

Washington Letter.

From our regular correspondent. WASHINGTON, June 17, '87. Not the least among the advantages that the city of Washington enjoys, is its situation on the Potomac river, and its easy access to places of historical interest, as well as resorts for pleasure, along its shores.

Comfortable excursion steamers, after first passing the beautiful arsenal grounds where several batteries of artillery are now quartered, reach Alexandria, a port of entry seven miles below, with a population between 13,000 and 14,000.

The river at this point is a mile and a half wide, forming a harbor able to accommodate the largest ships.

At the opening of the civil war Alexandria was in possession of the confederates; but on the 24th of May, 1861, it was entered by union forces under Col. Ellsworth, who was shot while hauling down a confederate flag.

Christ Church, where Washington was worshiped, and where also, Robert E. Lee, is the place of greatest interest to strangers, next to which is the ancient cemetery.

Alexandria has this year taken a new lease of life, and a new era of prosperity has set in with the establishment of her iron ship building yard, where a first-class iron steamer is now undergoing construction.

Eight miles below Alexandria is Mount Vernon, the home and burial place of George Washington. At the time of his decease the estate comprised several thousand acres. The mansion is beautifully situated on a swelling height crowned with trees, and commanding a fine view up and down the river. The library and Washington's bed room remain as they were at the time of his death, and contain many articles of great interest.

The other rooms have been furnished, as nearly as possible, to conform to the period in which he lived; and a number of states have assumed the care of a room each, producing the furniture and decorations from their older families, thus serving the double purpose of perpetuation of state as well as national souvenirs of the olden time.

In 1858 the mansion and 200 acres of land were bought by the Ladies' Mount Vernon Association, who hold it in perpetuity, as a place of public resort and pilgrimage.

Jay Gould, for the first time in his busy life found an opportunity last week to visit the tomb of the Father of his Country. His magnificent yacht Atlanta was anchored just off Mount Vernon when his party beheld them of a flying visit to this city, and leaving the yacht at Giesboro point below the arsenal wharf, they steamed up here in two of the smartest little steam launches ever seen in these waters, and employed an afternoon in driving about the city and surrounding country.

Seventy miles from Washington is Colonial Beach, a noted salt water bathing place. This beach has long borne the name of "Classic Shore" because three miles back, in the county of Westmoreland, is Washington's birthplace; ruins of the old house still remain, and measures have been taken to place a monument on the site.

Before reaching Mount Vernon, on a sail down the river, forts Foote and Washington are passed, on the Maryland side and almost opposite to it is Marshall Hall, the old homestead of a branch of the first Chief Justice; it now affords a glimpse to modern eyes of the mode in which the well-to-do farmer or plantation owner lived in by-gone days. The place is wonderfully preserved and admirably kept at present as an excursion ground.

River View, a comparatively new resort, Glymont, Piney Point, Lower Cedar Point, Colton's and Blackiston's island are the names of the charming places on both sides of the river sought by thousands in this locality for relief from the summer's heat.

Salt water begins about 40 miles below the city, but the real salt water is not reached under some 60 miles distant.

The Potomac river from its source in the Alleghenies to mouth at the Chesapeake bay is 400 miles long. For nearly half that distance in passing through the mountain region north of this city, it is a comparatively narrow stream, but when it reaches Alexandria, as I have said, it gradually expands until at its mouth it forms a broad estuary seven and a half miles wide, which is the width of the river from Point Lookout to Smith's Point where it empties into the Chesapeake bay.

Wonderful Cures.

W. D. Hoyt & Co., Wholesale and Retail Druggists of Rome, Ga., say: We have been selling Dr. King's New Discovery, Electric Bitters and Bucklen's Arnica Salve for two years. Have never handled remedies that sell as well, or give such universal satisfaction. There have been some wonderful cures effected by these medicines in this city. Several cases of pronounced Consumption have been entirely cured by use of a few bottles of Dr. King's New Discovery, taken in connection with Electric Bitters. We guarantee them always. Sold by F. G. FRICKE & Co.

Good Newspaper Men.

The most successful newspaper writers are gentlemen. Bad fellows sometime creep in, but you will also find them preaching the gospel, healing the halt, pleading for justice, selling tape and operating banks. There are drunkards among the reporters, but the tipplers are never called to the front. Good newspaper men do not find time to be convivial. Their duties require their constant attention and their heads must be clear at all times. To allow their heads to become muddled by drink would be their destruction. A reporter must be a gentleman if he hopes to succeed. He must also be modest, charitable, honorable and truthful and experienced in the ways of the world. He must go about his business in a quiet manner and not like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. Beware also of the reporter who makes a great display of the note book and pencils sharpened at both ends. He is the "duffer" in the profession. As to the "dead beat" he has no place within, and we do not see him as frequently as formerly. This is right, for it is more of a crime for a newspaper man to be a dead beat than it is for a doctor, a clerk or a stone mason, because he possess a certain but silent process of intimidation not known to any other class. Experienced men with hardy constitutions and tough skins dislike to incur the ill will of any journalistic cat if they can avoid it. Instead of doing so the party with the tenacious cuticle keeps his peace and thereby puts a premium on future vilifications and depredations. The honest newspaper man will not use his giant's power like a giant, and he will hasten to correct any mistake or misstatement he has made.

