



WASHINGTON LETTER.

A RICH BRIBE FOR THE CUBANS TO DISBAND.

Their Officers Now Living in Like Princes—McKinley Buys Them Off for the Time Being.—Alger Wants a Junket.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—According to War department officials, Gen. Gomez will not receive a dollar of the \$3,000,000 about to be distributed, entirely on his say so, among Cuban soldiers, by this government. This statement has caused everybody to wish to know where Gomez got the money to pay for his present very extravagant mode of living, in Havana. It is known that previous to his beginning the negotiations with R. P. Porter, who acted as Mr. McKinley's personal representative, which resulted in the agreement to pay \$3,000,000 for the disbandment of the Cuban army, Gomez had no money, and that ever since then he has apparently had plenty. Did Porter make an individual payment of money to Gomez? If so, how much, and from what fund was it derived? These are some of the questions suggested by the situation and asked on every hand. Congress did not appropriate a cent to pay Cuban soldiers, but there was an item added to the Sundry Civil Bill by the last Congress, appropriating \$3,000,000 as an emergency fund, to be expended at the discretion of the President. That is the money that will be used, but if the claim that Gomez has got none of it and will get none of it, be true, the source from which Gomez extracted the wealth to pay his present enormous expenses is left a mystery. But it will be solved. The acting Secretary of War says that the administration intends to make Cuba repay from its revenues, this money.

Senator Thurston, of Nebraska, isn't one of those wild Republicans who regard the Presidential election of next year, as already settled. In an interview, Mr. Thurston said: "The Presidential battle next year promises to be lively and exciting. McKinley will probably be renominated and I presume that Bryan will head the Democratic ticket. I believe that the Republicans will win if we stand together and work hard, but our Democratic friends will undoubtedly put up a stiff fight. We must not indulge ourselves with the delusion that we are going to have a walk over."

Secretary Alger does not appear to care anymore about being consistent than he did about the welfare of the soldiers during the war. Several days before Congress adjourned, Alger announced that the junket he had intended to conduct to Cuba and Porto Rico was off, because his official duties would prevent his leaving Washington. Of course, it was well known that Alger abandoned the intended junket because he failed to get a sufficient number of Democratic Senators and Representatives to accept invitations to accompany him. But for consistency's sake, it was supposed that Alger would remain on duty and make a bluff of being busy. Not he. He left immediately after Mr. McKinley did, for a trip to New England, which was extended to Canada, and this week he is going to start for Cuba and Porto Rico, to hear the warring carry any Congressmen with him. He says he is going to pay the expenses of himself and the two men who will accompany him, but it would require the vouchers for the payments to convince the public.

If any proof were needed that Mr. McKinley isn't in the south solely for rest and recreation, it is furnished by the fact that he will, during the present week, meet Czar Reed in person, on Jekyll Island, where Mr. McKinley will be the guest of ex-Secretary Bliss, and Mr. Reed will be the guest of a rich Wall street banker, both at the same club house. It is stated by Mr. Reed's friends that the meeting is his idea, and that he intends to compel an immediate show down on the part of Mr. McKinley that will make the position of the administration on the Speakership of the next House, perfectly clear. The queer part of the whole business is that two men who have spent the winter within a stone's throw of each other, in Washington, should find it necessary to meet in the spring, on an island off the coast of South Carolina, in order to come to an understanding.

Private news from the Philippines indicates that the administration is again juggling with the public in regard to the situation. While no official dispatches have been quoted, officials have talked so as to leave the impression that the reports of Gen. Otis, since the victories of the past week have been to the effect that Aguinaldo's army is about ready to ask for terms and that a general collapse of the rebellion will be looked for at any time. Owing to the strict censorship, no private telegrams dealing with the

conditions existing, can be sent from Manila direct, but some have been sent to Hong Kong by boat and cabled from there, which do not take such a rosy view of the situation. According to these, the war is a long ways from being over, and the only effect that will follow thrashing Aguinaldo's army, which our troops do every time they come in contact with any portion of it, will be to transfer the fighting ground to the hills and bushes, where it will be difficult for our men to get at them except when they choose to be got at, and possibly to other islands of the group. There is a nightly panic in Manila and most of the white women and children have been sent away for fear of a native uprising. Time will tell which is correct, the official or the private view of the situation. The Oregon has arrived in Manila Bay.

APPLICATIONS BY THE THOUSAND

Over 60,000 applications were filed for appointments in the regular army to fill the 700 positions to which appointments were made by the President last week.

