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## WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 19, 1885.

TO THE SOUTH KENTUCKIAN:

The adage that a calm precedes a storm is as true in the political world as elsewhere, and its truth is painfully apparent just now to all newspaper correspondents in Washington.

The members of Congress who were here two weeks ago have had some to run back home for a few days and others over to New York to see about stock speculations in which they sometimes invest a portion of their hard-earned \$50,000 a year.

In a few weeks more, however, the winds will fairly howl with spicy news, and then you may look for newsy letters.

Speaker Carlisle arrived on Thursday and ever since has been confined to his room at the Riggs by serious indisposition. He is improving, however, and expects soon to be well enough to receive his many callers.

The Second Comptroller has just disallowed two items in the account of a Naval director—one for the purchase of postage stamps and the other for photographing anatomical specimens on the ground that his investigation shows that payments were really for two portraits of Surgeon General Wales—one for the office and the other for his house.

Portraits of living officials made to gratify their vanity are not the kind of anatomical specimens contemplated by law in appropriation bills for the advancement of science.

The President expects a fight to be made against some of his appointments but believes that there will be no general opposition to them, and that the majority of Republican Senators will oppose all attempts to defeat confirmation except where unimpeached facts are presented. If there is one thing more than another that the President is sensitive about it is the criticism made of his selection of persons to fill the offices within his gift. To avoid giving grounds for harsh criticism he moves cautiously, but expects in due time to have all the best offices filled with hard shell Democrats. That may be good news to the Democrats yet at the time it is no disappointment to Republicans.

Business in the Treasury Department is disposed of with greater dispatch now than at any time before in the memory of any of its employees. Clerks are not only checked and reported to the chief clerk by the watchman when they come late but are also reported by detectives if found engaged in social talk in the halls during office hours. The new order is business during business hours and gossip afterwards. There is neither smoking of pipes or cigars nor reading of newspapers to be seen anywhere in the building and any employer found indulging in the luxuries may not be surprised if he receives a yellow envelope from Secretary Manning containing an indefinite fine.

In some of the other Departments, however, more freedom becoming to gentlemen of leisure may be found. In the State Department, for instance, everything is high toned, and if a clerk comes late or has occasion to leave early no questions are asked. He is regarded as the very soul of honor and it is assumed that he has a good reason for everything he does, and as he is not one of the sons of toil there is no reason why he should be late for time. Time is made for slaves, not for Secretary Bayard's diplomats.

In the Department of Justice the employees are hard worked but they work spasmodically as do most law-abiding. There is not much regularity about their coming and going. If they happen to come before eight in the morning they are just as apt to leave by twelve or one o'clock noon, as they are likely to come late in the day and stay till late at night. Attorney General Garland himself always gets to the office earlier than any one else in the department, usually before eight a. m., and he requires his private secretary to be there on time to meet him to make an early start on the day's business.

Secretary Lamar of the Interior is the first to come and the last to leave his department, and while kind and considerate to all who are under him requires them to work faithfully from nine till four. In order that the work of the department requiring correspondence and examinations of records to its discharge may be expedited he has ordered that no persons shall be admitted to the building after two o'clock. From nine till two every person calling is accorded a courteous interview and respectful hearing, but after two o'clock the Secretary must have time to himself in which to consider and act upon matters prepared in the meanwhile and submitted by chiefs of the bureaus for his final decision. This often keeps him at his desk till the shades of the evening are low, but the Secretary is an indomitable worker and cares not for hours and for that reason the two Secretaries rely so much upon their bureau chiefs for advice in planning and executing for the good of those two departments of the Government. It is not that they are so busy that they are unable to attend to their duties, but that they are so busy that they are unable to attend to their duties.

Sharpeners worked the Lexington banks last week. They got \$3,500 on bogus and forged deposit certificates presented by a man calling himself Chas. Marshall.

## HOME AND FARM.

—A pound of sugar is one pint an ounce of any liquid is two tablespoons; a pint of liquid weighs sixteen ounces.

—Small hogs usually fatten quickly after maturity, while the large breeds make the best growth before the time of reaching the adult age.

—Lard will remove wagon grease. Rub the spot with the lard as if washing it and when it is well out wash in the ordinary way with soap and water until thoroughly cleaned. —*Greenback Leader.*

—Prof. J. P. Stello, of the Mobile Register, speaking of the killing of cabbage-worms, by the application of ice-cold water, says that, when first recommended, some years ago, "it worked no good whatever."

