

WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 25, '99.

SOME REMARKS ABOUT FUEL.

The Statesville Landmark Lays Down the Law to its "Wood" Subscribers.

The following article from the Statesville Landmark is true and to the point, and our first impulse was to steal its bodily and apply it to a certain class of the PATRIOT's subscribers. We would be a little more lenient than our brother of The Landmark in regard to the limit of time in which we will receive wood on subscription, though we want it before the bad weather sets in:

"Every country newspaper has among its assets what is known as the wood subscriber—that is, a citizen who agrees to furnish the editor so much fire-wood each year for the paper, in lieu of a cash payment. This matter of exchange works very well so long as the wood subscriber performs his part of the contract—so long as he delivers, promptly, an amount of wood, of good quality, that would bring as much ready cash on the market as the subscription price of the paper. But, unfortunately, there are good and bad wood subscribers, and some are indifferent.

"But we are not here to discuss the characteristics of this individual. If those of our audience who are not interested in this matter, and most of them are not, will excuse us for a moment and look elsewhere, and the wood subscriber will give us his undivided attention, we will state a few facts for him to digest. Last winter many of them failed to respond and the consequence was that in the dead of winter, when the thermometer was toying with zero and the roads were almost impassable, the presiding genius of this establishment had to, ever and anon, lay aside the work of conducting this great and good newspaper and go out and hustle like smoke for wood. He had to take any sort of wood he could get and pay any price asked, which was always high enough—or freeze, and sometimes he came near freezing. In addition he had his fine feelings lacerated by the jeers of the scornful, who constantly asked him why he didn't have sense enough and foresight enough to lay in a supply of wood in due season and not be caught between the devil and the sea.

"The strains on our moral character and financial resources were such that we shall not (if we can help it, and we think we can) pass through another ordeal of like kind. This is to say, therefore, to all persons concerned to whom these presents may come, that we have adopted a new regulation and it will be enforced. All persons who intend to deliver wood to The Landmark must deliver it by Nov. 1st. We will not promise to receive any after that date. The reason for this is obvious. We must know where our fuel is to come from and we don't propose to pay two or three prices for it in the dead of winter, as was done last winter.

"These remarks do not apply to those who have done their full duty in the premises. They are intended for those who have not. But remember, all wood due and promised must be delivered by November 1st, and the sooner the better."

Sued to Get Back into Church.

"Henry Aten vs. the Presbyterian Church" is the title of one of the most unique lawsuits ever filed in the courts of Ohio. Aten is one of the wealthiest business men in Sandusky. In his petition he charges that the church council, on April 17th, 1898, dismissed himself and family from the church and that they cannot enjoy worship or communion or instructions therefrom. He claims to have assisted greatly in building up the church and thinks now that he ought to be allowed to worship inside. Judge Smalley granted an injunction, so that on Sunday he can enter the Presbyterian church at Sandusky and pray to his heart's content.

First Jury Trial in Porto Rico.

SAN JUAN DE PORTO RICO, Sept. 23.—The board of charity's tabulated statistics show that out of a population of 916,894, there are 591,089 indigent and 11,858 sick. The number of deaths as a result of the recent hurricane was 2,619. One week's rations were issued to 293,147 persons, and the number of those working for rations was 11,713.

The first jury trial in the San Juan provisional court took place today, when a prisoner named Francisco Trapaga was convicted of larceny and sentenced to six months imprisonment at hard labor and to pay \$500 and costs.

NO CURE—NO PAY. That is the way all druggists sell GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC for Chills, Fever and Malaria. It is simply Iron and Quinine in a tasteless form. Children love it. Adults prefer it to bitter nauseating tonics. Price, 50c.

"THE BEST LAID PLANS."

An American Torpedo Boat Kept in England During the War.

Lieutenant Henry La Motte, under the racy title "How We Helped Uncle Sam Prepare For War," tells in St. Nicholas how he and the American naval attaché, Lieutenant Niblack, labored last March and April to get to America in time to use the German torpedo boat which had been christened the Somers: After all preparations had been made I hastened to Hamburg, hoping to catch the Somers somewhere in the North sea canal, but on my arrival at Hamburg I found that she had passed through the canal early that morning and was now on the North sea on her way to England. It was not until more than a week later, when I sailed into the port of Weymouth, England, on board the United States steamer Topeka, that I succeeded in getting her signal flags aboard her. Captain Knapp told me that from the mouth of the Elbe to Weymouth he had had a very rough trip, but he had made it in three days, averaging 19 knots an hour, which was as much as any torpedo boat of her size could have made under similar circumstances.

When he arrived in Weymouth, he caused an inspection to be made, which showed that the Somers had not leaked a drop, in spite of her rough handling, and, considering the weather she was out in, he believed her to be a very comfortable boat.

At Weymouth an English crew was put aboard the Somers, and Captain Post and the Germans were paid off and sent home. The Englishmen were evidently afraid of her, for every time they put to sea in her they declared that she was leaking. Twice she was put back into port on account of these reports, and each time little or nothing was found to be the matter. The third attempt to get her to sea in company with the Topeka succeeded in getting her as far as Falmouth, where we put in because the Somers had made signal that she was sinking. This report was found to be as groundless as the two previous ones. There was, however, a very slight leak about the submerged torpedo tube, and her crew, now thoroughly demoralized, absolutely refused to go to sea unless she was drydocked and inspected by an agent of Lloyd's.

It being utterly impossible to engage a new crew for her at Falmouth, Captain Knapp was obliged to yield to their demands and arranged to have her drydocked. As she was being put into the docks—whether by accident or design cannot be proved—her sailing master ran her, head on, into a stone pier, which caused such serious damage as without doubt to require her to remain in drydock for repairs at least ten days.