Congressman Brocius stated that for the 101 Second Lieutenancies which were to be filled there were 23,000 applicants, each of whom had his particular qualifications to urge. Some of them were non-commissioned officers in the regular army. These, of course, had little to offer except the fact that they were experienced men. Many of the applicants were fire-eating adventurers, who wanted to visit strange lands and witness stirring scenes. Others again were young lads who dreamed of wading to fame through seas of Philippino blood or any other kind.

Good Roads.

The construction of good roads has received wide attention in this country, but as yet no practical system has been devised by which any considerable portion of our roads can be improved. The construction of good roads on any except a gravel soil is a costly business, so expensive that the farmers simply cannot bear the burden. It would amount to the confiscation of the farms if the burden were placed upon them, for on the black prairie soil, for instance, there must be a deep solid foundation laid. Gravel on such a soil will not stand. It will go down out of sight during the spring thaws.

Where such roads exist wide tires would go a long ways toward preserving them, but it would be a long time before everybody adopted wide tires. But bad roads are very expensive. The wear and tear of wagons, harness and horses, which they entail, amounts to millions of dollars in a year, and the farmer is shut out from the market and from all social intercourse with neighbors frequently for long periods. All this is a loss and a serious one, so serious that in many sections where the conditions are altogether favorable to road improvements, there should be no negligence in the matter. No one should object to the small outlay necessary to make a good, serviceable road when only a small outlay is needed. Every road should be made as good as it is possible to make it at reasonable expense, for money thus expended will pay a large dividend.

A Justifiable Swear.

A pious exchange says: With a terrible cold in his head, and his eyes heavy and sore, the editor sat on a broken chair and earnestly, bitterly swore. A youth had dropped in with a poem, a man was there with a dun, and a chap was there to tell how the paper ought to be run. An irate subscriber had told him his paper was not fit to read, while another had carefully promised to punch the editor's head. The devil was calling for copy, and this with a few other reasons was why the editor swore. But the angels took it to heaven and recorded the verdict there, and "The jury finds in the present case it was a justifiable swear."

To Allow Fish Baskets.

An act has been introduced into the legislature allowing fish baskets and fish pots from the 15th of September to the 20th of November, the baskets to have moveable bottoms, rounded strips three-fourth an inch apart, the bottom to be removed not later than one hour after sunrise, and not replaced sooner than one hour before sunset. The wing walls to span no more than three-fourths of the river.

I have been afflicted with Rheumatism for fourteen years and nothing seemed to give any relief. I was able to be around all the time, but constantly suffering. I had tried everything I could hear of and at last was told to try Chamberlain's Pain Balm, which I did, and was immediately relieved and in a short time cured.—Josh. Edgar, Germantown, Cal. For sale by J. H. Ross, Linden Hall; S. M. Swartz, Tusseyville; F. A. Carson, Potters Mills; H. F. Rossman, Spring Mills.

Grant Hoover leads in Insurance.

WORST CHARGE AGAINST BEEF.

Canned After It Was Infested With Maggots.

The latest witness called before the army beef court of inquiry in Chicago, on 15th inst., proved to be sensational. He was First Lieutenant M. F. Davis, of the First cavalry, called at the request of Major Lee, representative of General Mills. Lieut. Davis testified that in Cuba half the canned roast beef issued to the soldiers was thrown away because it was unfit to eat. He testified that he had opened one can himself and found maggots in it. Major Lee asked:

"How did the maggots get in the can?"

"They were canned in there," the witness replied.

Col. Davis—Are you aware that in the process of canning this meat undergoes such an intense heat that no animal life could survive in it?

"I don't mean to say they were alive; they were dead."

Major Lee—In consequence of the canned roast beef not being sufficiently sustaining, and not having nutriment in it, did your men lack for food?

"They did?"

Dr. John B. Shaw, of Joliet, Ill., surgeon of the Third Illinois volunteers, testified that on the voyage from Newport News to Porto Rico the canned roast beef was stringy, pulpy and nauseating. He attributed the sickness to ptomaine poisoning. He believed ptomaines would develop in the hot sun in five or six minutes after a can was opened.

While in Porto Rico 25 miles from Ponce, the matter of rations was taken out of the regiment's hands to a great extent. General Grant seemed to know more about it than anybody else.

"He cannot violate the law?"

"He did."

"Did he issue orders?"

