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THE WASHINGTON LETTER.

(From Our Regular Correspondent.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., July 18, 1900.
Secretary Hay has had no word from Minister Conger, and he has little hope that Mr. Conger or any of the other foreigners who were in Peking will ever be heard from again although he made a formal demand upon the Chinese government through the Chinese Minister, to forward a cablegram to Minister Conger and to allow him to answer it. That was done more with the hope that it might induce the Chinese authorities to tell the fate of Minister Conger and the other foreigners in Peking than anything else. Secretary Long is the one member of the Cabinet who still strongly believes that our minister is safe. There is no official news from Peking but the unofficial news from a number of sources all tends to destroy hope of the safety of the foreigners, and official news from other parts of China indicates that the anti-foreigner sentiment is spreading and that there is danger for foreigners in all sections of the empire. And added to this disquieting news are rumors that disagreements among the offices of the allied forces which are being gathered at Taku are preventing anything being done towards crushing the Chinese. Officials do not accept these rumors as true.

Secretary Root who is deeply interested in the future of Cuba, said on the subject: "My own experience in Cuba leads me to believe that the desire for independence is both strong and general among the people. I do not think they want annexation, even assuming that we want them. Under the Congressional declaration, we are in honor bound to give the Cubans independence first. If, subsequently, they wish annexation, that is a matter for them to determine. But it should be determined when they are in a position absolutely independent of us. Even then it is a case where it takes two to make a bargain." Gen. Wood is now on his way to Washington to consult with Secretary Root about the preliminaries for the Cuban Constitutional Convention, soon to be held.

Mr. DeWester, a well known Kentuckian, now in Washington, said of politics in his state: "The Democrats will not carry Kentucky this year. I voted for Bryan four years ago, but have seen the mistake and am willing to admit it. The Goebel law was a disgraceful measure, and Mr. Bryan came to our state supporting it and its adherents. He will find that his attitude in that campaign has lost him many of the votes that otherwise might have been his. You can place Kentucky among Republican states this year."

The announcement that Perry Heath, First Assistant Postmaster-General, has been chosen Secretary of the Republican National Committee, to succeed Representative Dick, who resigned in order to devote his whole time to the management of the Ohio campaign, created no surprise in Washington. Mr. Heath was prominently connected with the last campaign as manager of the National Committee's literary bureau, and it has been assumed from the first that Senator Hanna would wish to again utilize his ability and experience in the work of the Committee. Mr. Heath, will, of course, resign his present position.

Washington was shocked by the sudden death of Senator Gear, of Iowa. Friday evening he was with Secretary Wilson until bedtime and expressed himself as feeling as well as he ever did in his life and completed his arrangements to start for Iowa Sunday afternoon to take part in the campaign. That night he had an attack of heart trouble and early Saturday morning he died, and his remains left Washington on the same train that he had intended taking alive. Secretary Wilson accompanied Mrs. Gear on the train. Owing to Senators and Representatives being widely scattered, it was impossible to get together the usual Congressional Committee to accompany the body to Iowa. Senator Gear was regarded as one of the solid men of the Senate, to which he was last winter elected for his second term, which would have begun the 4th of next March. He will be missed, not only by his colleagues but by the Republican party which he served long and well in many capacities.

THE RATTLESNAKE QUESTION.

EDITOR PIKE COUNTY PRESS: I desire to offer a few suggestions in regard to the extermination in this county of one of the vilest and deadliest of reptiles, the rattlesnake. Realizing that you are justly opposed to sensational tales on this subject, I shall not intrude upon your space unnecessarily, merely mentioning a few facts and suggesting a remedy. During the past month eleven rattlers have been killed in this section of Shohola township, and it is due more to good fortune than to anything else that three men escaped unhurt. A few weeks ago George Swezy, of Walker Lake, came upon a snake in the road, and stooping to pick up a stick, found a second snake striking at the brush a few inches from his head. Two Sundays ago I stopped with a foot of a rattler's head, and heard for the first time that disgusting blowing noise they sometimes make when seemingly too lazy to rattle. Fred Mook, of the Hudson County Camping Club, while gathering wood last week, discovered a snake in the mass of kindling he was about to lift. While driving with S. D. Wells yesterday, the horses became terrified at sight and sound of a rattler directly in the road, which goes to show how our dumb friends regard *Crotalus horridus*—excuse the Latin, it fits the beast to a T. The above snakes were all killed.

