

QUERIES & ANSWERS.

HOW KEROSENE OIL IS MADE AND TESTED FOR FINENESS. Where Mary Washington Was Buried—The Way Newbern is Spelt—A Masonic Matter, &c.

To the Editor of the Dispatch: Please inform us through your columns (1) how pure kerosene oil is obtained from crude petroleum; in other words, give us the process of refining; and (2) how the tests and reactions which chemists use to decide between crude oil or native oil and that which has been subjected to a process of refining (oil filtration through the earth).

Your Query and Answer columns are also worth more than the price of your paper. Sincerely, W. H. H.

It will be impossible in our space to give a satisfactory idea of the process, as it is quite complex. It is done by distillation at a gradually increasing heat. The products that come off at varying temperatures receive names, such as benzene, gasoline, naphtha, etc. The products may still further refined by the use of sulphuric acid and other chemicals.

A chemist would rely mainly upon the color and odor and other physical properties, and would also use the "fire test." The different grades of refined oil vary all the way from the common kerosene, of 110 degrees, to the first class, of 150 degrees.

Various tests of oil are determined by an inspector with a little inspector's apparatus which is provided with a receptacle for the oil, in which is placed an upright thermometer and underneath a small alcohol lamp. Then, by heating the oil gradually (different States provide different laws in regard to this process), the thermometer will indicate the degree of heat given off by the fluid. By drawing a light of paper across the surface of the oil, when it reaches a certain degree a bright flash will be seen, and the degree thus indicated by the thermometer is what is called the flash test of the oil, and if the oil ignites and burns at any step the degree of heat indicated by the thermometer indicates the fire test or burning test of the oil.

Federal and State Offices. To the Editor of the Dispatch: Can a man who is postmaster hold the office of justice of the peace? You will find the answer by answering in the Dispatch.

Section 162, Code of Virginia, says no person shall be capable of holding any office or post of honor, profit, or trust under the Constitution of Virginia who holds any office or post of profit, trust, or honor, or holds any office or post of honor, profit, or trust under the Government of the United States, or who is in the employment of such Government, or who receives from it in any way any emolument whatever, and the acceptance of any such office, post, trust, or honor, or of the acceptance of any emolument whatever under such Government shall be deemed to be the acceptance of such office, post, trust, or honor, or of the acceptance of any emolument whatever under the Government of the United States, or of the Government of any State, or of the Government of any county, city, or town thereof.

Canal Around the Great Fall. GEORGETOWN, D. C. To the Editor of the Dispatch: Please answer the question in the DISPATCH whether the Potomac Navigation Company built the canal around the Great Fall of the Potomac river, Fairfax county, Va. I have seen the canal, and it is a fine one. An obliging friend of ours has carefully examined the records in the Clerk's office of Fairfax county and he finds nothing to indicate the time the Potomac Company built the canal around the Great Fall. In 1807 Tobias Lee conveyed a tract of land on the Great Fall to the Potomac Company. In 1825 the Potomac Company by deed conveyed all of its property, rights, &c., to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company. Between these dates and prior to the first the Potomac Company does not appear on the index to the records in the office.

The records of the Board of Public Works here do not throw any light on this subject, but the canal is referred to as its existence in 1817.

Answers His Own Questions. STANTON, VA. To the Editor of the Dispatch: Will you answer in your Sunday edition the following questions: 1. Was Mr. Cleveland friendly or hostile to the Union during his presidential term? 2. Did he appoint any southerners to high positions in the Cabinet, on the bench, or in some other official position, and if so, was he recognized? 3. Did he retain many Federal officials in office in Virginia? 4. Did he retain any Federal officials in office in Virginia? 5. Did he retain any Federal officials in office in Virginia?

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Virginia Court Clerks. CLINTON, VA., July 13, 1891. To the Editor of the Dispatch: As the discussion as to who is the oldest first Democratic President since 1851, we use in our judgment an ease or difficulty in reaching the office of President under the circumstances? 2. Was Mr. Cleveland faithful to his promises as a candidate and to the platform? 3. Was his administration pure and honest? A. F. L.

The foregoing questions were so framed as to indicate the replies must necessarily be. As they carry their own answers with them, we need not formulate any of our own. F. M. B.

Burial-Place of Mary Washington. SUZULOV, VA. To the Editor of the Dispatch: Please settle a question for some of your readers through the DISPATCH. It is the opinion of some that Mary Washington was buried near Fredericksburg, and others that she was buried in the family grave-yard at White Chapel Episcopal church, in Lancaster, Va. Please give the correct location. MARY WASHINGTON died in Fredericksburg August 23, 1789. She was buried just outside of Fredericksburg on the farm upon which she had lived until persuaded by her son during the Revolutionary war to move to a more pretentious spot. Mary Washington had the care of her husband and there still lies all that remains of her mortal body. She was buried August 27, 1789, the funeral services being conducted by the Rev. Thomas Thornton, pastor of old St. George's church, Fredericksburg.

Can Fishes Hear? FARMVILLE, VA. To the Editor of the Dispatch: Your promissory in cracking hard nuts for your subscribers makes an interesting and useful article. I have some very good paper, and as space is sometimes troublesome with printers I submit a question which much doubt exists in monomolecules to wit: Can fishes hear? Your views will greatly oblige many of your readers, and especially A. FISHERMAN.

