

Letter from Washington.

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 7, 73.

About half past eleven o'clock last night news reached this city of a terrible disaster—the burning of a steamer on the Potomac. People were just returning from the schuetzenfest and the news spread rapidly through the city. Even at that late hour crowds soon gathered at the street corners and news-offices anxious to obtain some definite information. The steamer burned, the Wawaset, was well known as an excursion boat, and it was feared she had on board a large party of pleasure-seekers, but a dispatch from Fredericksburg announced that the clerk's list numbered only about one hundred and fifty passengers.

The boat started on her regular trip down the river yesterday morning, most of her passengers intending to stop at various points for a week's holiday in the country. About eleven o'clock, just as she was stopping at the landing at Chatterton's Point, where there is no wharf, all on board were startled by a cry of "Fire! Fire!" and the flames were seen issuing from the hold of the vessel. The captain and crew made every effort to maintain order among the panic-stricken passengers, but in vain. They then turned their attention to the fire and endeavored to extinguish the flames, but it was too late. In fifteen minutes the fire had made such headway that it was entirely beyond control. There were two boats belonging to the steamer, and one was immediately filled and lowered, but by some mishap the entire party were pitched into the water and the boat lost. The vessel was headed for the shore and struck about 200 yards from land on the Virginia side. And now, as the boat rapidly became wrapped in sheets of flame, the scene is described as terrible. As the passengers leaped into the water the crew stood on deck and threw down to them stools, barrels, and anything that would float, while the people of the neighborhood, who had by this time perceived the disaster, stood on shore powerless to render any assistance. The captain was the last man to leave the boat and is said to have maintained his self-possession throughout the trying scene.

The number of lives lost cannot be positively stated as yet. It was placed as high as forty or fifty this morning but that was doubtless an exaggeration. Many conflicting rumors are circulated and it is impossible to ascertain the truth. A steamer arrived this morning bringing twenty-five survivors and eleven dead bodies. The scene at the wharf was mournful beyond description. Three of the dead were babies who have been identified. Another was a little boy of four years, who lay beside his aunt, white and still as marble. Near this child lay the bodies of four colored children from two to five years old who were unclaimed. Whether their parents lost their lives at the same time or are still at the scene of the wreck searching for their little ones is unknown. One case in particular is so sad as to awaken sympathy in the hardest heart. The wife, three children and aunt of Officer Reed of the police force were on board, and it is feared are all lost. The bodies of the aunt and one child have been recovered and brought to the city. Strong hopes are entertained that some of the others may be found safe. Many of the passengers on board were colored people, and the excitement among their friends in this city is intense.

The cause of the fire is unknown, but it is thought to have originated in the engine-room. The matter will be thoroughly investigated at once and the result of the inquiry given to the public. The Wawaset has been running about eight years and was recently refitted and supposed to be in perfect order. She was valued at \$35,000 and insured for \$28,000. This terrible disaster has cast a gloom over the whole city, and all hearts are filled with sympathy for those who are the greatest sufferers.

The Dead Letter Office of the Post Office Department has been full of business. During the month of July the business done was as follows: Ordinary letters received, 221,745; drop letters received, 36,900; letters held for postage received, 27,252; wrongly directed letters received, 4,751; hotel letters received, 2,252; letters directed to fictitious persons, 699; registered letters, 479; returned from foreign countries, 7,701.

Thirty marriages a day in Philadelphia argues something more than brotherly love to the Boston Post. An experienced military writer says, "In an engagement, among the most nervous men you will find the best soldiers."

A new party is forming in Spain opposed to having a fresh political crisis in that country often than seven times a week. Ladies' toes are worth something in Auburn. A lady who broke her big toe by a fall on the sidewalk made the city pay \$1,500 damages.

Some of the hunters of Binghamton, N. Y., are looking for a wild man in the woods on Mount Prospect. Those who have seen him say he can whip like a Modoc.

A colony of 150 families is being organized in Indianapolis, Ind., with a view to settling in Southern California. Their plan is to purchase not less than 10,000 acres of good farming land, lay out a town in the midst of it, and then allot each member a farm and a block 200 feet square in the town.

GENERAL NOTES

There is a law firm in Boston called Steele and Gamble. Editor—a poor wretch who empties his brain to fill his stomach. The umbrellas which Washington used to carry is to be seen in Boston.

There are 812 paper mills in the United States, which last year turned out 317,887 tons of paper. England exported \$1,624,430 worth of books during the first four months of this year.

A new use for petroleum is for cleaning guns, which, it is said, it effectually protects from rust. A lady in Hartford, Conn., gives notice that she will assume no debts of her husband's contracting.

A Scandinavian paper is to be started at Lawrence, Kansas, the only one published west of the Mississippi.

Ithaca, N. Y., has a rara avis in the shape of "a young American girl who wants a situation to do housework."

Water is selling at one bit per bucket in Gold Hill, Nevada. Beer is about as cheap, and in greater demand.

The value of the daily products of Montana is already over \$500,000 annually; but that is only a feeble beginning.

From San Diego comes the news that the new river in the desert is full of water, overflowing a large area of country.

The father of one of the principals in the Troy prize fight wagered his farm up in Vermont and three horses against \$1,000 that his offspring would beat his man, and he won, though the odds against him were six to one.

A Californian has invented a machine to assist in starting street cars. It utilizes the weight of the car in descending a grade, accumulates and stores the power generated by gravitation, and applies the same when needed to assist in ascending a hill.

To PRESERVE eggs perfectly fresh for six or eight months, beat up the white of an egg with a little salt—say a scruple—and three teaspoonsful of cold water. Soon after the eggs are laid, and while still warm, if possible, paint them over with the above with a large camel's hair brush, that the whole surface is painted, then place upon blotting paper till dry and hard. Pack away in dozens amongst corn chaff or bran. Before using the albumen, filter it through muslin till clear and free of bubbles. If, after being albumenized, it is almost sure to take a chip out of the shell.