Now, the question is, what is to be done? I admit that the snake is generally sluggish, is easily killed, and that it occasionally gives warning, though more often it does not—at least, that has been my experience. I also know that the presence of this reptile keeps hundreds of people out of the county each year. For instance, Patrick Ford, of the Irish World, who spent several summers at Badner Wood's with his family, and who seriously thought of building by Brink Pond, promptly ended his visit after seeing a snake that had been killed in the hayfield—just a dead snake, mind you. Close friends declined to visit me for the same reason. During my trip over the township last month, from Laclawazen to Pond Eddy, I found that the reptiles were pretty evenly distributed, and infer it is about the same throughout the county.

It would seem that the offer of a bounty of perhaps twenty-five cents for each fresh skin would in a large measure rid us of these public enemies, for men would then be induced to visit the dens in spring and in fall, before and after the breeding season. If necessary, the money could be raised by popular subscription, as every one would be concerned in the work; whether hotelman, merchant, railroad, farmer or mechanic. For the good of the community, these horrid reptiles should be stamped out and crushed. It is not at all impossible.

W. GORDON PARKER.

\$1 00 to New York and Back.
On Sunday next July 22nd, 1900 the Erie R. R. will run a special one dollar excursion to New York, in order to allow all who cannot go on a week day. Special train leaving Port Jervis at 7 a. m. arriving in city before 10 a. m. and giving over nine hours in city ample time to visit any of the seaside resorts inland around Greater New York, all who wish to visit Coey Island should take the 22nd street ferry as the Iron Steamboats leave West 22nd street pier, adjoining Erie R. R. station New York, every hour for Coey Island, fare 25 cents from New York. Remember the special train leaves Erie depot Port Jervis 7 a. m. Sunday July 22nd, fare only one dollar round trip.

So far the boating season here has not been up to the expectations and expectations of those who enter to that trade. It is somewhat of a mystery where the people have gone. The travel to the Paris Exposition has not been so heavy as was expected and a general complaint comes from different sections that the guests are comparatively few. Perhaps they are at seaside resorts where the weather is cool, as for instance Atlantic City, where on a recent Sunday the thermometer marked 106 degrees in a hotel dining room while the guests ate and listened to the band.

T. Armstrong and Co. have just received a complete line of men's, women's and children's shoes, the finest ever brought in this town, which you are invited to call and inspect, with an assurance that any taste or desire as to shape, style and quality can be entirely gratified.

PERSONALS.

Dr. C. S. Costa made a trip to Blooming Grove this week.
Robert D. Neeson, of New York, spent last Sunday in Milford.
Mrs. Robert Oliver, of Montclair, N. J., is visiting George Warner and wife.
Miss Eva Van Etten, of N. Y., is visiting with the family of J. H. Van Etten.
B. A. Thomas is said to be very ill at Dingman's Ferry with appendicitis.
George Salmon, wife and child, of New York, have been spending a week in town.
The condition of Hon. E. Pinchot does not improve and he is gradually growing weaker.
John Van Etten, after a two weeks vacation in Milford, returned to business last Sunday.
A. S. Hottle and wife, of Philadelphia, are visiting their daughter, Mrs. von der Heyde.
Leroy Kippard and E. Klein were out this week on a vacation in the central part of the State.
Mrs. Arthur Roe, of Branchville is visiting her parents J. C. Westbrook and wife on Fourth street.
Miss Blanche A. Bidlack, after an absence of several weeks, is again at her home on Centre Square.
John C. Westbrook is recovering from his attack of heat prostration and is now able to go out again.
Mrs. Saddle Van Horn, of Peters valley, is spending a few days with the family of William T. Struble.
The Misses Lila and Bessie Van Etten have been spending the past week visiting with friends in Newton, N. J.

