

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, D.C., Oct. 12, 85.

Matters political and things in general have been rather lively this week. The cool weather appears to have put everybody on his mettle and as a consequence strange things have happened and important discoveries made.

With the influx of so much genuine coin, there has been considerable of the spurious metal or "queer" as I believe it is called in the language of the "profession," put upon the market. A gang of counterfeiters have just been discovered, but owing to the bungling manner in which the case was worked up, the heart and mainspring of the conspiracy has, as usual, managed to get off unurt.

For some months past counterfeit silver has been passing rather freely in our "bon ton" market, and suspicion finally rested upon an Italian fruit vender, whose regular "mellow eyed" visitors always seemed flash with the silvery dollars. Chief of the government detective service, Brooks, and our local detective corps, put their heads together and one day this week arrested our Italian friend and his four visitors before had time to get out of the wagon, in which they had come from their quiet home four miles out in the country to market. Their stock in trade consisted of very much coin bearing the stamp of '75 and '76, and the imitation was so perfect as to indicate that skilled workmen had a hand in the coming. The quiet retreat in the country was visited but no dies nor facilities for making the money were found, nor any more of the coin. The detectives are chagrined at not finding the outfit, and now say that so much of the coin was being circulated that they were obliged to make the arrests to prevent further impositions upon the public.

There is something wrong about this whole detective system, and if it must at all exist, the very best experts to be had and no others should be employed.

In striking contrast with the magnificent house of Senator Palmer, with its kitchen on top and all the other latest improvements in architectural planning, stands the house of Senator Edmonds, with a bay window made of sheet copper and plate glass, and an entrance like that to a mill. The house is altogether a curious looking structure and will attract the attention because it is believed to have a style of architecture peculiar to itself. The Senator is a profound expounder of constitutional law, but is no architect. It shows the hotch potch that even a wise man will make when he is foolish enough to meddle with things he knows nothing about.

A fourteen hundred dollar clerk in the Pension Office was assume enough the other day when speaking of the president's civil service letter to publicly say that the president was an ass in attempting to run a democratic administration on republican civil service principles. The clerk is now in search of some honorable employment, and realizes that the government mule kicks hard when he is pricked with the goad. Moral—that an ass should never bray in a street car.

The act of Congress providing that no ex-clerk or official can practice before the office in which he was employed in prosecuting any claim pending while he was in the office has been a dead letter for some years past. It has been put into force again, however, by Secretary Lamar in the appeal of the late Assistant Commissioner of the Land Office from the decision of the present Commissioner refusing to recognize him as an attorney in certain cases there pending. The Secretary holds that the act was intended to apply to any and all claims of whatever kind, and is not restricted to those of a monetary character. This ruling will injuriously affect a number of late officials in the Interior Department who are now practicing before it, and who claim to possess information regarding claims that will be invaluable to the claimants.

The widow of the late Gen. O. E. Babcock, who figured so prominently

in the whisky ring cases under Gen. Grant's second term, has filed a bill in the courts here for permission to sell a piece of land located just outside the city and valued at \$11,000. She sets forth that the value of the personal estate is \$16,000, and that claims amounting to \$46,500 have been presented against the estate. She wants to pay the creditors all that can be realized from the estate. There are some honest people still in the world.

Secretary Endicott stands like a "Snowball" against the assaults of Generals Sheridan, Hazen, Schofield, Pope and Howard, to have rescinded his order sending back to their regiments the officers which these Generals have had detailed for years as members of their staffs. The Secretary is unmovable in his determination that no officer shall be on detail duty for a period of more than four years, and that all such must go back to their regiments and their places be filled by others. The Secretary says it is demoralizing for the officers to be on such duty for a longer period, and that if the line suffers for the purpose of making it pleasant for the staff the evil must be remedied.

The Commissioner of Pensions has made a ruling that no soldier against whom there is a charge of desertion can be placed on the pension list. He regrets the hardships that may follow from his ruling, but says that he has no authority to change the law. Hereafter all such cases will be referred to the War Department, where relief can be had.

A bombshell is soon to burst on the land-grabbing railroads in the shape of the report of Commissioner Sparks of the Land Office. The Commissioner has a large force of clerks at work adjusting the grants made to different railroads, and it is found that no road has less land than its grant called for. In some cases they have as high as 1,000,000 acres more than they are entitled to. It is the purpose of the government to institute suits against these roads, and these suits will in time pave the way for suits against them by settlers who have bought tracts from them.

The statement prepared by Commissioner of Patents Montgomery for the use of Secretary Lamar in his report for the coming session of Congress shows a steady increase for each month from patent fees during the year. The average receipts are about \$100,000 per month. At some near day in the future I shall have occasion to give you some important and interesting items concerning this Bureau, in which so many manufacturers and men of live genius are interested. II.

Gentle women is so often the victim of sick headache that she hails as the dawn of a new era, the introduction of a medicine that is guaranteed as a sure cure. Mrs. Morris Tinner, of Hoboken, N. J., writes: "I have been a martyr to sick headache, the result of indigestion. One bottle of Mishler's Herb Bitters, used according to directions, has cured me."

The Massachusetts labor bureau statistics seem to warrant the conclusion that college bred women give birth to fewer children than others, but their offspring are stronger and more likely to survive.

Gasoline vapor burners have been found cheaper and more satisfactory than coal for forge work in the government armory at Springfield, Massachusetts, and many private factories are said to be adopting it.

Have used Tong-line in a case of facial neuralgia, and it proved a success. Can not be recommended too highly. S. F. Hughes, M. D., Buckner, Ark.

Sheriff's Sale.
By virtue and authority of a general execution issued from the office of the clerk of the circuit court of Bates county, Missouri, returnable at the November term, 1885, of said court, to me directed in favor of The Merchants and Farmers Bank of Frankfort, Ohio, and against J. N. Yates, I have levied and seized upon all the right, title, interest and claim of said defendant, in and to the following described real estate, situated in Bates county, Missouri, to-wit:

The southwest quarter section No. six (6), in township No. forty-one (41) of range No. thirty-two (32); also the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter and the west half of the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section fourteen (14), in township forty-one (41) of range thirty-three (33). I will on

Friday, November 13, 1885, between the hours of 9 o'clock in the forenoon and 5 o'clock in the afternoon of that day, at the east front door of the court house in the city of Butler, Bates county, Missouri, sell the same or so much thereof as may be required, at public vendue, to the highest bidder for cash to satisfy said execution and costs.

W. F. HANKS,
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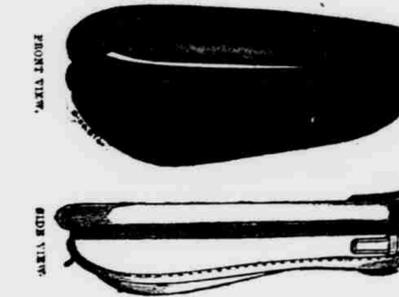
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