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## TRAVELS ABROAD.

### LETTER FROM GERMANY

Friend Emerson:

The things we are writing about in this and previous letters are expressions of our views as we see them, others may go over the same ground and see things in a different light, but we can't all be of the same opinion on all subjects.

We left Paris about 10 p. m., and as we were fortunate enough to have a whole compartment to ourselves, we were able to sleep most of the night with as much comfort as in a tourist sleeper. On reaching the German border the custom officers passed our baggage with a superficial examination, and after a stop at Strasburg with its famous Cathedral, we passed on to Carlsruhe, which is the residence of the Grand Duke of Baden. This is a very nice quiet city, differently laid out than any other we have been in. The Duke's palace is the center with a fine park in front and a forest at the back, streets radiate from the center and others cross these in a circular shape so you can easily get to the palace from almost any part of the city.

In Germany as in France soldiers are seen everywhere, with the result that not only the women and children, but also dogs and cows must work, and after a hard day's work the cows have to stand and be milked. Cows are used for drawing the plows and wagons, the women in most places can hold the plow and drive the wagons, and while they rest they are knitting stockings, even the little girls going along the street knit. Dogs help draw small carts, and they work too. We don't feel sorry for the dogs, but we do for the women and cows, and are thankful that our parents had grit enough to leave here and sense enough never to go back.

As Carlsruhe has a fine polytechnic school, you can see quite a lot of Heidelberg students here with white, pink, pale blue and pale green caps their society colors, many of them have scars on their cheeks the result of sword duels, and seem to be as proud of them as a monkey with two tails. If they have scars on the head they wear the hair clipped close. Carlsruhe, like every city in Germany, has fine monuments of Emperor William 1st, Bismark and Gen. Moltke. There are also public markets where the woman do most of the selling and knit while waiting for customers. Fish are mostly sold alive, being kept so in tubs of running water, you pick out what you want they catch them and knock them on the head, scale them and clean them while you wait. While strolling around we saw them drilling recruits, they put them through a regular course of athletics exercises to make them agile. Here as in France and most cities in England, the train or street car system is good, you get a receipt for your fare and a seat as well, if there are no seats you can't get on, which rule necessitated us waiting for the next car several times. In hotels most of them charge so much for room and breakfast, and there are no double width beds, but two single beds which are always feather beds. The same custom is in use in Holland.

After a pleasant stay in Carlsruhe, we proceeded to Heidelberg, about 45 miles distant, and noted for its university and what is said to be the finest ruins of the old style of castles or Robbers' Roosts, for the Rhine country was at one time noted for its highway robbers. Of course that method is not now in vogue. If you want to know how they used to do read the "Cloister on the Hearth," now a days they don't kill the traveler to get his money, there are laws against it. Heidelberg is on the river Neckar, and lies on the hill side somewhat like Jackson would if spread out toward the Gate, only the Neckar is quite wide. The university buildings are very ordinary looking, but there is a very fine library here. The ruined tower or castle covers quite a bit of ground and takes about two hours to get over it. Here also is the famous Tun or cask, but not in use any more except for tourists. You can also get a good view of the valley from the castle tower, the day happened to be pretty clear when we went up; you go up a cog train about as high up as Matt-ley's hill.

From Heidelberg we took a side trip to Mannheim and Ludwigshafen on the Rhine, at which place are the Badischera Amlin and Soda Fabrik, the largest of its kind probably in

the world, where they make all kinds of Amline dyes and artificial indigo. They have about 10,000 employes, among them about 200 analytical chemists. We happened there at noon and most of the employes come out for dinner, they walked six and eight abreast like soldiers marching, and it was about 15 minutes before they were all out, and we saw only those at one of two gates. No one not employed is allowed to visit the works, everything connected with the making of the dyes is kept secret. Any employe caught betraying is imprisoned after trial as long as three years. After visiting with some newly made acquaintances, who were hospitable to us, we returned the same day to Heidelberg.

