

**FLUNKYISM IN WASHINGTON.****The "Republican Court" Under the Grant Regime.**

[Grace Greenwood's Letter to the N. Y. Times.]

Congress having come back, the gay season opens with the usual West End receptions. Mrs. Hayes is to hold hers, on Saturday afternoons, and occasionally of an evening "jintly" with the President, one of the good, old-fashioned kind—such as we used to call, in defiance of time and sense, "levees." Jenkins kindly announced the other day that these receptions were to be of the most simple and informal sort, and that we should all be received as "equals." We are glad to know that we, the people, have social rights which the White House is bound to respect; that we are no longer to be frozen out of those exalted precincts by icy formality, ceremony, etiquette and hauteur, as under the late imperial régime we were. What a work it was then, to be sure, to gain admittance into that most select and recherche circle. What a scramble for tickets—which had to be bought, the proceeds going to the Grant cigar fund—and what an expense for Court costumes and carriages, as none but "kerridge people" could gain entrance within the gates! What an awesome time we had in getting into the blue room, through a double line of liveried lackeys, and hearing our names mis-called by the grand ushers of the black and white rods, and what another time in backing out of presence! And how hard on the Cabinet officers who have to be on hand betimes in the Presidential dressing-room, to assist at the grand toilet of the President, their wives a little later taking their turns in bearing the train of the Presidentess, while Senators and their wives were expected to do Dent-duty and perform Sharp-service.

Seriously, I am disgusted with the flagrant flunkeyism shown here towards the occupants of the White House. It seems ranker than ever before. It is especially contemptible when it seeks to commend itself to the mistress of that august but ugly mansion by styling her "the finest lady of the land," and making odious comparisons between her and her immediate predecessor. Mrs. Grant is an amiable, unpretending, generous-hearted woman, and if Mrs. Hayes is as good, prudent and sensible; if, as the nation's great hostess, she fulfills her duties as modestly and faithfully; if she is as true a friend, as devoted a wife, as tender a mother, "only this and nothing more," we shall duly honor her, and not marvel when it is said: "Her children rise up and call her blessed; Rutherford also and he praiseth her."

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