

he added, has never been used since Mrs. Hayes was Mistress here, and the White House was never so pure as it is now. Neither the President nor his sons use alcohol or tobacco. We were presented to President Hayes on his reception day, and found him quite as genial as his worthy wife.

Among the many places of interest visited in Washington, I shall only mention one; that is, Ford's Theatre, where Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. I was pleased to learn that it was closed forever as a place of amusement after that fatal night. The Government bought the building, and it was used as a surgical and medical museum. Among other relics that it contained was the spinal marrow of Wilkes Booth, preserved in alcohol, and the vertebræ of the neck through which the bullet that killed him penetrated.

Before leaving the city we took a day to visit Mount Vernon, the old home of George Washington, sixteen miles down the Potomac from the city. It was the month of January, the weather was as warm as June with us, and the sail on the river was delightful. The old cottage home was surrounded by a wide veranda, and bore every indication of antiquity. On entering the hall, the only noticeable object was a large key suspended against the wall. This, the usher told us, was the key of the Bastille, which was presented to Washington by La Fayette, as he stated that the principles of the United States had done more to open the Bastille than anything else. In the