—Wash for removing draft: Take of borax one drachm, rose water one half drachm, castile soap one-half drachm, cologne water one-half p. t. Mix and apply night and morning. —*Philadelphia Call.*

—Colts foaled during the fall will not occasion loss of labor on the farm by the mares, as they can be carefully managed during the winter and turned to the pasture in spring, leaving their dams free for early plowing. —*Chicago Tribune.*

—The time to share the head of trees is while they are young. Then the top can easily be trained in almost any shape, and with very little attention but after the tree has attained some size and age, it is very difficult to change its form, a pruning now may only injure. —*Chicago Journal.*

—Have the children's teeth examined by a good dentist twice a year, and repaired if they need it. Possibly a tooth that is meant to last a lifetime is rapidly becoming worthless just for the need of a little attention now. If a child's teeth are rotten sloppy today, they should use the zinc teeth or they will decay. —*Boston Budget.*

—Meat dumplings for soup are made in this way: Chop very fine half a pound of juicy beef, free from fat and a new, and mix it with two ounces of butter that has been stirred to a cream. Add the yolks of two eggs, two ounces of soft bread crumbs, a little grated onion, salt to taste, and add at the last the white of an egg beaten to a stiff froth; form into little dumplings and cook in the soup. They will require five minutes boiling. —*The Farmer.*

—A good mixed pickle may be made after the following directions: Two gallons of cabbage—chop fine—one gallon of chopped green tomatoes, twelve onions, also chopped fine, one gallon best vinegar, one pound brown sugar, one tablespoon black pepper, half an ounce turmeric powder, one ounce celery seed, one tablespoon ground allspice, one teaspoon ground cloves, quarter pound white mustard seed, one gill of salt; boil together, straining well, for two hours; take from the fire and add the spices and put in tight jars. —*Indiana-Ole Journal.*

—Recipe for cake: One pound of sugar and three-quarters of a pound of butter, beaten to a cream. Add to this the yolks of six eggs, well beaten, and a cupful of sour cream, with one teaspoonful of soda, dissolved in a little boiling water, stirred into it just before mixing; one teaspoonful each of cinnamon and nutmeg; one pound of sifted flour, one tablespoon of rose water, half a pound of citron, cut in small pieces and dredged with flour, and then the whites of the six eggs beaten to a stiff froth. Beat all thoroughly together and bake in buttered square, shallow pans. —*N. Y. Mail.*

## THE SWINE INDUSTRY.

Some Startling and Interesting Figures.

For the past fifty years swine have been grown in this country for market purposes, and since the beginning of the industry has been constantly growing, until now it has reached a point in magnitude which is quite astonishing to those who have never before had a glimpse of their notice. Forty years ago the produce of the country was only about 2,000,000 a year. In 1866 the number received at the Chicago market alone was 961,746; in 1875 the number was 3,912,110, and in 1884 it was 7,059,355. Estimating the moderate price of \$8 per head, the value of the hogs received at Chicago last year was \$56,157,800. This represents only a portion of hogs sold during the past year. Kansas City, Cincinnati, Milwaukee and other markets having had comparatively increased receipts.

That the pork-packing industry of this country are of much more magnitude may be seen from the following figures: The number of hogs packed in the West during the winter season 1884-5 was 4,460,240, which cost an average of \$4.29 per hundred pounds, and with their average weight of 266.51 pounds their total cost was \$67,480,308. The value of the pork products exported during the calendar year of 1884 was \$53,962,961. These figures are supplied by the Cincinnati Price-Current, and may be considered authentic.

The same industry is growing in other ways than in figures. During the past twenty years intelligent and enterprising men have been turning their attention to the development of that part of the business pertaining to the raising and fattening of swine, and as a result of their labors we have to-day not only improved breeds of swine, but we have a more thorough scientific management in their production. Better systems of feeding and fattening have been devised, which tend to lessen labor as well as the quantity of food consumed, and consequently the cost of production, which is in the case of swine one of the price-making factors.

The larger portion of hogs are produced in the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin, and in some of these States the production is on a scale that is surprising, individual farmers and stock raisers not only profitably raise and ship to market \$40,000 worth of hogs in a year. The average weight of hogs shipped to market is about 200 pounds. There is room for improvement in this particular, and the time will come when by more care in breeding and feeding this average will be increased fifty pounds without additional cost to the producer. The prospective supply of hogs is about as large as at this time last year, and it would doubtless be larger if large losses had not resulted from the ravages of cholera during the past winter. Hogs are born in the spring and in the fall, and as they are usually ready for the market at a year old the supply is naturally largest at these seasons. According to the statistics of the Department of Agriculture the number of swine in the United States is estimated at 45,143,500, an increase of about 2,000,000 over the previous year. This supply represents about \$200,000,000.—*Farm, Field and Stockman.*

## SCHOOL AND CHURCH.

—Out of 357 teachers employed last year in Chester County, Pennsylvania, 127 were females.

