

DR. WILDER'S LAST LETTER

The City of Rome is the seat of the Pope, the Pope is the head of the Roman Church, the Pope is the head of the Roman Empire, the Pope is the head of the Roman world.

While on board the Romanic with nothing particular to do save eating and sleeping, I thought my time might be better spent extending my observations of Europe after leaving my native country from the north to the south, and promulgating my views through your widely circulated journal.

The Romanic is a steamer of something over eleven thousand tons burden and is commanded by Capt. Frank G. Beatty, one of the White Star steamer line's most polite and efficient officers, and at whose table I had the honor to be placed during the voyage between Naples and Boston.

Mr. Geoffrey Rogers is the purser of the steamer, a young, tall and commanding young man, exceedingly clever, polite, and urbane, always ready to assist the passengers in the way of providing comfortable quarters, at the same time always alert, looking to the interest of his company.

Yesterday Mr. Geoffrey Rogers presided at a religious service in the saloon of the steamer, which is according to custom on this and other lines in the absence of a regular minister aboard. It was according to the Church of England, viz., the Episcopal service, and was opened by singing a hymn. It was conducted in the dignified manner which is characteristic of a person who has been in the service of the Church of England for so long a time.

On the upper floor of the prison, which is situated just beneath the court room, the criminal prisoners were housed, and upon the floor beneath the political prisoners were kept. It is said that in these horrible dungeons, so dark that one can't see his hands put up within four inches of the face, and at times knee deep in water, there was no opportunity for sleep unless the prisoner could lie down in water.

Since my last letter, I have visited Venice, Florence, Rome, Pisa, Naples, all Italian towns or cities, all of them picturesque, some being more beautiful than others. One has to have young eyes to admire and enjoy a visit to Italy, Venice is situated, as your readers well know, upon the Adriatic Sea, and is unique for the fact that it has no horses, mules or other street quadrupeds.

Boats and gondolas are the means of conveyance from one part of the city to the other. The natives have little, narrow passenger boats, and convey passengers to different sections of the city, here and there bridging the canals. There is a large canal through the centre of the city that is called the "grand canal" that is bridged at three places along its extent at considerable distances apart.

From Florence and Pisa we went to the Eternal City of Rome and were at the reception of the holy father, Pius X. The admission was granted on the 11th inst. (November) and we were there promptly at 12 m., on the 12th, properly attired for the occasion. There were about seventy persons in all who were received on that occasion.

The pontiff is apparently nearing 70, looks about 5 feet 8 or 9 inches tall, is thick set and will weigh over 200 pounds. He wears a small skull cap, a very fine quality of white flannel or satin suit, with red slippers, the dress having the appearance of a well-dressed man.

A DANGEROUS DEADLOCK, that sometimes terminates fatally in the straggling of liver and bowel functions. To quickly and safely relieve without disagreeable sensations, Dr. King's New Life Pills are the only remedy. Guaranteed absolutely satisfactory in every case of money back at all drug stores.



DAILY FASHION SERVICE. GIRL'S DRESS, Paris Pattern No. 2176. All Seams Allowed. Gray and green plaid cheviot has been used for the development of this pretty little frock.

Simply give number of pattern you desire, or cut out illustration and mail it with 10 cents, silver or stamps. To the Observer, Charlotte, N. C., Fashion Dept.

business both out and in, with only a few of the most successful. The fact that he was a great player and a great leader, and I was told that when he was boy he worked as many as five or six miles to school and was always extremely simple in his living and noted for self-sacrifice and up to the time that he was elevated to the pontifical throne he led a very active life and that when he came from his home near Venice to attend the conclave of cardinals to elect the successor to Leo XIII, he purchased a return ticket, not even expecting to be a candidate for the pontificate and that he was so certain in his disposition that he would much preferred the honors to have fallen upon some of the more ambitious ones among the candidates.

We visited the ruins of the once famous Colosseum, now in ruins, once an auditorium which could take care of 20,000 persons who could look down upon the struggle of the fierce wild beasts and the Roman gladiators. We also took a peep at the forum, in which once stood Cicero, Horace, Cæsar and Marc Antony, as well as the regalistic Brutus and Cæsar, a peace beneath whose portico is a storage place for old drays, ox-carts and horses are shod. Strange to say, upon the site of this once active area are situated the gas plant of the city and the home of the Emperor Augustus still left many archways and alcoves in which the wild beasts were once kept.

We also paid a visit to the Appian way, about 2,000 or more years old. Just outside of the walls of the city is situated the church at which Christ and his disciples were taken to Rome and over whose door the words "Quo Vadis" are still chiseled and quite plain. Into the Appian way all roads south of Rome once led—and upon which the nobility once loved to live. Now it is only noted for being the abode of the poor and the road to the catacombs of the departed aristocratic dead.

