

SAILED AWAY IN THE STORM

THE PRESIDENT STARTS ON A DUCK-SHOOTING EXPEDITION.

Going to North Carolina to Seek Sport and Relief from the Cares of Office—Secretary Gresham and Capt. Evans Accompany Him—They Steam Down the Potomac in the Midst of a Blinding Snowstorm—Will Reach Fort Monroe this Morning.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—President Cleveland sailed away from Washington this afternoon at 3:30 o'clock, in the lighthouse tender Violet, for a duck-shooting trip along the North Carolina coast. He was accompanied by Secretary Gresham and Capt. Robley D. Evans, the Naval Secretary of the Lighthouse Board. The Violet had been lying at Rich's ice wharf, at the foot of Seventh Street, since Friday. Every arrangement had been made for the trip, and the usual secrecy was observed concerning the intentions of the President.

This morning a heavy snowstorm struck Washington, and it increased in intensity until at the time the Violet sailed the flakes were coming down so thick and fast that objects on the river could not be seen with any distinctness at a hundred yards' distance. The snowfall was fairly blinding at 3:20 o'clock, when Mr. Cleveland and his companions arrived at the wharf. There was no wind, but the air was very cold. Capt. Evans alighted first; then came Secretary Gresham, with the inevitable cigar between his teeth, and last of all came the President, carrying a leather gun case under his arm. Other guns in cases, and cases of ammunition and cases of other things had been sent aboard the little tender yesterday.

All three of the party wore derby hats and had their overcoats buttoned tightly around their necks. Each in turn shook hands with the Captain of the Violet, who was waiting at the gangplank to receive them. Two sailors followed, carrying a big English portmanteau and a bulging satchel, which they took from the coupé.

It was very slippery on the upper deck of the tender, to which the gangplank ran, as the President found out the minute his feet touched it. He had considerable difficulty in proceeding toward the ladder leading to the lower deck and the entrance to the cabin. A sailor walked ahead of Mr. Cleveland, sweeping away the snow, while the Violet's Captain and one of her officers assisted Secretary Gresham, whose old war wound has left him somewhat lame, and Capt. Evans, who was badly crippled by a shot at the storming of Fort Fisher.

The President went down the ladder in a way that would have surprised the people who have been calling him "a very sick man," and waited at the bottom to assist the others. Then all three went into the cabin and lit fresh cigars. A toot from the engineer's whistle followed the casting off of the lines, and the Violet glided away from the wharf with the piratical-looking ensign of the Lighthouse Service flying from the foremast and the Stars and Stripes floating from the stern.

An hour after the Violet left Rich's wharf, and when the vessel was off Alexandria, a northwest wind began to blow and gave blinding force to the snow. "They'll have to lay to to-night," said a riverman, nodding his head toward down stream. "This snow is worse than a fog."

The ducking season is nearly at an end, but there is said to be good sport in the North Carolina sounds and rivers. It is the intention of the Presidential party to proceed to North Carolina by way of the Dismal Swamp, where they may get a shot at a bear or some other big game. If the Violet proceeds at her usual speed she will reach Fortress Monroe to-morrow forenoon. The trip will last a week or ten days. Secretary Lamont, who was asked to join the party, decided not to go at the last moment.

The President's trip has been in contemplation for a week or more. In private conversation with friends he has not hesitated to express openly his dissatisfaction with the present aspect of affairs in Congress and elsewhere, and his desire to get away for a time from its disagreeable environments and to go where no telegrams could reach him and no reporters follow him.

He has spoken in strong terms of the lack of unity displayed on all important party questions. The inactivity of the Senate on the Tariff bill is to him a source of much concern, and the apparent determination of the Democrats of the House to force the coinage of the silver seigniorage has also given him great uneasiness. Added to the party troubles in New-York, the dissatisfaction of an element of the party in Illinois over local appointments was an unlooked-for complication.