

# THE DESERET WEEKLY.

Truth and Liberty.

No. 6.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, JANUARY 23, 1897.

VOL. LIV.

## THE CABINET.

(Copyrighted 1896 by Frank G. Carpenter.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 13, 1897



HO are the famous men who are to help McKinley run his administration? A score of well-known politicians have been suggested, but only a few are assured. The slates made up are liable to be broken. There is no more un-

certain thing than a cabinet before the inauguration of a President. When Grant's first cabinet was announced, five of the appointments were surprises, and not a single secretary had been anticipated with certainty. As it was, the cabinet was changed rapidly after he was inaugurated. Alexander T. Stewart, who had been named for secretary of the treasury, could not serve according to the law, which prevents a merchant from holding that position, under a fine of \$3,000. Rawlins, his secretary of war died in the September following, and Borie, who was secretary of the navy, served three months, and then asked Grant to allow him to resign.

Lincoln's cabinet ministers were not surely known before he came in, and they were changed very rapidly thereafter. Some of the members of the cabinet were arranged for at the time of the convention by the promises of some of Lincoln's friends, and I have heard it said that Pennsylvania went for Lincoln at Chicago in 1860 on condition that Simon Cameron was to go into the cabinet. This deal was made without the knowledge of Lincoln by David Davis and Leonard Swett. Lincoln did not like it, and it was long before he would consent to let Cameron have the place. He finally gave him the war department. After the administration began he did not like him as secretary of war, and wanted to get rid of him. He succeeded in doing this through Leonard Swett and Thurlow Weed. Judge Grosscup, who was a partner of Swett, told me the story. He says that Weed made Cameron think that he was going to lose both his reputation and his health by continuing in the position. Weed came from New York to see Cam-

eron. As he met him he started back and exclaimed: "My God, Senator! are you sick? You don't look at all well."

Old Senator Cameron, who had a constitution of iron, and who, you know, was over eighty when he died, replied that he was in his usual health, but Weed went on:

"Well, you don't look it. You have lost some weight since I saw you last, and your color is not good. I fear you are working too hard, Cameron."

Mrs. Cameron was present when this last remark was made, and she said she agreed with Mr. Weed that her husband was working too hard. After dinner that night Mr. Weed advised Cameron to get out of the department. He told him he thought the war was going to be a failure. He said it would end only in the loss of thousands of lives and millions of property, and that Cameron as secretary of war would be cursed from one end of the United States to the other.

After some time Cameron became alarmed and said: "But suppose I want to get out, Mr. Weed. How can I do it without seeming to be either a coward or a failure?"

To this Weed replied that he did not know, but that he would take a walk and think it over and see if some arrangement could not be made. As he went out he spoke to Mrs. Cameron again about her husband's health, and she told him that she wanted Mr. Cameron to leave the cabinet. In an hour or so Mr. Weed returned and told Simon Cameron that he had hit upon a good plan and that was for him to accept the mission to Russia. "But," replied Cameron, "it has not been offered to me." "As to that," said Weed, "I know that I can fix matters with Secretary Seward and you will get your appointment. This will give you a good excuse for resigning." To this Cameron consented. Weed saw Seward and the President and the appointment was made.

General Charley Grosvenor told me once a curious story as to how Garfield's cabinet was formed. He denies that Blaine forced himself upon Garfield. He says Garfield felt very friendly to Blaine, and that he had thought of him as secretary of state even before he had written his letter of acceptance, saying one day: "What a splendid chief of staff Jim Blaine would make."

"Garfield, in fact," said General Grosvenor, "wrote out his first cabinet slate the night he was elected. It was at half-past ten when he got a telegram from Chester A. Arthur assuring him that New York had given him 20,000 majority. General Swaim, who was with Garfield at Mento at the time said, as they looked over the telegram, 'That

settles it, general. You are elected; but before you go to bed sit down here and make out a cabinet.' General Garfield laughed at this, but finally consented, saying, 'Well, Swaim, let us see how near we are together. You sit down at that table over there and write out a cabinet. When you have finished turn your paper face downward upon the table. I will do the same here and we will turn the papers over together and compare them.' Both then sat down and began to write. When they had finished they found that the secretary of state on both slates was James G. Blaine, and Allison was upon both for the secretaryship of the treasury. Of the others all but one were changed before the inauguration, and Allison, you know, would not accept. It was some time after this before Robert Lincoln was selected as secretary of war, and Lewis P. Morton was on Garfield's slate for the secretaryship of the navy until almost the eve of the inauguration."

Garfield was the first President under whom Senator Allison refused a cabinet place. I understand that he has been uppermost in President McKinley's mind as the head of the state department, but that the President elect has wanted to know whether he would refuse or not before he offered the position. I get this from men very close to McKinley. Senator Allison told me once that he could not take the interior department under Garfield because he did not want to antagonize Governor Kirkwood of Iowa, who was then a leading candidate. It was on account of the ambitions of Clarkson, another Iowa man, that he refused the secretaryship of the treasury under Harrison. The story of the manner of this refusal has never been told. Senator Cullom, who was one of the actors upon the occasion, is my authority. Said he to me the other night:

"It was just after I had been elected to the Senate and some weeks before President Harrison had come on from Indianapolis to Washington to be inaugurated, I had to go west to thank my legislative friends for their support, and on my way I intended to stop and call upon the president-elect. When I got on the train I found Senator Allison there. He was also going west, and we rode together. During the journey he told me that President Harrison had asked him to come out to see him, and that he wanted him to be his secretary of treasury. Senator Allison told me that he could not accept the position, and that he was going out to refuse it. As we drew near Indianapolis I noticed his becoming more and more restless. He evidently did not like the job of having to refuse Harrison. At last he said: