

PASSAGE OF THE JAMES.

The Brilliant Military Spectacle Presented by the Advance on Petersburg. In The Century General Horace Porter writes of "Grant's Dash for Petersburg" in a series of papers on "Campaigning With Grant." Of the passage of the James, General Porter says:

As the general in chief stood upon the bluff on the north bank of the river on the morning of June 15, watching with unusual interest the busy scene spread out before him, it presented a sight which had never been equaled even in his extended experience in all the varied phases of warfare. His cigar had been thrown aside, his hands were clasped behind him, and he seemed lost in the contemplation of the spectacle. The great bridge was the scene of a continuous movement of infantry columns, batteries of artillery and wagon trains. The approaches to the river on both banks were covered with masses of troops moving briskly to their positions or waiting patiently their turn to cross. At the two improvised ferries steamboats were gliding back and forth with the regularity of weavers' shuttles. A fleet of transports covered the surface of the water below the bridge, and gunboats floated lazily upon the stream, guarding the river above.

Drums were beating the march, bands were playing stirring quicksteps, the distant booming of cannon on Warren's front showed that he and the enemy were still exchanging compliments, and mingled with these sounds were the cheers of the sailors, the shouting of the troops, the rumbling of wheels and the shrieks of steam whistles. The bright sun, shining through a clear sky upon the scene, cast its sheen upon the water, was reflected from the burnished gun barrels and glittering cannon, and brought out with increased brilliancy the gay colors of the waving banners. The calmly flowing river reflected the blue of the heavens and mirrored on its surface the beauties of nature that bordered it. The rich grain was standing high in the surrounding fields. The harvest was almost ripe, but the harvesters had fled. The arts of civilization had receded before the science of destruction, and in looking from the growing crops to the marching columns the gentle smile of peace contrasted strangely with the savage frown of war.

It was a matchless pageant that could not fail to inspire all beholders with the grandeur of achievement and the majesty of military power. The man whose genius had conceived and whose skill had executed this masterly movement stood watching the spectacle in profound silence. Whether his mind was occupied with the contemplation of its magnitude and success or was busied with maturing plans for the future no one can tell. After a time he woke from his reverie, mounted his horse and gave orders to have headquarters ferried across to the south bank of the river.

Washington Well Fortified.

In view of the fact that the national capital was once taken and burned by a foreign enemy it is reassuring to know that a calamity so humiliating is not likely to occur again, even in case of sudden war.

Washington is the best defended city in the country. A hostile fleet could not now ascend the Potomac, as was done in 1814, when President Madison and his wife were compelled to make a hurried escape across the Potomac to avoid capture by the British.

For military and prudential reasons little has been allowed to be made known concerning the new works and the heavy ordnance recently installed below the city, but for some years engineers have been busy at the river forts. Some very formidable guns are now in position there, and a system of torpedo defenses has been perfected which would render the approach of an enemy's warships within 12 miles of Washington practically impossible.

The defensive works are located at the "elbow," or turn, of the Potomac where old Forts Washington and Sheridan stood, and where at one point the channel for vessels of deep draft is but 300 yards wide.

The guns are protected on the water side by emplacement walls of stone and concrete 70 feet thick, and on the land side by redoubts for infantry.

The rapidly increasing wealth and importance of Washington, the grand new public buildings and the vast sums of money and bullion in the treasury render these protective and defensive measures a matter of national importance and necessity.—Youth's Companion.

Goldfish Prices.

Ordinary goldfish for aquariums can be bought as low as 10 cents each. From that the prices run up very high. As much as \$50 has been paid for a well bred telescope fish. This fish grows to be four or five inches in length. It comes from China and Japan and takes its name from its eyes, which stand out from its head like little telescopes. Fifty dollars is an unusual price to pay for a goldfish, but prices ranging from 50 cents to \$15 or more are not unusual. The higher prices are paid for beautiful Japanese goldfish with fringed and lace-like tails.—New York Sun.

