THAT WHITE HOUSE DINNER.

Booker T. Washington Tells the Story at Last.

In the World's Work for February Booker T. Washington continues his "Chapters From My Experience." He tells why he has never sought or held a Government job, gives the story of his acquaintance with Col. Roosevelt and seeks to itemize the things he has learned from the Col. and tells the story of his famous White House dinner. He is very eulogistic of the Colonel, endeavors to discount the general disposition to credit Mr. Roosevelt with acting upon impulse, contending that he is a wise, far-seeing, quick-thinking statesman, and says that "practically everything that he tried to do for the South while he was President was outlined in conversations to me many years before it became known to most people that he had the slightest chance of becoming President. What he did was not a matter of impulse, but the result of carefully matured plans." He says of Mr. Roosevelt that "after the death of President McKinley, I received a letter from him, written in his own hand, on the very day that he took the oath of office at Buffalo, as President—or was it the day following—in which he asked me to meet him in Washington. He wanted to talk over with me the plans for helping the South that we had discussed years before. This plan had lain matured in his mind for months and years and, as soon as the opportunity came, he acted upon it." After debating with himself the advisability of accepting the President's invitation, Dr. Washington says that he concluded that it was his duty to go to Washington and that shortly after Mr. Roosevelt became established in the White House he went there and spent the greater part of an evening with him in talk concerning the South. He says that Mr. Roosevelt "emphasized two points in particular: first, he said that wherever he appointed a white man to office in the South, he wished him to be the very highest type of native Southern white man—one in whom the whole country had faith. He repeated and emphasized his determination to appoint such a type of man regardless of political influences or political consequences. Then he stated to me, quite frankly, that he did not propose to appoint a large number of colored people to office in any part of the South, but that he did propose to do two things which had not been done before that time—at least not to the extent and with the definite purpose that he had in mind. Wherever he did appoint a colored man to office in the South, he said that he wanted him to be not only a man of ability but of character—a man who had the confidence of his white and colored neighbors. He did not propose to appoint a colored man to office simply for the purpose of temporary political expediency. He added that while he proposed to appoint fewer colored men to office in the South he proposed to put a certain number of colored men of high character and ability in office in the Northern States. He said that he had never been able to see any good reason why colored men should be put in office in the Southern States, and not put in the North as well. As a matter of fact, before Mr. Roosevelt became President, not a single colored man had ever been appointed, so far as I know to a Federal office in any Northern State."

Dr. Washington tells of some of the appointments which Mr. Roosevelt made in pursuance of this policy and of its continuance as regards the North and West by President Taft. Coming, then, to the famous White House dinner the incidents which led up to it are narrated. Dr. Washington was making a tour of Mississippi. He received word that the President wished to have a conference with him. After considering the matter he concluded that he should accept this invitation, and so as soon as his work in Mississippi was done he went to Washington. Arriving there in the afternoon he went to the house of his friend, Whitefield McKinley, formerly of Charleston, by the way, and now collector of the port of Georgetown, the first colored man to hold that position, with whom he expected to stop during his stay in Washington. His arrival at McKinley's house brings him to the events immediately preceding the famous dinner, a matter which, he says, "I have hitherto constantly refused to discuss in print or in public, though I have had a great many requests to do so. At the time I did not care to add fuel to the controversy which it aroused and I speak of it now only because it seems to me that an explanation will show the incident in its true light and in its proper proportions." Here is the story as Dr. Washington tells it:

"When I reached Mr. McKinlay's house, I found an invitation from President Roosevelt, asking me to dine with him at the White House that evening at 8 o'clock. At the hour appointed I went to the White House and dined with the President and members of his family and a gentleman from Colorado. After dinner we talked at considerable length concerning plans about the South which the President had in mind. I left the White House almost immediately and took a train the same night for New York. When I reached New York the next morning I noticed that the New York Tribune had about two lines, stating that I had dined with the President the previous night. That was the only New York paper, so far as I saw, that mentioned the matter. Within a few hours the whole incident completely passed from my mind. I mentioned the matter casually during the day to a friend—Mr. William H. Baldwin, Jr., then president of the Long Island Railroad—but spoke of it to no one else and had no intention of doing so. There was, in fact, no reason why I should discuss it or mention it to any one.

"My surprise can be imagined when, two or three days afterwards, the whole press, North and South, was filled with dispatches and editorials relating to my dinner with the President. For days and weeks I was pursued by reporters in quest of interviews. I was deluged with telegrams and letters asking for some expression of opinion or an explanation; but during the whole of this period of agitation and excitement I did not give out a single interview and did not discuss the matter in any way.

"Some newspapers attempted to weave into this incident a deliberate and well-planned scheme on the part of President Roosevelt to lead the way in bringing about the social intermingling of the two races. I am sure that nothing was farther from the President's mind than this; certainly it was not in my mind. Mr. Roosevelt simply found that he could spare the time best during and after the dinner hour for the discussion of the matters which both of us were interested in.

