WASHINGTON LETTER

[Special Correspondence.]

The remodeling of the executive offices in the western wing of the White House began the other day with the removal of the office furniture to the cloakrooms adjoining the porte-cochere at the other end of the building. In the cloakrooms Assistant Secretary Mischler, who is in charge of the office force left behind by Mr. Taft on his departure for Beverly, will conduct such part of the president's routine correspondence as can be handled in his absence.

White House Changes.

The plans for the changes in the president's offices call for the expenditure of $40,000. The front elevation of the office wing will be left unchanged, as the extensions will be made at the rear. The contractors in charge of the work expect to tear out the rear walls within a few days and to rush the work as rapidly as possible so as to insure completion before the president's return on Nov. 10.

When the White House was remodeled in President Roosevelt's time the work lasted for six months, during a part of which period Mr. Roosevelt and his family were in the executive mansion.

Ghosts of the Capitol.

The big capitol building on the hill has its ghosts, identified and otherwise, with which to conjure up tales of other days. Some of the tales told by the old employees of the building in reference to these ghosts are picturesque; others are laughable; others carry with them that tinge of tragedy that makes them the more interesting.

Naturally there are quite a number of thoroughly identified ghosts registered in different parts of the edifice. The existence of the restless pilgrims from another land is vouched for by several of the employees of the building, and, while most of them are supposed to confine their operations to the basement, there are several that are reputed to roam all over the place.

Spectral Footsteps.

When the body of President Garfield lay in state at the capitol an old engineer who was employed in the basement and who ridiculed the idea of ghosts decided to be revenged upon the watchmen and policemen who remained in the building through the night. He procured two large English walnuts and securely tied the half shells on the four feet of the pet cat and carefully turned her loose in statuary hall.

The noise of these shells on the marble floors at midnight in the semidarkness as the distracted cat scampered about trying to get rid of her new shoes gave the watchers the worst fright of their lives. The incident, though a harmless joke, gave rise to the story of the spectral footsteps which follow all those who have to cross the rotunda in statuary hall after the building is closed for the night.

Wraith of J. Q. Adams.

The wraith of John Quincy Adams, from all narratives on the subject, seems to be the one most often encountered. At times it is alleged that he may be seen in statuary hall, formerly the old house of representatives and the scene of his death, accompanied by the whole congress of 1848 gathered in ghostly conclave. He is also accredited with roaming about all parts of the capitol and may be seen at almost any time.

There is also a story of General Logan, who returns, it is said, to observe the doings of the committee on military affairs, of which he was so long the chairman. Those who claim to have encountered the general say that he always wears a black slouch hat and remains either in the committee room or in the corridor adjoining.

L'Enfant's Apparition.

According to one of the many legends which have been gradually accumulating ever since the building was completed, a corridor in the senate wing basement has a frequent ghostly walker of a foreign aspect. This tall, distinguished looking individual is reported to confine his activities to pacing up and down that particular passageway and giving a dignified military salute at frequent intervals. His identity is still a mystery to the initiated in spiritual lore, but it is believed that it is the ghost of Major L'Enfant, the talented Frenchman who designed the city of Washington.

The demon cat legend has been repeated for the last fifty years as the animal apparition which returns at irregular periods. The story does not vary much, being merely that of an ordinary tabby at first sight, but she grows to a gigantic horror before the eyes of a frightened observer. Suddenly this demon cat emits a fierce yowl and with eyes ablaze and mouth open leaps toward the spectator, but invariably leaps quite over his head.

The Library Spooks.

In the library section there were two ghosts always on duty, if the solemn word of the capitol policemen may be believed. One of these, a wraith of a thin, little old gentleman, had been frantically searching for years in one of the subcellars for something hidden among the volumes. During his lifetime he had the reputation of being very eccentric, hoarding and hiding many unusual things among the books he loved. Just before his death he undertook desperately to impart some knowledge to those around his bed but, being unintelligible without having his last will [illegible] Long after his death it was discovered that he had stowed away many valuable documents worth of [illegible] among the [illegible]

SIRES AND SONS.

Hubert Latham, the aeronaut, is twenty-six years of age. He was born in Paris and has served in the French army.

