

WASHINGTON LETTER

(Special Correspondence.) It having been definitely determined by Chairman Edward J. Stellwagen of the inauguration committee that the veteran soldier and sailor organizations shall have the position of honor in the parade of March 4—personal escort to the president elect and vice president elect—representatives of the G. A. R., Union Veteran Legion, the United Spanish War Veterans and the Army and Navy union have been added to the committee on civic organizations. General O. O. Howard has also accepted the appointment as marshal of the veteran division, which will escort Mr. Taft and Mr. Sherman from the White House to the capitol, where they will take the oath of office.

Parade in Two Divisions. The most serious problem that confronts Major General J. Franklin Bell, who will be grand marshal of the parade, will be to keep it within reasonable bounds. To shorten the regular parade it has been decided to divide it into two divisions. One will be the escort, consisting of veterans of the civil and Spanish wars, and will accompany the president from the White House to the capitol. The other will pass in view after the inaugural ceremony at the capitol is concluded. Despite this new arrangement General Bell still faces the embarrassment of a too lengthy parade. There is great pressure from the national guard to obtain desirable places in the line, but the marshal has decided to limit the number of troops from any one state to a brigade.

Naval Heroes' Statues. The location in this city of statues of John Paul Jones and Commodore John Barry, each of whom is heralded by his admirers as the "father of the American navy," will prove a difficult task for the special commission charged with that duty. This commission consists of the secretary of war, the secretary of the navy and the chairman of the senate and house committees on library.

For each statue congress appropriated \$50,000, but no action has been taken to decide the controverted question relating to the navy's pedigree. It is for this reason that the location of the effigies is regarded as important, as the prominence accorded each in the matter of location will be supposed to give some indication of their respective merits in the competition for the honor of being the "father of the navy."

Sacred Books of Tibet. The library of congress has an addition to the collection of extraordinary interest. It is a very fine complete copy—that is to say, a full set—of the sacred books of Tibet. These, known as the "Kanjur," comprise over 100 volumes, together with an index volume, each volume about two feet long and four inches wide and containing about 300 sheets.

Like most Tibetan books, they are printed in red on a coarse paper. They come from Lassa and were secured, by purchase, through our minister to Pekin, Mr. Rockhill.

Mr. Rockhill remarks of the work that "it is absolutely necessary in the study of Buddhist literature and also of great value for correcting Buddhist books written in other languages, as almost all of them were translated from a single original."

He believes that there is no copy of it in America, though there are three in England, one in France, two in Berlin and one in St. Petersburg.

Battleship Fleet Medal. Frank A. Leach, director of the mint, recently laid before President Roosevelt a beautiful bronze medal commemorating the departure of the battleship fleet from Hampton Roads for its trip around the world.

The president is delighted with the design and has directed Mr. Leach to complement the officials of the United States mint at Philadelphia upon their work.

One side bears the figure of Columbia sending away on the waters of the Atlantic the fighting vessels, young America standing behind. There is also a shield of the United States and in the lower right hand corner this inscription: "Hampton Roads, Dec. 16, 1907. Departure of United States Atlantic Fleet in Cruise Around the World."

The other side of the medal contains a fine relief profile of President Roosevelt, with the words, "Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States," and a small anchor, surrounded by a bouquet of flowers.

Tons of Gold Moved. Halfway across the continent, from San Francisco to Denver, \$225,500,000 in gold coin has been transported, the largest amount of metal of that value ever hauled such a distance.

Because of the accumulation of gold in the San Francisco mint, brought from Alaska and other points, the vaults became congested, and it was necessary to either store it in insecure vaults or move it.

The work of removal began Aug. 15. Every shipment of the gold had to be counted or weighed at both ends, first at San Francisco and then at Denver. The contract for the removal was given to an express company, which was under heavy bond to handle it safely. The contract will yield the company something like \$250,000.

At first the shipments were in lots of \$5,000,000, twice a week, each shipment being accompanied by fifteen deputy marshals, paid by the express company. As the work proceeded smoothly the shipments were increased to \$7,500,000 each, twice a week. The express company handled the money on and off the train in both cities. The last shipment was landed at Denver Dec. 13.

CARL SCHOFIELD.

A Year of Anniversaries.

Notable centenary dates are not only numerous in 1909, but are distributed over the whole year. After Poe, who was born Jan. 19, 1809, followed Mendelssohn, the composer, Feb. 3; Lincoln and Darwin, Feb. 12, and Chopin, the composer, March 1, five men of genius given to the world in the space of six weeks. The last half of the year will be marked by the centennaries of Oliver Wendell Holmes, falling on Aug. 29; Frances Anne Kemble, the famous English actress, who passed her prime in America, Nov. 27, and Gladstone, Dec. 29.