A visit to these catacombs fills one with extreme awe. They are subterranean passages that extend many miles in tortuous directions and where hideous skulls and bones meet the eye on every turn and where there is great liability of becoming lost as well as overcome by carbonic acid gas or death-damp, as it is called in mining sections.

The readers of the Observer are not to infer from this communication that there is nothing modern in Rome, for such is not the case. Rome is gaining in inhabitants daily, there now being considerably above the half-million mark in numbers, and houses are simply torn down every day and upon their sites are being put up buildings just as modern as they are any place in the world. The equipages and turnouts, mobiles, etc., are just as nobby and smart as they are in our great cities, like New York, Boston or Charlotte, and on Sunday afternoons at such places as the Pension Hill, one can see the thousands of people quite elegantly and elaborately dressed.

NAPLES, THE BEAUTIFUL. I visited Naples, from which port we embarked for America. Naples is a beautiful city, under the Italian government or kingdom. It has over 600,000 people. It presents the appearance of a great amphitheatre. The bay is surrounded by a background of mountains that commence to rise almost from the water's edge.

Presiding at the meeting were: Speaker in Thomasville—Chairman—Special to the Observer. Thomasville, Dec. 9.—The Methodist and Baptist churches will not meet again till Sunday, December 22d, on account of the diphtheria and scarlet fever, which have been in the town and community for the past three weeks.

One-half mile of track has been laid on the belt line already and arrangements have been made to cross the Carolina Valley Railroad Company's tracks, and within two weeks the track will be as far as the Standard Chair Company No. 2 had quite a bad breakdown Saturday. The connecting rod of the engine broke and blew out the cylinder head, which will necessitate the taking down of the plant for four or five days.

Mr. E. J. McKnight, of Gardner, Mass., formerly of this place, arrived in the city last week and is spending several days looking after his immense machine shops here—Miss Edna Clapp is visiting friends in Concord, N. C., on her way to the Standard Chair Company, at Old, spent Sunday and to-day in the city with friends.—Mr. Robert L. Lambeth has recently bought one of the latest and best models of automobiles made. It is a Dodge by Sunday morning.

THE SEASON OF PEACE. Christmas is the time of peace and good cheer. Peace of mind that the BELL TELEPHONE brings will cause the busy housewife to enjoy more than ever the happy season. There is no more useful or economical Xmas gift.

A Present Worth While. REASONABLE RATES. Contract Department No. 9680. BELL SERVICE IS SATISFACTORY.

SHARE-UP AT ASHVILLE. Superintendent Rambeau and Two Other Officials of the Asheville Division of the Southern Railway are Investigating—Shirley Division to be Abolished, It is Said. Special to the Observer.

Asheville, Dec. 6.—There was a big shake-up in Asheville division railroad circles here to-day. Supt. A. Rambeau, of the division, and Roadmaster S. C. Ramsey and Trainmaster W. G. Fortune are down and out. Their resignations were accepted yesterday to take effect December 15th—some week from their date. That the shake-up came as a distinct surprise was evident to all. Superintendent Rambeau was questioned relative to the matter to-day. He said that he did not resign; that he was removed. He declined to discuss the matter, however, referring the whole matter to General Superintendent Loyall, who was here to-day.

It is understood that the trouble is "higher up" and that some of the "higher ups" have had it in for Superintendent Rambeau, and that their efforts to get him removed have succeeded. It is also understood that R. E. Simpson, superintendent of the Columbia division, and an efficient and popular railroad man, has been assigned to take Superintendent Rambeau's place. Superintendent Rambeau is considerably wrought up over the affair and it is said that his friends have advised him to fight it out. He declines, however, to discuss the subject further than to say that he did not resign; that he was removed.

Superintendent Rambeau is regarded as one of the most efficient and capable railroad men on the Southern system. He has hosts of friends here who feel indignant at the manner in which he has been treated. He has labored hard to make the Asheville division a success and his efforts have been rewarded. He is a man of great physical endurance and when trouble has occurred on the division it was Superintendent Rambeau, whether sick or well, who was always there in person, and who has worked more than once he has stayed with the trouble for more than 48 hours without removing his clothes and without sleep or scarcely anything to eat.

There is also a rumor here to-day that the Murphy Division is to be abolished and the line from here to Murphy made a part of the Asheville Division. Rumor has it that this change will take effect next Sunday. The rumor, however, cannot be confirmed. It is also rumored here that Night Foreman R. E. Foreman has been promoted and assigned to the position of Day Foreman at Chattanooga. General Superintendent Loyall, with headquarters in Knoxville, arrived here Saturday.

