

"Now, Cullom, I have been thinking how you can help me in this. We will call upon Harrison together, and I will see that he talks to you first. You can thus prepare his mind for my refusal. You can tell him that I have come out for this purpose, and he will not be so surprised when I speak."

"This I promised to do," continued Senator Cullom. "When we got to Indianapolis we went direct to President Harrison's house. It was about dinner time when we arrived, and we at once sat down to the table. After dinner was over, when we were out in the smoking room and had about finished our cigars, Mr. Allison said: 'Now, Mr. President, Senator Cullom is anxious to get away this afternoon. He told me that he only wanted a few moments with you, and if you don't object I will let you get through with him first. I will go into the other room and finish my cigar, and you can have your conversation here.' This was assented to by President Harrison, and Allison went into the other room."

"Well," continued Senator Cullom, "after we were alone and had gone over the general topics of the occasion, I directed the conversation to the cabinet and then said: 'General Harrison, during our trip out here Senator Allison took me into his confidence. He told me you had offered him the secretaryship of the treasury, and he also told me that he had decided he could not accept it. He asked me to say this to you during our interview and to tell you that he thought he could serve you and your administration better in the Senate than in the cabinet.' As I said this President Harrison pushed his head to the front and asked me if that was true. I could see that he was much disturbed. He said but little further, however. The conversation changed. He soon recovered himself and talked on as though nothing had happened. I know that Allison did refuse the place then, but I have not had a word with him nor Harrison about it from that day to this."

During a call upon Senator Sherman the other night, I asked him about the talk which was being published about him as McKinley's prospective secretary of state. He told me that he had received no offer of the state department as yet, and he had no knowledge that McKinley thought of him in that connection. He told me that he did not know that he would care for the position if it were offered him, and that he thought he should like to finish his career in the United States Senate. I doubt, however, whether he yet knows his own mind on the subject. He realizes the greatness of the position, and that he might there have a chance to make his mark on the diplomatic history of our nation. The place would be a fit climax to his long life of public service, and with his magnificent mansion he could make his administration a great social one. He has been at the head of the committee on foreign affairs of the Senate for many years, and would make a more efficient secretary of state than any man now talked of. He has never before had a chance to be at the head of the state department, though the treasury has been twice within his grasp. The first time was when Salmon P. Chase was appointed more than a generation ago when Sherman was still in his forties. Lincoln gave him to under-

stand that he could have the place, but Sherman was then in Congress and wanted to be speaker of the House. He failed in this, but got to be senator. Shortly after Hayes was elected he wrote Sherman that he wanted him to be secretary of the treasury, and Sherman once said to me that he took the position largely because he wanted to carry out his resumption policy. He told me that he did not find the work especially hard, though his term in the treasury department was one of the most exciting in our history.

Still the state department and the treasury promise to be among the hard-working positions of the next administration. Most secretaries of the treasury have complained about the work. Folger and Manning and Windon are popularly supposed to have died from overwork in the treasury. I called the other day at the state department to see Secretary Olney, and ask him about the work of his office. He would not talk, but I could see that he thought he had plenty to do. Whether overwork in the state department caused Gresham's death is a question. I am told that he did not like the bustle of public affairs, and it is related that when he was postmaster general he grew sick of the position and wanted to get out of it. One day, it is said that he entered the house of a friend in Washington, and, throwing himself upon the sofa, exclaimed, "I would not be a cabinet officer again for a salary of \$4,000,000 a year." Still, it was after this that he accepted the portfolio of the treasury and later on consented to be President Cleveland's secretary of state.

One of the greatest annoyances that Gresham had was the office seekers and place hunters. These are numbered by legions about the post office department and also about the treasury. Postmaster General Wilson tells me there are now 70,000 postmasters in the United States, and I doubt not that thousands of them will be changed by McKinley's postmaster general. The congressmen will dictate to him, and it is safe to say that he will probably earn his salary. The worst thing with Gresham was that he was so good-hearted that he had given out many letters commending others for office, and when men came to him and showed him his own recommendations, asking that they be given places, he found it hard to refuse. I have heard similar stories of Tom Corwin, who was, you know, secretary of the treasury way back in Fillmore's time. Corwin was so good-natured that he would sign anything. One day a chronic office seeker laid before him an enthusiastic recommendation for the appointment of the bearer to a place in the treasury. It was dated some years back, and had been given while Corwin was in congress. As the man asked for office and pointed to the letter, Corwin said: "That is a very good letter, and did that not get you an appointment?"

"No," replied the man, "it did not."

"Well," returned Secretary Corwin, "if that letter was not strong enough to get you a place under Secretary Fwing, it certainly is not strong enough to give you an appointment under me." And he thereupon had the man shown out.

Senator Cullom told me that he did not know that McKinley was thinking of him as his secretary of the interior, and that it was hardly safe to say whether he could take the position or not if it

was offered, for it might not be offered. Since then I see he has been called to Canton, and it may be that he is to be the next secretary of the interior, though I believe Henry C. Paine of Wisconsin is looked upon as almost sure to have this position. The interior department is a much more important place than it gets credit for. I chatted with Senator Henry M. Teller about it the other night. He was, you know, secretary of the interior under Arthur, and he made one of the best secretaries that we have ever had. Said he: "The interior department needs one of the very best men of the country. I think it is by all odds the most important office in the cabinet. The man at the head of it has to settle more values than the Supreme Court and he does more business than the secretary of the treasury. The treasury is, to a large extent, an executive department. Before the interior new questions are always coming up. Its head has to deal with the development of the country, and with the disposal of our public lands. He has all the pensions to handle, and our great patent business goes on under him. The secretary of the interior should be a scientific man as well as a good practical business man. He should be a man well acquainted with the United States, and he should, above everything, be a western man. During my administration I settled one case of more than \$15,000,000, and cases involving enormous sums were always coming up. There were legal questions presented every day or so, and I don't see how any man could be an efficient secretary of the interior without a good knowledge of the law."

I visited this afternoon the room in the White House in which are to be held the secret councils of Major McKinley's administration. The cabinet room is one the second floor of the White House, just at the head of the stairs between the library, which will probably form Mrs. McKinley's sitting room, and the large room over the east room and the green room, which will be the President's office, and in which President Cleveland is now spending the last days of his administration. Further on is the private secretary's room, the whole suite on the east side of the second floor constituting the business portions of the executive mansion. The cabinet room is plainly furnished. There are eight straight-backed chairs with leather cushions for the cabinet ministers and a swinging chair of wicker and wood for the President. President McKinley will sit at the head of the table, with his different ministers at the right and left, according to their order of precedence. During the meetings of the cabinet no one is admitted to the room. Sergeant Loeffler, the President's private messenger, sits at the door and there is no chance for cabinet secrets to leak out except through the ministers themselves.

Frank G. Carpenter

#### GLADSTONE'S DAILY LIFE.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Jan. 12th, 1897. —In July, 1892, we were in Liverpool. We were going on a visit to Hawarden castle, the home of Mr. W. E. Gladstone, the "grand old man" of England. We took the ferry across the Mersey