

been a member of the bar for twenty-two years and has made a fortune of something more than half a million dollars. He has wonderful executive ability and has made his money as counsel in big corporation cases. He is a great man on contracts, and his quickness to form a sound judgement on important matters has caused his advice to be sought in many of the largest railroad transactions of recent years. He has been president of two railroads and is still at the head of the Buffalo and Southwestern, which he organized, for which he obtained the right of way and for which he conducted the appraisal by which the road was leased to the Erie and its stock brought up to par. He organized the Buffalo and Geneva road, now a branch of the Reading system, procured its charter and was its first president. He also organized the New York corporation of the Lehigh Valley railroad. His present connection with the Reading system would be hard to discover, but, without exception, his railroad management has been remarkably successful. He has a faculty for getting quickly to the bottom of big matters and is a famous negotiator. Hence by tact and training he seems to be a far better man for Postmaster General than most persons have supposed. I am told that the Post Office Department was the portfolio he wanted and that he said to the President he would like either that or to be Secretary of the Interior, though he didn't care much which.

#### SOMETHING ABOUT HIS HABITS.

Mr. Bissell, with all his greatness, is a devotee of the cigarette. He smokes incessantly, and uses the Russian and Turkish varieties and with his big head as a background these little cigarettes grow smaller and smaller till it looks as though he was sucking the end of a taper rather than smoking. He smokes while he talks, and he is a good conversationalist. He is simple and unaffected in his manners and is, I find, very popular with those who know him well. He has been a club man for years. He was president of the Buffalo club, the most important institution of the kind in Buffalo, for a longer term than any one else, and they tell of seeing him engaged in a three-legged race up there with a Buffalo bank president. He never was a member of the fast set, however, and now that he is married he is so devoted a husband that he is the subject of much good-natured jesting.

#### A WORD ABOUT MRS. BISSELL.

Mrs. Bissell has been living in Buffalo for only a few years, but she has made herself very popular here and I find that she has many admirers and friends. She is both pretty and accomplished and she promises to be one of the leading social figures of this administration. Let me tell you how she looks. Mrs. Bissell is tall and well rounded. Her dark brown hair is worn combed straight back without a crimp or curl. She has beautiful teeth and handsome blue eyes. She has a good tailor, but in dress she follows Mrs. Cleveland's taste for simplicity. She carries her head high in the air and gives one the impression of strong self-reliance and great energy, determination and ambition.

#### A ROMANTIC MARRIAGE.

There is as much of a romance connected with the Postmaster General's marriage as with that of President

Cleveland. Mrs. Bissell's maiden name was Louise Sturgis, and she comes from an old family which is well known in different parts of the Union. One branch of it lives at Mansfield, Ohio, and one of Mrs. Bissell's relatives there has a big brick house in the most fashionable part of the town. Another branch moved from Mansfield to New York city, and Stephen Sturgis is one of the unknown well-to-do men of the metropolis. He would be called rich outside of New York. The branch to which Mrs. Bissell belongs comes from Geneva, N. Y., and Mrs. Bissell first came to Buffalo to teach music in the Buffalo Seminary. She had early shown a great taste for music and it was here that she had in part earned the money which took her to Germany and France, where her beautiful contralto voice had been trained by Stockhausen and La Grange. Since the time she and Mrs. Cleveland had been schoolmates at Wells College she had planned and worked and studied with the idea of becoming a professional singer. When at last she was fitted to appear in public as a professional, one of her first engagements was as a soloist at a Buffalo orchestra concert. While in that city she was the guest of Mrs. George Sicard, wife of one of the members of the Bissell firm. Mr. Bissell met her there and it was a case of "love at first sight" on both sides, and the arrows of Cupid drove the Goddess of Music off the field and Louise Sturgis, the music teacher, became Mrs. Wilson S. Bissell, the wife of the rich Buffalo lawyer and the future Postmaster General.

#### THE BISSELL HOME AT BUFFALO.

Mrs. Bissell, of course, gave up her teaching upon her marriage, but at her home here she has always had a musical circle round her, and at the capital she will form a feature of its musical as well as of its official society. She has a fine voice, and she has sung at a number of entertainments for charity. Her home here is a fine old-fashioned brick residence of two stories and a mansard roof. There is a tower in the middle of the front, and this forms the entrance on the ground floor. It is situated on Delaware avenue, surrounded by beautiful grounds, and is the house in which Jas. N. Matthews, the famous editor of the Buffalo Express, lived and died. Postmaster General Bissell bought it a couple of years ago, and he has furnished it in a solid, substantial way which harmonizes with its big rooms and its old-fashioned character. Since he has been in it he and Mrs. Bissell have given many quiet little parties and a number of musicales, and she has shown herself a most entertaining and accomplished hostess.

I am told here, in fact, that Mr. Bissell would never have been Postmaster General had it not been for his wife. It is said that Cleveland offered him a cabinet position eight years ago, but he refused it. This was before he had met his fate. With his marriage his tastes have changed, and he will do anything to oblige his wife. She has naturally great social ambitions, and when President Cleveland gave her the chance to gratify these in making her husband a cabinet minister, Mr. Bissell accepted the place. Whether this story of Mrs. Bissell's persuasive powers is true or not, it is an interesting one, and I give it for what it is worth.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

#### A POLITICAL QUESTION.

In response to an inquiry an eastern paper says the United States Senate collapses at noon on the fourth of March in every odd-numbered year; that when a President is to be inaugurated the outgoing incumbent usually calls an extra session in order that there may be an organization of that body and thus the incoming President's appointments be confirmed. A reader of the News asks: "While this is partly correct, is it not also partly wrong?" To which we answer that it is almost wholly wrong, such portion of it as is right being only incidentally so.

The United States Senate is a continuing body that has known no dissolution or lapse, as is the case with the lower house of Congress, since it was first organized. It was so arranged for wise and sufficient reasons. Even when the new senators, who are chosen every other year to the number of about one-third of the whole body, have not been sworn into the places held by a corresponding number of outgoing, there is still of necessity two-thirds of the entire membership or thereabout left and these constitute the Senate whether the new men come in or stay out. Of course the latter take their places at the first convening of the body to which they are chosen, unless there should be a contest or some legal impediment; but the existence of the Senate remains intact under any circumstances. The House of Representatives perishes promptly at the hour named because the terms of all its members expire at that time; but, as shown, only a third of the upper house go out, leaving more than a mere quorum for the transaction of business.

The foregoing unsettles the other proposition, or a part of it. Having already a definite legal existence the Senate does not have to organize in order to acquire one or to confirm the President's appointments. These do not of necessity have to be confirmed at so early a stage of the proceedings; the Constitution provides that he can appoint without the advice and consent of the senate when that body is not in session and such appointees are legitimate officeholders until the Senate is again convened and acts upon their cases. The convening or rather retaining of the Senate by the outgoing President is simply an act of courtesy to his successor, who may have business with that body of more consequence than appointments only, as is generally the case.

Elder Julius A. Farley has just returned from the Southern states mission, for which he started on March 3rd, 1891. At Covington Co., Mississippi, he was joined by Elder B. M. Johnson, who was his companion for the first six months. In March, 1892, Elder Farley was called to preside over the Mississippi conference. The last part of his time was spent in visiting and traveling with all the Elders in the various fields of labor. Several new fields were opened. The Mississippi conference is reported to be in a prosperous condition. Prother Farley comes home in good health and spirits.