

ambassador himself to the meanest servant, is, as it were, in a sanctuary which may not be violated for any reason whatsoever. Its flag or ensign protects even the outcast and the outlaw who has sought its shelter. The ambassador, as well as all the members of his suite, are free to go and come, to travel about without let or hindrance; where this is not the case, a 'state of war' must exist." They are also exempt from the jurisdiction of the local courts of law, and so cannot be impleaded or sued. In this country a statute of Queen Anne expressly states that all process of law against foreign ambassadors and envoys is void, and this enactment was passed because, in 1708, the ambassador of Russia, then always spoken of as Muscovy, was arrested in London for a debt of £50. Because of his "extra-territoriality" an ambassador pays no taxes to the Government of the foreign nation, but he does pay local rates for his house. He is outside the monopoly of the Post Office, and can send letters, how, when and where he pleases, but at his own cost. If he makes use of the ordinary postal service, he must have his letters stamped in the usual way."

However, great as are the privileges accorded to the ambassador, he must not strain them too much, and it is very essential that he should be in sympathy with the temper, habits and traditions of the people with whom he lives, and yet refrain from interference with their affairs. It will not be forgotten how, some dozen years ago, the United States demanded from Great Britain the recall of Lord Sackville, then ambassador at Washington, because President Cleveland held he had interfered in the American elections, and so was no longer acceptable in his official capacity. However difficult it may be, an ambassador must be neutral, and Lord Sackville paid for the alleged indiscretion by being given his passports by the President. There was an "unpleasantness" of a similar kind with the United States in 1856.

Before the appointment of an ambassador is confirmed and announced, his name is invariably submitted for the approval or disapproval of the court to which it is proposed to send him. Every sovereign state has the right to object to receive any particular individual if it sees fit to do so. The personal and social element enters very largely into the ambassadorial field. To quote a writer who published a great book on the subject two centuries ago: "Not only must the perfect ambassador be a compound of formalities, decencies and circumspections, but he must also be a consummate gallant man—that is to say, a man formed to the mode of the court." And: "A good ambassador is also a great theatrical personage, and that to be successful in his profession he ought to play the comedian a little." A well-known diplomat of our own time says that "an

ambassador should be possessed of all the virtues of an archangel, and yet be a man of the world at the same time." The old saw, which declared that the first duty of an ambassador was to keep a good cook, had much truth in it, as it was a short and pithy way of indicating that he must entertain and make himself agreeable. To keep himself fully informed as to what is going on, he must be in touch, in constant contact, with the foreign court and people, and he accomplishes this by a generous but discriminating exercise of hospitality. So well is this principle recognized, that the salaries of ambassadors and ministers are regulated by the cost of living and entertaining at the various embassies and legations more than by any other consideration.

In short, an ambassador must be equal to almost every situation, and at a banquet or in the council chamber equally at home. In the discussion of international questions he must display wisdom, and at a state dinner he cannot afford to transgress against modern usage by going to sleep in his chair and slipping under the table. In addition to all this, it would now appear that the plenipotentiaries at Peking, if the first class powers continue to maintain political intercourse with China, will have to be familiar with the use of modern weapons, and able and ready to defend themselves whenever the whim and humour of the people amongst whom they live may prompt them to acts of violence.

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COOL AIR AT PUBLIC MEETINGS.—Our own House of Commons is certainly one of the stuffiest and at the same time one of the dreariest places in London, and members of Parliament could hardly be blamed for avoiding its precincts as much as possible during the hot weather. In Victoria, the same difficulty has been felt—and met. During the dog-days half a ton of ice was put daily in the air funnels by means of which the Parliament House is ventilated. The result was that legislators, finding the Chamber the coolest place in the city, stayed in it, and duly attended to business. With the thermometer on the sweet shady side of Pall Mall registering over 90 deg., even the thirst for information displayed by Messrs. Galloway, Weir and MacNeill, and the humour of Mr. Tommy Bowles, might be endured, though not enjoyed, if the House at St. Stephen's were as cool as where the dreary drip of dilatory declamation is heard in Victoria. Much more might be done in the way of cooling places of public meeting, and to theatrical managers in this country may be commended the instance of the Columbia Theatre at Boston, Mass., which is cooled by forcing air over blocks of ice in the basement, while six exhaust fans, operated by electricity, are fixed in various parts to drive the cooled air throughout the house. Theatre-goers here would appreciate such a boon, and fuller houses would reward managerial enterprise. One could really enjoy the opera in the height of the hot season if Covent Garden were cooled.—*Exchange.*