"He issued whatever he saw fit. We saw what was issued and took it, because could not get anything else."

Canned roast beef the men refused to eat was ordered condemned, and we buried a lot of it. One of the men said if we did not bury it it would bury us."

Dr. Shaw told about being called out one night to look after the men of Company A, who were reported to have been poisoned by eating canned roast beef. He said they vomited fearfully, and it seemed that hypodermic injections of morphine would hardly relieve the pain. When the men ceased eating the canned roast beef there was improvement.

DEATH IN THE STORM.

18 Killed in Three States—Many Injured.

Reports from different points in Arkansas, Mississippi and Alabama indicate that in the storms which swept over those states on Sunday, 18 persons were killed outright and 21 injured, as follows:

Alabama, 16 killed, 4 injured.
Arkansas, 1 killed, 7 injured.
Mississippi, 1 killed, 10 injured.

The property loss will run into hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Not Dead.

An Ohio newspaper recently took a "straw vote" to determine the greatest living American, and gives its readers the following result: Admiral Dewey, 9,500 votes; William Jennings Bryan, 7,866; President William McKinley, 7,758; Rear Admiral Schley, 5,580; Lieutenant Hobson, 4,674; Rear Admiral Sampson, 3,534; Governor Roosevelt, 3,342. For some time the Republican papers pronounced W. J. Bryan dead, but according to the above those reports were not true.

The Skunk Not In It.

An exchange says a calf, a frog, a duck and a skunk wanted to attend a circus, and after taking an inventory of finances it was found that the calf could go because he had four "quarters;" the frog could go because he had a "greenback;" the duck having a "bill" could also go, but the skunk only having one "(s)cent," and that being a bad one, was obliged to stay at home.

Recent Millin County Deaths.

Lewistown, C. K. Mark, age 75 y.
Decatur twp., Isaac Rheam.
Decatur tp., widow of Daniel Rheam in her 70 year.
Minnesota, Adam V. Sigler, age 85 y.
Illinois, Robert Stine, aged 47 y.
Lewistown, Thomas Williams, aged 82 years.

MORE BATTLES.

Philippines Attacked and 200 Killed.—Several Villages Burned.

Gen. Miller repulsed the insurgents in their attempt to attack Iloilo and 200 of the foe were killed. The situation is serious.

Gen. Wheaton has a fierce encounter with the rebels near Pasig and drove them south 15 miles.

Insure with Grant Hoover.

LOCAL AND GENERAL TOPICS

INCIDENTS AND EVENTS OCCUPYING THE PUBLIC MIND.

Happenings in the Town and the Surrounding Country of Timely Interest to All. Too Much Name.

Our county has a number of villages with too much name, creating confusion in addressing mail matter, causing delay and frequently loss of letters.

Few people know there is a post-office called Fleming, which village is widely known as Unionville its name as a railroad station. In this case the railroad company should change the name of that station to Fleming since there are a dozen post-offices in the county called Unionville.

Jacksonville in Nittany valley, goes by the post-office title as Walker, which latter should be adopted and the former discarded since there are many other post-offices named after Old Hickory.

Stormstown, a post village up in Halfmoon valley, goes from all lips as Halfmoon with 50 per cent. of mail matter addressed to the latter name.

Spring Mills post-office, has Rising Springs for the name of the village railroad station. There being a Spring Mill in Montgomery county express packages often went to the wrong place, the Penn'a railroad changed the name of its Spring Mills station to Rising Springs and thus avoid the annoyance.

We will not refer to the craze which existed in this county to have the affix of "Hall" in naming new localities in this county until there were a dozen or more of them, but suggest that if there are any more "Hall" stuck on, the parties guilty of it be sentenced to subsist upon Chicago "canned roast beef" of the '95-'98 vintage.

DEATH OF A GOOD CITIZEN.

Moses B. Richard Died Last Night from Consumption.

Moses B. Richard died at 4 o'clock this morning, of consumption, having been confined to his bed for a number of weeks.

The deceased had been in ill health since last fall when he was attacked with lung trouble. Instead of yielding to medical treatment the disease developed other complications. For weeks past his condition was critical and his death was not unexpected.

Our town loses one of its most upright citizens and the Lutheran church one of its most devoted and consistent members. The deceased lived a correct life; inoffensive, kind and a model neighbor—he leaves no enemy behind. He was a carpenter by trade and ever industrious in his occupation. What a paradise the world would be were all men of the conscientious qualities of Moses Richard. He leaves a wife to mourn the loss of a devoted husband.