EPIDEMICS ABOUT CHECKED. Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria. Worcester, Prevent Meeting of Sunday Schools—Governor Glenn to Speak in Thomasville—Chairman of the Board of Health to be Appointed. Special to the Observer. Thomasville, Dec. 9.—The Methodist and Baptist churches will not meet again till Sunday, December 22d, on account of the diphtheria and scarlet fever, which have been in the town and community for the past three weeks.

Col. Leland Martin, at Asheville. Special to the Observer. Asheville, Dec. 9.—Col. Leland Martin, a native of Wilkes county, and 82 years of age, died here Saturday night at 11 o'clock. Colonel Martin was an uncle of Julius C. Martin, a prominent attorney of this city, and while in Asheville made his home with his daughter, Miss Ella Martin, on Baird street. The remains were taken to the former home for interment.

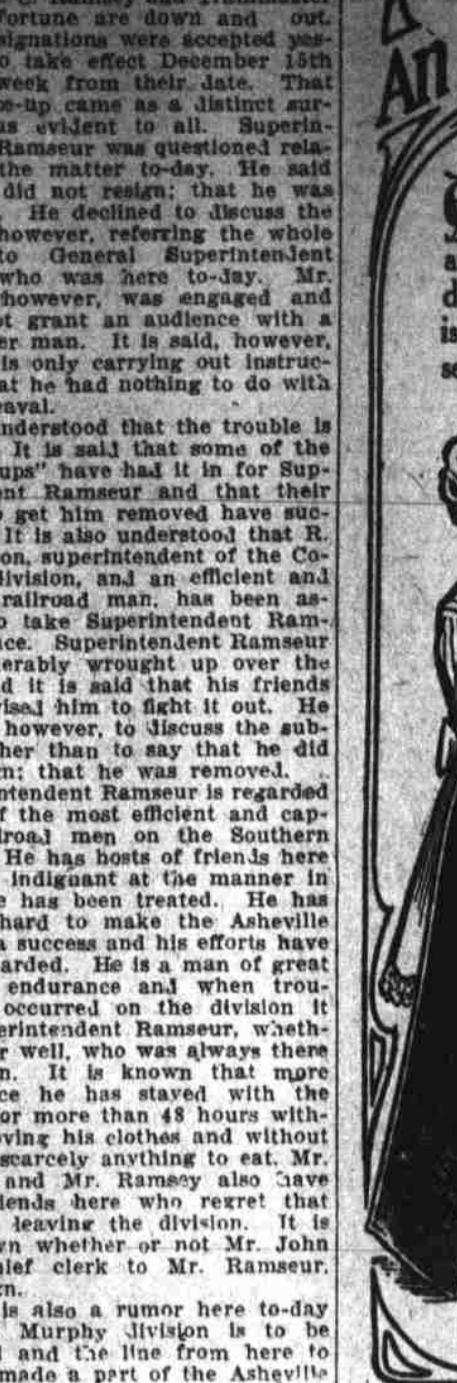
Turn Your Debts and Accounts Into Cash! We use a NEW method that COLLECTS. We bear all expenses and charge you nothing unless we collect. Don't begrudge the few moments it will require to make out your bills. Remember, you have ALREADY EARNED THE MONEY REPRESENTED BY THESE ACCOUNTS, only you have despaired of ever getting it.

We Serve You Better. because we long ago learned that this is the surest way to build up our business. That American instinct for getting the best for one's money makes our gleamroom look like a small "run on a bank" sometimes.

The age and size of a debt makes no difference. Come to see us, or write us. The Bad Debt Collection Agency, Inc. Second Floor 4C's Building, CHARLOTTE, N. C.

SAVINGS account for a Christmas present will help to eliminate that spending craze from the mind of the receiver of such an appropriate Christmas gift.

PLANTERS NATIONAL BANK. Capital \$300,000.00 SURPLUS and UNDIVIDED PROFITS \$1,000,000.00. RICHMOND, VA.



A WOMAN'S BACK. The Aches and Pains Will Disappear if the Advice of This Charlotte Citizen is Followed. A woman's back has many aches and pains. Most times 'tis the kidneys' fault. Backache is really kidney ache.

THE DEATH RECORD. Mr. Ransom C. Blackwelder, of Mount Pleasant. Special to the Observer. Concord, Dec. 9.—In the death of Mr. Ransom C. Blackwelder Saturday afternoon at Mount Pleasant, the town and county lost another figure that has been prominent for many years as a most substantial citizen.

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