"The public interest aroused by this dinner seemed all the more extraordinary and uncalled for, because, on previous occasions I had taken tea with Queen Victoria at Windsor Castle; I had dined with the Governors of nearly every State in the North; I had dined in the same room with President McKinley at Chicago at the Peace Jubilee dinner, and I had dined with Ex-President Harrison in Paris and with many other prominent public men."

Dr. Washington's version differs materially from that which has been industriously circulated in the South during the last two or three years by those who would soften the dislike of Mr. Roosevelt which this dinner occasioned. The tale as it has been told latterly has been that Dr. Washington was at the White House in conference with the President; that lunch was announced and that Mr. Roosevelt, being absorbed in his conversation with the Tuskegee educator, said impulsively: "Come on and have lunch with me;" that Dr. Washington was reluctant, but that Mr. Roosevelt repeated the invitation suggesting that only thus would they be able to finish their conversation. It has been understood here that this was the story as told by Mr. Roosevelt himself and in the absence of any proof to the contrary it has been accepted and Mr. Roosevelt's action in this matter has been viewed in a light somewhat different from that in which news of it was first received in this part of the country. This unofficial version cannot stand in the face of the facts as they are now set forth by Dr. Washington himself.

Dr. Washington says that he has long since come to the conclusion that "prejudices are something that it does not pay to disturb," and that "in dining with President Roosevelt there was no disposition on my part—and I am sure there was no disposition on Mr. Mr. President Roosevelt's part—to attack any custom of the South.' The fact remains, however, that the custom was attacked and that more grossly than previous stories have indicated. Dr. Washington's contention that "there is, therefore, absolutely no ground or excuse for the assertion sometimes made that our dining together was part of a preconceted and well-thought out plan," may be accepted as true, but Dr. Washington ought to have known what the effect of his acceptance of the President's invitation would be and ought to have known that he could not afford to dine with the President and his family at the White House even though the President's "convenience" was thereby promoted. It appears now that Dr. Washington had plenty of time to think over the matter in advance—and that he violated what he himself admits to be the settled conviction of the Southern people, that whites and blacks should not sit at the same table. More than that, he does not display a trace of regret for his action. "I was born in the South," he says, "and I understand thoroughly the prejudices, the customs, the traditions of the South—and, strange as it may seem to those who do not wholly understand the situation, I love the South. There is no Southern white man who cherishes a deeper interest than I in everything that promotes the progress and the glory of the South. For that reason, if for no other, I will never willingly and knowingly do anything that in my opinion will provoke bitternesss between the North and the South."

That is a fine resolve, but it loses much of its effect in view of the fact that Dr. Washington shows every disposition to stand upon his action in accepting the President's White House invitation to dinner, holding that it was entirely proper for him to have done so.

BASEBALL GAME TUESDAY.

Broad Street Team Wins From Main Street Nine 11 to 6.

A very interesting game of baseball was the one played Tuesday afternoon at the baseball park when the teams from Main and Broad streets went up against each other in a clash and clang that finally terminated in the Broad street nine winning over the Main street team by the score of 11 to 6.

The game began shortly after 4 o'clock and was an exciting one throughout. The pitchers did good work and were well supported by their team mates on both sides. However, there were more pitchers to work for the Braod street nine, all of whom were given a try out, and after some hard and handy work succeeding in winning the game for their team.

The batteries were:

Broad street, pitchers; Boyle, Shaw and Cuttino; catcher, Nunnamaker. Main street, pitchers, Richardson and Mason; catcher, Darr.

TO VOTE FOR FREE BRIDGES.

Citizens of Columbia Want Toll Bridges Made Free Bridges.

Columbia, Feb. 15.—That the citizens of Columbia will vote to make free the toll bridges over the Broad and Congaree rivers is the hope of the business men of the city. For many years farmers and others who have wished to enter Columbia to trade have been forced to pay for entrance. The proposition is for the township to either buy the two bridges or erect others. The question will be voted on March 14.

NAME FOR COLUMBIA TEAM.

Ladies at Work to Find Appropriate Name for Team.

Columbia, Feb. 15.—Columbia fanabelles are busy today in their efforts to hit upon a name suitable for the heroes who wear the Columbia uniform in the South Atlantic League. Hitherto the local team has been known as the "Gamecocks" and "Blues," but the boys made such records under the first cognomen that the second was so suggestive that another change is desired. It would not do to call a winning aggregation the "Blues," is is urged and so the ladies are trying to make the fit. To the girl who selects the most appropriate name consistent of a now winning team—or a team that looks like a winner—a season pass will be awarded.

PREACHER TURNS MINSTREL.

"Hero of Home Missions" Tries New Method of Raising Money.