Mr. Richards was aged 57 years, 9 months and 25 days. The funeral will take place Saturday afternoon, at two o'clock, services in the Lutheran church. Interment will be made in the cemetery here.

Skimming Lumbermen.

A gang of shark lumber dealers located near New York city has been engaged in fleecing Blair county saw mill men and lumber merchants. Their plan of operation is to send an order for lumber to a country merchant. The order is neatly typewritten on lithographed office stationery, and closes with a promise to pay within thirty days after receipt of the merchandise. The country merchant, without making any inquiries as to the financial standing of his customers, ships the lumber, and finds out when too late that he has been victimized by swindlers. Two lumbermen in this section recently lost over \$300 through this deception. The moral is, "Be sure of your man and pay before you ship your goods."—Altoona Tribune.

General News Condensed

John Sherman, supposed near his end, is improving.

Rev. Dr. Swallow, seriously ill of pneumonia, is improving.

The Pope has again become ill and his end supposed nigh.

It is rumored afresh that if the legislature adjourns without electing a senator, Penrose will resign so that Governor Stone can appoint Quay for that vacancy. This would be a very humiliating step for Quay.

We still have a brisk war on hands with the Philippines.

The stink of the army beef contracts it is now believed, will force Alger out of the cabinet and take ambassador Horace Porter will take his place.

Should the Pope die it is said Cardinal Gibbons, of Baltimore, is likely to be chosen as the new Pope. An American Pope would be a break in the long line of Italian pontiffs.

DIED AT SPRING MILLS.

Sarah, Daughter of the Late Dr. F. H. Van Valzah.

On Sunday evening about nine o'clock, Sarah, only daughter of the late Dr. Frank H., and Mrs. Van Valzah, died at her home at Spring Mills, after an illness of about three weeks, from tuberculous meningitis, at the age of fourteen years.

Sarah had not been in good health for several weeks but was not considered of a serious nature until about three weeks ago, when she rapidly grew worse, and since that time has been a great sufferer.

The best medical skill and nursing was obtained for her, and every means possible adopted for her recovery, but without avail. It is a peculiarly sad case, her father, one of the most widely known and prominent physicians of the valley, having died only about three months ago. She is survived by her mother, and two brothers, one older and one younger than Sarah.

The funeral will take place this Thursday morning at 10.30 o'clock, Rev. F. F. Christine officiating. Interment in the Union cemetery at Spring Mills.

APFALLING FIRE.

10 People Perish. Many Injured and Missing in Windsor Hotel.

The large, 7-story Windsor hotel, in New York, was destroyed by fire on Saturday morning at 10 o'clock. A number of wealthy families made it their home. In less than an hour the hotel was in ruins.

Ten persons were killed by perishing in the flames or jumping from windows. 52 were injured and 43 are missing. Among those who perished are the wife and daughter of Mr. Lel and the proprietor.

It is estimated that upwards of a million dollars in diamonds, jewelry, and other valuables belonging to the guests, were lost in the fire.

How the fire originated is yet a mystery. The St. Patrick's Day parade was passing the hotel at the time.

Thieves were seen searching the rooms for valuables.

The Country Newspaper.

The country newspaper is an important agency in the cultivation of public spirit, and however humble it may seem beside the metropolitan daily it has a place in popular education which is too little regarded.

While the editor is not often above the rank of a practical printer there are many persons in most of the suburban towns—clergymen, lawyers, teachers and others, who have the leisure and ability to use the paper as the vehicle of influence over their fellow citizens.

The country newspaper is usually local in its news, and the very people who might make it fresh and suggestive are those who complain most loudly of its meagre character.

Short articles pertaining to local interests are always welcome in its columns, and the men and women who most desire to make home life in the country rich and influential can best do so by contributing freely to its columns of what they have in mind. In some places this has been done, and the result in the quickened life of the community has been gratifying.—Boston Herald.

The Cork Popped Out.

George Schull, a Benner township farmer, had an experience in Bellefonte last week that he will remember. He was carrying a bottle of nitric acid in his pocket, intending to use it in mixing some horse medicine, but when in front of the Jackson & Co. bank the cork popped out of the bottle and before Mr. Schull discovered it the acid had run down his entire right side. It smoked and burned as if his clothing had been on fire and before he could get it stopped great holes were burned in his overcoat, coat, vest and trousers.

A Sunday Robber.

