

discretion for any needed preparations for the national defense, Colonel Henderson electrified the House by these words:

Mr. Speaker, I have read of the elder days of the republic. I live in the better days of the republic. The lesson of this afternoon is a beautiful one for our country. In the elder days there were Tories. I fear a Tory would be thrown out of this hall this afternoon. But Mr. Speaker, there will be no war. That is my judgment. I do not believe that war is hanging over the American people. In this republic our great aim should be for peace.

The truest patriot is he who secures and keeps peace for his people. It is easy to be an animal. It is easy to use claws and teeth, and to fight. He who can hold aloft in his country the white flag of peace, not of cowardice, rises nearest to his God. No country on earth seeks to avoid war as this country does. No country on earth need fear war less than America. With our boundless resources, with our great credit, with a people who, no matter what their past, are absolutely united in standing as one man, I say that no country is so well armed for war as the United States of America. I do not speak as an Iowan; I speak as a citizen of the United States, and I believe that today we are heart and hand together for what is best for this republic.

The young man who today pledges "all the vigor of his early manhood for his country" commands my respect, but I do not believe he will have to use it.

I have had letters from my people wanting us to take Cuba, to punish Spain. I simply write back that no international law makes the United States the regulator of the wrongs of earth. God has written no motto on the banner of our country that demands of us the regulating of the wrongs of other countries to their people. We all sympathize with the liberty loving and fighting Cubans, but they are citizens of another government. So long as that question is before us, I follow the advice of Washington, recommending that we mind strictly our own business.

But if they touch the rights of this country, or dare to lay unholy hands upon our territory or our rights, then I, too, become "a fighting Quaker," and will join the vigorous manhood of my young friend who spoke. But let us not lose our heads while our hearts are beating. He can fight best who keeps his blood the coolest. He can serve his people best who thinks most before striking.

This administration, President and Cabinet, are as loyal as any man on this floor, and I claim no more for it. This administration will look before it leaps. This day's work and tomorrow's will teach the administration that when a leap is needed they will have this country back of them, and to a man.

This was at a time when President McKinley was striving to secure a just

settlement of the Cuban troubles without war with Spain, and was appealing to those of us in Congress who agreed with him to hold the excitable elements in check. A little more than a month later, when events had unmistakably swept the country to the very brink of war, the one legged veteran of Iowa arose again and forcibly declared himself for action as follows:

The resolution reported but a brief time ago from the committee on foreign affairs by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Adams) is stamped with the unanimous judgment of the Republican members of that committee. The time has come, in the opinion of this country, for action on this great question. It has been discussed by the public press; it has been discussed in the pulpit; it has been discussed in the House and in the Senate; it has been discussed at every fireside in the American republic, and we believe, Mr. Speaker, that the time has come, sad as it is that I must express it, when this country can no longer delay acting in the Cuban situation. Everything has been done by our Chief Executive to secure peace on that island without arms, but in vain; and the time has come when arms, the last resort, must be appealed to by our country. I have been and am for peace, but not at the expense of my country's peace and honor. Spain must leave the western seas, and forever.

The two extracts present a graphic and truthful picture of the strong, generous, patriotic, earnest man, who is to direct the deliberations of the popular branch of the next Congress. While of the Reed school of parliamentary doctrine, and one of the late Speaker's most confidential and trusted supporters, Speaker Henderson has an individuality that will stand on its own merit and a conception of the responsibilities and dignities of his great office that will not permit the loss of a jot or tittle of its prestige in his hands. The gavel may perhaps seem at times to be wielded somewhat more gently, but it will be held by the hand of a master, and the great office of the presiding officer of the United States House of Representatives will lose none of its vitality of influence, and none of its power in promoting the business of a great people, while it shall be administered by David Bremner Henderson of Iowa.

#### WINTER MOONLIGHT.

Not ever hath the golden wheel of June  
Spun finer web across the earth than lies  
Under the frozen opal of the moon  
And the white star frost of the winter skies.

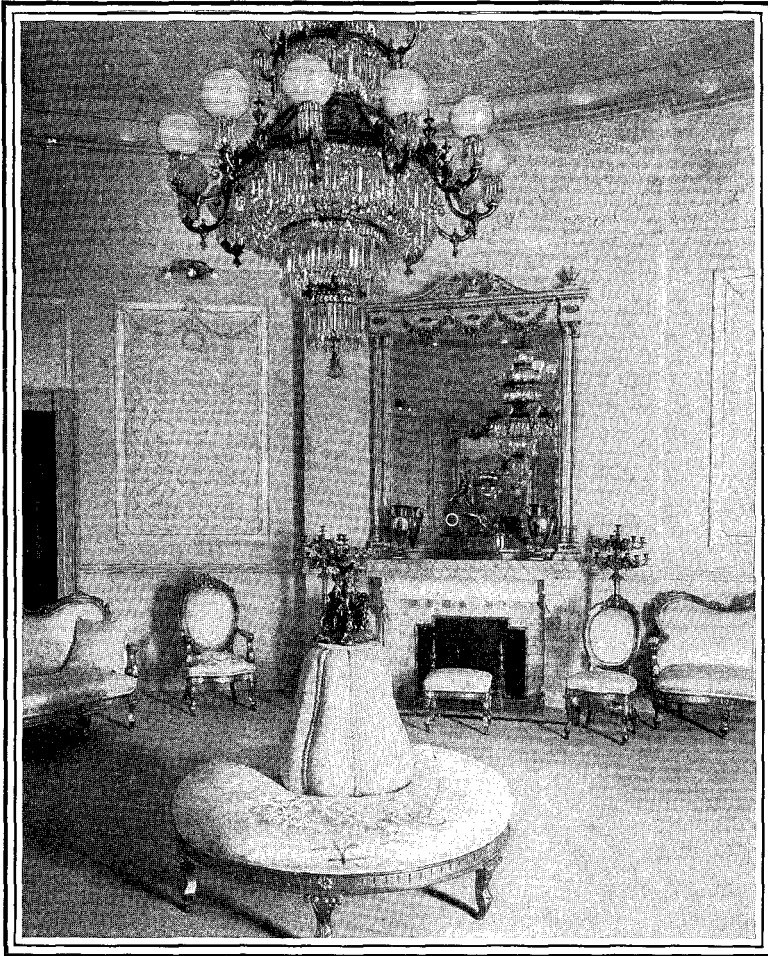
*Hattie Whitney.*

## IN THE PUBLIC EYE

### INSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE.

Things have changed since President Jackson's day, when the White House was overrun by disorderly mobs who left in their wake scenes of wreck and ruin. The

every year, usually when the master and mistress of the house are away for their summer holiday. Two years ago, besides the general refurbishing of the mansion, Mr. and Mrs. McKinley's sleeping rooms were



THE STATE PARLOR, OR "BLUE ROOM," OF THE WHITE HOUSE, RECENTLY REDECORATED, AND FIRST REOPENED AT THE TIME OF THE PRESIDENT'S DINNER IN HONOR OF ADMIRAL DEWEY, OCTOBER 3.

*From a photograph by Bell, Washington.*

public's manners have improved in subsequent generations, and we treat our chief magistrate and his official home with a more decent respect. Still, the furnishings of the Executive Mansion have to stand pretty severe wear and tear, and one or another part of them is renovated

remodeled; in 1898 the small west reception room was made over in the French sixteenth century style; and this year the decorators took in hand the state parlor, commonly called the "blue room."

It will be seen from the engraving on this page that the general style of the