

again, mixed threads of tinsel and coloring being used in various ornaments. Stars worked in crochet are sewed at intervals on crepe.

Jet will be much worn. Scrolls of tiny cut jet interspersed with cut nail beads are shown on foundations of shaded colorings.

A new trimming is a small Grecian plait of cord, plain and tinsel, to be used as a heading for the rouleaux and folds that will be lavishly used on spring costumes.

Effective adornments for opera cloaks are bands of closely set rosettes of gold or colored ribbon or braid.

### STORIES OF OFFICE SEEKERS.

WASHINGTON, March 12, 1893.—Washington is full of office seekers. They crowd the hotels, they have filled up the boarding houses and you meet them in the corridors of the great departments and in the lower halls of the White House. The civil service rules seem to make no difference in their demands and President Cleveland has to send away a large number of them every day. His experience during his last administration enables him to dispose of them with refreshing rapidity. He has fixed hours for his receptions and such as get past the clerks and his private secretary are given a short audience and are sometimes turned down with a word. The President does business rapidly. He is a good judge of men and he knows the office seeking type at a glance. He does not receive office seekers until about ten o'clock, though they begin to come much earlier. They hand in their cards to the door-keepers and take seats in the ante-room. At about ten o'clock President Cleveland is ready to have them admitted. He moves about the room from one man to the other and often leads one of his callers to the center of the room and talks with him in such a low tone that he can't be heard by the others sitting around. Not infrequently he rests himself against his desk as he talks, half sitting on the corner of it, and he disposes of many cases without even taking the papers which each office seeker brings with him.

#### OFFICES WHICH WILL BE CHANGED.

I can't itemize the number of offices which are open to change at the present time. The civil service rules, as rigid as they seem, are very flexible if the President wants to make them so, and there is hardly one of the 150,000 places in the government which could not be changed if President Cleveland desired it. There are something like 20,000 clerks right here in Washington, and the number increases every year. There is a fat book known as the Blue Book, which contains their names, and this holds as much type as a dictionary, and it gives every salary in the government service. The Blue Book can be gotten at through a congressman, and it is made for private circulation. Each senator and each member has two and there is one in the hands of each prominent government official. I understand that a private Blue Book has been lately published which tells all about the offices, their salaries and their duties, and this is being quietly distributed about among those who will pay a good price for it. It is largely made up from the official

Blue Book. Of the Blue Book proper there are only about 2,000 copies extra printed, and this book is in proportion to the circulation one of the costliest volumes in existence. It cost over \$16,000 to set the type, and it would take a good typesetter ten years to set it.

#### OFFICE SEEKING LETTERS.

Speaking of office seekers, the mail has rapidly increased in all the departments at Washington during the past month. The letters of the appointment clerks are brought in in bags and the office-seeking applications come in by the tens of thousands. The appointment clerk of the treasury has a score of clerks who do little else than take care of this mail, and in the pigeon holes of this office hundreds of thousands of papers and letters are now filed away, carefully indexed and briefed and ready for use and reference, in case the men named in them get an appointment. It is the same in the post office department, and I was told not long ago that there were something like 400,000 applications in one of the departments here at Washington awaiting action. The post office applicants usually send voluminous papers, and a hundred-dollar-a-year job often has more papers connected with it than one of the big city postal appointments. The candidates send in their papers and recommendations. They have petitions signed by the citizens of their towns and it takes a large number of clerks to put these into shape for Postmaster General Bissell. When a case comes up the postmaster general wants a brief of it ready for him, and he takes this brief with him to the White House if it is an appointment that the President has to consider. An absolute civil service would, in fact, largely reduce the work of the departments, and it will surprise many to know that in some of the offices under the government it requires the services of one man day in and day out to open the mail.

#### STORIES OF OFFICE SEEKERS.

Public men have learned to know that President Cleveland decides matters for himself, and the democratic senators and representatives exhibit a great deal less confidence than they did eight years ago. I remember how an Alabama delegation called at the White House in 1885 with a list of appointments in their hands and thought that they would carry away all the offices of that state at one visit. President Cleveland received them and asked what he could do for them. Their leader replied: "Mr. President, we have agreed upon the names of the offices for Alabama. We represent the state and we are in perfect harmony. We would like these appointments made as soon as possible, and here is the list."

Cleveland looked at the leader for a moment. He then moved his eyes slowly around over the rest of the delegation, and as he scanned the list he said: "Gentlemen, if your attention has not yet been called to the tenure of office act and the civil service law permit me to ask you to look at it." And with that he dismissed the delegation. Some of the men recommended were appointed and others were not.

Some of the older senators and members who had been accustomed to bossing their districts were very much offended at the way Cleveland made his appointments, and not a few of them carry their resentments with them today.

You remember how Andrew G. Curtin, the famous war governor of Pennsylvania, called one day on Cleveland's assistant postmaster general. He wanted to have a country postmaster removed, and he told the postal official that he had a democrat to appoint in that place.

"But," said the assistant postmaster general, "there are no charges against this man."

"Charges," replied Gov. Curtin; "why, he is a republican and I want him turned out. I want the place for a democrat."

"But I can't do that, governor. I must have some other charge than that of republicanism, or he will have to stay out his term. I have got to have a charge made by a reputable person."

"Well, I'll file charges myself," said Gov. Curtin. "You take your pen and write them down."

"All right," said Mr. Hay, and he began to follow the governor.

"The incumbent called President Cleveland bad names."

"He did?" was the reply, "why, that's bad."

"When you were appointed," Gov. Curtin went on, "he said you were a damned copperhead."

"That's worse," said the official, laughing as he wrote.

"And third and last he called me bad names," said Gov. Curtin. "Now isn't that enough?"

"I think it is," was the reply, "and I will order his removal."

This same experience was had by a dozen prominent men during Cleveland's last administration, but many of them did not get their appointments as did Curtin.

#### CLEVELAND'S HONESTY

There is one thing about Cleveland's treatment of office seekers. He never tells a man he is going to give him a position when he has no idea of carrying out his promise, and few people leave the White House with a wrong impression in this regard. On the other hand, when he wants to give a man an office and expects to favor him he tells him so, and he makes lots of friends by so doing. It was different with President Harrison. He never seemed to like to grant a favor, and even after he had decided to give a man what he wanted he would let him go away with the idea that his application was refused. This was the case with an appointment of Senator Stanford's. Stanford, I am told, called upon the President to urge the appointment of a friend of his, but he could get no satisfaction regarding it. That same afternoon the appointment was sent into the Senate, and it is said that it had left the White House before Senator Stanford made his call. You could never tell from Harrison's actions or his face on which side of a question he was. He prided himself on the iron mask which he wore over his feelings and he argued against the matters which he most approved. He bulldozed to a certain extent his cabinet, and the only man who had the nerve to stand out against him on all occasions was Jeremiah Rusk, the Secretary of Agriculture. In plain language Uncle Jerry would take a commonsense view of every question and he would hammer it into Harrison. Harrison would fight him until he left the White House and then, in nine cases out of ten, would adopt Uncle Jerry's view of the situation. I was talking the other day with a confidential employe of the Post Office De-