The current year is also a marker for certain history making events. Hudson's discoveries and explorations in 1609 will be celebrated with imposing ceremonies along the river bearing his name. The first great battle of the peninsular war was fought in January, 1809, at Coruna, Spain, resulting in an English victory over Napoleon's lieutenants and the death of the English commander, Sir John Moore. A few months later Napoleon redeemed his fortunes by crushing the Austrians at Wagram, on their own soil, and, it is believed, making terms which included his alliance with the Austrian princess, Marie Louise, and the divorce of Empress Josephine. The divorce took place in December, 1809, and Napoleon's lucky war began to wane.

Tales of Cities.

Boston's chamber of commerce has made an emphatic protest to the board of aldermen against any more parades in downtown streets.

Honolulu is a clean city. This doesn't mean comparatively so, but clean in the sense that would be demanded in the most fastidious New England village.

Central park, in New York city, is assessed at the valuation of \$215,000,000, not for the purpose of taxation, but so as to show the amount of real estate value that is exempt from taxes.

English Etchings.

England has about 3,000,000 acres of woodland.

In Great Britain there are 2,000,000 trades unionists.

Until 1757 the legal year in England began on March 25.

The last census figures revealed 2,500,000 people living in overcrowded tenements in England.

The biggest shingle mill in the world burned just after Christmas, a hint from Santa Claus that children no longer need "padding."

Manuel of Portugal scents a plot to take his throne away. A truly royal sport would start right in plotting to get it back again.

Requires no high order of genius in the weather shop to guess it "may snow or rain" these days.

Strenuousness is not confined to the head of this administration, for the ex-vice president's job will be railroad construction in Honduras.

Wonder if South America's political weather man ever wastes space on "possibly revolution, followed by clearing?"

White Eggs.

White eggs are laid mostly by birds that build nests in dark holes.

Imitation Ebony.

Imitation ebony is made by washing any close grained wood in a boiling solution of logwood several times, drying it between each application, then treating it with a solution of iron filings in vinegar.

Russian Minerals.

South Russia has among its valuable minerals rock salt, coal, coprolites, kaolin, sands for glassmaking and for other purposes, manganese and iron ores, the latter being easily first in importance, free of phosphorus and with little sulphur.

Holes in Metal.

An alloy of nine parts of lead, two of antimony and one of bismuth expands in cooling, therefore makes a good combination for plugging holes in metal, as the plug fits tightly when solid.

Shy on Promises.

Among the interesting anecdotes illustrative of Mr. Cleveland's refusal to give pledges of any sort is that which describes an incident of the campaign of 1892 and is printed in the New York Evening Post. A literary friend of Mr. Cleveland brought together, as if by chance, the Democratic nominee and a prominent Irish-American contractor who was supposed to have much influence with the coveted Irish vote.

The interview was so managed that the two men were left alone in the literary man's library for an hour. At the end of that time they were discovered swapping stories with each other like old friends.

"Well," asked the host of the contractor after Mr. Cleveland had left, "what do you think of him?"

"Sure," replied the contractor, beaming all over, "he's the greatest man I ever saw. He's a foine man, a grand man. He wouldn't promise to do wagh-thing I asked him."

CHOICE MISCELLANY

The Crack of a Whip.

Fred Lindsay can wield with most marvelous display of dexterity the Australian stock whip. The fact of being able to crack a whip does not appear on the face of it a very extraordinary feat, but the Australian stock whip is a very different article from the ordinary whip, the stock being eighteen inches and the thong twenty-four feet in length. At a distance of twenty-five feet Mr. Lindsay can cut a cigarette in half, the cigarette during the operation being held in the mouth of an attendant. Other of Mr. Lindsay's feats are: The extinguishing of a lighted candle, then with a different twist of the whip cutting it in half; taking the ash from a cigar while the weed is being smoked and cutting an ordinary wine bottle in two. Yet, dangerous as his weapon may appear, Mr. Lindsay can make it perfectly harmless. To prove the perfect control he has over the whip Mr. Lindsay will flog a man with apparently terrific force, yet the man is not injured in any way. He will tie the thong around a man's arm, a feat which, if the judgment were to err in the slightest, would cut the arm in half. Then he can wind the thong around a woman's neck, but the woman would not feel it, and no marks would be visible. All of which shows Mr. Lindsay is what he claims to be—the champion whip cracker of the world.—London Strand.

Malvern Hill.