Nothing can be done in the matter of the "direct tax" at this time, as it is a condition precedent that the act of Congress shall be accepted by the Virginia Legislature, and whether the Legislature

will or ought to accept the act is a matter involving much discussion. When the Legislature accepts the act of Congress making provision for the payment of the direct tax, due notice will be given to all parties interested, with instructions as to the mode of procedure to prove their respective claims.

New Spell Newbern. NEW BERN, N. C., July 10, 1891. To the Editor of the Dispatch: For a long time there has been a debate as to the correct way to spell the name of this city. The enclosed correspondence will explain itself, and also explain why it should be spelled Newbern. X. X. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, GEOGRAPHIC BRANCH, WASHINGTON, D. C., JUNE 6, 1891.

To the City Clerk: Dear Sir:—I find great uncertainty in the spelling of the name of your city. It is spelled Newbern, Newbern, New Bern, New Bern, Newbern. I take the liberty of appealing to you in this regard, and also explain why it should be spelled Newbern. X. X. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, GEOGRAPHIC BRANCH, WASHINGTON, D. C., JUNE 6, 1891.

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TO LIBBY PRISON.

PERSONAL REMINISCENCES OF THE DAYS AFTER THE EVACUATION. Brutal Treatment of Confederate Prisoners by Federal Officers in Richmond—Pleas Appeal for Something to Eat.

To the Editor of the Dispatch: In answer to the inquiry contained in the last Sunday's issue of your paper in regard to the starving of Confederate prisoners in Libby Prison, allow me to present the following reminiscences: A few days after the evacuation of Richmond was my fortune to see one of the numerous squads of prisoners captured from General Lee's retreating army marched under guard down Main street. A more wretched-looking set of men I would be difficult to imagine. Some were bareheaded, many being without shoes or jackets, and several bareheaded, and their limbs painfully aching, appearing to be in the last stages of starvation. Some of the men were so weak and crippled soldiers who had left the city hospitals to follow the retreating army, and others were men captured in the rear. It was reported that for three days they had had nothing to eat save corn taken from the horses and given them things they could pick up in the fields and beside the road. A Yankee officer had told him, in a skirmish in which he was killed, that he had captured one of them "bravely sold pork some about a pole as though it had been a pig, and he was ready to defend it from assault of friend and foe alike."

So wretched was the appearance of these men that I detected pitying glances and in some instances tears in the eyes of the Federal soldiers who saw them pass, and I well can understand the look of indignation on the face of a true young officer—a look which said as plainly as words could be expressed that these were men who were being starved and left to die. As they were conducted under a huge United States flag whose folds swept their faces, and as they were accompanied by several very fine officers, I was very glad to see that the men were being treated with some consideration. Some glanced hastily up and instantly averted their eyes from the sight of these wretched men, with compressed lips and fixed, insupportable gaze, while one or two snuffed a faint, ghastly smile, full of unexpressed bitterness and grief.

When the melancholy procession had passed a friend accompanying me inquired of a Federal officer why they were being starved. He replied sharply: "To Libby Prison. We are going to give them a taste of what they give us." This was a taste of what they give us. This was a taste of what they give us. This was a taste of what they give us.

I shall never forget the sight which greeted us on our arrival opposite the Libby Prison. The Federal soldiers were collected outside the line of the guard, and were watching the prisoners as they were being taken to the prison. The prisoners were crowded the Confederate prisoners, their meagre complexions faded, and their eyes were sunk in their heads. While from their sun-burned hands depended long lines or strings reaching to the pavement as they were being taken to the prison. On perceiving us, a "chew of tobacco." On perceiving us, a "chew of tobacco." On perceiving us, a "chew of tobacco."

We found the officials of the prison looking at us with a stern, unfeeling gaze. They allowed no provisions to pass within the walls. One assured us that the prisoners had as much as was good for them. Another said that the prisoners were supplied with full and abundant rations, while a third whom we encountered in our departure, declared that the prisoners kept on death rations in retaliation for the starvation of hundreds of Union prisoners within those walls.

But there was a soldier, tall, grizzled man, a private, who said that he was from Maine, and who remarked that he had seen the prisoners in the hands of the Federal soldiers. He said that he had seen the prisoners in the hands of the Federal soldiers. He said that he had seen the prisoners in the hands of the Federal soldiers.

I have here simply related what came under my own personal observation. And I trust that after the above facts the Confederate prisoners I repeatedly saw on the streets of great kindness and generosity extended to them by Federal soldiers. I trust that after the above facts the Confederate prisoners I repeatedly saw on the streets of great kindness and generosity extended to them by Federal soldiers.

On our footstep parade to Libby Prison we picked up a number of the bits of paper thrown from the windows, and waited by the street to pick them up. Of these we carefully pasted in a book now before me. I will here give some specimens, literally copied, with the exception of the names, proper to give the initials only.

To some gentleman on the Street: "If you please give me something to eat if you will oblige a nearly starving man, the name he do not know but please do something for him if you will please. Call my name, C. B. 20th N. C. on 3d street."

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Do you please, C. B. 20th N. C. on 3d street. Do you please, C. B. 20