

a neighboring town. But the gossip about it has already died out, and nobody cares what capers Cupid cuts up, because they are not prominent people. There is more interest shown in the way President Harrison holds the reins when he is driving, or how his wife sits in a chair, than in what is happening among thousands of people who don't happen to be President or prominent in some other way.

CHARLES W. STAYNER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 19th, 1889.

AMERICANS IN PARIS.

A brilliant fete has been given at a hall in the Boulevard des Capuchins by the committee of the exposants of the United States, in honor of the detachment of infantry of marine, which, since the month of May, made the service of guard in the American section of the exposition, before the officers and soldiers of which this detachment was composed had disembarked at Havre to return to their native country. The American exposants, wishing to testify their appreciation of the detachment during the six months that had elapsed determined to make a public distribution of medals specially designed and struck commemorating this historic fact. The ceremony took place in a salon in the form of a rotunda, decorated with the colors and flags of the United States, and further enlivened by a profusion of flowering plants.

At 9 o'clock, Commissioner-General Tuck, of the United States, took his place upon a stand erected for the occasion, while Commandant Maigret, representing the president of the French Republic, Colonel Delorme, representing the minister of the French navy, and the representative of the minister of foreign affairs, seated themselves at his side. Ranged around the hall were the American soldiers, preserving the same irreproachable attitude as when the distribution of awards took place at the Palace of Industry, and making with their parade uniforms a picturesque frame to the black habits of the invited guests.

Commissioner-General Tuck was the first speaker. In an allocution which was repeatedly applauded by the audience, he thanked the detachment for their devotion to the interests of the exposants. After felicitating them upon their martial bearing he expressed his gratitude to the French nation for the warm reception with which the American soldiers had met at their hands. Casting afterward, in his remarks, a *coup d'œil* over the exposition, he pronounced it a grand success. "This is a fresh start that La France has marked on the highway of progress," he said. "I do not doubt, for my part, that in fifty years hence equally as many marvels will have had their birth as in the half century past. The French exposition of 1889 is as the commencement of a new era."

Commissioner Tuck then called forward Captain Cochrane, who

commanded the detachment of American soldiers, and presented him with the medal and a diploma. The lieutenant and under officers afterwards came to him at the foot of the stand, and each received his medal. All were warmly applauded. The young drummers had the same success in bearing off rewards of merit.

The distribution finished, Captain Cochrane gave a speech full of happy thoughts and poetic allusions, thanking the organizers of the fete and expressing his joy at having been delegated to the exposition.

M. Edmond de Lafayette, senator, having taken his place upon the platform at the moment when Captain Cochrane commenced his oration, the captain rendered homage, amid resounding applause, to the grandson of the liberator of America.

Some words of thanks pronounced in English by the descendant of Lafayette were again made, and then the invites and the soldiers passed into a hall adjoining where a lunch was served. During this time the official representatives of France, by request, signed their names to a register which should be reported by Captain Cochrane to the official navy corps of his own country.—[Translated from a Paris journal by GEORGE HAMLIN.]

SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 17, 1889.

THE CASE AGAINST THE REGISTRARS.

THE decision of the Utah Commission leaves in great doubt the question: How far may a registration officer go in a direction at variance with the spirit and letter of the law without being in danger of removal? Omitting mention of McCallum, Winters and Morris, it was abundantly shown that Mr. Clute and Mr. Hyams had disregarded the explicit provisions of the law, and had been guilty of conduct of an extraordinary character in an officer who is under sacred obligations to act with fidelity and impartiality.

It was shown that Mr. Clute had pursued a very erratic course in making the house to house canvass of his precinct, that he had devoted much of his time to other matters than the canvass during the period in which it should have been actively prosecuted, that he had discriminated in many instances in registering some applicants and refusing others, and that he had utterly failed to make any canvass at all of considerable portions of his district, which were thickly inhabited by People's Party men, paying no regard to the provisions of the law which required him to make a diligent and complete house to house visitation.

One fact was proven against Mr. Clute and not denied by him, which alone ought to have been deemed ample cause for his removal: He had visited the premises of the Rio Grande Western Railway Company and had found there large numbers of workmen whom he had registered, knowing that they were all members of his own party, without making any attempt to find their homes, and thereby ascertain that they lived in his precinct; yet he continually refused to register People's Party men anywhere except at their homes. In a contest as close as the coming municipal election, such acts of discrimination might easily give the victory to the minority.

The derelictions shown to exist on the part of Hyams were still more flagrant. They were proven by his own testimony. When on the stand he did not deny having taken the position that it was unnecessary for him to visit the houses of his district, nor did he deny that he had utterly failed to visit whole blocks. He further admitted that he had registered hundreds of "Liberals" without going to their homes, but that he had uniformly refused to do the same thing with People's Party men. His attempt at palliating such flagrant discrimination was of a character to increase his offense. He said he registered "Liberals" because he knew them, and refused People's Party men because he did not know them. He thus added to the statutory qualifications of an applicant for registration, the condition of a personal acquaintance with himself.

If Hyams did not deserve to be removed, what could he have done to make his dismissal proper and necessary? The decision of the Commission says that the registrars did not absolutely deny any electoral rights to voters. This they did not have the power nor opportunity to do. The thing was impossible for them to accomplish; but Hyams went as far in that direction as he well could go.

It was abundantly shown and not denied nor palliated, that each of the registrars had usurped judicial functions in permitting persons to take the oath, or in denying them that privilege. Their attorneys, in the arguments, actually and unblushingly held that it was right, proper and even necessary that they should do this; yet their assumption of such powers was alone ample ground for their dismissal, in view of the explicit language of the law,