The burning of the mansion which has for a century or two crowned the historic Malvern hill removes one of the famous objects of interest to passengers on the James river steamboats, since, standing on an eminence of sixty feet out of the stream which thereabouts flows in long bows, it could be seen for great distances and frequently reappeared in view after it had seemingly been passed. The convolutions of the river made this peculiar elevation the culminating point for the last of the seven days' battles of the peninsula between the Army of the Potomac, under McClellan, and the Army of Northern Virginia, under Lee. Malvern hill thus capped proved to the passersby one of the sights of an extremely delightful river trip. Like the other mansions of its period, it faced the stream, that being its occupants' avenue of communication with the world.

Big Salt Farm.

One of the strangest farms in the world is situated in southern California, 265 feet below the level of the sea. The place is known as Salton. It is a salt farm of about a thousand acres. Here the salt lies, as deposited by nature, from six to sixteen inches in depth. The salt farmers are busy harvesting this crop the year round, and, though the harvest has continued for over twenty years, during which time more than 40,000 tons of salt have been harvested, only ten of the thousand acres of the farm have been worked. The salt is first plowed up into furrows. It is then thrown into conical piles by men with barrows, after which it is taken to the reduction works near by and put into marketable condition. The work is done by Mexicans and Chinese, the intense heat being more than Americans can endure.—New Orleans States.

A Big Drink.

John D. Rockefeller, testifying in the government's suit against the oil trust in New York, during the intermissions in his evidence talked to the reporters. Adverting to an old friend, Mr. Rockefeller smiled and took a clipping, yellow with age, from his pocket. "My old friend didn't believe in the Texas oil fields," said Mr. Rockefeller. "Listen to what a Galveston newspaper said about him at the time: "The oil fields discovered in our state are excellent in quality and abundant in quantity. Great anxiety is felt for James H. Dash, who said he would drink all the oil found in Texas, for Mr. Dash is a man of honor."

Code Book Humor.

Glimpses and flashes of humor in official documents are few and far between and are generally of an unconscious type. It appears that a new code book has recently been introduced for purposes of communication between the mother country and her colonies, and owing to a misunderstanding a message dispatched in the language of the old code was translated with the aid of the new one. The message should have read, "Please ask Johnson to report alterations in six locomotive boilers." It was decoded as follows: "Can you sell Johnson thirty-one hundredweight of hopeless innatice?"—Westminster Gazette.

The Fight Against Fog.

There has been an offer of many thousand dollars, standing for over 150 years, in the name of a great company in London, for anything that will dissolve fogs by the penetration of a created light. The money has never been earned by any inventor yet. Fog still persists, increasing the tax of commerce in proportion as the volume of commerce multiplies. The man who can clear the ship channel of New York harbor from fog, even for a few hours at a time, will be hailed as the wonder of the age.—Argonaut.

Horse's Record Jump.

I read that a horse owned by Lieutenant Montefiore has broken the world's record by jumping 27 feet 11 inches at the Buenos Aires horse show. I beg to say that a horse named Forester, owned and ridden by George Cross of Taplow, won the Chertsey steeplechase about the year 1898 and cleared thirty-two feet over a jump.—Letter in London Mail.

FACTS IN FEW LINES

Frost is the enemy most dreaded by concrete builders.

Trains from Moscow travel 4,326 miles before they enter Chinese territory.

St. Petersburg will hold an international exposition of the latest inventions in the spring.

Last year's death rate from tigers in India numbers 688 human beings and nearly 29,000 head of cattle.

Glass and cement are both used as substitutes for wooden poles where the latter are attacked by insects or climate.

The proposal to hold an international aeroplane competition in Russia next summer has been abandoned on account of lack of funds.

To prevent the theft of electric light bulbs a socket is now made which locks with a key, so that removal is impossible without the key.

A recent hurricane in Nicaragua drove the water from the river against the houses in the town of Prinzapolca with such force that most of them were destroyed.

A British shipbuilding firm is making a specialty of light draft vessels with a bow rudder, which may be more easily steered when going astern in shallow water.

General Botha has presented to the Transvaal museum the Boer flag which waved above the government buildings at Pretoria until the capital was occupied by Lord Roberts.

Three-quarters of the houses in Vienna are now without water. The city is suffering from a water famine, due to the almost unprecedentedly dry weather of the last five months.

A prospector for gold in Alaska found a hot spring but 125 miles south of the arctic circle and has made a fortune by raising fresh vegetables on probably the most northerly truck farm in the world.

Major David E. Proctor of Wilton, N. H., lays claim to possessing the "oldest" newspaper in existence. Properly the date of the paper is 1839, but by a typographical error it was made to read "March 15, 1389," or 103 years before Columbus.

It is an old trick of the people in Caracas to pull down the statues and destroy the monuments erected to himself by a dictator. That was what they did for Guzman Blanco, who went away with \$25,000,000 or more to end his days in Paris.

