ministers abroad, could they be collected, would make a book more ridiculous than Artemus Ward's travels. One of the diplomats whom Cleveland sent to Italy lived, it is said, over a dairy stable, and appeared at court in a frayed collar and a soiled shirt. I was told in Cairo how one of our former consuls general, used to go to Ismail Pasha and whine about the poor salary his government gave him. He reminded the khedive that his majesty was rich, and asked him for aid out of the Egyptian treasury. The khedive gave this consul general money again and again, our government never knowing how much it was being disgraced. It is no excuse for this man to add that he was usually drunk at the times he made such requests.

I have heard stories of the queer acts of some of our South American ministers of the past. One of them lived in Buenos Ayres for years in a small room over the shop which he had rented as our legation. He gave no functions whatever, until at last the outcry against his parsimony became so great that he rented a skating rink and sent out printed circulars asking the distinguished people of the Argentine Republic to come to an American entertainment. When the president, the diplomatic corps and the rest of Buenos Ayres swelled down arrived they found the American minister sitting on a platform with the stars and stripes festooned above him and a tiger's skin at his feet.

About him were thirty-eight women, dressed in all colors of the rainbow, to represent the thirty eight states which our country then had. The minister did not rise to greet his guests. They wandered about the room to the music of a brass band, and waited in vain for the dancing to begin. There was nothing to eat and nothing to drink, and the occasion passed off as the social curiosity of the year. Another South American minister took rooms in an humble part of the capital at which he was sta-

tioned. He got an Indian woman to do his cooking for him and did his marketing himself. Shortly after he arrived he applied for a position for his daughter as a teacher in one of the schools, but the superintendent of education told him that public sentiment would not approve of the employment of the daughter of a man of so high a rank for that purpose.

I could tell a lot of queer stories about some of our ministers to the far east. How, for instance, one of Cleveland's ministers to Japan used to come in person to the front door of his legation to answer the bell. At such times he might possibly be in his shirt sleeves and without a collar. This man was the laughing stock of the far east for a time, and his popularity at the court of the mikado was not increased by his letters, which were published in the American papers. In one of these he wrote that he was having a high old time among the Japanese, and informed the people of his town that it was the custom of the ladies of the empire to bathe in the streams without bathing suits, and that the sight of them was worth the journey to Japan. This man was one of Cleveland's worst mistakes. Speaking of him makes me think of another. I refer to Bayliss W. Hanna, who was appointed minister to the Argentine Republic. Shortly after arriving at Buenos Ayres he sent home a letter, which was published in the local newspapers, of which the following are extracts:

"This is a wonderful city of 300,000 souls, a revelation to me. There is more money here than in any place I ever saw, but just now they are having our greenback days over again, gold being worth 51%. It is the most extravagant government on earth. I will send you a paper containing a full account of my reception. Tell General Manson and A. F. Ramsey if I had them here I could make them very rich. My great trouble, however, is the language. I understand nobody and nobody understands me, so I simply make signs. It is a capital country—looks like Iowa. When I get settled I will write a letter giving a full account of everything. Give my kind regards to all inquiring friends. Yours truly, B. W. HANNA."

A letter of this kind would certainly be republished in Buenos Ayres. The Japanese by the next mail from America received the effusions of the minister about the ladies of their court, and you can imagine how much weight such expressions would give him among the people to whom he was sent as the representative of our friendly relations with them. Stories of this kind might be multiplied. They show however, the necessity for great care in the selection of our diplomats. The question of consulships is quite as important, and you will see that Secretary Sherman has no slight matter before him in making the square political pegs fit into the round diplomatic holes.

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HULL TO HOLLAND,

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah.

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My brother and I took a trip from England to Holland and Belgium in 1892. We were in the big manufacturing city of Manchester, England, on a nice day.