Last Sunday while the family was at church, thieves forced an entrance to Col. James Coburn's residence at Bellefonte. They ransacked the house and found \$110, which was appropriated by the thieves. It was a daylight robbery and the thieves left no clue.

Improved Mill.

The well-known Red mill is now turning out first-class work. Mr. Harter has recently put improved machinery in his mill and now makes flour by new process, and a sample sack sent to this office proved all that could be desired in good bread.

Arbor Days.

Governor Stone issued a proclamation Saturday, naming Friday, April 7th, and Friday, April 28th, as Arbor days for this spring. The very uncertain weather caused the selection of two dates.

Try the Reporter for all job printing.

LOCAL ITEMS.

Cullings of More than Ordinary Interest from Everywhere.

I look into my glass,
And view my wasting skin,
And say: "Would God it came to me
My heart had shrunk as thin!"

For then I, undistrest
By hearts grown cold to me,
Could lonely wait my endless rest
With equanimity.

But Time to make me grieve,
Part steals, lets part abide;
And shakes this fragile frame at eve
With throbbings of noontide.
Thomas Hardy.

Rain last night, .17 inch.

Wm. Pealer advertises executor's notice in estate of Hannah Erhard.

If you have lots of canned peaches keep 'em for next year, there may be none to can.

A dealer is buying up potatoes in this vicinity at 50 cents per bushel of 60 pounds.

The senatorial deadlock continues at Harrisburg, the balloting having the usual result.

Samuel Wise, of near Madisonburg, died Thursday morning, 16. He was a most estimable citizen.

Cook Hubler, of Penn township, has moved to Lock Haven, where, he informs us, he has a good job.

The grain and coal dealers at the station advertise in another column they will sell only for cash hereafter.

Rev. Reaick's appointments, Sunday, March 25: Centre Hall, 7 p. m.; St. Johns, 2 p. m.; Georges valley 10 a. m.

The finest shops in a Chinese city are those devoted to the sale of coffins. John wants to go to the Chinaman's heaven in style.

Mrs. D. W. Reynolds, of Reedsville, formerly an esteemed resident of our town, has just recovered from a severe spell of grip.

The arrival of a little daughter at Mr. Shunks, on Hoffer street, gladdened the household, and mother and babe doing well.

Three new trusts are peeping heads from their egg shells, namely, the rolling mill trust, linseed oil trust, and a window glass trust.

Jacob Winkleblech moved from east Haines township to the Reifsnnyder farm west of Millheim. Jake is one of the good farmers down that way.

Sunday night's fierce storm blew off part of the stable roof on the Willow property, and discounted six feet of a chimney on the bank building.

Sunday last opened with rain; at noon there was a sudden swing round, a fierce storm with snow squalls was the song. The storm continued to rage all day Monday.

In a recent issue we mentioned the burning of Puella Dornblazer's farm near Clintondale. We learn since it was insured in the Sugar valley company for \$1,300.

Noah Cronmiller, years ago a popular store clerk in this place, and during the past dozen years in Harper's Bellefonte grocery, has retired and will go to his old home at Aaronsburg.

By the will of Mary Murphy, for several years housekeeper for ex-Governor Beaver, who died in Columbia Hospital a few days ago, \$600 is left to St. Patrick's Pro-cathedral, Harrisburg.

It is getting to be the fashion to address and stamp envelopes on the back with the directions written across the folds the letter cannot be opened by an unauthorized person without the fact being noted.

Our townsman Josiah Dale, while walking across the bridge at Williamsport, during the very cold spell several weeks ago, had his face badly frosted, the effects of which have not yet passed away.

We are in receipt of two copies of "The Kinsman," with the compliments of Mrs. Horace Zerby, of Salt Lake City, where this magazine is published. Its pages are filled with forcible articles against polygamy.

The board of pardons have refused to grant a pardon to James Cornely, of Bellefonte, convicted of setting fire to the armory. Attorney Bower appeared for Cornely and Reeder for the commonwealth.

A banquet was given a few evenings ago to two of the retiring county officers, prothonotary Smith and district attorney Singer, which was given in their honor by friends in Bellefonte. The "feed" was a royally good one and the evening taken up with complimentary addresses.

Hiram Durst's sale was one of the largest this season; his fine stock attracted men from all sections and he gave them a most liberal lunch. All articles brought good prices, especially the live stock. Horses brought over a hundred dollars and cows went as high as sixty-six dollars. Hiram was pleased with the total realized.