Columbia, Feb. 15.—The Rev. Chas. Jaggers, "the hero of home missions," as he has been aptly called by one of his friends, is one of the oldest colored persons in Columbia, and if he lives as long as he expects to, he will be too old to reckon his age. "Uncle Charlie," as he is known to hundreds of people, is a constant worker for his race, always wears a smile and never forgets those persons who are on his contributing list. "Uncle Charlie" has gone into the minstrel profession, to a certain extent, and as a means of raising funds for his work, gives entertainments in which the old plantation melodies of years ago figure prominently. He gave one of his concerts the other night and it proved so successful that he has announced another.

In Java and some other places is a remarkable flying frog, with a green back, a white belly and a bright orange colored membrane between its toes, which are tipped by circular discs. Like the chameleon, it can change its color to suit its surroundings. It feeds at night on insects, and when disturbed leaps out of a tree and sails away to safety. Some observers call it a frog, while others say it is a tree toad. The membrane between the toes probably acts as a parachute, and not as a flying apparatus. The toe discs, like similar enlargements on our common tree toad, must act like suckers, to hold the animal firmly in place against the trunk of the limb.

"Language is inadequate to express the deepest emotions,' says the Albany Journal." Correct. Especially so when the telephone wires are crossed, or the "line's busy—with a flirtation.—Richmond News Leader.

MODERN ALCHEMY.

Making Steel is Worth More to the World Than Making Gold.

In the days of the mediaeval alchemists it was believed that it was possible by means of some undiscovered laboratory operation to convert the baser metals into gold. With the development of modern chemistry this belief was shown to be baseless, at least in the sense in which the older workers held it.

At the same time there has been evolved as a result of the work of the more recent chemists and metallurgists a transmutation in the properties of that most widely used material steel which is of far more real value to the world than any formula for making gold could ever be.

The discovery that iron containing a certain proportion of carbon constituted steel transformed society and created modern civilization; without steel we should relapse into barbarism. Today it is known that in addition to carbon there are other elements the addition of which will impart to steel certain properties increasing immensely its value as a material of construction and of operation.

Among the substances which were formerly classed as the "rare" elements there are several which were rare only because there was not sufficient use for them to provide all incentive to discover natural sources of supply.

Thus vanadium, known as an element for a hundred years, estimated as having a value many times that of gold and used solely for a few artistic purposes in coloring fabrics, has within a few years risen immensely in importance because of the knowledge which has been acquired of the valuable properties which it imparts to steel, while at the same time it has fallen in cost to a point about one-half that of silver because the very demand has revealed hitherto unknown deposits.

The influence of vanadium upon steel may well be regarded as a triumph of modern metallurgy, and vanadium steel has become one of the most important of the so-called alloy steels. The older steels, now known broadly as "carbon" steels in distinction to the various alloy steels, had certain fairly well ascertained properties together with determinate limitations.

They could be made ductile within certain limits of strength or strong within certain approach to brittleness, but when both strength and toughness were demanded it was realized that something else in addition to carbon was essential. That something has been shown to be vanadium.

The influence of the addition of small proportions of vanadium to steel is two-fold; it acts as a scavenger, removing oxides, nitrides, etc. in a form easily carried away to the slag, and it also toughens the steel directly, by its solid solution, under normal conditions, in the carbonless portion, known as ferrite. In addition it forms complex carbides of such a nature as greatly to strengthen the steel statically.

The result is a product so vastly superior to the ordinary carbon steel as to render it practically a new material of construction, especially for situations in which shocks must be met and resisted. The combination of high strength and great toughness makes it the material above all others for automobile parts as well as for railway axles and engine frames, for springs for the important parts of vessels and for bridges and similar structures.

For the latest types of engineering work, such as flying machines, submarines, torpedoes and similar work the possession of a material of high resistence to stresses of all kinds enables some of the most difficult elements of the work to be solved.

While the application of vanadiura to steel constitutes at present its most important use, it has also a marked influence upon cast iron and upon copper, and while its use has not yet been developed so far in these directions, there is every reason to believe that these applications will follow.—Cassier's Magazine.

The Rev. Florence Buck is the first woman to hold a pastorate in Alameda, Cal. She took chage of the First Unitarian Church, of Alameda, on New Year's morning. She is said to have had the largest congregation ever gathered in that city. Miss Buck was recently the pastor of the Unitarian Church in Palo Alto, Cal., and has preached also in Wisconsin and at Cleveland, O.

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A Bank Story

Smith owed Skinner & Co., $5.00 He went in one day and handed them $5.00 in cash. Skinner forgot to take it off his books, and the next month presented the same bill. He thought he had paid it, but having no proof, Smith paid twice.

Jones owed Skinner & Co., $5.00. He went in one day and handed them a check on this bank for $5.00. Skinner forgot to take it off his books. But the next month when the bill was presented to him, Jones balked. He said: "See here, Mr. Skinner, I paid that bill last month and here is the check which the bank has returned to me with your name endorsed on the back, showing that you got the money." Jones Paid Once. This illustrates only one of the advantages of a bank account.

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