Mrs. S.rah Cressman is regaining her strength slowly and is considered as making substantial gain toward health.
The Misses Martha and Pamela Reed, Misses Johnson and Ann Baker and Mrs. J. J. Hart visited Bushkill this week.
Miss Lillah St. John has changed the date of her proposed violin recital to be given in Browns Hall on Thursday evening July 20.

Several from here went on the excursion to New York Wednesday among them E. Warner and son, John, Richard Humbert and Arto Dubois.
Dr. King, wife and children, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, have arrived in Milford and are guests of Judge Pinchot, Mrs. Kings father, whose condition is very critical.
W. Gordon Parker, of Woodtown, a writer of books for boys, and who now has a volume about to be issued by the house of Lee and Shepard at Boston, was at Milford a day this week.

Gifford Pinchot, U. S. Forester, is spending the week at Fox Towers, having recently returned from a trip to Arizona where he has been to investigate the effect of herding sheep on forest lands.
Frank Hallett was expected to arrive here this week from Cuba but sent a cablegram saying he was detained by a slight attack of fever and would sail Saturday. Mrs. Hallett has gone to New York to be in more direct communication with him.

Dr. Woodruff, of Dover, N. J., Rev. Timbrell, of Rockaway, and Rev. Shultz, of Port Morris, who are out on a jaunt with their wheels, visited on Monday night with Rev. C. E. Scudder, who next day accompanied them part way down the valley.

Excursion to Chautauqua, L. Ke.
On Friday July 27, 1900 the Erie will sell excursion tickets from Port Jervis, to Chautauqua, N. Y., at the low rate of ten dollars for the round trip, good going on train No. one leaving at 11:35 a. m. train No. 5, leaving at 5:15 p. m. or train No. 7, leaving at 10:15 p. m., good to return to Saturday August 25, 1900. Remember only \$10. for round trip. 27

Troubles of a Minister.
To benefit others Rev. J. T. W. Vernon, of Hartwell, Ga., writes: "For a long time I had a running sore on my leg. I tried many remedies without benefit, until I used a bottle of Electric Bitters and a box of Bucklen's Arnica Salve, which cured me sound and well." Sores, Eruptions, Boils, Eczema, Tetter, Salt Rheum show impure blood. Thousands have found in Electric Bitters a grand blood purifier that absolutely cures these troubles. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded by all druggists. Large bottles only 50c.

Imperialism.

The claim has been made that Bryan is receiving more general support this year than in 1896. While there may be no conclusive data on which to base an estimate of the popular vote if the Democratic newspapers are a criterion he will receive less, for many of them are giving but a half-hearted support and many others are openly opposing him. When the trouble with Spain began the Democ rats in Congress, and in the country, were loudest in demanding war with that nation and some of their papers claimed they had forced the issue against the dilatoriness of the President. Now it seems hardly consistent after the position they then assumed and the subsequent action by which the Philippines became our possessions, in which action they joined, to say that this nation should abandon those possessions. The Bryan talk of imperialism is nothing but a sounding phrase with which he hopes to catch votes of the unwary. 16 to 1 has already been condemned by the people and the party must, in order to have some excuse for its being, raise a supposed issue even though in so doing it now opposes what it heretofore has approved. Such chaff will not persuade the honest and conscientious Democrats in this country that they ought to vote Bryan. The gold standard men in the party will not be won back by the idea that the financial question is a subordinate and not a paramount issue and in the main they will vote McKinley. There seems nothing whatever on which to base a claim that the Democratic party is so strong this year as it was four years ago, and there is no reason judged by its conduct why it should be.

Our Bicycle Ordinances.

