

GROVER'S GONE A-GUNNING.

Lighthouse Tender Maple Takes Him into the North Carolina Sounds.

Washington, Dec. 6.—The president left Washington tonight on the lighthouse tender Maple to recuperate from the strain he has been under in the preparation of his message to congress, on a hunting trip through the North Carolina sounds. With him were Dr. O'Reilly, Commander George F. F. Wild, naval secretary of the lighthouse board, and Commander Benjamin J. Lamberton in charge of the lighthouse district comprising the sounds.

The little vessel was well provisioned and it is likely that if the weather is fair, the president will not return to Washington before the 12th or 14th of the month. The Maple was headed for the mouth of the Chesapeake bay just about dusk and the trip began with a cloudy northwest and a rather raw and biting wind, which is commonly regarded as the best possible weather for waterfowl in this section.

Unless it is deemed well to lie up in the lower Potomac over night on the chance of picking up some ducks there, the Maple should arrive at Norfolk tomorrow forenoon. There she will enter the Chesapeake and Albermarle canal and pass through to the upper end of the system of sounds which extend from Virginia clear down to Wilmington, N. C. Reports received by the president indicate that ducks and geese have appeared in these favored waters in large numbers, on their flight southward before the winter gales, and it is hoped that the trip will be even more successful than that undertaken last spring in the same waters, when most of the fowl had already started northwest.

All of the president's companions have made this trip before in his company and are consequently well acquainted with the best shooting grounds. It is expected that the cruise will extend as far south as Washington, N. C., though most of the time the party will be further up the sounds, not far from Roanoke island.

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The Emporia Daily Gazette (Emporia, Kansas, Friday, December 06, 1895. (327 words)

Category: News

Gale Document Number:GT3010768696