

## OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 8th, 1877.

At the National Capital may be seen the two extremes of society, the tip and the toe of humanity, as sharply outlined as anywhere under the sun. It is like the liquid milkmen bring us, part cream, part milk, and part water. The small part, the cream, is just now mostly out of town, rusticated in the country, luxuriating at the sea-side. The milk is scattered about somewhat, visiting country cousins, trying to keep cool by indulging in frequent excursions down the river, and staying assiduously indoors with closed blinds and drawn curtains, regaling itself with ice-cream and lemonade. But the water, oh, the water. There is no comfort for it. It can have neither fresh air nor pure surroundings, nor coolness nor cleanliness. There are many very poor people in the District of Columbia. They seem to flock here with the feeling that there is safety and protection and provision in contact with the seat of Government. Surely Uncle Sam will not let his own children die of want on his threshold! And, as is always the case in large cities, where poverty prevails sickness comes. The mortality here has been smaller this season than usual, but many and many a little one has closed its eyes for want of proper care and food and medicine. We can't be sorry when the children of poor or dissipated parents die. They are better off dead and the good Father sees it and in pity takes them away. The colored people are less unhealthy than other foreigners here, and this fact is attributed to their free use of whitewash. They are perhaps no more cleanly, but they use whitewash instead of water, covering up and effectually killing the filth about their premises by its frequent application. Just across the Potomac from Washington, huddled close among the hills, is a tiny settlement known as "Freedman's Village." There are perhaps a score of houses the sight of which carries one "back to old Virginia" as nothing I have seen for many years has done. They are regular cabins, part of them of logs, with thatched roofs, whitewashed walls, a dog or two and garden patch in connection with each, and the traditional bare headed, rollicking darkey boys rolling about the ground or perched upon the top rail of the fences that surround the more pretentious of the "cottages." Here it is in those irregular little patches of cultivation that Dinah raises the "yarns" that we see and buy in the market places, and from this vicinity comes the mosses and ferns, autumn leaves and wild flowers that the old women and little boys tug about the streets and sell for 5 cents a bunch. Another reminder of the old ante-Lincoln days is met at Arlington Heights in that part of the National Cemetery which is set apart as the burial place of the colored people who died and were killed in this vicinity during the war. The graves are ranged in long straight rows, each marked by a wooden slab, on which is painted in black letters simply the calling name the master had dubbed his slave, and the date of death as "Dan," or "Sallie," or "Jake," or "Sambo," with no last name and no age. Many hundreds are buried here.

M. M. W.

## Privations of a Massachusetts Family.

A horrible state of suffering has been discovered at Ashley Falls, in the family of John Funk. The family, which consists of the parents and five children, lived at the poorhouse last winter, for the first time in their lives. This spring they came out with a determination to earn their living, but for some reason were discouraged, and Mr. Funk finally broke his leg by accident. A few nights ago the eldest of four children, who slept together, in a paroxysm of hunger commenced gnawing the flesh from the arm of a younger one to satisfy its cravings. Sheffield parties have relieved the family, and there is much criticism of the treatment the family received from the neighbors, who might be expected to minister to their wants.—*Springfield (Mass) Union.*

## A Problem.

The New York *Sun* recently published the following knotty mathematical problem which brought out a couple of columns of solutions from its readers. We fail to see why it should be called a knotty problem but perhaps we don't understand it and so give it for the benefit of those mathematically inclined, and would be glad to receive their solutions: "If A sells B a bale of cotton for \$50, buys it back for \$45, and then sells it to C for \$65, how much does A make on the speculation?"

During the riot at Shamokin a spent ball that had been fired up into the air dropped on a lady's head and imbedded itself in her back hair. Her hat was also knocked off, but she did not know what caused it until she took down her hair when retiring, when the ball dropped out.

A terrific wind and rain storm passed over Council Bluffs, Iowa, last week. At the Deaf and Dumb Institution, three miles southeast of the town, a new wing in process of completion, three stories high, was leveled to the first story and a portion of the material carried a distance of a mile. Loss, \$10,000.

## Miscellaneous News Items.

A little daughter of William Oxenrider, of north Heidelberg township, Berks county, fell down a flight of stairs, dislocating her neck, causing instant death.

The large barn on the property of Mr. John McKenna, at Parkersburg, was totally destroyed by fire last week, together with the entire crops of the season and some agricultural implements.

A girl, named Stone, aged 12 years, shot and instantly killed a boy, named Woolecroft, aged 10, in Boggs township, Clearfield county, on the 3d inst. He had refused to give her a drink of water.

William Pfeffer, aged eight years, residing in the western portion of the State, came near bleeding to death a few days since by the sudden issuing of blood from his nostrils, spurring a distance of two feet.