We will now stop in our trip to tell you a few things we observed. Living expenses or food is much higher here than in England or France. Beef none less than 25 cents a pound, pork about the same, veal 28 cents, flour \$4 per 100 pounds. In France you can get loaves of bread six feet long, here most of them are the size of goose eggs, and a good deal of rye bread is used, also sausages, probably because any kind of meat will work up that way. Wages are low, from 60 cents to \$1.50 a day for mechanics. Railroad employes from 65 cts. to 85 cts. Women house servants work from 6 a. m. till 11:30 p. m. in hotels for \$1.50 a week. Eggs, the best, 10 pfennigs each, to 8, 7 and 6 pfennigs for those not the best. You can imagine what the cheap ones are. The best or drinking eggs are dated with ink which will stand boiling water, those are the kind you get when you order boiled eggs, 100 pfennigs equal 1 mark or 24 cents. Halloween and all Saint days are observed by putting lighted lantern or flower wreaths on the graves of dead relatives. Many stores had both on sale while we were there. As the weather was getting quite wintry, being rainy, cold and foggy we took our departure for Cologne, where we spent two days seeing the sights, the principal one being the Cathedral with the tallest spires in the world, about 500 feet high. Inside the cathedral does not come up in architectural beauty to many of the English, but externally it is grand in its carvings, but the sparrows and pigeons nesting among the images of the kings and saints somewhat spoil their complexion. There are many manufacturers of eau de cologne each one claiming to make the only genuine, original article. Coming down the Rhine from Mayence, the fog lifted enough so we got a good view of the scenery along the river, which to our eyes was no better than you can get along the Mokelumne river. The scenery along the Rhine has been written and talked about for ages, while some or most of American scenery is unknown to most of the world.

Leaving Cologne we stopped to make some inquiries for friends at Crefeld without results, and passed on through the lower Rhine country to Rotterdam, passing the custom inspectors of Holland without bother. We noticed as we approached Holland, and also in Holland, women and cows were more respected. The cows were allowed to peacefully graze in the pasture, while the women only had to dig potatoes and turnips or rutabagoes, besides probably taking care of the children and doing the house work. We spent one day (Sunday) in Rotterdam walking along its famous quay or dock on the river Maas, also taking a train ride and seeing as much as possible in a day. There are numerous canals hereabouts and it is astonishing to see so many buildings out of plumb, some as much as two feet, and that sometimes in two directions. After supper we started for the "Hook of Holland," where we took the steamer and after a smooth passage across the channel, sleeping all the way we arrived at Harwich, England, just as the fog was going to make a landing impossible. As we had no whiskey or cigars and no more tobacco than the law allowed, the custom inspectors again passed us for the last time till we reached New York.

From Harwich we rode through fog to Liverpool where we arrived too late to get berths on the Lusitania, so have to wait for the "Caronia" which sails Nov. 9th, so we put in the time with side trips seeing sights

we missed on our arrival. This finishes our account of our trip, unless something unusual occurs on our homeward trip, so with best wishes to all from,  
Waltenspiel.

## Hazy as to Legal Residence.

### Hunting up Land Frauds.

Charging that Charles P. Vicini, district attorney of Amador county, had become mixed up as to the exact locality of his legal residence, the United States land office filed suit yesterday to vacate the patent obtained by him to 160 acres of land in El Dorado county, which, it is charged was gotten by fraud.

According to the papers in the case, Vicini swore that he and his family had been living on a grant of 160 acres of government land in El Dorado county in the summer of 1901 for 14 months.

At that time he had been three years in the office of district attorney and his legal residence was in Amador county.

In order to obtain a patent to the land, on which he had 14 months before located a homestead entry, Vicini is alleged to have sworn that he had lived there for the time required by law to complete title.

The suit filed yesterday is a proceeding in equity only, the criminal part of the action being barred by the statute of limitations.—S. F. Call, Nov. 17.

The people of this county were generally astonished upon reading the above item in substantially the same terms in all the San Francisco papers of Sunday last. It was the first information they had received on that score, and came as a surprise to all. The unaccountable part of the affair was that one holding the office of district attorney should attempt to file upon land in another county under the homestead laws of the United States. The locality of the 160 acres in question is not stated other than that it is timber land in El Dorado county. It is therefore no doubt far up in the mountains, some thirty miles away from the county seat of Amador. The laws concerning residence on homestead claims are very exacting. They demand residence in good faith; that is that the settler make the claim his home. It is not sufficient that he visit the land every once in a while. He must have his home thereon. Now the state law regarding the residence of the district attorney is equally stringent. That official is required to reside at the county seat of the county whose legal representative he is. The duties of his office will not permit his absence from the seat of government, and the law prohibits certain county officials among whom is the district attorney, from being absent for two months. Such absence would doubtless render the party liable to be ousted from office. The homestead, it appears from the above item, was what is known as a commuted entry; that is, the settler upon satisfactory proof of not less than 14 months' actual residence, is allowed to prove up and pay cash for the land at the rate of \$1.25 per acre.