Lord Roberts has been four times commander in chief, has twice had his horse shot under him and in 1858 gained the V. C.

The Right Hon. John Burns, M. P., has been an engineer, a boxer, a striker, a prisoner, a labor secretary and a cabinet minister.

G. W. Shields of Omaha, Neb., who has the use of his left arm only, is able to play a good game of golf. It is said that he can drive the ball 300 feet.

Lord Kitchener, who was recently made a field marshal, was fifty-nine years old in June and is the youngest field marshal in the history of Great Britain. Lord Roberts was sixty years old when he was raised to the rank, and Lord Wolseley was sixty-two.

John Jacob Astor, who served on the staff of Major General Shafter in Cuba in the war against Spain and gave the government a $100,000 mountain battery for use in that conflict, is the inventor of a bicycle brake, a pneumatic road machine and a turbine engine.

M. Leon Bourgeois, who succeeds M. Clemenceau as premier of France, has served in various capacities since 1877, when he became secretary of the department of Marne. He entered the cabinet the first time as minister of the interior in 1896. He was president of the council of ministers in 1895-6 and president of the chamber of deputies in 1902-3.

Things Theatrical.

Marie Dressler will begin her tour in October.

Louise Blanchard will have an important role in "The Earth."

Marguerite Clark is to make her dramatic debut in "Peter Pan."

John F. Webber will be a member of the Belasco play, "Is Matrimony a Failure?"

E. D. Price has been engaged by Mrs. Leslie Carter as her business manager for the coming season.

"His Borrowed Plumes," the play by Mrs. Cornwallis-West, lately produced in London, may be imported to this side of the ocean.

Blanche Ring's new musical comedy, "The Yankee Girl," the libretto of which is by George V. Hobart, is said to have a real plot.

College and School.

There are five universities in India.

A dental college has recently been added to the University of Madrid.

St. Paul's school, now the largest as well as the oldest of the schools of London, is one of the oldest of London institutions, older than everything else in London, except the chapter of St. Paul's, and as old as that.

In elementary schools 96 per cent of the children of the United States are in coeducational schools. In secondary schools the proportion for coeducation is 95 per cent. Of colleges and universities attended by men 68 per cent admit women.

Train and Track.

Russian railways are the most dangerous in the world. Thirty persons in every million passengers are either killed or hurt.

The most expensive and roomiest railway station in the world is said to be that of the Peninsular Railway company at Bombay.

In the building of railways in Turkey preference is given to the narrow gauge lines, as these are cheaper and may more readily be made to reach most of the villages situated along the general lines which they are intended to follow.

Proverbs of Montenegro.

Marry with your ears and not with your eyes.

Even his own tail is a burden to the weary fox.

Every time the sheep bleats she loses a mouthful.

What is the use of a fine collar if it strangles me?

It is better to slip with the foot than with the tongue.

If you are going to visit the wolf take your dogs with you.

The fugitive covers only one mile the pursuer twenty in seeking him.

English Etchings.

The poet laureateship carries with it a pension of £70 a year.

In London alone there are more than 2,000 societies and institutions for the relief of misery and suffering.

Horror at the spectacle of women gathering up the dust and microbes of the street with their gowns has induced some women in London to form a Short Skirt league. The members bind themselves to wear skirts that are hygienic in this respect.

Recent Inventions.

For the housewife's benefit a recently patented dishpan carries on one side a draining rack for dishes.

A recently patented trowel carries a hopper from which the mortar is fed automatically to a smooth, clean spoon.

An Alhambra man has patented a doublebar chest in which bottles can be rolled right and left to keep the cork moist and prevent the drying of the contents. [illegible]

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NO COCKADOODLES IN WASHINGTON.

Oh, hear the news from Washington!
Oh, list with bated breath!
And break it gently to the race
Lest many fall in death.

You august courts, so solemn, slow,
Decree that roosters have to go.
No cockadoodle, high or low,
May in that holy city crow.

Oh, hear the reason for all this—
Why Mrs. Hen must change to Miss,
This law that takes those cocks away
While poodle pups bark night and day.

You spindly dudes of Washington
Rouse in highballs all night,
And, guided by a copper's arm,
They don't get home till light.

Those pretty girls of fairy form,
Who give the diplomats brainstorm,
Who kick high jinks like fair Salome,
And awful late returning home.

