

to oblige is the only way to be received into one of the large offices at the present day. I am aware that it is popularly held that a man has only to write some brilliant article on some subject that has been overlooked by everyone else and present it to the editor to be received with a "come and take my chair, my brilliant friend." Mr. Howells countenances this belief by committing one of his heroes to that course. The method is now, however, only available in Kamschatka. In the first place the editor in New York has an excellent staff to rely on and is in no need of brilliant recruits. In the second, it is difficult to find a subject which a New York reporter has overlooked.

Once in the office and duly enrolled on the books as a reporter, a man begins to look out on life with different eyes. This will be readily seen when one watches his course of transformation from an ignorant layman to an omniscient professional. When he sees the editor he turns his back on his old world pretty effectually. In a New York office the general staff is as follows: First, the editor-in-chief, who is generally part owner, is always a prominent politician with his eye on the presidency, and directs the policy of the paper. His salary is from \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year. There is, next, the managing editor, who gets \$10,000 to \$12,000 a year. He sits in his office off-and-on from two in the afternoon till two in the morning. He does not write; he has control over 200 or 300 men, and his duties chiefly consist in seeing that the sub-editors get that share of the "space" in the next day's issue which the importance of the matter they have in hand demands. He has a thorough knowledge of newspaper work in every department, and has the eye of a hawk for the comparative value of news. The whole harmonious working of the office depends on him. Then come the city editor, the day editor, the night editor, the correspondence editor, the telegraph editor, the editorial writers, the "ed. head" writers, the "night-desk" men, the routine men, and the reporters, making up a staff of about seventy men. Of these the city editor and one or two of the editorial writers are chief. They get about \$5,000 a year each, but their duties are very different. Of the city editor I will speak presently. Of the editorial writers it may be said that their lot is happy. They are the only men whose hours are respectable. Their work is light; they are generally literary men of eminent standing, and they are frequently the correspondents for English and foreign papers by which they double or treble their income. They are nearly all promoted from the reporters' ranks, though for some special subjects outsiders are employed. For instance, the writer of the weekly or bi-weekly commercial editorial is a broker from the "street;" and similarly, in special cases where a special article may be wanted, a specialist is employed. The regular staff consists of five or six men who average from \$2,000 to \$5,000 each. They have the use of a fine library, have their subjects daily distributed to them by the editor-in-chief, and are composed of the picked journalists of America. They average in age about thirty-five, a man under thirty being rarely found there.

Of the other editors, the day and night editors exercise a sub-manager-ship under the managing editor. They are always promoted reporters, and their work is merely routine. The correspondence editor reads, marks, learns and inwardly digests the vast amount of advice gratuitously given the paper on which he works, from Vanderbilt to O'Donovan Rossa; he also edits the foreign correspondence. The telegraph editor comes to the office at seven in the evening and works till half-past two in the morning, clipping, arranging, and re-writing telegraph matter. The "ed. head" writers, of whom there are usually two, have similar hours and write short paragraphs on the news of the day as brought in by the reporters or telegraphed. All these are promoted reporters.

Then comes the city editor, who has control of the whole city department and under whom are the reporters. He is generally as sharp a newspaper man as is in New York, is well read, a smart writer, and has an unerring "nose" for news. He knows everybody and everything and every place in New York. It is he who makes the paper "readable" for the vast mass of people. He is always an enthusiastic journalist and has had a brilliant career as a reporter. He loves his paper better always than his wife. The office is his home and has been for years. In all his instincts, habits, virtues and vices he is journalism incarnate. His salary is about \$5,000 a year; but he is next candidate for the managing editorship, and is on the high road to the editorship-in-chief. His duties are to give each reporter his daily work, but to do this he must know from day to day all that is going on in the city, he must scent news while it is yet afar, he must know to a nicety the comparative value of news, and he must know where always to send his men to obtain the information required. Having a staff of from thirty to forty men under him, he is of course shrewd enough always to pick out the best man for any work in hand. His life has generally been as follows: He is probably a graduate of Harvard or Ann

Arbor. As a reporter he has distinguished himself for energy and for a capacity for distinguishing what is news from what is not news. He has been through all the grades of general, police, and political news-reporter. He has been sent by his chief to attend conventions in various parts of the country. He has then been put to the "night desk" to be trained for the editorship. Here his duties were to read all the copy sent in by the reporters and reduce it by judicious cutting and re-arrangement to its proper length and uniformity of style and character, and to correct all mistakes of orthography or reference. Then he reaches by natural gradation the city chair.

The duties of the "night desk" men are rather curious. There are generally three men at the work; and they commence operations at six in the evening, continuing them till two or three in the morning. Each newspaper in New York has a style of its own. It also has a vocabulary of its own, banning the use of certain words and phrases from its columns, and, ordaining a special mode of spelling or reference. For instance, adjectives are frowned on, the abundant use of capitals discouraged, and certain ways of beginning a paragraph forbidden. All these things are well-known to the night desk men and their duties correspond. The copy any reporter brings in is ruthlessly made conformable to these rules. It is rare then for a new reporter on reading his copy as it appears in print to recognize the thing he wrote the night before. All his little jokes have been cut out. His favorite expressions have gone into the waste basket. His classical allusions have gone where classical allusions deserve to go, and in fact his brilliant column has become a very matter-of-fact, terse quarter column. It is the night desk men whom every reporter curses, but must conciliate, for within certain limits they are omnipotent.

Well, it is after these that the reporters come,—the reporters who are at the bottom of the ladder, but who, as I have said, are the backbone of the American newspaper.

The reporters of New York are, as a body of men, well educated, sharp, and before all things, energetic. They are not as sharp as Western reporters they are not as respectable as New Orleans reporters, but in education and energy they are ahead of any reporters in the world. They go to their work with the recklessness, and contempt for obstacles, of war correspondents. They are nearly all clever writers, the majority are university graduates, and the good work of a good New York reporter is well worth study as a model of the way, in the newspaper world, in which the subject should be handled.

When a reporter, by means of his letter of introduction, is handed over to the city editor to be turned into a newspaper man, he finds himself in a large handsome room, fitted up with desks and pencils and papers, amongst thirty other young men of his own age. They are lolling about reading the papers, discussing the news, and are nearly all smoking cigars. It is midday and they have just returned from breakfast. Presently, from the editor's sanctum, a book is brought out and placed on the table. In it is a list of all the events that are to take place during the day, such and such meetings, arrivals, departures, cases of crimes to be investigated, men to be interviewed, trials to attend, etc. Opposite each item is written a reporter's name, thus signifying that such item is to be his special care during the afternoon. Having ascertained their business, the reporters flock in to consult the city editor about the manner in which the work is to be conducted, and to get his advice and instruction. Half an hour later the office is deserted. From one end of New York to the other the reporters are distributed each about his special business. About five o'clock they return and begin to write up what they have been engaged on, and so they continue till six o'clock, when a second book is brought out and a second assignment of work made. The evening has its own duties, and the reporters having dined go to perform them, returning to write up again from eleven till two o'clock, when their work for the day is over. Practically then their work may be said to last from midday till a couple of hours after midnight, or fourteen hours a day. And their pay? It is anything, according to their value and the paper their are working on, from \$15 to \$70 a week.

But the life of a reporter in New York has much in it that is so interesting of itself that I reserve it for a separate paper. R.

THE Hon. Wayne McVeigh contributes to the March *Century* a paper on "The Next Presidency," in which the ideal president is pictured, and the author ventures the opinion that the political party nominating the man who approaches nearest that ideal will be successful in the coming election. Another important essay in this forthcoming number of *The Century* discusses methods for "The Suppression of Pauperism."