—More than three millions of children have been gathered into schools for the study of the Scriptures, through the dispensaries of the American Sunday-school Union.

—The average Sunday plate collections of Rev. Newman Hall's church in Westminster Bridge Road, London, is \$175, and of Rev. C. H. Spurgeon's congregation, in the great Tabernacle, \$345.

—The *Christian Intelligencer* dislikes the substitution of "signs" for "miracles" in the Revised New Testament. "Miracles," it says, "is a more appropriate word than signs, both to the tongue and the ear."

—A Mohammedan university still numbered years older than Oxford is still flourishing at Cairo as in the days of Arabian conquests. It contains but one room, the floor is paved, and the roof is supported by four columns.

—There are 407 institutions in the world for the education of deaf mutes. Germany has ninety of these France sixty-seven, Great Britain forty-six, and the United States thirty-eight. Recent careful estimates place the number of these unfortunate in existence at 800,000. —*Chicago Current.*

—According to their *Year Book* there has been rapid growth in the Episcopal Church during the past eight years. It has ten bishops, 193 Presbyters and deacons, 7,943 communicants, prosperous Sunday-schools, and church property valued at \$1,027,363.

—In the village of Slate Hill, Orange County, N. Y., is a Baptist Church which was built in 1783. It is very quaint in style, and the gallery has a pew which was made exclusively for slaves belonging to members of the congregation, which once numbered five hundred. The church is a great curiosity now, and is visited by many strangers. —*N. Y. Tribune.*

—A curious incident occurred in the Parade Church, Shoreline, England, on a recent Sunday. It was found that the church was infested by various kinds of birds, principally swallows. Every effort was made to dislodge them, but without effect, and at last some soldiers were obliged to fire a volley of blank cartridges, which completely routed them, and the church being soon vacated, the service was held.

—At Cambridge, says the *London Truth*, the girl undergraduates have been decidedly "coming on." In last year's Mathematical Tripos they had no wranglers at all, and their best "man" was only equal to the forty-fourth on the list. This year they have two wranglers, one coming between the twenty-fourth and the twenty-fifth on the list, the other being equal to the thirty-fourth.

—The people of Trinity Parish, Buffalo, N. Y., moved into their new church the other day, and Bishop Cox held a "service of secularization" in the old church, declaring it "secular and unconsecrated, and no longer within our jurisdiction, but given back solely to the protection of the laws of the land, and to none other than such common uses and control as by said laws are recognized and allowed." —*Buffalo Express.*

## PUNGENT PARAGRAPHS.

—"I do love dress!" exclaimed a young society belle. "Then I should think you would wear more of it," retorted the cynical bachelor friend of middle age. —*N. Y. Independent.*

—The transformations of nature are wonderful. Put a heron in a tin box with some cotton-seed oil and its immediate terms into a sardine. —*Philadelphia Call.*

—"Was it a forgery?" asks a magazine writer. We are unable to say without knowing more about it. If he escaped to Canada it was probably only a sharp business speculation. —*N. Y. Ledger.*

—You must not expect to catch a big fish by simply dropping your tackle into the water and pulling it up again. You have to offer good baits, inducements that will tempt the fish as to your good faith—sort of worm yourself into his confidence, as it were, so to speak. —*Lowell (Mass.) Citizen.*

—Woman, God bless her bright eyes, can make roses bloom in the desert, and when so minded she can give to the most commonplace affairs of life rather much of a rainbow look; but to save her eyesight she can't use a pen without getting ink on her fingers any more than she can remember the day of the month. —*Yonkers Statesman.*

—A dispatch from Keene, N. H., in speaking of the killing of an elephant at that place, says: "The huge beast fell with a dull thud, without a noise or a struggle." We are glad we understand what a dull thud really is. We have heretofore been led to suppose it sounded like a fat man sitting down on a banana peel. —*N. Y. Graphic.*