Those mammas who indulge in bridge
Until old Sol peeps o'er Blue Ridge,
And dads who rattle poker chips
And late put on their nightly slips—

These all have knocked at rooster's crow
Because it irritates them so,
And thus the cocks may crow no more
Because "sassiety" must snore.

Now without tariff hullabaloo,
Cut off from cockadoodledoo,
Oh, won't that old town be a bore
With nothin' doin' but a snore?

C. M. BARNITZ.

THE NEST EGG NO FAKE.

Now! Everybody ready? Here's for a good laugh at the cushion pressing poultry editor who calls the nest egg "grandmother's superstition."

Our hens just cackle for them. Why? Just because a hen sits plump down on a nest egg and uses it to press out the new egg.

She will lay almost every time where there is an egg and, if not furnished, will often scratch a stone, corncob or green apple into the nest.

Hens can carry an egg under the wing, as you have discovered to your sorrow when lifting a cluck hastily from the nest. We have been surprised at times to find most of the nest eggs in one nest and on watching have detected a hen making the transfer.

To cultivate the habit of laying in one place and to stop nest stealing, to prevent hens crowding into one nest and also the dropping of eggs, to be broken and eaten, and to start your laying pullets to lay in the nests, furnish nest eggs, and lots of them. The patent louse killing nest egg soon evaporates and taints the eggs. The natural egg should not be used as it gets stale. The white china egg is best for the nest.

FOR A QUICK, EARLY MOLT.

Fido, Pussy and Old Fan shed their hair just like Biddy molts her feathers. Easy, cheap way to get a winter overcoat!

But Biddy must hustle her molt to escape colds and roup and to lay early winter high priced eggs.

Strong hens don't get bare, their new feathers quickly replacing the old.

Molting begins about July 1 and should end Sept. 1 at latest, and thin hens molt first, so thin them down by cutting the ration to one-half or a third the usual quantity, according to condition, whether fat or thin. For this three weeks' anti-fat ration feed mostly wheat and oats and twice a week on clear days feed a mash in which put two tablespoonfuls of sulphur to every fifty fowls. Now feed heavily of good grains, cut bone and sunflower seed. This will rush their new feathers and bring them to laying condition.

Keep them free from lice in molt, feed no egg force and protect them from exposure.

DON'TS.

Don't miss your town paper in advertising stock to sell. It will bring you boodle for cockadoodle, and you'll not be like the noodle who placed his ad. 500 miles away and never heard from it until the judgment day.

Don't forget that young show birds should be well fed, well housed, well petted, but not spoiled.

Don't lock that door after the chickens have been stolen nor hide the key on the doorstep.

Don't build a henhouse like a king's palace, and don't build a shack. To build just right, as in anything else, you must find the golden mean, and the golden mean leads to the gold mine.

Don't get mad at your neighbor if he skins your cat that skinned his chick. It's a skin game trick.

Don't sigh for more worlds to conquer before you conquer yourself. That made Alexander a great failure.

Don't go through the world with your eyes open to the other fellow's faults. You can't hide your own even in safety vaults.

Don't count your show birds till they mature and don't count your eggs till the show is over.

[illegible]

THE CORNISH INDIAN GAME.

If the lightweight Leghorn is the egg machine and the Brahma is the beef of poultrydom, then the Cornish Indian Game must be the draft horse.

It's the chunkiest chicken incubated. But is that big bird really a Game?

Sure. Its first father was a Lord Derby Black Breasted Red Game of England and its mother an Aseel Game from India.

The progeny of this pair were mated to a Black Sumatra Game, and if these three varieties are placed beside a thoroughbred Cornish Indian their relationship can be easily traced.

The Black Breasted Red is seen in the color, the Aseel in the massiveness and the Sumatra in the beautiful metallic luster of the plumage of the Cornish Indian. But why should the Cornish club drop the name "Game" and call their favorite "Cornish Fowl," "Cornish," "Indian?"

Because the name "Game" handicaps its popularity, as that name is associated with cruel cockfighting and

THE CORNISH INDIAN GAME

the ruffianism and outlawry of the cockpit, while this magnificent fowl is peaceable in disposition and built primarily for meat, of which delicious article it carries much.

