

THE OPENING OF CONGRESS

Washington, Dec. 2.—The city is again taking on animation. Many of the hotels have been remodeled and prepared for the guests of the coming session. Pennsylvania avenue is making from the sidewalk its way into the city after congress adjourned, and its broad walks are becoming more crowded each day as the time approaches for the new session of the nation's lawmakers in congress. The capital building has just been cleaned from the hands of the small army of painters, decorators and workmen who have been at work giving the structure its annual overhauling. The color of paint and varnish still lingers in the building and is most perceptible in the chambers of the representatives and the senate.

The hotel corridors are again brightening up after the summer months, and senators and congressmen are returning in veritable droves to their beds of repose after their vacation. Some of them are here to make their last fight, while others return with the knowledge that they will serve in congress for at least one more term. The recent election in several states will in a great measure change the personnel of the house of representatives and the senate, and several of the men who have become well known at the national capital will retire from active service in

the open of the war tariff on one of those and reported that his name he withdrew. He said: "It is my opinion that neither the money question nor the war tariff will be touched at this session, although the latter measure was enacted only to increase the revenues made necessary for carrying on hostilities. As is well known, the war cost the government a considerable sum of money, and the revenue from the tariff have not been sufficient to pay it. Therefore it for the entire. Then, again, there will be many other matters of greater importance to be taken up."

presented. One of them, it is expected, will contain a message asking congress to revive the grade of vice admiral, so that it may be bestowed upon their admiral Dewey as a recognition of his services during the war and when it is expected that an increase will be made in officers and men for both the army and navy. It is stated that the army will ask for an increase bringing its standing up to 100,000 men and officers. It is claimed that this is necessary in order to properly protect the new provinces. The navy, besides asking for additional



SCENE IN THE SENATE CHAMBER, WHERE OUR COLONIAL POLICY WILL BE DETERMINED.



which will require the immediate action of congress. For example, the disposition of the territory recently acquired. The money question does not, in my opinion, demand immediate attention. The time left for us to dispose of all the questions that have arisen since congress adjourned is very limited, and I firmly believe that some of them will have to go over to be dealt with later. Only the most important will have the attention of this session of congress, and while I am not going to discuss them with you I will say that among them will be the reorganization of the army and the navy, the disposition of the new territory and very possibly some action in reference to the canal scheme between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans."

tioned officers in some of the departments, will request an increase in the enlisted forces, as it has been demonstrated that there are not sufficient men to give the ships in active service their full complements. The difference between the line and staff of the navy has been settled, and the personnel bill will again be placed in the hands of the naval committee for consideration, and now that the navy has been brought in closer relations with congress and has shown its worth to the government there is little doubt among those interested in the bill of its success. A number of senators and congressmen who have been spoken to regarding this measure have expressed themselves in favor of it.

the government when congress adjourns in March next. The coming session of congress promises to be one of the liveliest and most interesting in the history of the nation. There will be many intricate and knotty questions brought before it to be unraveled and settled. Those congressmen and senators who have returned to the city have come back seemingly with

that their government will come in for considerable of the discussion, and that a form of government for Porto Rico will be provided for and the mode of procedure in Cuba will also be settled. One congressman whom I happened to meet at the capital was inclined to discuss some of the more important matters that would, in his opinion, not be considered at this session of congress.

A MINISTER WOULD BE AN EARL.

Another claimant has appeared and is actively engaged in asserting his rights against all comers to the earldom of Cathness, England, which, it is claimed, is worth about \$50,000 a year. The new claimant is the Rev. John Rindler, minister of the parish of Kinloch-Bannoch, in Perthshire. He claims to have state and other evidence to show that the present holder of the title, who is a farmer in the United States, has no shadow of right to the



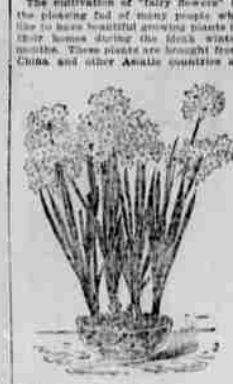
position, as he comes from another branch of the family. There seems to be no doubt that Rev. Mr. Rindler is the head of the oldest line of the famous house of Cathness. The only point open to dispute is whether he is the "lawful" head—that is, whether all of his ancestors were born in Scotland. The evidence recently brought to light seems to show that they were. Alexander Rindler, the ninth earl of Cathness, who died in 1780 at the age of 81, is the cause of most of the trouble which is to be settled now. The minister has been in the country almost ever since the day the old earl died, and the earl's heirs changed hands many times. The last of the earls died in 1800.

A WEDDING IN HIGH LIFE.