Under the present federal law, before a patent is issued on any entry, an agent of the United States is required to visit every tract applied for and proved up on, and make a report thereon.

A representative of the land department was in this and El Dorado county several months ago, and visited all the homestead and timber claims for which a patent was pending. He went up in the timber region around Ham's station.

One of the unaccountable features of this affair, which is being severely commented upon, is how it came to pass that such a glaring instance of violation of the homestead law should pass muster through the land department, and remain undetected, or at least unventilated, until the statutory time had elapsed which precluded reaching the offender by criminal proceedings. It is rumored that this phase of the matter will be searchingly investigated by the authorities, with a view of ascertaining who is responsible for the failure.

## Unclaimed Letters.

Joe Barich, M. Bansino, Cassale Giovanni, Petar Cirovich, Vincenzo Da Massa, Marko Kuraic, Steve Love, Henry Ratto, Enrico Santucci, Troi Santo, Rados Zecovich.

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## SPECIALS.

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## Prolific Yield of Potatoes.

We desire to acknowledge receipt of a sample lot of potatoes grown on the ranch of J. P. Harker, in Pioneer district, about twenty miles east of Jackson. We received eight potatoes, and the aggregate weight of the lot was 15 pounds, within a trifle of averaging two pounds each. The potatoes are of the finest kind. For domestic use they cannot be surpassed by any produced in the state, and there are few localities that can come anywhere within reach of them in all the essential qualities that go to make up a marketable article.

The astonishing part of the story remains to be told, showing what can be accomplished in this line with the exercise of a little care with soil of the eastern section. Mr Harker informs us that from a patch of land of one-eighth of an acre he gathered 80 sacks of these potatoes. The sacks averaged about 110 pounds each. He had no trouble in disposing of the entire product on the ranch, at two cents per pound. This would give a return of \$176 from the patch. At the same rate one acre of ground would yield an income \$1408. We very much doubt if such a record can be exceeded in the agricultural field anywhere. The cultivation of two acres of land would be ample to support a family in comfort, if not affluence, and from a single crop per year. All the potatoes that can be raised of that character will command a ready sale. If the local demand should be exceeded, the outside market is practically unlimited. In the cultivation of potatoes, irrigation is necessary. So that it is not every ranch where such results can be accomplished. But there is sufficient land suited to this vegetable, which, if devoted in this direction, would give a wonderful impetus to that region, and support a population many times larger than it has at present.

Under the present federal law, before a patent is issued on any entry, an agent of the United States is required to visit every tract applied for and proved up on, and make a report thereon.

A representative of the land department was in this and El Dorado county several months ago, and visited all the homestead and timber claims for which a patent was pending. He went up in the timber region around Ham's station.

When you wish the finest flavored coffees and teas, remember that W. J. Nettle keeps only the best.

## In Memoriam.

The following resolutions were adopted by Volcano Lodge No. 56, F. & A. M.

Whereas it has pleased the supreme Master to call our beloved brother, Reuben F. Frye, from our temporal lodge to the Supreme Lodge above, it becomes our sad duty to record upon our minutes an expression of our sorrow, therefore

Resolved: That while we bow in humble submission to the will of Heaven, we lament the loss which our lodge and this community have sustained in the death of our late Brother Frye.

Resolved: That during a long residence he had been identified with many good works, in which he won the respect of all classes. For thirty-seven years he was a member of our lodge, attending its meetings with great regularity, ever alive to the interests of the craft, and we miss him and mourn his loss.

Resolved: That we tender our heartfelt sympathies and condolence to the widow and children of the deceased.

Resolved: That these resolutions be entered on our minutes, and a copy of the same, authenticated by the seal of the lodge, be transmitted to the widow.

John Grillo,  
William Fessel,  
Clarence Bradshaw  
Committee.

## Church Notes.

On Sunday Nov. 24, services will be held at the Methodist church as follows: The pastor will preach in the morning at 11 o'clock on "Doing Good, and the Christian Life," and in the evening at 7 o'clock on "The duty of Thanksgiving." At this service there will be special Thanksgiving music by the choir and others. All are cordially invited.

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