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W. H. Matheny, EDITOR PUBLISHER.

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Curtailing Expenses.

Economy is the watchword in every department of the government and it will not be changed as long as democrats are in control. One of the very first things that President Cleveland impressed upon the minds of the members of his Cabinet was that each of them should be liberal in the use of the pruning knife in cutting off sine cures and useless employees under them.

Just under the big dome of the California building at the World's Fair will be a palm tree 127 years old. The tree is fifty feet high and has been one of the attractions for the tourists as they drove up the bay of San Diego to the ruins of the old mission, which is up San Diego river several miles from the bay.

England and France having raised their ministers to the United States to the dignity of Ambassadors the new democratic representatives of the United States to those countries will in accordance with a law enacted by the last Congress be Ambassadors instead of ministers plenipotentiary as heretofore. This will, of course, add no honor to our ministers in the eyes of Americans, but every one at all familiar with the customs and usages of European capitals knows that it will add much to their prestige abroad.

Secretary Hoke Smith's first land decision was against the Southern Pacific Railroad's right to a large tract of land which it has claimed and kept from being opened to settlement. This decision not only opens this land to settlement but it is a refutation of the silly republican charge that it was corporation influences which put Sec. Smith into the cabinet.

Difficulties of Smokers.

The Turks are now a nation of smokers, but early in the seventeenth century the priests and rulers denounced smoking as criminal and Amurath IV ordered its punishment by death in the cruellest forms. One playful punishment consisted in thrusting the pipes of smokers through their noses.

In Russia, at the same period, the noses of smokers were cut off. The powers ecclesiastical were strongly opposed to the new habit, and Popes Urban VIII and Innocent X thundered in turn against the terrible vice of smoking. The papal thunders, however, proved powerless against the charms of St. Nicotine, although there was much reason in those decrees which were directed against the custom of stuffing and smoking in church.

Indians Again on the War-path.

KANSAS CITY, March 25.—Dispatches from two points in the eastern part of the Indian territory indicate an Indian uprising imminent among the Kiowas, Kotoes and Missouris. They have been dancing for a week and are performing old time superstitious cruelties. Chief Kirwin, of the Kiowas who is at Tablequah, says that assistance must come at once or the whites will be massacred.

forces and strike a decisive blow at what has grown to be an evil little short of piracy.

Some sharpers have resurrected the old scheme of advertising Uncle Sam's stamps as fine steel engravings, and reports from rural New England show that they are finding plenty of victims. A man living in Spencer, Mass., saw an advertisement that on the receipt of \$1 an elegant engraving of the "Landing of Columbus" would be sent. He forwarded that amount and received in return one of the Columbian two-cent stamps.

Democrats who are in Washington after office do not as a rule take kindly to the order closing the offices of the members of the cabinet to the public on Tuesday and Fridays,—cabinet days— but it is really in their interest, for it will give the heads of the department an opportunity to go over the paper filed with them and make selections for appointments.

On the western slope of the Lantz mountain and near the S. & P. road is a maple tree, or rather two trees in one. At the ground the trees are several feet apart, but at a height of as many feet the two join and are blended into one solid trunk. There is a cave on Bull Pasture river, or rather a natural shaft sunk in the earth. Throw a stone in this pit and a hundred can be counted before it goes beyond the hearing. Clay and rocks are thrown up around the opening as where a well has been dug.

Other curiosities could be mentioned, but want of space forbids. To say nothing of the freaks and curios, Highland is made up of mineral lands and is abundantly watered by the purest springs in America. She also enjoys the reputation of being the highest county in the State, as well as having the highest postoffice. A barn on G. W. Hevener's farm at Hightown is so situated as to shed the rainfall from one eave into the Potomac, while that portion of a shower that falls upon the other goes to swell the James.

Accident to D. V. Ruckman.

D. V. Ruckman, of Long Glade, one of the leading stock raisers and cattle dealers of Augusta and Highland counties, sustained a painful accident Monday afternoon while driving home from Staunton. His horses became frightened and ran off, throwing him violently from his buggy at a place on the Spring Hill road near James Houff's store, about three miles from Staunton. He was carried into Mr. Houff's house and Dr. A. G. Van Lear was summoned. Fortunately, no bones were broken, and no serious injuries produced by the fall, but one side of his face was badly cut and bruised. After resting about an hour he was taken home by Geo. W. Swink, of Moscow. The horses were stopped in the road after running some distance. One of them was so badly hurt he could scarcely continue running.—Daily News.

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The Future is always wonderland to the young.

The future is always wonderland to the young. Life is like a beautiful and winding lane—on either side bright flowers and beautiful butterflies and tempting fruits, which we scarcely pause to admire and to taste, so eager are we to hasten to an opening which we imagine will be more beautiful still.

Highland Curios.