The scene of the wedding of the Rev. Mr. Rindler and Miss Mary Macintyre of the Capital City and Robert Trest Vane, Jr., of London, both the bride and her father have been heard in their veins, being descendants of Robert Trest.

"FAIRY FLOWERS" THE LATEST FAD.



The cultivation of "fairy flowers" is the pleasing fad of many people who like to have beautiful growing plants in their homes during the dark winter months. These plants are brought from China, and other Asiatic countries as

and simply require to be placed in a bowl or other deep dish among a quantity of white stones. Water is then poured into the dish so as to partly cover the plants. They are then not watered for a few days in some dark, warm place, such as the shelf of a closet. In a very short time the buds and up leafy, slender green shoots, which in a few weeks will break forth as small flowers, resembling very much the pansy.

FACTS OF INTEREST.

One of the latest journalistic ventures in Japan is a newspaper devoted to the interests of laboring men. About 25,000 tons of tea have been consumed in London this season, 100,000 tons in excess of last year.

The Hindus consider their dead sacred and do not allow them to be buried by alien hands, the most sacred relative—son, father or brother—preparing the body for burial, and if

there be none of those relatives a son is adopted by the family for the purpose. The French language, it appears, is better adapted to the purpose of the telephone than the English. It is stated that the large number of syllables in having syllables in English renders it a less easy and accurate means of communication.

The Scottish Sabbath Protection society is engaged in combating the Sunday opening of the Tower of London. The time seems to be not far distant when English will be the language of the people inhabiting the entire valley of the Nile.

ONE OF MANILA'S PEST HOLE PRISONS.

One of the first acts of General MacArthur after the capture of Manila was to open the prisons and set free all the political offenders incarcerated in them. The records were then carefully gone over, and it was found that many prisoners who were entered as criminals were in reality men who were locked in the bars for political offenses.



Meanwhile the condition of these men and women was improved as much as was possible under the circumstances. According to the prevailing Spanish custom, there was no thought of sanitation when the prisoners were arrested, and the years of use had made them filthy and diseased. Some of the prisoners were found in cells reeking with dampness and filth and in many cases were several inches deep in putrid mud and water.

POSTER MADE BY A WOMAN.

The poster made is still just as rampant in London as it ever was. Indeed, the media seems to be gathering greater numbers of devotees under its yellow and green banner than ever before. They have lately been holding a number of competitions over those in which posters such as the late Aubrey Beardsley, in his most brilliant style, were put on canvas were exhibited.



signs submitted was from the brush of Vincent Van Gogh, M. C. B., which received honorable mention. Mrs. Kline's composition has been highly praised by experts, who say that she will become famous in her line in a few years.

THE PECULIAR BEDOUIN WOMEN.



The recent journeyings of the Baker in Palestine have drawn attention to the people who inhabit those historical Biblical lands, especially the many tribes of Bedouins who dwell in the deserts surrounding the plains of Galilee and the valley of the river Jordan. It is said by travelers that these roving Bedouins never wash, which may be due to the scarcity of water in those regions. The women, despite that and exposure to a tropical sun and the hard frosts they lead, are also clean and picturesque when young. Though the older ones are anything but attractive, they have dark eyes and glossy black hair, and they are as a rule short, slight and wonderfully erect. Their dress is designed more for comfort and ease than for appearance. It invariably consists of a big, loose blouse of cotton stuff, dyed dark indigo, with long sleeves puffed at the elbows. This new, this garment trails on the ground, and its owner looks almost dignified but hard worn even reduced to a state of dilapidation and its wear to an appearance of slovenliness.

OYSTER WOMEN OF ZEELAND.



Oyster catching is not left to the men alone. Women in many instances have found it a profitable occupation. In fact, this is true to such an extent that in some parts of the world they have almost a complete monopoly of the trade. This is particularly so with the women of France and, while they have a monopoly, the methods employed to procure the oysters are crude and the work is necessarily slow.

THE DIGNIFIED LITTLE SEA HORSE.



Among the strange things to be seen in the New York aquarium are the sea horses. These dignified little fellows attract as much attention as some of the larger brackish. They are well protected from the attacks of the commencement of the fall. When not swimming about the tank, they sit motionless, seemingly thoughtful, until some commotion is made in the water by the larger fish, when they immediately seek the shelter of the sea horse in which to hide. They are very timid and become frightened easily. Altogether they are among the queerest fish in the aquarium.

To Lessen Dry Heat in a House. To lessen the dry heat in houses heated by a furnace some persons add a small fish, which is kept filled with water, on the feeding pipe through which the hot air enters the room. This is seen in the wide world. Occasionally, however, it is in the floor the register is turned just beneath that secures a firm resting place for the basin.