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**STEWART'S WASHINGTON LETTER**

By CHARLES F. STEWART  
Exclusive Central Press Dispatch  
The Eccentric.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15. — Washington society doings opened with a loud bang simultaneously with the convening of congress. Society and politics in the national capital are considerably mixed.

Many a legislator's many an official's good will is won, in behalf of policy, by the time he would not otherwise favor. Little social taffy, which he doesn't care so much for maybe, but for which his women folk have an inordinate fondness.

It isn't the big blow-outs that count. Anybody can give invitations to all the cold-blooded formal functions. A White House reception is about as public as the lobby of the Union Depot. Social secretaries make up the guest lists for such affairs out of the Congressional Directory.

Admission to the inner circle — to the intimate little gatherings, dinners, teas and salons, with only a dozen or so of the really elite apiece in attendance—that's what signifies.

Congressman and Mrs. So-and-so lunched at the White House today.

Secretary of the Treasury Mellon entertained a small party at dinner last evening. The guests were—

The following were entertained over the week-end on the presidential yacht Mayflower—

At a small party at the home of Speaker and Mrs. Longworth yesterday the company included—

To get your name into an occasional paragraph such as any one of these, in the society columns of the Washington newspapers is what sets the seal of gentility upon your reputation among the capital's socially elect.

How much weight President Coolidge places upon social considerations may be judged from the fact that he refused to permit the White House to be under repairs this winter, though competent engineers warned him that there really is serious danger that the roof may fall in on him.

He'd take his chance until congress adjourns, he decided, rather than go into temporary quarters, where the atmosphere of the executive mansion would be lacking from the senatorial breakfasts, the luncheons to prominent visitors and the dinners to leading statesmen and their wives which he plans for the current "season."

Nobody ever accused the present president of being a social butterfly from any choice of his own, but he can flutter a bit—as a moth, anyway—for political advantage.

Vice President Dawes will do some formidable fluttering. He has presidential aspirations. He needs all the friends he can make, and the party leaders. There's no better way of making them than over his own dinner table.

Speaker Longworth has presidential aspirations, too, and he and his wife are great entertainers. They don't entertain ostentatiously, but they entertain with unsurpassed elegance and are ultra-exclusive. An invitation to the Longworths is regarded as a tremendous social and political asset. They may not be quite so exclusive this winter as hitherto. At any rate, they moved into a larger house some time ago, in a nobbler quarter than previously.

Secretary of State Kellog, Secretary of the Treasury Mellon and Secretary of Commerce Hoover are noted for their small but swell parties.

It's very classy to have the entrée to the larger embassies, dinners, and the like. Even Washington's unofficial society is semi-political. Not many families in the upper register live here which haven't political interests. At all events, they like to mingle, on terms of equality, with the political big game families.

The social "season" promises to be unusually lively in Washington. There are signs of an exceptionally exciting session of congress. The latter generally means the former. When votes are needed, on the "hill," those who need them hold that there's no surer way of winning them than by means of social attentions to the individuals who'll cast them—and their women folk.

An Armenian shoemaker, named Manghikian, who as an executioner in the Russian armies had decapitated 394 condemned victims, rounded out his gruesome record in Paris the other day by severing his wife's head from her body with one swift swing of his sword. Now it is probable that the gallotine will end Manghikian's bloody career with a taste of his own sharp medicine.

At 16 years of age Marcus Low, New York tinsmith, was ambitious to be a head waiter and started toward his goal by getting a job in a restaurant as dishwasher. He dropped a big tray full of dishes and got fired. That was many years ago. Now he is a multi-millionaire, president of about 100 theatrical enterprises, and says breaking some dishes changed the course of his whole life.



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