

Half a Week in Washington.

NATIONAL TREASURES.

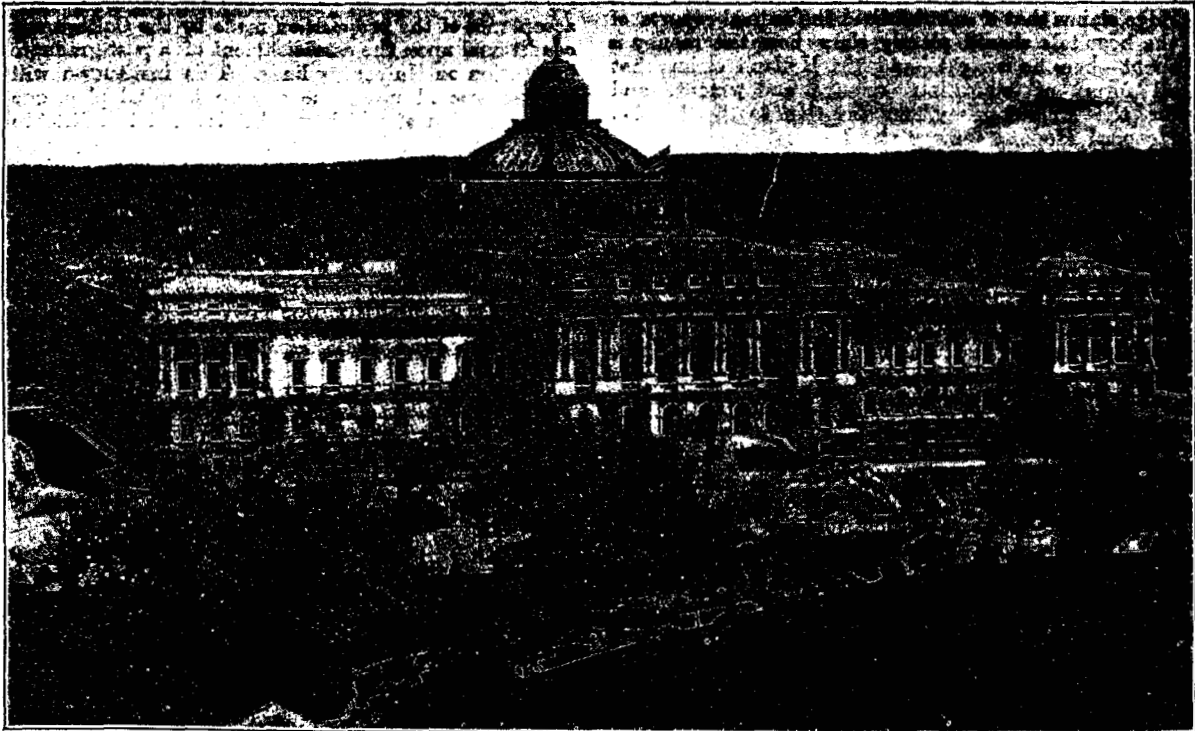
Four meteoric days! It is well that the value of time is not controlled by the clock, but rather by individual receptivity. Thus one may live a lifetime in an hour. Four days—time enough, truly, to garner ineffacable impressions.

There are a few things on earth to which humanity at large is heir, inspired things, the imperceptible and irresistible power of which are just going on all the time. Of these are certain scraps of parchment on which men wrote down their Souls' Creed with scorching fingers. Such are Magna Charta and the Declaration of American Independence. Precious above rubies, and most zealously guarded; yet lovers of liberty should look on them both.

the busiest women in the States, then in the throes of organising the newly-defined Army Nurse Corps, but apparently as chirpy as if she had not an anxiety in the world and a dozen people desirous of monopolising her every moment.

Here, under one roof, are the spacious rooms and ante-rooms of the Secretaries of State, War, and Navy, and all the official smaller fry, who conduct the concerns of these important departments in a most businesslike manner. "Government," in the United States, means "real biz," and not a little airy occupation for the ruling classes. In America the masses wisely rule themselves.

The whole atmosphere of the place was pungent and purposeful, and those within the walls keenly alert. The officers entrusted with the nation's affairs actually appeared to understand the details



THE CONGRESSIONAL LIBRARY, WASHINGTON.

In search of the immortal Declaration of the thirteen United States, one day we found ourselves in the most magnificent State building in the world, the State, War, and Navy Building at Washington, and we were naturally surprised to find ourselves free as air. "Go right in," said a courtly official: "Mrs. Kinney? Why, certainly. West wing; this way, ladies." And by marble hall and elevator we were passed from one gentleman—we use the term advisedly—to another in the most obliging manner, until we found ourselves most genially welcomed by one of

of matters which they were paid to conduct. Light and air flooded the place freely. As a Government office it had altogether a novel and refreshing environment—to a Britisher. Greetings over, Mrs. Kinney redeemed her kind promise made in Buffalo to gratify our ardent desire to see, with our very own eyes, the original Declaration, which is kept in a safe in the State Library. As you can imagine, we saw much by the way when I tell you that this wonderful building contains 500 rooms and two miles of marble halls!

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