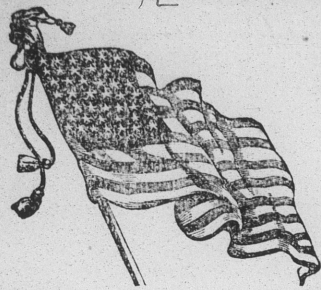


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### CALIFORNIA LETTER.

The Editor's Brother Heard from—Observations on His Late Trip to Pennsylvania and Return to Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES, CAL., Sept. 18, '98. To the Editor of THE STAR.

DEAR BROTHER:—As my recent visit to my native heath after eleven year's absence was altogether too short and too sad, owing to our dear mother's suffering and death, to be very satisfactory, permit me through THE STAR to say a few words regarding my observations on the trip across the continent and return. Incidentally I may say a few other things of interest to at least a portion of your subscribers.

We, that is my wife, daughter and myself, left Los Angeles, July 6, for the East, and returned here September 5, so we were gone just two months. We went via the Sata Fe route, direct to Chicago, where wife and daughter remained visiting the Eisfeller family (my wife's people) while I went on to Pennsylvania to see my sick mother.

I arrived in Salisbury, July 11, and let me say right here that in all my travels (and I have seen a considerable portion of the United States), I have not beheld a prettier landscape than that surrounding old Salisbury. I regard the scenery in Elk Lick and Summit townships the most charming I have seen anywhere in the breadth of the continent. True, it is not so wild and picturesque as that of the western mountain regions, but it possesses that peaceful charm, that beautiful, home-like, happy and contented aspect found only in the arable regions of the grand old Alleghenies. Let me tell you, your people do not appreciate the country they live in as they ought. They occupy, according to my mind, one of the most delightful valleys on God's foot-stool.

Yet there are considerations that induce me to live elsewhere. My lares and penates are in Los Angeles. This is my home and here I am best content. I was glad to get back, but none the less sorry that I was so soon compelled to depart from the old home of my youth. I would have liked immensely to tarry a while longer, but circumstances forbade. I fear I disappointed many of my friends. I know that my own disappointment was keen in that I could not spend more time with them. I hope all who were disappointed will come to Los Angeles and visit me longer than I did them.

In passing, let me say a few words of the impressions made upon me while in Salisbury and the surrounding country. I was struck by the improvements made in the old town. There was a marked change in the buildings, more comfortable residences and more commodious business houses, and more of them. Salisbury has quite a citified look, compared with a decade or more ago. I paid flying visits to Meyersdale, Somerset and Berlin while in Somerset county, and it appeared to me that Salisbury had improved more than any of the other towns since I had last seen them. Salisbury also appeared to be doing more business. So much for "ye ancient burg."

Another thing that impressed me was the change in public road grades, as for example at the Abe Thomas hill, the Beachy hill and the hill on the Frank Livengood farm. I was gratified to see that the roads now run around these hills or mount them gradually instead of going up their steepest sides as of yore. As for the Beachy hill, I had the honor, in company with Howard H. Keim, to establish the grade for the new road there, in the fall of 1884, so much for the skill of the engineering firm of Keim & Livengood. That was a piece of work of which I shall always feel proud. Elk Lick township got its money's worth when it hired Keim & Livengood to do that job. Henry Rodamer, if I remember rightly, was the supervisor, who engaged us to do the work. But speaking of road improvements, let me remark that I was pained to see that the Huntzrick abomination of a public road still remained. What folly that the people of Elk Lick and Summit have for a century worn out their horses and wagons in freighting over that hill, when they could without increasing the distance and at comparatively small expense build a good level road around the base of the hill. There is the old Keystone narrow gauge roadbed already graded, abandoned and only in need of a little widening to make a splendid wagon road. The people of Salisbury, Meyersdale, Elk Lick and Summit ought to see that this improvement is made.

Your weather impressed me, also. I found the heat much more oppressive at the top of the Alleghenies than here on the coast of Southern California. While the mercury occasionally bumps against the roof of the thermometer here, there is little humidity, hence the heat is not felt so much. We do not consider anything under 90 degrees very warm. The sea breeze tempers the atmosphere on our warm days. Our nights are always cool. So far as climate goes Southern California certainly is one of the most favored spots on the globe. For that reason above all others I have decided to make this my permanent home.

After leaving Salisbury I spent two days at Ashland, O., and several weeks in Chicago. Ashland is a beautiful lit-

tle city. I visited it once during my courting days. I "popped" the question to my present wife in Ashland town. That she accepted me then and there, or upon a subsequent occasion, goes without saying, else she would not now be with me here in California. On that account I have very tender memories of Ashland. My late visit there was for the purpose of seeing my sister, Mrs. A. D. Gnagay, and family. My brief sojourn was a most pleasant one, but I was impatient to rejoin my family in Chicago, which I did August 10, having been absent just one month.

Chicago is a wonderful city. I spent considerable time sight-seeing there. It would be a tedious narrative were I to attempt to tell what I saw. Suffice it to say that we left the lakeside metropolis on the last of August, and the next day we spent at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition at Omaha. It is a fair well worth seeing, and we enjoyed it very much.

Continuing our homeward journey, we were met at Lincoln, Neb., by several of our good friends of long ago. They were W. S. and Mrs. Sadie Lichty, formerly of Salisbury; Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Lichty (the latter *nee* Ellen Gnagay), and Wallace G. Keim, a Salisbury boy who has made his mark in the West. A half hour's chat with these dear friends at the railway station and we proceeded on our way, via the Burlington & Missouri River railway and the Denver & Rio Grande. The scenery along the latter road through the Rocky Mountains is magnificent. It is the most picturesque route to the coast.