The White is the other variety of Indian Game, but its lighter weight points to Malay origin or cross, while the Cornish, the subject of our sketch, is more like the Aseel.

The first true Cornish were brought from England in 1887. They have many friends. The hen is marked much like the Partridge Cochin, but the palm for beauty must go to the male. He is a picture with his red comb, face, wattles and ear lobes, pearl eyes, yellow beak and legs, greenish black hackle, glossy black and red back and saddle, beautiful red and black wing markings, rich glossy black breast and underbody and low, lustrous black tail. For beauty and flesh we have found them extra fine fowl.

CORNISH INDIAN STANDARD WEIGHTS.

	Pounds.		Pounds.
Cock	9	Hen	6½
Cockerel	7½	Pullet	5½

FEATHERS AND EGGSHELLS.

A Quaker was too religious to kill a dog that caught his chickens, so he gave him a good kick and yelled, "Mad dog!" Everybody joined in the chase, and the pup's career soon ended. Can't you get up a mad dog scare in your town?

A mad dog scare in Danville, Pa., last year caused the canine population to "ki-yi" over a hundred of their departed relatives who were shot by cops. Let the good work go on.

Concrete block poultry houses do not appear to make good, as they are reported cold and chilly and not conducive to big egg records.

The offering of a bounty of 2 cents a head for sparrows at Marquette, Mich., resulted in the slaughter of 1,664 in three months. Poultrymen who are careless with feed encourage the pest. A pigeon fancier caught 168 in his loft entry, where feed was scattered from the pigeon troughs.

There are at present 5,500,000 geese in the United States, 5,000,000 ducks and 6,500,000 turkeys. If these were served to 90,000,000 people those at the second table would surely get left.

Chucks may seem awful slow hatching to one who runs incubators, but their chicks are awful fast growers in comparison to incubator chicks. They stuff with feed until they resemble a First ward alderman right after he polls a big majority, but such a quantity of feed kills an incubator chick overnight.

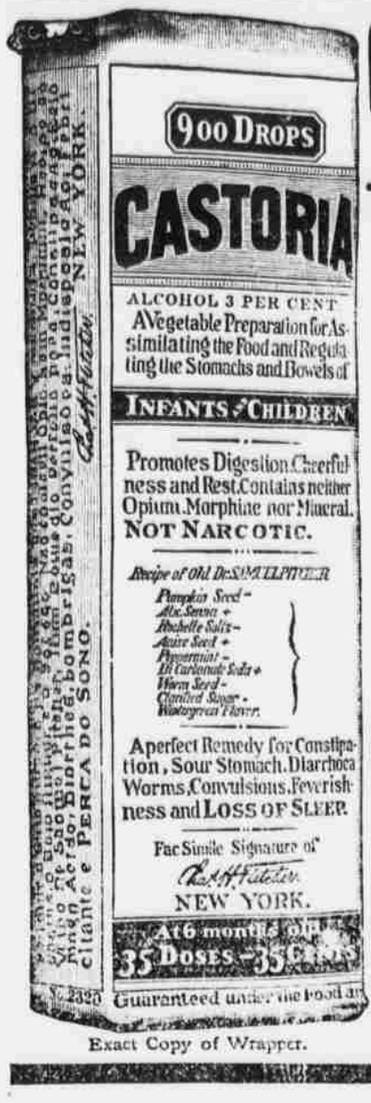
The reason incubator chicks come out so much earlier than a hen's is because we run the machine too hot, and when this is not the case we must remember that a hen is outside and her hatch is apt to be retarded by the weather, while an incubator is generally where a drop in temperature can't affect it.

For quality, quick growth and perfect maturity of chicks take the hen, but for quantity take the incubator. No brooder can brood like Biddy. This is not fossilism, for we use both. The Almighty made a good thing when he created the cluck, and she can't be legislated out of existence by the incubator manufacturers.

At Peterboro, N. H., eggs were dropped from a balloon, a mile in the air, to demonstrate that explosives could be dropped accurately. They hit the mark. Haymow hen fruit was forbidden.

A turkey hen is a good breeder for four or five years, but it is good to have a new, strong, young gobbler every spring for a sure thing.

C. M. Barnitz.



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