

step engendered by the cold without and the anticipation of a warm debate within, he cannot but be impressed with the brilliancy displayed everywhere.

Having successfully passed the two black Sebastapol guns, which stand guard outside the buildings, and seem to question the right of intruders within their sacred precincts, he enters through a massive Roman portal into the main corridor, on both sides of which are located the offices of the rival railway companies who bid enthusiastically for any patronage that may be found in these environments.

Directly ahead and facing the door-way is the main staircase which, being built of iron, is a very weighty structure and looks so. It is not traversed much for most people prefer to ascend in one of the beautiful aerial cars which are located to the right of the staircase.

Confederating with the stream of beings making for an elevator, and pursuing a course in sympathy with the current, you are drawn into one of those electric contrivances and immediately shoot heavenward with startling velocity.

Having tickets for the Speaker's gallery, we hasten thither, scarce noticing anything on the way.

Once inside the chamber one is momentarily dazed with the brilliancy of his surroundings. The profusion of color, the effusion of light, the exclusion of noise are here supreme; and, in contrast to the sombre corridors it has a peculiar effect upon the senses. One is not prepared for such a contrast of opposites. He is scarcely ready for such an extemporaneous change. He stares for an instant as if in a dream and then awakens from his reverie to analyze.

The ceiling at first looks gorgeous, but on closer inspection appears gaudy and inartistic. It gives the impression that the attempt to daub as many colors as possible within a given space was made by the decorator. "First impressions" are not correct in this instance for one is momentarily delighted with the garishness of this roof. The tints and hues are peculiar but your intolerance of them dissolves before it has had time to become a prejudice, for there are so many redeeming features which neutralize any distastes you may have formed of the ceiling.

First and foremost among these are the electric light fixtures, which are a perfect



THE LADIES' GALLERY.