—When the young man, after four years' hard training, graduates from college with tremendous biceps and a phenomenal chest, and sators a single scull race on the Harlem River, and is wiped out by a horny-handed son of toil, who never heard of Keene or Tibbets or Horace's "Ary Rowdies," then is the time he wants to know why he has labored all these weary, weary years. —*N. Y. Sun.*

—The disposition of children not to allow other children to get ahead of them is once more illustrated in two families as follows: "I've got two." "You haven't got a baby in your house." "Yes we have; we've got twins." "Well, you haven't got a crazy grandfather; I have." —*Boston Herald.*

—"I never did take much stock in that story about fish being such fine brain food," inadvertently remarked Smith, "and I take less stock in it than ever now that I've lived off little else for some time past. I think I'll quit them." "I wouldn't if I were you, old boy," feelingly remarked Smith; "you see the fish in order to improve the brain must have something to work upon. They can't create the thing." And then Smith said that Smithers talked for all the world like his wife. —*Old City (Pa.) Bazaar.*

—"Gud' ye' help, me or little dis mawnt," boss' inquired a limping old dandy. "I do original Uncle Tom in Mistah Henery Wa' Beechah's story, entitled 'Dat Little Ole Log Cabin in de Lane.' My name is Harris, sah, Go'ge Harris. I's tryin' to raise money enough to git ober to Brooklyn." "No," smiled the gentleman importantly, "I don't believe I can do anything for you to-day, Uncle Tom." "Has yo' nebbor read dat book mentioned, sah?" "No, I never did." "Den yo' eddication hab ben sadly neglected, boss. I taks yer fo' er' gemman of eddication, 'dead I did.'" —*Chicago Tribune.*

## MISCELLANEOUS.

—Physicians in the Sandwich Islands have come to the conclusion that the only way to stop the alarming spread of leprosy is to begin vaccinating with leprosy microbes. They think the operation will be a success.

—The African elephant will be extinct in another hundred years unless a stop is put to the indiscriminate massacre now going on. So says Joset Menges, the great importer of African wild beasts, and probably the most eminent authority on such subjects.

—Dennis Butler, a swimming master, on a wager of \$250, swam the East River, from New York to Brooklyn, with his hands and feet firmly tied. The distance was a little over a mile, and the time was nineteen minutes. —*N. Y. Sun.*

—There are no hot carriers in Germany. Birds are passed by hand. The higher up the bricklayers are, the more men are required to pass the bricks. Two men to a story is about the average, with enough more to lead from the front of the building to the place where the bricks are needed.

—According to the statistics of the past year up to the age of fifteen more males than females. From the age of fifteen to forty-five more females than males. From forty-five to ninety more males than females. At ninety the mortality of males and females is the same. —*Chicago Inter Ocean.*

—The tropical gooseberry, which is cultivated in Florida, grows on a handsome tree from ten to fifteen feet in height. The fruit is rather smaller than the Siberian crab apple, and the shape a flattened globe. It contains one hard seed. The fruit is only moderately valuable, but the tree is ornamental.

—A fraudulent mineral spring has been exposed in Austria. Chemicals were introduced into an underground stream a considerable distance from its exit. The properties of the doctored water were commended honestly by physicians, and the enterprise had entered upon a career of prosperity, when a skeptical visitor dug out the truth.

—The word consols is an abbreviation of the term consolidated annuities. The English consols differ from our national debt in this way: The principal may vary in amount, but the interest never. They constitute a perpetual obligation of the United Kingdom, bearing three per cent interest, and representing an irredeemable principal.

—The story is told of Mr. Everts that he once sent a donkey up to his farm at Windsor, Vt., and about a week afterwards received the following letter from his little grandchild:

Dear Grandpa: The little donkey is very gentle, but he makes a big noise at night. He is very long-souled. I guess he misses you. He won't come up soon, and he won't be long. MIMIE.

—A snake twenty-five feet long, four feet in circumference, and bearing eight-nine rattles, was killed on Boston Common recently, after a desperate fight. When killed, it was placed on scales and found to weigh a trifling over twenty-two tons. [N. B. We are tired of a base dependence on Southern exchanges for snake stories.] —*Boston Transcript.*

—Many mocking birds are shipped from Atlanta every season to the North and West. The young birds are caught by hundreds by small boys who peddle them at fifty cents each. They are kept in their native clime until they are four or five months old, and then are sent by express to all parts of the country. A good bird, four months old, is worth from three dollars to five dollars. They sing well when a year old. —*Atlanta Constitution.*

—There has been a steady increase in the number of convictions in England for smuggling during the last ten years. Ten years since—that is