An article describing the wonders of Bath county appeared in a recent issue of Yost's Weekly and from a man living near there we learn that the "Devil's race path," the "Bottomless Spring" and "Imp Tree" belong to Highland. The Weekly describes them thus:

"Another curious spring in the same valley (Cowpasture) is the "Bottomless Spring," whose depth has never been fathomed, though many attempts have been made to do so. About 100 yards from this place are two ledges of rock, running parallel up the mountain side, with a narrow path between them. The pathway is not more than ten feet wide, and keeps this width from the top to the bottom, about three quarters of a mile. This path is known as the "Devil's Race Path." The scenery around it is grand and picturesque. Lofty mountains, a rushing river, precipices crowned by giant pines, and the peaceful valley lying far away in the distance, blue and hazy. Not far from the race-path is a strange freak of nature. A hickory tree about a foot in diameter is seen growing upon the east bank of the McDowell and Williamsville road, and plainly to be seen upon the bark is this word, IMP, in white letters, about 5 inches in height. The letters are formed of that white substance seen frequently upon the bark of the hickory. His Satanic Majesty seems to have impressed his personality upon nature's hand-works, in this locality at least, in the selection of names—Imp tree, as it is locally known, and Devil's Race-path."

In connection with these we will mention others. About three and a half miles south of Monterey stands Sounding Knob boldly outlined against the sky, rising far above the peaks around it. It seems to stand alone, keeping grim and silent vigil over the valley below. To attempt the ascent is an arduous undertaking, but the summit reached, the fatigue of the long climb is forgotten. The woodman's axe has long since laid low the trees that once grew there and now, when winter's icy fetters are broken and the sun has stooped to kiss, a mantle of green is thrown around the crest adding to the beauty of the scene. The lightest footfall on this sward produces a deep, rumbling sound (hence the name). Throw a heavy stone upon the ground and the earth seems to vibrate, accompanied by more violent than before. Listen, and you will hear the echoes die away seemingly far below, inspiring one with the belief that they are standing over a yawning chasm. Just beyond the summit in a slight depression is a bed of small moss-covered rocks covering an area of a half acre or less, which in winter is always bare, the snow melting as it falls. A yearly visit to this place will reveal the fact that it undergoes an annual change. This change is due to lightning which is attracted by some unknown agency. Cone-shaped holes often mark the place where the electric currents have spent their fury, while another may cause an upheaval filling a depression made by a former discharge; thus the change goes on. On the North side, and in the shadow of Sounding Knob is what is known as the House Rock, situated as it is in the bottom of a mountain gorge and lifting its jagged top above the surrounding trees, while a noisy mountain stream washes its base. It is indeed a strange freak of nature. Standing at the base and looking up a perpendicular wall is presented to the view. Almost as smooth as if polished it rises a sheer precipice as if forced from the gorge by some subterranean power. In the west wall is an opening twelve or fourteen feet deep with a smooth stone floor while twenty feet above is the vaulted roof. A mile north of this and high up on the mountain side is a barren waste lying in the head of a hollow, which when seen from the valley forms as true a representation of the American spread eagle as those depicted on our silver dollar. Near this is a formation upon the side of a cliff, which appears to be a natural tunnel through the mountain. The deception is due to the striking resemblance this formation bears to a ray of light as coming from the other side of the mountain.

Near the town of Crabbottom is the famous "Devil's Backbone."

A mountain breaks abruptly into the valley; almost from the valley and running far up the mountain is an armor or crown of rocks rising from either side and forming an apex too jagged to admit of a footman passing over it. It can be seen for miles glittering in the sunlight, a symbol of strength and power sufficient to resist the raging of the elements. Beyond and to the east of this is a high plateau, apparently as level as a floor. Having traversed almost the entire length of this plateau, you suddenly start back, another look, and you find that without warning you have approached and are now standing upon the verge of a sheer drop of more than a hundred feet. So level and deceptive is the approach that the break cannot be detected until startled by the scene before you. A semicircular wall of solid rock near three quarters of a mile in length overhanging a rugged gorge more than a hundred feet below, is what is known as the "Gulf." A bird in its flight passes beneath you and farther down the swaying treetops lift their arms as if by flattery they would tempt you to take a leap.

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Comm's Sale OF VALUABLE CRABBOTTOM GRAZING LANDS.

By virtue of a decree rendered in the Circuit Court of Highland county, at the October term, 1892, in the chancery cause of L. H. STEPHENSON against JOHN W. HULL'S ADMR., &c., the undersigned commissioners therein appointed will proceed on

Monday, April 10, 1893, to sell at public auction to the highest bidder, on the Sitlington place in Crabbottom, the following tracts of land, to wit: 1st. The undivided half interest of John W. Hull, dec'd in the three tracts of land lying on the Tamarack ridge in Highland county, containing 661 acres, 641 acres and 120 acres. These lands are fine for the timber thereon and for ranging young cattle. 2nd. That valuable grazing farm which lies in Crabbottom, known as the Sitlington home place which consists of two tracts of 243 acres, 2 roods and 16 poles and 63 acres, 3 roods and 24 poles. This farm is one of the best grazing farms in Crabbottom, has upon it a good dwelling-house, a barn, a fine opehard of choice fruit; it is finely watered, and it is seldom such an opportunity is offered any person to buy a first-class grass farm.

TERMS: Enough cash in hand to pay the costs of this suit and the costs of sale, and for the residue, the purchase money, the purchasers will be required to execute bond with good security, payable in one two and three years bearing interest from day of sale and the legal title to be retained as ultimate security.

C. P. Jones and Commrs. L. H. Stephenson

J. C. Matheny, clerk of the Circuit Court of Highland county do hereby certify that L. H. Stephenson, one of the above commissioners has given the bond required by said decree.

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