A school director of Reading has been committed to prison in default of \$5,000 bail to answer the charges of inciting to riot, furnishing liquor to rioters, and providing them with firearms. His name is James Van Stavoren.

Employees on the Pittsburgh division of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad are receiving threatening letters, adorned with skulls and cross bones, which in some instances have had the effect of frightening them from their places.

Some amusement was caused not long ago in an English court by a female witness, who, on the oath being administered, repeatedly kissed the clerk instead of the book. It was some time before she was made to understand the proper—or, at least the legal—thing to do.

An aged couple living near Bower's station on the East Pennsylvania railroad, named James and Elizabeth Bower, aged eighty-one and seventy-one respectively, recently superintended the digging of their of their own graves in DeLong churchyard. They were lined with stone and cost \$800.

On opening the will of the late T. J. Dunbar, of Boston, a few days ago, it was found that he had remembered all who were in his employ at the time of his death. To those who had been with him seven years he bequeathed \$3,000 each, three years \$1,000, and one year \$500.

A man who could not read was distributing handbills of a drinking saloon. He put down his bundle and went to dinner. In his absence a temperance advocate substituted temperance tracts for the handbills, and during the rest of the day the saloon's business was not helped, if not hurt.

Alonzo Melner, who is charged with having opened a switch to wreck a train of soldiers, has been arrested at Pittsburgh. A detachment of troops went to his house at night and found him asleep. They awoke him, when he grasped a revolver in each hand to defend himself. He finally surrendered and is now in jail.

Oscar D. Peterson was arrested in New York on Tuesday for stealing a handkerchief from a store. The prisoner resisted, fired at his captor, broke away, and then emptied a revolver down Broadway, wounding Edward Broomfield in the breast. Peterson was recaptured, and found to have a ball in his leg, the result of a shot from the patrolman's pistol.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, August 3.—Gustavus Swickhard, Allen Dangrue, Jacob Cook and Delorm Baughman, farmers, whose ages range from twenty-two to forty-one, have been committed for murder in the first degree in consequence of the fatal termination of injuries received at their hands, it is alleged, of Lewis Schiffer, also a farmer, in a fight at a picnic at Rocky Fort, in this county on Saturday last. The fight grew out of an old feud.

A sad occurrence has just taken place at the favorite Clyde watering place, Helensburgh, Scotland. A short time since Mrs. Wright, the wife of a Glasgow outfitter, took summer lodging for herself and family. After a week's residence small pox broke out among the children, one daughter dying. This was followed by the death of Mrs. Wright, and it is now alleged that the blankets on the beds in which the family slept had been used for small pox patients. The matter has caused much excitement.

Thomas Placide, the well-known actor who recently killed himself, at New Orleans, on account of a cancer in the mouth, from which he was suffering, is reported to have been brought on the disease by over indulgence in smoking. He was sixty-nine years old. In a farewell letter to a friend, he said: "I have been driven to the deed by the most agonizing tortures that man ever suffered—beyond human endurance."

A Bowling Green man last week 60 years old walked 18 miles on the railroad to a town to buy his marriage license. The case is hardly so bad as one that occurred in Sumner county, Tenn., some time ago. A man walked to Gallatin, 30 miles, to get his license, but after making application he lacked 50 cents of having money enough. He walked home and tried to borrow 50 cents, and failing, walked back to Gallatin, and spent three days trying to beat down the clerk.

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A good Flower Carpet from	33 to 40
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A man's good Hat from	75 to 1 00
A man's better Hat from	1 25 to 2 00
A boy's good Hat from	50 to 1 00
A lady's good Shawl from	75 to 2 00
A lady's good Skirt from	40 to 1 00
A common Parasol from	20 to 50
A good Parasol from	70 to 2 00
A nice Fan from	05 to 15
A good Fan from	20 to 50
A good Paper Pins	03
Four pair Ladies' Hose	25
One pair Ladies' Gloves	15
Six Ladies' White Handkerchiefs	25
Two Ladies' White Ruches	05
One Ladies' good Corset	40
Ladies' Hair Braids	20
Ladies' Hair Switches	15
Men's good Suspenders	10
Men's good Overalls	40
Three pair men's Hose	25

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ESTATE NOTICE.—Notice is hereby given, that Letters of Administration with the will annexed on estate of John B. McClintock, late of Carroll twp., Perry county, Pa., deceased, have been granted to the undersigned, residing in the same township.

All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment, and those having claims to present them duly authenticated for settlement to

JOSEPH B. MCCLINTOCK, Administrator.

P. O., Address—Shermansdale, Perry co., Pa.

July 24, 1877.] [C. H. SMITH, Attorney.

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