



PICTURESQUE WESTERN NEBRASKA—JAIL ROCK FROM THE WEST—VALLEY OF NORTH PLATTE IN THE DISTANCE.

Carpenter's Letter

(Continued from Seventh Page.)

ters are settled the Filipinos want to be freed from the United States it becomes a political question which the people at home can decide. At present they have fired on the flag of our country and we cannot tolerate that. Our national honor demands that we have the arrangement of the matter to our own satisfaction.

"Personally, I think the people will soon become loyal and contented. I believe they will in time govern themselves, as a part of our own people, and that one or two states can be added to the union from the Philippines, with as loyal citizens as those of any of the states we made from the territory which we got from Mexico. There are from 8,000,000 to 10,000,000 of consumers here and the islands will furnish a good market. They will also be a base from which we can push our commercial relations with China and the rest of the far east. These islands are on the trade routes of Australia, China, Japan and India and every ship that passes will at some time stop here for coal and food supplies. I see no reason why the Philippines will not grow steadily in value."

"How has it happened that the war has lasted so long. Many people in the United States have wondered why the same ground has had to be fought over so many times."

"One reason was the nature of the warfare," said General Grant. "The Filipinos would fire upon us and we would go out and punish them. Then, as we had not enough troops to occupy all the places, we had to fall back. In a short time they would again attack us and we would go out again and repel them. This was the case all summer. As more troops came in we began to advance to the north. We have now occupied the whole of that region and we believe that the war will soon be ended for good."

Otis and the Conduct of the War.
"How about General Otis and his conduct of the war?"

"I now think that we are very fortunate in having General Otis here. I did think when I first came there were some ways in which his administration of affairs might have been bettered, but the results have shown me that he was right and I was wrong. He has done mighty well with the material he has had on hand. We came over here with the idea of keeping Manila only and with no expectation of carrying the war into the whole country. After the Spanish war was over the insurrection came and just then the volunteers, whose terms had expired, wanted to return home.

"They had the right to do so under the law and the army had to be reorganized. This was when we were in a state of siege. Then the rainy season came on and during it we could do but little. As a whole the war has been carried on without a single disaster. We have not lost a company, have not been driven out of a single post nor from a single position. Considering the time and the large number of soldiers under arms there have been very few casualties and comparatively little loss of life. In the whole campaign we have lost fewer men than in some of the comparatively unimportant battles of the civil war. I don't think there have been more than 250, or at most more than 275 deaths altogether. We lost more men in one day at Santiago than we have lost here in a year or more. Our death rate up to January averaged not more than forty to the thousand, taking every kind of death into consideration. The death rate of the city of New York is over twenty-two per thousand. This has been during a year's fighting in a tropical country. It shows that the troops have been well cared for and that they have been well fed. The feeding of the troops has, in fact, been a wonder to the foreign army men here. One of the French military officers who was sent here to watch the war said that the most surprising thing

to him was that the soldiers on the firing line were supplied with fresh beef killed in Chicago, more than 7,000 miles away."

"How about the vice presidency, general? When I left home they were discussing your name among those of the possible candidates?"

"I am not a candidate," replied General Grant. "I have no expectation of political preferment, though, of course, I should like such a nomination, just as any other man naturally would. I am certainly doing nothing to secure it. I came out here merely because I thought it my duty as a soldier, and as long as I can be of service I am willing to stay. As soon as that time is over I shall be ready and anxious to go home."
FRANK G. CARPENTER.

Some Mistakes at Public Libraries

In the public library of a large city there are much amusement and information to be gleaned that are not confined strictly to the multitudinous volumes on the shelves. The patient and courteous librarians and attendants, says the Chicago Chronicle, are supposed to be walking encyclopedias of knowledge, and the questions asked them range over apparently every subject of information of any possible interest to the human race. The questions are often amusing and sometimes have a touch of pathos, as they give a glimpse of some little heart history.

In one of the Chicago city libraries a character became well known to the attendants by his faithful appearance every Saturday evening and his diffident request for "How He Won Her." When told it was not in he would decline anything else and disappear, only to return the next Saturday night with the same patient query. He finally got the book, and after reading and returning it left to return no more, with the mystery unsolved as to the extent of its aid to him in his supposed uncertain wooing.

