

## MISCELLANEOUS.

Written for this Paper.

## CLEVELAND'S MESSAGE.

WASHINGTON, November 29, 1893. The President's message is ready for Congress. It will be submitted next week, and could an advance copy be secured it would bring a hundred dollars for every crabbled stroke in the signature at its close. Presidents' messages always affect the stock market, and once every year the President puts forth a paper which makes and unmakes fortunes. This was never more so than it is today, and there are numbers of New York brokers who are ready to pay well for advance information. A Wall street man is said to have offered \$25,000 to one of the White House employees for an advance copy of one of Andrew Johnson's messages, and one of President Hayes' messages was sold to the newspapers by the printer who set it up for \$1,000. The agreement was that he was to have \$1,500, and the combination which bought it were the correspondents of the *Chicago Times*, of the *Cincinnati Enquirer* and the *New York Times*. Each one of these papers was to pay \$500 for the exclusive use of the message, but the *Times* went back on its bargain through the difference in time between New York and Chicago. The *Chicago Tribune* correspondent in New York had heard that the message was to be printed. He remained up all night and bought the first New York papers that came from the press. He found the message in the *New York Times*, and at once telegraphed it to his Chicago paper. Storey was then editor of the *Chicago Times*, and he refused to pay his share of the \$1,500 and so the man only got \$1,000 for his perfidy.

Cleveland's message has been very carefully guarded. He has written the most of it with his own pen, and he does more and more of his own writing every day. The White House has never been so close and exclusive as it is now, and news has never been more carefully watched. President Cleveland seldom uses a stenographer, though there are several good shorthand writers at the White House, and there is one who draws a salary on the executive pay roll as such. The President prefers to write his own letters, and his message has been written almost entirely with his own hand. He uses a pad and a pen, and he has written the message in piecemeal, taking up the different subjects one by one and fitting the pieces into the mosaic, which is now in the hands of the government printers. He is a remarkable ready writer. His hand is small and cramped, but he writes rapidly and he revises little. He has a good command of language and he likes out-of-the-way expressions. During his last administration he penned the longest message which was ever submitted to Congress, and the probability is that the present message will equal this in length.

So far none of President Cleveland's messages have been published in advance of their submission to Congress. He has been exceedingly careful to keep them from the newspapers, and it is interesting to know how this is done. The matter is given out only to the most

trusty compositors, and the proofs and the galleys are locked up when not in use in a burglar-proof safe. This was the method which was adopted when Cleveland was in the White House before, and at this time, the government printer read the proofs himself and made the corrections. He brought the copy to the White House and carried the proofs to President Cleveland in his own hand. Then the news was not half so valuable as it is now. Advance information as to the financial question is now being greedily asked for. The whole country wants to know what Cleveland is going to say on the tariff, and his exact statement as to the Hawaiian matter would be worth \$5 a line if it could be published now. The employees about the Executive Mansion appreciate this and they are as silent as the sphinx. Secretary Thurber looks wise and says nothing. Executive Clerk Pruden is more dumb and owl-like than ever, and the whole White House seems to have suddenly become tongue tied.

One of President Arthur's messages was stolen and published a day or so before it was delivered in the House of Representatives, and Grant's first message was read by the whole country a day before Congress had it. One of the most striking thefts of President's messages was one of Lincoln's, which was gotten by Chevalier Wykoff for the *New York Herald*, and it is believed that this man obtained a sight of the message through Mrs. Lincoln. He was living here at Washington as a gentleman of society, rather than a newspaper man, and when his dispatch was published he was called before a committee of the House of Representatives and commanded to state where he had gotten the message. He replied that he was bound under a promise of secrecy not to reveal this matter, and it was currently reported that Mrs. Lincoln had shown him the message while he was out riding with her in her carriage. President Lincoln was greatly annoyed over the matter, and Wykoff finally said that the gardner at the White House had gotten the manuscript and shown it to him. His statement was evidently disbelieved, for Congress did nothing with the gardner, and he afterwards received an appointment as second lieutenant in the army.

President Harrison spent fully as much time upon his messages as does President Cleveland. He wrote them in sections and handed the first draft over to Miss Sanger who transcribed them with the typewriter and handed the copy back to the President for revision. President Harrison then went over this copy, changing it here and there, and sometimes rewriting an entire paragraph. After it was finished it was given to Miss Sanger to be again copied and again revised, until it exactly suited President Harrison's ideas. He was very particular as to his messages and his state papers will rank high for their diction and thought. None of his messages were ever published in advance, though they were set up at the government printing office. President Harrison gave positive instructions as to the care to be taken in regard to them, and at one time he thought of having the printers come to

the White House to set them up, at least this report was published at the time.

The message does not go to Congress in typewritten form. It is usually sent in manuscript, on long sheets of gray blue paper, and it seldom reaches Congress in the handwriting of the President. One of the best penmen in the United States is the executive clerk, Mr. Pruden, and it is he who copies the messages for Congress. Two copies are made, one for the Senate and the other for the House, and at the same time that these are read printed copies are laid on the desks of the Senators and Representatives, some of whom follow the reading of the clerk with the books and others who take the printed messages home to read at their leisure.

It is said that President Cleveland writes his own messages. He takes plenty advice from his cabinet and gets all the suggestions he can, but he has his own opinions and he writes his own ideas at the end. The present message has been looked over by the cabinet and a few outside parties. Cleveland and Gresham, Lamont and Bissell have had the most to do in consultation, but the finished document is, I am told, the work of the President.

Why shouldn't it be? you ask. The reply is that it ought to be, but at the same time it would be nothing strange if it were not. Many of the executive messages of the past for which Presidents get credit were written by others than themselves. Washington gave the ideas for his farewell address, but it was Alexander Hamilton and James Madison who put the thoughts into shape for him. Amos Kendall wrote most of Andrew Jackson's messages, and his first inaugural address was written for him by Major Lewis and Henry Lee. Jeremiah Black wrote a number of the messages of Andrew Johnson, and Daniel Webster revised the inaugural address of William Henry Harrison. It was full of classical expressions and had many allusions to Greece and Rome. Webster cut these out, and in speaking of his work at a party the night after he had revised the address he excused himself for being tired because of the number of Roman proconsuls he had killed that day. You remember Jackson's famous nullification proclamation. It is said that Edward Livingston wrote it for him, and it is so with other famous messages.

The first messages to Congress were read by the Presidents in person, and the Presidents would probably be reading them today in this way had it not been for Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson, it is said, could not speak. He was a poor reader, and he didn't want to appear ridiculous by trying to read his message to the House. The result was that he sent it up by his private secretary. Washington gave his first message, his inaugural, to Congress in New York. He took the Vice-President's chair in delivering it, and a few days after this the House and Senate prepared a reply to the message and went to Washington's house, and one of their members delivered the reply to him. This procedure was gone through with for several years, and President Washington was looked upon as having the right to direct Congress. He delivered thirteen messages to Congress during