

Washington Letter.

Wedding on the Taps—Excitement—Presidents' Wives—Mrs. Lincoln's—Walker—DeLoach—Weather—Etc., Etc.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 23, 1878.

Mrs. Hayes is still in Ohio where the President will join her this week. They are to attend the wedding of a daughter of one of Mrs. Hayes's school friends.

The bride to be is a sister to the baby, "Lucy Webb Horton," who was christened at the White House on the occasion of Mr. and Mrs. Hayes's silver wedding.

The prospective groom is brother to the lady who married the Prince de Lymor, of Germany, a few years ago. The price received a dowry of \$100,000 with his bride, but he has separated her absolutely from her family and will not even allow her to see her mother who is now in Europe.

A wild rumor was rampant here one evening last week, of the sudden death of Carl Schurz, Secretary of the Interior. He was confined to his house at the time with neuralgia, and nobody knew how the report started, but newsboys were crying his death from neuralgia of the heart, and quite an excitement prevailed in the streets until it was found to be an error.

The President in private conversation recently fell to pitying the "poor Presidents' wives" of the past, because they were expected to return all visits made to them; but he was promptly reminded that that was in the days before Madison, when Executive ladies did not receive such a very vast number of callers as they do now. Either Presidents' wives do not feel the burdens of State as much as their husbands do or they have greater powers of endurance, for so long they outlive them, Gen'l Grant is our only living ex-President, while there are quite a number of widows—Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Polk, Mrs. Lincoln and one or two others.

By the way, it is said that Mrs. Lincoln's mania follows her abroad as well as at home. She lives in Europe very secluded, but requires constant watching. Her insanity consists mainly in a propensity to purchase immemorial articles, for which she has neither use nor money to pay.

The new silver dollars are getting to be quite a trick here. Everybody is putting one off to think for a moment, or sending others off to friends for keepsakes. Many thousands are being sold at the Treasury, for gold. The California mint is ready to begin coining, with a capacity for turning out \$2,500,000 per month.

Dr. Mary Walker wants a pension. Poor thing! She is always wanting and never receiving. Always fighting and never giving the battle. People hate her and resent her because she wears half manish clothes. Men fear her and women turn the cold shoulder to her. She is impatient, bold, violent. She holds a regular discharge from the army where she served as nurse on fields and in hospitals, but she would sooner get the pension she wants if she were traitor and scold.

There is one other woman, of New York, who has a certificate of discharge from a Rhode Island regiment in which she served three months. She enlisted in men's clothes and was in her husband's regiment. Both were in the Bull Run battle, and she only left the service when her husband was wounded at Newbern.

The weather is delightfully spring-like, but the cold days and nights that we had last week, it is feared, will do much damage—especially to the peach crop, for the trees were in full bud. The parks show the budding. The bright new clover and tender green willow leaves were cradled and have changed from light cream to a color of rusty black. But peaches are hardy, and some years when the blossoms have been frost-killed severely the crop has not been reduced. In 1875, when the trees were in full bloom a frosty sleet came upon them, blackening and apparently killing them, but that year there was an unusually large crop of peaches.

ADAMS.

Was it Instinct, or Reason?

As a farmer in a neighboring town was getting in his hay, he noticed an unusual commotion among the swallows, which had built a low row of nests under the eaves of the barn. They appeared greatly excited, flying rapidly about, and filling the air with their cries of distress. As the load passed into the barn, he saw that a young swallow, in a nest directly over the door, had caught its neck in a crack between two shingles, and was unable to liberate itself. He stepped his team, and set the young bird free, restoring it to its parents.

Upon his return to the barn with his next load of hay, noticing that the swallows were quiet, he examined the crack, and found that they had filled it completely with mud, so that no matter how enterprising or how foolish the young swallow might be, he could not again endanger his life, or the peace of that community, by any experiments on that crack.—Our Dem Annon.

Character.

Character is so much more than wealth or knowledge, fame or power, that it is the measure of the man. When a man is in a prominent position of any sort whatever, we say, "What is his character?" not, "What is his knowledge?" but "What sort of a man is he?" That is the momentous question that involves all. All others are secondary. Wealth, knowledge, fame and power, are most desirable accessories for a good man; but otherwise they add strength in a wrong direction. I wonder if the young men and boys in our country realize that character is the most important capital in any and all business transactions. If a man of large business is looking for a partner or an employe, what does he require first and foremost of all? An honest man or boy. Wealth and position with this first requisite, will be no detriment, but nothing without it.

What pillars are to a building, what the foundation is, and the corner-stones thereof, so is a good character to a man or woman, boy or girl. The wise man or woman, if a good name is to be of worth, should be as hard to be gotten as the riches, and he had no luck of wealth. Remember, boys—and it will turn none to remember—that what you are is of more importance; while what you have is finite in its value; and it is the grave; while the former will grow and enrich its possessor through all the ages of immortality. Strive for it as for your life, for life is naught without it; if a man die for it, he dies for an everlasting here; while if he dies for his wealth, or a splendid office, we honor it in death, our life is so, to apply our hearts unto wisdom.

Farmers, Weigh Your Own Produce.

Until recently it has been the custom of farmers to weigh their produce to those who sold their stock or produce, to do all the weighing, and while this has been run over the scales in a hurry, and the result he supposed it must be right, still on going home and figuring over, he has wondered why his figures fell short 30 or 40 pounds on an average from what his neighbors set them at, or that his load of wheat

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