

PRESENTATION TO HON. J. A. CHAPLEAU.

In a previous number of THE JOURNAL we recorded the presentation of an address to Mr. Chapleau, which was accompanied by a very handsome present of the dinner service popularly known as the "White House Set." We have now the pleasure of presenting to our readers a faithful copy of the address, reproduced by Mr. G. E. Desbarats' artotype process. We subjoin the English translation of the address, and a brief description of the porcelain service, which will be of interest:—

To the Hon. J. A. Chapleau, Premier of the Province of Quebec:

HONOURABLE SIR,—If we take the liberty to present you with this testimonial, it is not that we only thought of it at the present time. You have deserved for too long a time the confidence and esteem of your countrymen of all nationalities for us to believe that our movement has the merit of novelty. We do not pretend that what we beg you to accept is a fitting tribute for so important a person, and one so worthy of our admiration, but what we want to state is that, having been taken impromptu, we have taken advantage of the opportunity, or inducement, of a rare and artistic collection that happened to be at hand in Montreal, to present it to a person whose character is so distinguished and so beloved of the honneurables as well as the public, will feel that such a work of art has never been entrusted to a more hospitable, worthy and remarkable person.

Allow us to associate the noble and respected lady, to whose care you will confide this gift, and we hope that Madame Chapleau will be good enough to take her part in this respectful homage that we desire to manifest towards you.

(Here follow signatures.)

The dinner service is a duplicate of that furnished for the Executive Mansion at Washington by Messrs. Haviland & Co., of Limoges and New York, for use upon State occasions, the especial requirements named in the order being that the service should both combine elegance and appropriate American decorations. These requirements the artist, Mr. Theodore R. Davis, whom Mr. Haviland called to his aid, and who furnished the water color studies, and undertook the invention of shapes, amply fulfilled. With consummate skill, Mr. Davis executed his portion of the work, his efforts being seconded with the most gratifying success by the manufacturers themselves, the result being a service which has justly become celebrated. It is difficult to give any adequate idea of the artistic beauties of the designs, some of which are of delightful originality, and all of which show the

work of a master hand. The subjects treated are exclusively American, Fauna and Flora—each course having its distinctively appropriate design, or rather designs, for there are different ones for the various kinds of viands.

In the soup plates, for instance, there are twelve different subjects, amongst the most striking being the representation of "American soup of the XVth century,"—an Indian watching the cooking on his camp fire of the deer soup, which he has prepared from the dead buck which lies at his side. Other characteristic sketches in this series are the "Southern flight of ducks," "The Crab," "Frog," and "1776," the last-named depicting the hearth-stone, capacious fireplace and swinging crane, with its pot of *bouilli* and appropriate surroundings.

The fish series, the plates for which are specially shaped, illustrate twelve varieties of the finny tribe, and are exquisite works of art.

The dinner series also embraces twelve subjects, and the designs are specially unique.

In the game course, which is also supplied with a novel platter, are life-like illustrations of different birds, such as the canvas-back duck, teal, snipe, grouse, etc. The dessert plates are, of course, decorated chiefly with fruit subjects. In several cases there are also introduced with very happy effect birds and animals whose fondness for the particular kind of fruit depicted makes the connection a judicious one. And to complete this remarkable service are coffee and tea-cups, and an independent butter plate, each of special design and novel form.

In concluding this brief outline of the beauties of this service, we need scarcely point to the fact that the gift of it to Mr. Chapleau was one worthy of the honourable gentleman, and, at the same time, a handsome and peculiarly elegant expression of the sentiments en-

tained towards him and Madame Chapleau by the friends who presented it. It was the third of a design, in the first instance, prepared specially for presentation to ex-President Grant, and illustrative of American fauna and flora. Ex-President Hayes was the recipient of the second set, and Mr. Chapleau has been honoured with the third. The original service cost \$25,000, and the two copies are *fac-similes* of it. The original pieces of plate were painted by some of the greatest French artists of the day, among whom was the well-known etcher, Bracquemond.

It is only justice to place on record the fact of its having been brought to Montreal through the spirited enterprise of our fellow-citizen, Mr. Adam Darling, at whose store in St. James street it was on exhibition for some weeks; and that the exquisitely designed address is the work of Mr. Edwin Cox, of this city.