Rev. T. H. Yery, pastor of the Evangelical church at Lock Haven, Pa., was halted last Friday evening on our streets by officer Wood for riding a wheel without a light. Burgess Wolfe under the circumstances and plea, ignorance of the ordinance, imposed a fine of only one dollar. The reverend gentleman pleaded a lack of funds but promised to send it and was allowed to go. Cyclist in the Gazette criticizes what he or she calls the "sacred Milford bicycle law" and by inference condemns the officer for enforcing it. The ordinance was passed to protect persons and property and make riding on our streets a safe pastime, not only the wheelman themselves are in danger without a light but pedestrians and vehicles also, and it was with no scornful view or any idea of nulcing riders that the ordinance was passed and solely for their protection and that of the traveling public. Our officer is simply doing his duty when he enforces the ordinance and should be commended. The reverend gentleman, who is no doubt a man of sense, should have foreseen the propriety of being guarded by a light in a town like this and made inquiry of his companions who had lights as to the requirements. He should not plead ignorance nor later be screened by the statement that he had a lamp but it would not burn. Such evasions are beneath the dignity of his cloth.

The Chinese Trouble.

What has been dreaded for some days, the slaughter of Americans and other foreigners in China, has been done. The most horrible atrocities have been perpetrated and the civilized world awakes to the full realization of the fact that it has a most malignant, barbarous and unrelenting foe in the bosom of the Chinese nation. That steps will be taken to punish them promptly there is no doubt, but this will not wipe out the sorrow or restore the innocent, men, women and children they have slain, nor will it atone for their inhuman acts. The punishment however, should be swift, sure and complete.

Mother Gooseazar.

The Womens Guild of the Episcopal church expect to hold a bazaar in Browns Hall Wednesday and Thursday August 8 and 9 afternoon and evening. The bottles will represent different characters in the Mother Goose rhymes. An orchestra will be in attendance the second evening. Admission ten cents except the evening of the 9th when it will be 25 cents. Friends of the parish who desire to contribute articles please leave with Mrs. E. Kenworthy on Harford street.

BRIEF MENTION.

Mrs. John Detrick has been quite ill for several days.
David J. Newman while lifting a large stone last Friday had a finger on his right hand badly injured.
Taggart's Sunday Times claims to be the only Bryan paper in Philadelphia. Even misery loves company.
Service may be expected at the Sawkill school house Sunday, July 22, at 2:30 p. m., the weather permitting.
The solo which Alfred J. Gilchrist is to sing at the M. E. church next Sunday morning is entitled "The Everlasting Light."
Wilson W. Jagger, a native of Delaware township, but for many years a resident of Sonanton, died in that city Sunday July 15.
George A. Hill, a well known resident of Matamoras, and prominent in railroad circles, died at his home Tuesday evening, aged 47 years.
The midsummer meeting of the Midsink Valley Historical Society will be held at Candelas Park near Coderbackville to-morrow July 21.
Rev. C. E. Scudder will preach on Sunday evenings during the month of August at the M. E. church a series of sermons entitled the Riverside series.

Dingman's Ferry now has two mails daily, one leaving here at 10:15 a. m. and one at 4 p. m. This arrangement will be in force until September 15th.
United States Senator Gear, of Iowa, died suddenly of heart trouble last Saturday. Secretary of Agriculture Wilson is spoken of as his probable successor.
The boys who are camping at Edgemore under the care of Prof. Jacob Klebanow, defeated a nine of Dingman Ferry at ball Wednesday by a score of 4 to 12.
Charles C. Cotter, a printer, died at his home in Saginaw, Mich., July 2 age 57 years. He was a son of C. B. Cotter, who published the Milford Herald in the early sixties.
Eugene Hanze lost his horse Thursday morning. He had been to Dingmans and when coming home the animal dropped in the road near Judge Cananes and gave up the ghost.
R. S. Danley, Jr., of Matamoras, and Miss Mary L. Beitzelmann, of East Liverpool, Ohio, were united in marriage Thursday, July 12, by Rev. G. Gillespie at the Presbyterian parsonage in Port Jervis. After the ceremony a pleasant reception was given at the home of the groom's parents.

