NUMBER 16.

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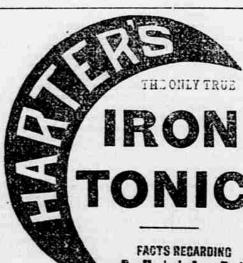
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WASHINGTON LETTER. Washington, D. C., Sept. 15, '84. From Watkins Glen, described in my letter of last week, your correspondent took the famous Lehigh Valley route to New York, and it is certainly one of the most picturesque and attractive railway journeys to be enjoyed in this country. Soon after leaving Elmira the beautiful Susquehanna River is reached, and for a considerable distance the route is along its banks, through as fine a country as the sun shines upon. But it is after passing Pittston and Wilkesbarre, and climbing the mountain beyond that the real exciting interest of the route commences. The view of Wyoming Valley from the summit of Wilkesbarre mountain is equalled by few landscapes to be seen anywhere. Near this point a new summer hotel has been erected, making a very attractive resort for families from New York and Philadelphia as well as from the towns nearer by. It is called the Glen Summit House, and has accommodations for about five hundred guests. From this point we go down the other side of the mountain into the Lehigh Valley, more truly picturesque than any other I know of and more nearly resembling a ride through the canons of the Rocky Mountains. Before reaching the New Jersey line the route passes through the thriving towns of Mauch Chunk, Bethlehem, Easton, Phillipsburg, Allentown and others. To see Mauch Chunk and the famous switch back railroad was one of the inducements to me to take this trip, and my eager curiosity was in no wise disappointed. Mauch Chunk is a prosperous town of about 8,000 inhabitants, and is probably as much visited during the summer season as any other resort, Niagara Falls and Watkins Glen not excepted. It is most peculiarly situated, and appears to have slid down from some place above until it couldn't slide and further and then stopped to take a rest on the right bank on the Lehigh River. The place is termed the "Switzerland of America" not without good reason. Appleton's "Picturesque America" says Mauch Chunk is doubtless the most truly picturesque town in the Union, but I think it is about a tie between it and Central City, Colo., though the surroundings of the latter present a more barren aspect. The great attraction at Mauch Chunk is the wonderful switch back railroad. It is doubtful if such an exciting ride can be enjoyed anywhere else in the world. The cars used are the ordinary open observation cars, and the motive power is for the most part gravity. At the start when the word "go ahead" is given the brakes are let off and the car runs a few hundred yards down grade to the foot of Mount Pisgah. Here the cable is attached and the car with its load of human freight is pulled quickly up an inclined plane at an angle of about fiorty-five degrees. Were the machinery to break, one feels that his life would hardly be worth looking after, and in this way the ride is mighty "exhilerating." But great as the danger of this part of it at first appears, it is nothing compared to the

greater danger of the ride which fol-

lows down a steep grade and around

sharp curves over a rough track and

at a speed which makes one's hair

stand on end. There is no engine and

no power of any kind attached-noth-

ing but the brakes, and these were

apparently, not made to use, for the

car is allowed to run mad, increasing

its velocity every rod. After a run of

eight miles, in which the breath has

been taken from every passenger on

board, there is another ascent of an

inclined plane to the summit of Mount

Jefferson by means of the stationary

engine and cable, as before. Then

after a halt of twenty-five minutes at

the "Summit Hill" station, the return

over this road he can better enjoy its excitement in retrospect, but while in transit the excitement is almost too intense for most people. And after all it is a question whether it is not flying in the face of danger to pay \$1 for such a ride.

Two or three hundred yards from Summit Hill station is what is known as the Burning Mine, and a dozen or more small boys hang around the station to offer themselves as guides. This burning mine is recently exciting considerable alarm in Mauch Chunk. It is feared the town is doomed. The coal beds covering an area of many acres are on fire and gradually burning nearer and nearer. These subterranean fires have been raging for fifty years, and thousands of dollars have been expended in the endeavor to extinguish them. Smoke comes out of the ground and crevices of the rocks at various places, and at some points the heat is intense. The ground sinks in from time to time as the coal is consumed, resembling the effects of a tremendous earthquake. Whether or no any other harms ever comes from it, these fires will destroy millions of dollars worth of coal.

Dom Pedro. It is developed that Mcrosini, father of the handsome and accomplished girl who eloped the other day with the family coachman, has always kept his daughters in the strictest seclusion, so far as regards the society of the other sex. The young lady had reached the mature age of twenty-five without ever a flirtation, or a sly pressure of the hand, or the gentle titilation of the heart, or a rush of blood to the suffused cheek. So that when the good looking coachman ventured upon some of these little liberties the sensation was so new and delightful that the giddy creature thought he was the nicest fellow in the world, whereas he was exceedingly common-place, and she would have seen through him if she had not been kept by her father in such dense ignorance of the world.

An inquisitive old gent poked his head in a printing office door, and asked "Who is dead?" The man at the wheel answered, "Nobody that I heard of." "What is the crape on the door for ?" The boss then went out and found that the "Devil" had hung the job office towel on the door-knob while he chased a lame pigeon down the alley.

An item says that in Arctic explorations America is four miles and eighteen deaths ahead. America is bound to be ahead, you know, and what's eighteen deaths, considering that we got four miles nearer the North Pole than ever Johnny Bull did. Whoop!

Josh Billings says: "There is one thing about a hen that looks like wisdom. They don't cackle much until after they have laid their egg. Sum pholks are alwuz a bragging and kackling what they are going to do before-hand.

A MICHIGAN girl wrote to a locomotive manufactory saying that if it didn't cost too much she would like to buy one of their new spark arresters and see how it worked.

LIFE is like a harness. There are traces of cares, lines of trouble, bits of good fortunes, breaches of good manners, bridled tongues, and everybody has a tug to pull through.

By a new electric headlight for locomotives thirty-three telegraph poles can be counted ahead of the engine on a dark night. Thirty-three poles cover about one mile.

An English scientist says that the wings of the common fly vibrate at the rate of 330 strokes per second, and those cf the mosquito about 2,000 is made down around the side of the

mountain nine miles to the place of HENRY W. SAGE has given over starting. After one has passed safely \$400,000 to Cornell University.

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