A Wonderful Typesetter.

From the St. Paul Pioneer-Press. Minneapolis printers have in their midst what they consider a phenomenal typesetter. The gentleman's name is Milan, and he hails from Sioux City. He is known as the "Missouri River Rusher," but his experience until very recently was confined wholly to country newspapers. He was employed for a time on the Sioux City Journal, and subsequently went to Chicago. His first work on metropolitan papers was in Chicago. He is now employed in a Minneapolis paper. He was put on a case a week ago Friday night, and worked seven successive nights, putting up a "string" of 101,000 ems. The work was on "straight matter," Min having very little "phat" and no bonuses during the week. He can set 2,000 ems per hour with comparative ease. Minneapolis printers are thinking of putting Min against any printer in the country for a week's typesetting match.

In the decline of life, infirmities beset us to which our youth and maturity were strangers, our kidneys and liver are subject to derangement, but nothing equals Dr. J. H. McLean's Liver and Kidney Balm as a regulator of these organs.

Miss Louise Imogen Guiney is about to bring out a new volume of poems.

The Largest Circulation.

What volume printed in the English language has had the largest circulation next to the Bible? Give it up? Well, it is Webster's spelling book. Something over 50,000,000 copies of this book have been published since it was first brought out in Hartford, and the royalties which old Noah Webster received on it were sufficient to support his family handsomely while he was compiling his big dictionary. It is an instructive volume, and we advise everybody to peruse it, although, as somebody said of the dictionary, the story is somewhat disconnected.—Boston Herald.

A Submarine Tunnel.

Proposals have been made to the Governments of Denmark and Sweden for constructing a submarine tunnel for a railway under the Sound between Copenhagen and Malmo. The tunnel, as planned, would have a total length of between seven and eight miles. The ground to be worked is represented as closely resembling that in the channel between England and France, and is said to offer no difficulty to the execution of the work. The total cost of construction, it is estimated, will not exceed \$6,000,000.—New York Sun.

The Gypsies' Charlots.

Prince William, the leader of a band of Gypsies now encamped near Hartford, has just received from a Fair Haven carriage maker two wagons costing about \$1,000 apiece. The bodies are beautifully colored with gold bronze and fanciful sylvan scenes, the iron work is heavily plated with silver, and all the appointments are expensive. The wagons are for the special use of Prince William and family during the coming summer.—New York Sun.

Emory Storrs' Autographs.

Young Storrs, son of the late Emory Storrs, of Chicago, is disposing of his father's valuable collection of autographs. He is selling them singly instead of by auction the collection as a whole. He recently sold an autograph letter of Napoleon Bonaparte when he was first consul for \$15. The letter is said by autograph collectors to be worth hundreds of dollars.—New York World.

The Trailing Arbutus.

The chief industry of Ribbourn, Wis., is the exportation of the trailing arbutus. The flowers are made up into bouquets, the stems being wrapped in moist cotton and tin foil. They are then placed in boxes and mailed to all parts of the United States, including the south and California, arriving there as fresh and fragrant as when gathered in the woods of Wisconsin.—New York World.

Raisins in California.

California intends to beat the cheap labor of Spain in raising growing by labor saving machinery, which shall stem, grade, pack in boxes and fan the fruit by steam power at one running.

FAMILIAR QUOTATIONS.

Origin of Some of the Sayings Which One Hears Quoted Every Day.

From Bacon comes "Knowledge is power." Thomas Southern said that "Pity's akin to love." Dean Swift thought that "Bread is the staff of life."

"All cry and no wool" is found in Butler's "Hudibras." Thomas Murgan queried long ago: "What will Mrs. Grundy say?"

Edward Coke was of the opinion that "A man's house was his castle."

Washington Irving coined the expression: "The almighty dollar." Goldsmith remarked: "Ask me no questions and I'll tell you no fibs."

"Man proposes but God disposes," are the words of Thomas a Kempis. "When Greek joined Greek, then was the tug of war," came from Nathaniel Lee.

Charles Pinckney first said "Millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute." "Variety is the very spice of life," and "Not much the worse for wear," come from Cowper.

Edward Young asserts that "Death loves a shining mark," and "A fool at 19 is a fool indeed."

Macintosh gives, in 1791, the phrase often attributed to John Randolph: "Wise and masterly inactivity."

"Of two evils I have chosen the least," and "The end must justify the means," are from Matthew Prior.

The world is indebted to Colley Cibber for the very agreeable intelligence that "Richard is himself again."

To Milton is owed "The paradise of fools," "A wilderness of sweets" and "Moping melancholy and moonstruck madness."

