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THE PRESIDENTIAL JOB.

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THE RACE FOR the presidency will be a hard one. The candidates will be abused by the opposing parties, and the man who succeeds will

have his character and history laid bare by the X rays of the newspapers and stump speakers. It will be a wearing and worrying race from start to finish, and the prize at the end is the White House with all its cares. Is the game worth the candle? Can a man who is doing well afford to be a candidate for the presidency? Let us see.

In the first place, it costs a great deal to be a presidential candidate. McKinley, for instance, has kept open house for the past six months, and there will not be a day between now and November that he can sit down at his table alone. Republicans of prominence from all parts of the Union will come to Canton and he will have to maintain a large clerical force to answer his mail. Benjamin Harrison was quite poor when he was first nominated, and he had to borrow money to keep him going between that time and his election. His son-in-law, Robert McKee, paid a large part of his expenses and other friends put up for him or he would have been decidedly cramped. Andrew Jackson lost a lot of money during his three presidential campaigns, and it took the proceeds of his cotton crop to pay part of his expenses in the White House. Martin Van Buren, rich as he was, was robbed right and left, and when he ran for President during his second campaign the politicians actually came to the White House doors and demanded food and got it. The presidential candidate has numerous demands upon him for charity. I was told at Canton that about one-third of the letters which McKinley receives are begging letters, and such letters will increase now that the nomination is made.

And still the presidency is a fat job. The salary in round numbers for the four years amounts to \$200,000, and the White House and lots of perquisites are thrown in in addition. Think what \$50,000 a year means! It is \$4,166 a

month, or \$138 a day. And this money is sure. The cash is always ready for the President, and the treasury bank never bursts. The salary, however, is less than two-thirds of what the President gets. For this year Congress is asked to appropriate about \$43,000 to run the White House. The President pays no rent. His fuel and light cost him nothing. He does not even pay for his own newspapers, and as for stationery he has the finest that the world can produce, and there is a stenographer always at hand to save him from writing letters himself. He has a half dozen watch dogs to keep the crowd away from him. His private secretary receives \$5,000 a year, and the man who sits outside his office door to open it and close it gets a salary of \$1,800. He has men to read the papers for him. He has a telegraph operator and a telegraph instrument in the White House, and Uncle Sam pays his telegraph bills. He seldom if ever buys a postage stamp, and the thousand and one little incidentals which eat out the heart of the ordinary man's salary are paid for him. He pays no rent for his stables, and Congress gives him some money to keep them up. The amount that is asked for this year is \$8,000, and this includes stationery, reading matter and the caring for the President's horses, harnesses and carriages. A great fuss is made about the social expenses of the White House. I venture to say President Cleveland does not pay more than \$5,000 a year for his state dinners, and I would not be surprised to know that he saved \$35,000 a year out of his salary. Think of it! His four state receptions are practically free entertainments. The Marine Band paid by the government, furnishes the music. The flowers come from the White House conservatory and the public gardens, and the police aid the servants in taking care of the crowd. There is no food of any kind offered and it is mighty hard to get a drink of anything, even water, on such an occasion. The whole entertainment consists of a handshake and, if you are especially favored, a smile, and handshakes and smiles are cheap.

And then, there are lots of things that go with the White House. Among its servants there is usually a good barber, who shaves the President and cuts his hair without charge. There is a billiard room in one corner of the Executive Mansion, where Grover Cleveland can go and handle the cue without its costing him a cent. The kitchens have all the latest improvements, and the government pays the White House steward, who attends to the marketing, about \$35 a week, or \$1,800 a year. The cooking utensils are of copper, and one of the cooking stoves is so large that you could almost roast an ox whole upon it. The

dishes used by the President are of the finest china, and of the most beautiful cut glass. Many of them were made especially for the White House. Of the thousand dishes made for Mrs. President Hayes there is still four hundred left, and the set ordered by Mrs. Harrison is almost perfect. Then there is the china made for the Grants. This is the china that is now used on the President's table. There is still some Lincoln china left, and there are choice bits from nearly every administration. The President's wife pays nothing for her linen. There are great closets filled with bedding and towels, and others in which are kept the finest of tablecloths and napkins. The napkins used are all about a yard square and of the finest damask. They have the initials U. S. on them, but this rather improves than injures their appearance, and the greatest beauty of it all is that they don't cost a cent.

Few people have any idea how many presents come to the White House. Cleveland was overloaded with them while he was a candidate, and at the time of his marriage they came in here almost by the wagon load. The President will not receive things of actual value, but he can take eatables and drinkables. Among other things that I remember of his receiving were a barrel of fine old brandy from southern California and cases of wine from different parts of the country. Every Thanksgiving he has turkeys sent him from Rhode Island, those sent year before last being so large that the White House family could not eat them. Then there are other kinds of fancy eatables which come from admirers in different localities, and it is safe to say that the best of everything or a sample of it, finds its way into the White House. Among Harrison's presents was a large quantity of Ceylon tea. Andrew Johnson had presents of whisky and Scuppernon wine, and both Jackson and Jefferson had presents of cneeses of the size of a hog's head.

The sentiment surrounding the White House increases every year until now the office is far better than a life insurance policy. If a President dies in the White House his wife and children will probably receive a fortune from the people, and by law the President's widow is sure of a pension of \$5,000 a year. Mrs. Grant and Mrs. Garfield are now receiving this amount. Garfield went into the presidency comparatively poor. He had little to speak of at the time he was shot by Guiteau, but the sympathy of Mrs. Garfield was such that the enormous sum of more than \$300,000 was raised for her, and she was made independent for life. Arthur was one of the most extravagant livers we