The traction facilities of Europe are far behind those of this country. Within a radius of fifty miles of Liverpool there is a population of 7,000,000, the most thickly populated country in the world and not a trolley line in existence for their accommodation.

King Edward has ordered a thorough examination to be made of every room and apartment in Windsor castle. A castle with a history of over 700 years is worth exploring. Windsor is no doubt a much greater treasure house than was imagined up to quite recently.

Foodstuffs have advanced during the last two years in India at least easily 40 per cent and rents from 50 to 60 per cent. There is complaining in Calcutta among all classes, except the very well to do, that it is almost impossible to live becomingly on present salaries and daily wages.

Luminous paint is being used in several of the Belgian trains with a view to illuminating the carriages that are not in the ordinary way supplied with lamps while they are passing through tunnels in the daytime. The whole of the upper part of the interior of the car is covered and emits enough light to make reading a possibility.

A joint monument of heroic size, to be placed on the "Bloody Angle" battleground in Spottsylvania county, Va., to commemorate the military fame and glory of General Robert E. Lee and General Ulysses S. Grant, which shall be erected with funds raised in the north and south, has been suggested by patriotic citizens of Richmond.

Dr. Paul Haupt, professor of Semitic languages at Johns Hopkins university, has just celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of his acceptance of the chair. Professor Haupt was called to Johns Hopkins by the late President Daniel C. Gilman after serving as a member of the faculty of Göttingen. He was graduated from the University of Leipzig in 1878 with the degree of doctor of philosophy.

Simplified spelling has its advocates in France, for the minister of public instruction has lately ordered that the public schools shall teach the spelling of a number of words in the form recommended by the French academy. The reforms include the suppression of the "h" in words like "rhinoceros" and the substitution of "i" for "y" in such words as "analyze" and of "t" for "ph" in "phenomenon" and similar terms.

A valuable gift which has been made to the University of Michigan is 1,500 acres of land in Cheboygan county, presented by Colonel and Mrs. Charles C. Bogardus to provide a permanent site for the summer camp of the engineering students of the university. The land has an estimated value of \$25,000 and is situated on Douglas lake, with a shore line of almost three miles, allowing a fine opportunity for triangulation surveys.

Spain's industry of bullfighting is seriously menaced owing to a "trust" formed by the matadors, and the Spanish public is greatly alarmed at the possibility that its most popular amusement will be abolished. For some time the matadors have been dissatisfied with the rate of pay conceded by managers of bull rings, and they have demanded increased remuneration in view of the savage character of many of the bulls.

When the "Misunderstood" Man.

To be a soul mate means to feel the highest and purest kind of love—a love all unselfish and free from all that is base. But there is nothing high or pure in the friendship of the man who urges you to defy the laws of convention.

Never listen to the man who comes whining to you that you "understand him so much better than his wife does."

The chances are that his unfortunate wife understands him only too well and has a thorough contempt for him.

Somewhere in the world you probably have a soul mate, and it is to be hoped that he will find you, but if he comes in the guise of a married man send him about his business. Do not allow yourself to become "friends" with him. Such friendship is never desirable.

In and Out of Society.

A macaroon. A cup of tea. An afternoon. Is all that she will eat: She's in society. But let me take This maiden fair To some cafe. And then and there She'll eat the whole Blame bill of fare. —Detroit Free Press.

What She Wrote.

A widower who was married recently for the third time, and whose bride had been married once before herself, wrote across the bottom of the wedding invitations: "Be sure and come. This is no amateur performance."—Argonaut.

The Retraction.

District Attorney Heneey of San Francisco a short time after his wounding discussed with a reporter at his bedside one of his statements about the San Francisco boodlers.

"They expect me to retract that statement, do they?" he said grimly. "Well, if I did retract it my retraction would be like the Tombstone editor's."

"He, you know, printed a story to the effect that a rival editor's father had served thirty-seven years in jail. Pressure was brought to bear on him, and finally he agreed to retract that statement. In his retraction he said:

"We find that we were mistaken when we said in last week's issue that the Clarion editor's pap had passed thirty-seven summers in the penitentiary. All efforts of friends to have his sentence commuted to life imprisonment failed, and the old man, as a matter of fact, was hanged."

Young Woman a Leading Economist.

At twenty-four years Anna Fritchett of Louisville will have the distinction of occupying the chair of economics in Wellesley. She went to Wellesley last fall and is the youngest professor in the history of the college. She also ranks with the youngest successful scholars who ever have held so important a post, and leading experts in economics class her as a brilliant woman. She has surpassed all students with whom she has studied. Her election to the chair in Wellesley is due to merit alone and is another proof that in the realm of higher scholarship women have the ability to stand on a common footing with men.

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