Notwithstanding the state of affairs existing in China, war cannot be declared by the United States without the conveing of Congress, and this will not likely be done. The insurrection may be quelled and the insurrectionists punished with out a formal declaration which would involve many and graver questions.
Lebanon county last Saturday nominated an entire Anti Quay ticket. Dr. Samuel Weiss who declared that under no circumstances would he vote for M. S. Quay for Senator was nominated over Dr. P. Gerberich the Quay candidate for Senator. In York county the convention will be controlled by the Anti Quay faction.
The corps of engineers, surveying for the Peoples Power Co., completed a preliminary line this week from here to Matamoras. They ran back of town at an elevation of 125 feet, and struck the flats at a point near Caskeys Hickory Grove Hotel. They are now running the line westwardly, the ultimate objective point being Nanticoke in Luzerne county.
Never sink division order of Railway conductors will have an excursion to, and clam bake at Shohola Glen, August 21st. Trains will leave Port Jervis at 10:30 a. m., fare, round trip, 40 cents. This will afford Milford people an excellent opportunity to enjoy a ride to the famous glen and partake of a lake which will satisfy the most fastidious palate.
The new bank is receiving the support and patronage of the people here to a reassuring degree. Its great convenience and the accommodating spirit manifested by the officials wins favor and its success already seems established. People in this section should give the institution cordial support and so ensure its prosperity and make its usefulness in aiding business enterprise felt for the general good.

IS ALCOHOL A FOOD?

The W. C. T. U. feels that one of the great crises in our national life for which that organization was born is now upon it. For nearly a year the newspapers have freely printed reports of Professor Atwater's alcohol experiments by which it was claimed he has proved alcohol to be as much food as sugar, starch and fat and the school text books on physiology inaccurate because they teach that alcohol is a poison and not food. This accusation which has to a great extent perverted the minds of the people and done immense harm is thus refuted.
Professor Atwater's alcohol experiments reported last June have turned the thought of medical circles to the scientific side of the alcohol question as never before. Since January 1, 1900, these experiments and conclusions have been widely discussed by the standard medical journals of the country.
The Journal of the American Medical Association, the organ of the national society of allopathic physicians, contains an exhaustive discussion by Professors Woodburg and Egbert, of the Medico Chirurgical College, of Philadelphia, on the Atwater experiments. This discussion shows that the tables of these experiments giving the gain and loss of the body do not prove that alcohol acted as a food; and that, in short, there is nothing whatever in these experiments to show those scientists wrong who declare alcohol to be poison and not a food.
Windifred S. Hall, Professor of Physiology in a University Medical School in Chicago, shows the fallacy of calling a substance "to a limited extent a food," or "sometimes a food" on the ground that it has one characteristic of a food, by the following syllogism: "Foods are oxidized in the body; alcohol is oxidized in the body; therefore alcohol is a food. We might as well say: Horses breathe oxygen; the yeast plant breathes oxygen; therefore the yeast plant is a horse."

Articles and editorials in the New York Medical Record, St. Louis Medical Record, the Bulletin of the Northwestern University Medical School, the Therapist, the Practical Doctor and others are in line with the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal which says:
"To demonstrate the fact [that alcohol is a food] it must be proved that the sum total of the effects of the ingested alcohol is useful rather than harmful in the maintenance of the animal economy. And this Dr. Atwater has not proven. And it has not yet, so far as we know, been demonstrated. In fact, the weight of experimental evidence is decidedly against it."
The Practical Druggist says: "Every standard work on toxicology and medical jurisprudence classifies alcohol with other poisons; and if alcohol is not a poison because it is possible to use it in ways and doses to which poisonous or fatal consequences can not be directly attributed, then we should be compelled to admit there is no such thing as a poison on earth, for whatever may be true of alcohol in this respect may prove to be true of every poisonous drug known."
Such opinions from standard medical authorities show that Professor Atwater has not proved the present temperance erroneous.