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ASSIGNEE'S SALE.

The undersigned assignee of FRED WILMARTH and E. W. ROLFE, Bankrupts, will expose to sale at PUBLIC AUCTION on WEDNESDAY the 20th day of AUGUST 1873, at Wilmarth, Elk County, Pennsylvania, the following described property: Four circular saws, one iron safe, a lot of files and axes, etc., the property of said Bankrupts. ALSO—About seven million feet of hemlock logs, about four millions of which are in the stream and on its banks, about one and one-half million in the woods cut and skidded, and one and one-half million in the woods out. The property of said FRED WILMARTH. JNO. G. HALL, Assignee. Ridgway, Pa., July 31st, 1873—2213.

ASSIGNEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE IN ELK COUNTY.

The undersigned assignee of FRED WILMARTH and E. W. ROLFE, Bankrupts, will sell at PUBLIC AUCTION at Wilmarth, Elk County, Pennsylvania, on WEDNESDAY, the 26th day of AUGUST, 1873, all the right, title, interest and estate of the said FRED WILMARTH in and to the following described tract of land, with the improvements and appurtenances, situate in Elk County, Pa. The thousand acres known as the "Johnsonburg tract" and bounded as follows: Beginning at a hemlock corner standing 40 rods west of the Clarion River, and about 52 6-10 rods west and 25 rods south of the southwest corner of the south abutment of the Rail Road bridge and 43 8 10 rods north and 51 rods west of the original southeast corner of warrant No. 3257, thence east 213 7-10 rods to a post corner, thence north 510 rods to a post corner, thence west 513 7-10 rods to a post corner, thence south 510 rods to place of beginning. Containing 1000 more or less.

ALSO—That certain tract or piece of land beginning at a post standing 96 rods north of the southwest corner of said 1000 acre lot, thence north 336 rods to the northwest corner of said 1000 acre lot, thence west 80 rods to a hemlock corner, thence south 396 rods to a post corner, thence east 80 rods to place of beginning. Containing 198 acres of land.

ALSO—That certain tract or piece of land lying upon the east side of the above named 1000 acre lot. Beginning at the northwest corner of said tract, thence south on the east line of said tract 250 rods to a post in the same for a corner, thence east 100 rods to a hemlock corner, thence north 250 rods to a post corner, thence west 100 rods to place of beginning. Containing 1500 acres of land. Excepting and reserving the following described piece of land: Beginning at a post on the south line of said 1000 acre lot, 490 feet east of southwest corner of said tract, thence north 835 feet to the Rail Road line, thence along the line of said Rail Road south 523 east 421 feet to the middle of the Clarion River, to the southwest corner of 1000 acre lot, thence west along said line to place of beginning.

The foregoing described three tracts of land comprising the "Johnsonburg Mill Property" on which are erected two steam saw mills with a capacity for cutting fifty thousand feet of lumber per day. One keg factory with a capacity for cutting four hundred kegs per day. One dwelling house, two boarding houses and ten tenement houses.

The interest of the said FRED WILMARTH in the above described "Johnsonburg Mill Property" is the undivided nine-fourths thereof that is to say, the undivided one-half of said property, under a contract in writing with GEORGE DICKINSON, of Ridgway, Pa., which one-half will be sold subject to the balance of purchase money due thereon, and the one-seventh of the other undivided one-half of said property, which one-seventh did descend to and belong to FRED WILMARTH as an heir of L. WILMARTH late of Elk County, deceased, and which one-seventh of the L. WILMARTH one-half of the said L. WILMARTH, deceased, as are heirs of said L. WILMARTH.

ALSO—The undivided one-seventh of the following described tracts of lands and parts of tracts, which one-seventh did descend to FRED WILMARTH as an heir of L. WILMARTH, deceased, and which one-seventh of said lands and parts of lands are heirs of said FRED WILMARTH, deceased, as are heirs, if any such there be. All that certain tract or piece of land known as warrant No. 2374 situate in Benning township, Elk County, Pa. Containing 952 acres.

ALSO—All that certain tract or piece of land situate in warrant No. 3290 in Jones township, Elk County, Pa. Commencing at a post corner 161 rods north and 53 rods west of the south east corner of said warrant, thence north 175 rods to a post, thence west 247 rods to a post, thence east 247 rods to a post, thence east 229 rods to place of beginning. Containing 247 acres.

ALSO—All that certain tract of land situate in Highland township, Elk County, Pa. Containing four hundred and ninety-six acres more or less, part of warrant No. 600 and being all of that portion of said warrant within the County of Elk, except the eastern one-fourth part of said warrant owned or claimed by M. WEIDLER.

ALSO—All the undivided one-half of all that certain tract or piece of land situate in the township of Ridgway, Elk Co., Pa., and being parts of warrants Nos. 3285 and 4850, bounded as follows: Beginning at the centre of the Clarion River in the south line of the 1000 acre Johnsonburg tract, thence west 45 rods to a hemlock corner, it being the southwest corner of said lot, thence north on the west line of same 96 rods to a post, thence west 80 rods to a post, it being the southwest corner of the 198 acre lot on the west side of the Johnsonburg tract, thence north on the west side of the same 20 rods to a post, thence west 149 2-10 rods to a post, it being the northeast corner of the 440 acre coal lot, thence south 175 rods to a post, thence east on line of said lot 150 rods, thence south on line of same 174 rods to a post, thence east 225 rods to the centre of Clarion River, thence up the river to place of beginning. Containing 484 acres. J. N. G. HALL, Assignee. Ridgway, Pa., July 31st, 1873.

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