

THEY WORKED FOR PRESIDENTS.

Inside Gossip About Some of Our Greatest Executives From the Lines of Their Menial Work—How Pierce and James Buchanan Managed Their Homes, Buchanan's Extravagance and How His Servants Robbed Him—A Word With Grant's Body Servant.

Special Correspondence of the News.

Among the most interesting men about Washington are those who have worked for Presidents. I don't mean the men who have helped to run administrations, nor to make Presidents. I refer to the servants of the Presidents of the past, who have lived with them in the White House, and who have known them as only a servant can know his master. I know a number of such men. Some of them are clerks in the departments, others run little business establishments of their own. One who was a steward during two administrations has a mercantile and another, perhaps the most interesting of all, drives a horse-drawn carriage and carries about Washington in his public cab. This last one began his life in connection with the White House as President Pierce's groom. During the latter part of that administration he was the coachman of President Ferry, and he remained at the head of the White House stables during the days of Buchanan, Lincoln and Johnson.

—GROOM ABOUT PRESIDENT FERREY.

I started with him one day about President Pierce, and asked him what kind of a man he was. He replied: "President Ferrey was the best-looking President I have ever seen. He was a kind master and so common that he would talk to me just as freely as to the diplomat who came in his royal liveries. I always took care of his saddle horse, and I got him ready for him every day. He had a beautiful horse, but she was blind as a stone wall, though no one knew it. His horse was very slow, with silver trotters, and I had a fine suit while he was President. He would often come into the stable and get the horses and say, 'Now, Thomas, please get on the saddle and let me have a ride.' He would then sometimes walk out toward the treasury, while his horse was being got ready. He liked to ride fast, and he would gallop through the streets at night. He was entirely different from President Buchanan, who never rode on horseback and never came to the stables."

"Did Buchanan have good horses?" I asked.

"Yes, but the best of them were ridden by Harriet Lane. He had one of the finest horses that ever came to Washington. It had buckles heavily plated with silver, and there were fifty-six silver bits in different places upon it. It cost \$500 and it was made by a firm in

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—A BOOK WITH ANOTHER SIGNATURE.

During another drive I asked him to tell me something about Andrew Johnson and whether it was true that President Johnson was drunk while he was in the White House. He replied: "I never saw President Johnson under the influence of liquor, and though I drove his horses and met him every day I never even smell it upon his breath. I know, however, that he could drink a little and that he kept good whisky. One evening I had taken out to a dinner and had to wait out in the cold for several hours for him. When he got back in the White House I was nearly frozen, and the President must have noticed it for he said, 'Thomas, come into my room for a moment. I want to show you something.' I did so and when we got there he asked me if I didn't want a glass of wine to warm me up. I told him I didn't care for wine, but if he had some good whisky I would be glad to take a drink. And he said that he would and he brought out some of the best whisky I have ever tasted. President Johnson was not a strong man. He paid off the expenses of the White House stables, and he kept account of every cent's worth that went into the treasury. He kept eight horses, and his best team was a pair of blacks, which he bought at a government sale of horses at the close of the war."

—PRESIDENT JOHNSON AND HIS STABLE.

Speaking of Andrew Johnson's love for good liquor, I asked him if he had ever seen him with a glass of wine. He replied: "Yes, but the best of them were ridden by Harriet Lane. He had one of the finest horses that ever came to Washington. It had buckles heavily plated with silver, and there were fifty-six silver bits in different places upon it. It cost \$500 and it was made by a firm in

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Deposits 1873, \$ 10,520.53	Deposits 1883, \$ 137,280.23
Deposits 1874, 11,670.73	Deposits 1884, 138,110.48
Deposits 1875, 18,118.50	Deposits 1885, 142,280.12
Deposits 1876, 10,148.92	Deposits 1886, 165,918.88
Deposits 1877, 21,608.84	Deposits 1887, 207,333.56
Deposits 1878, 20,412.71	Deposits 1888, 428,404.79
Deposits 1879, 42,760.60	Deposits 1889, 626,790.22
Deposits 1880, 60,021.01	Deposits 1890, 874,081.97
Deposits 1881, 90,407.39	Deposits 1891, 791,021.11
Deposits 1882, 133,678.00	Deposits 1892, 875,194.54

Deposits January 6th, 1893, \$1,208,960.42.



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