Sometimes the tables are turned and the joke is upon the attendant, especially when the latter is a novice. One such was handed a slip upon which a gentleman had written his request for a book called "What's Your Name?" The young lady glanced at the slip, drew herself up haughtily and with a look of scorn she remarked: "I do not see how that possibly can be of any interest to you, sir!"

Another gentleman leaned over a young woman busy at a large slip case and said: "I beg your pardon, but have you 'E-bow Room'?"

"Plenty, thank you!" replied the young woman, and went smilingly on with her work, while the anxious inquirer for "E-bow Room" gazed in speechless bewilderment at the back of the fluffy head.

Postal cards are often received with elaborate requests to "kindly renew my book," the sender betraying a touching confidence in the ability of the library people, as book title and signature are in many cases conspicuous by their absence.

The advent of Young America is often the signal for something interesting. He came in one day and modestly announced: "Please, ma'am, I want the public library." He went off quite happy, however, with something less than the entire library. Two bright eyes over the edge of the desk belonged to a small boy whose father "wanted two vowels." He was given two volumes and went off quite satisfied that he had done the proper caper. A big, honest-looking specimen asked stily for "something by You-da." He got "Beebe; or, Two Little Wooden Shoes," and tiptoed carefully out. A woman who liked to show her superior culture asked loftily for "Adam Be-day," and sailed out with a frou-frou of silk and "Adam Bede" on her arm, while the attendant looked thoughtful.

One woman had "hunted the catalogue for a book she wanted and couldn't find it and she had forgotten the name and could not remember the author, but one of the other began with C."

And she sweetly gazed at the attendant for inspiration.

Historical Bits of Famous Flags

An interesting historical collection has been discovered among the mass of material belonging to the library of congress and just transferred from the capitol to the new library building, reports the New York Sun. It consists of remnants of flags which were flown from the vessels that are famous in the history of the country. This collection was found among the possessions, which included all sorts of old literary oddities and a valuable collection of autographs, left by the late Peter Force, a native of New Jersey, whose father was a veteran of the revolution. Force held many military and civil offices in Washington. He died in Washington in 1868.

The bits of flags have been carefully preserved in a large album between brown paper leaves, each leaf bearing the record and something of the history of the patch of bunting attached to it. The most striking part of the exhibit is that devoted to Perry's captures on Lake Erie in September, 1813. There is a piece of the flag which was flown from Perry's flagship in the contest made memorable by his warning, "Don't give up the ship." There are also pieces of the flags of the ships of the enemy captured on that occasion—the Queen Charlotte, Little Belt, Lady Prevost, Mantion and Chippeway.

Another interesting remnant is that of the flag of the Alliance, the ship which was of the fleet John Paul Jones formed in France with the Bon Homme Richard as flagship, the purpose of which was the attacking of British ships during the revolution. It was the Alliance which took an insignificant part, to the discredit of her eccentric commander, a Frenchman named Landais, in the fight with the Serapis. The bit of flag is of that carried during the fight.

Another interesting flag represented is that of L'Insurgente. This flag was captured by Truxtun, who commanded the Constellation, in an engagement on February 9, 1790. It was the first opportunity that had occurred since the close of the revolution for an American naval vessel to get alongside of an enemy and the hopes of the American officers and men for a spirited combat were realized, for the French frigate under Captain Barracault promptly replied to the Constellation's fire. In this contest a young midshipman, David Porter, performed his first act of gallantry. He was in command of the foretop of the Constellation and, acting on his own responsibility, prevented the fall of the topmast and all its hamper. The victory achieved by Truxtun produced great joy in America and established a faith in the navy which has remained unshaken to this day.

A bit of flag which is also memorable is that of Le Berceau, captured by the Boston under Captain Little. The American ship wrought great havoc on board the French corvette, which had the reputation of being one of the fastest ships in the French marine.

Naturally Startled Him

Chicago Post: He wondered when he heard them talking if something in the news of the day had escaped him.

"It was a terrible slaughter," said one of them.

"Yes, indeed," returned the other; "such a sacrifice probably never has been known before."

"They must have slashed right and left, just as described in the papers," went on the first.

"Yes; the adjective 'terrible' so freely used was certainly justified," added the second. "Pardon me," said the man who had overheard; "has another battle been fought in South Africa? I saw nothing of it."

"Battle?" repeated the one nearest to him. "What do we know about battles? We had reference to the advertisement of a bargain sale we have just been attending."

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