At Salt Lake City, Dennis C. Eichnor, Esq., children and mother-in-law, Mrs. Ellen Keim, were at the station to meet and greet us. Eichnor is a Greenville township boy who has won distinction in the city of Saints, in politics and law. He has two healthy-looking, beautiful children, the best evidence that he has not been living in vain in Mormondom. Mrs. Keim, sister of Mrs. M. J. Beachy, was looking well, and seems to be enjoying life in Utah.

We crossed the Sierra Nevada mountains in daylight and were charmed with the scenery, only the 46 miles of snowsheds on the Central Pacific shut off much of our view. In Los Angeles we found things much as we had left them two months before. The weather was exhilarating and has remained so to this day. After two months' idleness I was glad to return to work, which I have stuck to faithfully ever since. During the present week it was part of my duty to report for the Los Angeles Times the Republican county convention, which met last Monday and did not adjourn until Friday. It consisted of 750 delegates and was one of the largest, most decent, best and most orderly political conventions I have ever attended. It nominated an excellent county ticket, from top to bottom, a ticket which I believe will be a winner in November, despite the allied forces of discontent—Democrats, Populists and Silver Republicans—arrayed against it. This is, or at least ought to be, a distinctively Republican year in California.

Yours truly,  
W. S. LIVENGOOD.

DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve  
Cures Piles, Scalds, Burns.

The Reg'lar Army Man.

[Clever Poem by Joe Lincoln, in L. A. W. Bulletin.]

He ain't no gold-lace "Belvidere,"  
Ter sparkle in the sun.  
He don't parade with gny cockade,  
And posies in his gun.  
He ain't no "pretty soldier boy,"  
So lovely, spick and span,  
He wears a crust of tan and dust,  
The Reg'lar Army man;  
The marchin', paradin',  
Pipe-savin' stargin',  
Reg'lar Army man.

He ain't at home in Sunday school,  
Nor yet at social tea,  
And on the day he gets his pay  
He can't to spend it free.  
He ain't no temperance advocate,  
He likes to fill the can,  
He's kinder rough and maybe tough,  
The Reg'lar Army man;  
The marin', tearin',  
Sometime-swearin',  
Reg'lar Army man.

No state'll call him "moble son,"  
He ain't no Indies' pet,  
But let a row start anywhere,  
They'll send for him you bet!  
He don't cut any ice at all  
In fashion's social plan,  
He gets a job to face a mob,  
The Reg'lar Army man;  
The millin', drillin',  
Made for killin',  
Reg'lar Army man.

They ain't no tears shed over him  
When he goes off ter war,  
He gets no speech nor prayerful "preach"  
From mayor or governor;  
He packs his little knapsack up  
And trots off in the van,  
Ter start the fight and start it right,  
The Reg'lar Army man;  
The rattlin', battlin',  
Colt or Gatlin',  
Reg'lar Army man.

He mikes no fuss about the job,  
He don't talk big or brave,  
He knows he's in ter fight and win,  
Or help fill up the grave;  
He ain't no "mamman's darlin'," but  
He does the best he can,  
And he's the chap that wins the scrap,  
The Reg'lar Army man;  
The dandy, hundy,  
Cool and sandy,  
Reg'lar Army man.

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### BALTIMORE & OHIO R. R.

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### One Mother's Cry.

Oh, there is gladness in the land,  
Shouts of the crowd and ringing cheers,  
And feasts and music loud and grand,  
And speeches for the victors' ears;  
But I—cannot hear the noise!  
It fills my soul with sheer despair  
To hear such welcome to the boys,  
While my own boy is missing there.  
He went—the boy so dear to me—  
For, like his comrades, he was brave;  
I hoped my heart his home would be—  
Alas! my heart is now his grave!  
And there my joys are buried low;  
Life's brightest dreams forever fled.  
"Spain is defeated," defeated part,  
But, oh, my boy, my boy is dead.  
It does not ease my heart to tell  
To me of Spain's defeated part,  
Nor yet to say that "war is hell."  
Alas! its flames have scorched my heart.  
Yes, fire the cannons, beat the drums,  
And wildly cheer the home-bound brave;  
No more to me my brave boys comes;  
I shed my tears upon his grave.  
—Chicago Record.

### The Scientific American Navy Supplement.

The Scientific American, which has always been identified itself very closely with the interests of the Navy, is to be congratulated on the extremely handsome and valuable "Navy Supplement" which it has lately put before the public. We think that, if the average reader had been asked beforehand what kind of a work he would prefer upon the Navy, he would have asked for just such an issue as this.

Both the illustrations and the reading matter are of the straightforward explanatory kind which is necessary to put a technical subject clearly before the lay mind. It was a happy thought to preface the work with a chapter upon the classification of warships and insert a few diagrams by way of explanation of the subtle differences between cruisers, monitors and battleships; for after digesting this chapter one is prepared to follow intelligently the detailed descriptions of the various ships which make up the bulk of the issue. One of the best things about this number is that it does not merely give an external illustration of each ship, but it takes the reader down below decks, and initiates him into the mysteries of the magazines, handling rooms, ammunition hoists and motive machinery. The sectional views of the interior of the turrets of the monitors are exceptionally fine, as are the large wood engravings of the engines of the "Massachusettses." The last page of the number contains complete tables of the new Navy, the auxiliary fleet and the various naval guns. A handsome colored map of Cuba and the West Indies is furnished with this issue. We extend our congratulations to our contemporary on the production of a work which is well conceived and admirably carried out. This work is published by Munn & Co., of 361 Broadway, New York, for 25 cents.

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