This was on April 19, and as we were sure that war would be declared in a few days at the furthest we were obliged to sail away in the Topeka without her. The day after war was declared the English captain of the port called upon the officer in command of the Somers and told him that Great Britain, under her proclamation of neutrality, must request him to go to sea in 24 hours, and if he were unable to do so the English government would be obliged to detain the Somers in port during the continuance of the war. And so, after all our trouble and expense, one of our torpedo boats was left in Falmouth harbor, of no more use to us in our war with Spain than if she had remained No. 420 at the Schichan works in Elbing.

Bad Spelling in Harvard.

The midyear examination in Fine Arts Three, which was held at Harvard on Feb. 4, uncovered these curiosities of spelling among other things almost as curious:

Appolo, alebaster, terriccotta, citidal, inate, pilar, jems (gems), statute (statue), preceeding, collum, entirelly, phisique, renound, backwood (backward), sculpters, athelete.

Such errors were found distributed throughout the class and were not confined to a few notebooks. Several of those who misspelled athlete were especially prominent in athletic circles.

This class in fine arts is among the largest in the university, having fully 300 members. It contains no freshmen, but is made up mostly of juniors and seniors. It is probably the most popular of the general culture courses and was under Professor Charles Eliot Norton until the present year. The course has been regarded as almost a liberal education in itself.—New York Sun.

Major Wilkinson's Sword.

Miss Evangeline Cary Wilkinson, daughter of the late Major M. C. Wilkinson, Third United States infantry, is desirous of obtaining Major Wilkinson's mess chest, sword and belt. The mess chest was sent to Cuba with the baggage of the Third United States infantry from Mobile. After the battle at Leech Lake, when the bodies of Major Wilkinson and others were taken back to Walker, Minn., General Bacon laid the sword between Major Wilkinson and Sergeant Butler and covered them with his coat. It was in that position when last seen, though it is hard to understand why any one would take it from there. It is of little value in itself as compared with the value it has to the family of Major Wilkinson. Any information concerning it will be thankfully received by Miss Evangeline Cary Wilkinson, 1051 West Thirtieth street, Los Angeles.—Army and Navy Journal.

Mr. Choate's Gout.

Mr. Choate, our new ambassador from the United States, says that he never had gout and "never intends to." That may be so now, for Mr. Choate is young in diplomacy. Let him wait a few years until troublesome questions arise, and he will find intervals of diplomatic gout most useful. In statesmanship gout and greatness almost always go together.—London Globe.

THE BEE HIVE!

Great Bargain Sale This Week.

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3 c. per yard for 500 yards good 5 c. Calico.
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- 98 cents a pair for a \$2.00 pair Men's good Dress Shoes. Would be cheap at \$1.25.
89 cents a pair for Men's heavy Working Shoes worth \$1.25. All solid leather.
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THE BEE HIVE

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A NOVEL CIGAR HOLDER.

Captain Maitland Possesses One Made From a Lobster's Claw.

There is a novelty in the shape of a cigar holder which is being introduced into Kansas City. It is distinctly English and decidedly uncanny. The holder is made of the inside claw of the left fin of the deep sea lobster.

Captain Maitland of the zoo has one of the cigar holders, and he has presented several others to his friends. As one would naturally expect from the captain, who has many interesting curios about his person, his possessions are very much out of the ordinary. He secured his lobster fin cigar holder some time ago while on the Atlantic coast. He was in a market place one day and noticed a very fine specimen of lobster. The captain is an Englishman, and, having seen and used many of the unique holders, decided that the claw of this lobster would make a very fine holder for his Havana. He purchased the lobster and cut off the claw and put it in his trunk. A few weeks ago, struck with the novelty of the thing in a city where even the lobster is not common, to say nothing of the trinkets made from the shell, he got out the shell and polished it up. It makes an ideal cigar holder. It is about two inches in length, and one side of it is serrated. When it is first used, it is a bright red, the color of a boiled lobster. As the smoke and nicotine penetrate the soft shell it gradually turns black as ebony. At first the color begins in spots and then spreads entirely over the entire holder, with the exception of the teeth, which still retain their vermilion hue.

In England, where the lobster shell is much used in the manufacture of trinkets, the cigar holder made of the claw is very common. It is, however, only about one lobster in 50 that is available for this use. The jeweler takes the holder in the rough and polishes it. He puts an amber tip on it and a silver or gold band on the large end, and it sells easily. It much resembles a meerschmum, and people who have used these holders for long periods of time say that they get to like the taste of the lobster holder as much as the cigar itself.

The captain was presented a few days ago with the left paw of a monkey, which was formerly the property of little Edna, who belonged to Bert Scott of the Capital saloon. Mr. Scott was the advance agent of Cole's, Middleton's and Lemen Bros.' circuses. The paw has become mummified, and gold bands have been placed around it. It is intended for a watch charm and will hereafter be displayed upon the vest of the captain.—Kansas City Times.

The Cretan Flag.

To the number of countries having national flags—their number is now more than 100—is to be added Crete, the patriotic Cretans believing that the selection of a flag should precede rather than follow autonomy. The formal acceptance of the Cretan flag was made at the monastery of Arkadi, on the scene of the stand made by the patriotic Cretans against the Turkish soldiery in the revolt of 1866.

The Cretan flag is to show a black cross upon a white ground, symbolic "of the mourning of Crete for the continued postponement of her national aspirations." White and black on a flag is not an approved combination, except among pirates, and for that reason the Cretan flag, at some sacrifice of symmetry, has been further embellished by a second and smaller cross in the left hand upper corner, a white cross on a blue ground, the Greek colors. The portion of the flag occupied by the Greek colors is symbolic of the hope of ultimate consolidation of Crete with Greece.—New York Sun.

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