Macintosh says: "None but the brave deserve the fair," "Men are but children of a larger growth," and "Through thick and thin."

Christopher Marlowe gave forth the invitation so often repeated by his brothers in a less public way: "Love me little, love me long."

Thomas Tassor, a writer of the sixteenth century, first said: "Better late than never," "Look ere you leap," and "The stone that is rolling can gather no moss."

"First in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his fellow citizens" (not countrymen), appeared in the resolutions presented to the house of representatives in December, 1790, by Gen. Henry Lee.

The Pink Eyed Pittsleys.

Scattered through the several country towns and villages of Rochester, Free-town, Lakeville, Long Plain, Acushnet and Myricks is a peculiar race of people that stick close to their native backwoods, but on rare occasions emerge from their self-chosen retirement to the neighboring more populous towns of Middleboro and Wareham, and sometimes are seen on the streets of New Bedford, Taunton and Fall River, the observed of all beholders.

The local appellation that follows them to all places is the "pink eyed Pittsleys." Their peculiarity is pink eyes and perfectly white hair. This striking singularity is said to have first made its appearance in a family by the name of Pittsleys, in Free-town, a century or more ago, and spread through succeeding generations among the offspring of those who later married with the members of the family, until many of the residents of this section of a variety of family names as well as that of Pittsley have members marked by this peculiarity of the eyes and hair and an accompanying facial expression that is odd in the extreme.

The old man Merchant Pittsley was pink eyed, and he had nine children. All five of his sons had pink eyes and white hair, and one daughter was marked the same way; but the other three girls had as fine black eyes and dark hair as any girl in town. The youngest, all his own, and had children, and some of their children had pink eyes and white hair, but not all.—Brookton (Mass.) Gazette.

The Streets of London.

London newspapers are filled with complaints of the condition of the streets, which are said to be in frightfully bad order. Rotten row, for instance, comes two near its name, the road being a quagmire of filth and mud six inches deep, while the wooden pavements on west end thoroughfares, including some of the most fashionable, are full of uncomfortable ruts and dangerous holes. Then there are growls because the "buses," which are twice as many and twice as big as ten or fifteen years ago, loiter and crawl and block the way. From all which it appears that we must not look to London for ideas for the improvement or the relief of our highways.—Boston Transcript.

A Funeral Picture.

According to The Detroit Tribune the painting, "Last Hours of Mozart," lately purchased by Gen. A. H. Wiggin, is so realistic that it affects people to the core. Miss Alger says: "Ever since the picture has been in the house it has seemed like a funeral. I don't think anybody has smiled, and as for a hearty laugh, anything of that kind would seem to be altogether shocking and out of place. It seems as if the great Mozart is actually dying right here in the house, and yet never really dies." It must be a cheerful sort of a picture to have about the house.—Chicago Tribune.

Books and Complexion.

A popular society fad in New York is to have books bound in colors to harmonize with the complexion or dress of the reader. One wealthy belle has had Shakespeare bound in brilliant red because it adds to the richness of her brunette complexion, while a blue eyed damsel reads Tennyson from a becoming cover of blue and gold.—Atlanta Constitution.

James Lick's Estate.

James Lick died in San Francisco ten years ago, leaving in the hands of trustees an estate of about \$3,000,000 to be divided among various charitable and scientific societies. The estate is yet unsettled, but the trustees have drawn over \$100,000 in salaries and have paid out nearly \$200,000 in lawyers' fees.

The Queen's First Doll.

Recent additions to Mme. Tussaud's show in London are Queen Victoria's first doll, first shoes and first gloves, and various other mementoes of the royal nursery; also a piece of her majesty's wedding cake. But the report fails to state whether they are made of wax or not.

Iron Tubular Cars.

The Philadelphia and Reading Railroad company is having built at its shops 100 iron tubular cars. These are said to weigh less than the wooden cars of the same dimensions, and to have a carrying capacity of 60,000 pounds.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Miss Julia C. R. Dorr will spend the summer in England and Scotland.

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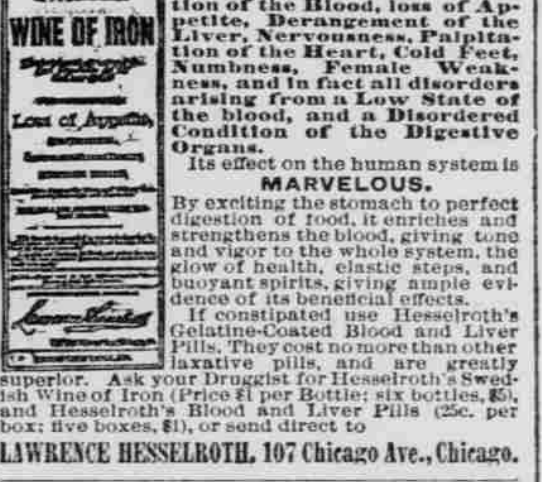
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