Striking.

"Aunt," said Polly, ruefully rubbing her forehead, "that big photograph of you is a striking likeness, isn't it?" "Do you think so, deary?" "Yes," said Polly. "It just fell off the mantelpiece and hit me on the forehead."—Harper's Bazar.

Many animals feign illness. In military stables horses are known to have pretended to be lame in order to avoid going to a military exercise. A chimpanzee in the Zoo had been fed on cake when sick. After his recovery he often feigned coughing in order to procure dainties.

Old wood best to burn, old wine best to drink, old friends to trust, and old authors to read.—Alonso of Aragon.

Paper Underclothing.

The Japanese are making underclothing of their finely crissed or grained paper.

After the paper has been cut to a pattern the different parts are sewed together and hemmed, and the places where the buttonholes are to be formed are strengthened with calico or linen. The stuff is very strong, and at the same time very flexible. After a garment has been worn a few hours it will interfere with the transpiration of the body no more than do garments made of fabric.

The stuff is not sized, nor is it impermeable. After becoming wet the paper is difficult to tear. When an endeavor is made to tear it by hand, it presents almost as much resistance as the thin skin used for making gloves.—London Answers.

The Largest Book.

Professor Max Muller of Oxford, in a recent lecture, called attention to the largest book in the world, the wonderful Kath Daw. It consists of 729 parts in the shape of white marble plates, covered with inscriptions, each plate built with a temple of brick. It is found near the old priest city of Mandalay, in Burma, and this temple city of more than 700 pagodas virtually makes up this monster book—the religious code of the Buddhists. It is written in Pali. Rather strange to say, it is not an ancient production, but its preparation was prompted by the Buddhistic party of this century. It was erected in 1857 by the command of Mindamin, the second of the last kings of Burma.—Home Journal.

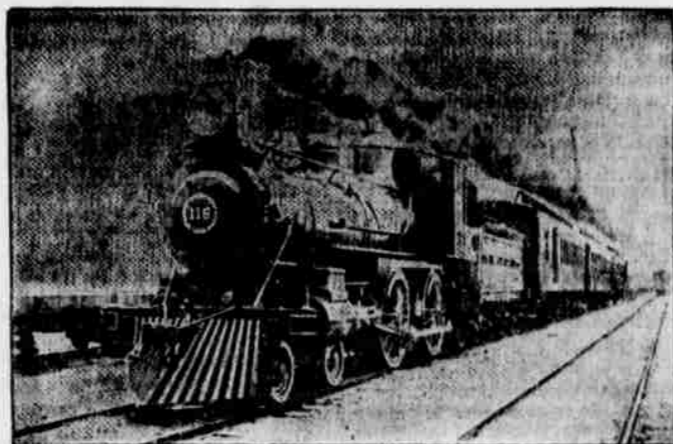


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Wanted a Meal.

"Several days ago," says the Ohio State Journal, "Congressman Watson sent several large sacks of flower and garden seeds home for distribution among his constituents. The papers announced this fact, and for three days past there has been a constant stream of persons coming to the congressman's law office in Columbus. On Saturday a man came up and asked for beans. He was given two packages. He demurred to this and reached over into the sack and began to fill his pockets. When called down by the attendant, the lover of beans said: 'I haven't got enough for a mess yet. It takes more than a quart of beans to make a mess for my family.'"

From the Postoffice.

The Visitor—My man, what are you in the penitentiary for?

The Gentleman in Stripes—Collecting stamps.

The Visitor—Collecting stamps? Why, what is wrong in that?

The Gentleman in Stripes—Nothing; but dey said I ought to have took the canceled ones only.—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune

His Experience.

Smithers—You do the captain an injustice when you say he has never been under fire.

Smithers—Tut, tut! When has he been?

Smithers—I have seen his enemies heap coals of fire upon his head more than once.—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

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