MARY H. HUNT,
World's and National Superior
tendant of the Department of Scientific Temperance Instruction of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.
Unclaimed Letters
List of unclaimed letters remaining in the post office at Milford for week ending July 21 1900.
Ladies—Miss Ella Dougherty, Miss Ida Guerin, Mrs. A. Guerin, Mrs. A. R. Gage.
Gents—Cadwalder Eddle, H. Gantel, W. N. Laeders.
Persons claiming the above will please say "Advertised" and give date of this list.
CHARLES LATTIMORE, P. M.

Excursion to Binghamton, N. Y.
On Sunday next July 22nd, the Erie will run a very cheap excursion from Port Jervis to Binghamton, N. Y., only one dollar and twenty five cents for the round trip special train leaving Port Jervis at 7:30 a. m. and arriving in Binghamton shortly after 11:00 a. m., returning leave Binghamton, at 6:00 p. m. Remember the rate only \$1.25 and the date July 22nd.

PICKED UP BY THE RAMBLER.

Michael and Jacob are not allowing the grass to grow under their feet at present.
Sunday evenings shower came just in time to hinder people from attending church.
Squire Searles, of Dingmans, lost one of his ponies Sunday morning.
I had the privilege of crossing the new iron bridge at Dingmans last Sunday. No one offered to collect any toll.
A regular Pike county copperhead and a five foot blacksnake are all we killed in a two hours travel the other day.
Louis Crane, the proprietor of the Millville grist mill, who was injured a short time ago, has about recovered.
Mrs. C. E. North and family, of Brooklyn, N. Y., were guests of R. D. Sayre and wife last week.
Eugene Hance manages to capture some pretty good sized bass.
So the Lgations at China have been wiped from the face of the earth again, and all foreigners killed. The next dispatch? Will contain the news they are safe. What a harvest it is for city papers.
Automobiles are seen on are streets almost daily.
Miss Mary Wells has been on the sick list for several days, but is now improving.

The frequent showers are a benefit to growing vegetation, but have a tendency to ward the gathering of hay and harvest.
Two gentlemen in town were recently arguing as to the private ownership of railroads in Germany and finally a bet was made that there was such. There is a corporation called the Thuringer Eisenbahn a distance of 120 miles, also the Madgeberg and Leipzig R. R., the Apolda and Weimar R. R. and others which the one gent will find are private corporations. The headquarters of the first named are at Erfurt which is a fortified city.
On Flagg the Chair.
When the ambitious Carleton A. Smith was elected representative by less than a score of votes, by voters who threw away to him because they thought he stood no show of election, on reaching the Capitol he expressed amazement that although his capacity to fill a seat was rather ample yet all the chairs were marked with his initials S. of P. S. north of Pike, but he accepted the compliment meekly and was led into the Hall, where he belonged, and where he acquitted himself with such renown that his constituents, fearful lest he might spoil his reputation, denied him a second term by a pronounced negative. Of the two present democratic aspirants Mike would most decidedly come nearer filling Carleton's seat than Jake, in fact the Democrats in this county have not been particular in that matter in the past and the seat has only been partially filled. Mike would be a good fit while Jake would rattle around in a chair built for Carleton and perhaps the only way he could preserve his identity would be to pin the wing of a seventeen year locust, which is said this year to be marked with a W., on the back of his chair. Our Democratic friends should carefully consider the matter of filling a seat when they send a representative to Harrisburg. We bear our proportionate share in paying for the chairs used in the House and should, therefore, in order to get value for our money send a man who can wear out both sides of one. Democratic voters can easily determine as to this matter by an inspection of their candidates.

The Chinese Trouble.
A gigantic war in China seems imminent, and it is said Russia is instigating certain movements which will give her ground for larger demands when the final settlement is made. The Powers seem to be regarding each other with suspicion, instead of war with China the conflict may eventually be between the nations. This country may well stand aloof from the complications and only take such action as will protect our interests and the lives of our citizens in that desperately situated country. We certainly want no war with it or to be mixed up in the politics of the old World which have for their ultimate object the obtaining of more territory for private gain and national advantage.

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Advertise in the Press.