

WASHINGTON LETTER

[Special Correspondence.]  
The Connecticut avenue bridge, conceded to be the handsomest one in Washington, is completed. Pedestrians have been using it for several weeks, but it will not be formally opened to traffic until the approaches are completed.

This big bridge, which carries the highway of Connecticut avenue across Rock creek, is one of the grandest concrete structures in the country. Work on it was commenced in 1898, and since then the construction has been carried on by yearly appropriations. The total cost is \$850,000.

**Dimensions of the Bridge.**  
The bridge is described as fifty-two feet wide over all, and the maximum elevation of the floor above the ground is 130 feet. The bridge consists of five 150 foot arches, separated from each other by twenty foot piers, and at each end of this series of arches there is an arch of eighty-two feet. The smaller arches are separated from the others by an abutment having a width of thirty-seven feet. At the ends of the bridge proper there are two abutments about 136 feet in length.

The bridge is said to be the largest structure of the sort that has ever been built of concrete. In fact, it may be said to be the pioneer in the use of such material for a structure of its magnitude. Its construction was started nearly ten years ago, when concrete had not the prominent place it has attained in the last half dozen years.

The bridge is finished with a concrete parapet and metal railing of the following description: Over the piers there is a solid parapet, and between the piers every seventeen feet there are concrete posts, each coming directly over the spandrel walls. Between these concrete posts is an iron railing consisting of vertical square balusters and a top hand rail section of cast iron. The lamps are possibly the most ornamental "fixings" on the bridge aside from the lions. They are made of cast iron and are of an artistic and attractive design. There are two sidewalks on the bridge, each eight feet wide, and there is a roadway of thirty-six feet. The roadway is temporary and is made of macadam. A permanent roadway will not be laid until the entire fill has had ample opportunity to settle. When it has settled cement and asphalt will be used.

**Liked the Old Pens.**  
Some years ago a member of congress from Ohio took a fancy to the pens used by the members. When he retired to private life he had accumulated a supply of pens which would last him the rest of his natural life, he thought. However, a few days ago Representative J. Warren Kelfer received a letter from the ex-member asking his aid in getting more of the old style pens.

The writer stated in the letter that he was now eighty-six years old and was using the last pen he had. The particular style of pen in question has not been manufactured for several years, but General Kelfer had an exhaustive search made of both the senate and house stationery rooms. Finally two boxes of the old pens were found, which Mr. Kelfer immediately sent to the aged Ohioan, with a feeling, as he said, "of a duty well performed."

**President Lincoln's Last Writing.**  
Ex-Senator Stewart of Nevada passed the main portico of the White House the other day on his way to the executive offices to see the president.

Pointing to the historic steps of the White House, he said: "I saw President Lincoln get into his carriage from those steps the night he was killed. I was the last man to speak to him at the White House. He wrote me a note that night that I would give \$1,000 if I had now. It was this way: Mr. Lincoln's calling hour for congressional visitors was 7 o'clock in the evening. I was in the senate and called at the White House about 7:30 that evening. The presidential offices were then located in the second story. From there I sent my card to the president, who wrote upon it these words: 'I have an engagement to take Mrs. Lincoln to the theater, an engagement I never break. Call tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.' That, I believe, was the last line Mr. Lincoln ever wrote. On my way out of the White House I met President Lincoln in the lobby, going to his carriage with his wife. He stopped to shake hands and repeated to me that he would like to have me call the next morning. I stood there until he helped Mrs. Lincoln in the carriage and got in himself."

**The New House Offices.**  
In the new house office building each member of the house will occupy a room 16 by 20 feet, with large windows at the end. The walls are finished in a buff tinted plaster and the ceiling in white. On a day last summer when Elliott Woods, superintendent of the capitol, was considering where he should find the material for a plaster for these rooms, one of his men suggested that he take a dredge, go down the river fifty miles and get a peculiar sand that when made into plaster would turn to a beautiful buff. Mr. Woods gave him permission, and the walls are the result.

The furniture is of solid mahogany. Each member is provided with a large roll top desk for his own use, a smaller roll top desk for his secretary, a large heavy center table, a comfortable Turkish chair, two desk chairs and four reception chairs. All the chairs are upholstered in leather. The cement floor in each room is covered with a beautiful rug. Some of the rooms will connect, so that members desiring offices together may have only a doorway between. All the walls are so built that connecting doors can be easily cut through.

CARL SCHOFIELD.

FOR THE LITTLE ONES.

**Old Man of the Woods Game Has a Flavor of Mystery.**

One of the company gets himself up to represent the old man of the woods. The rest take the names of various animals—such as lion, tiger, leopard, and so on.

The players seat themselves around the room, and the old man, standing in the center, tells them that some of their number have committed a crime and he is about to question them in order that he may discover the guilty ones. He then begins, "Now, Mr. Lion, where have you been hunting and what have you eaten today?" "I hunted in the forest and caught an antelope." "Then you are twice guilty and must pay two forfeits," says the old man. And the lion must pay his forfeit without being told the crime he has committed. The old man passes on to a polar bear. "Where did you hunt and what have you eaten?" he asks. "I hunted in the water and had a fine fish to eat." The polar bear is pronounced innocent. The secret of the game is that no animal may bring in the letter "o," either in his hunting ground or the food he eats. "Forest" and "antelope" both have an "o" in them, so the lion has to pay two forfeits, while "water" and "fish" having no "o," the bear was declared innocent. The fun is for the old man to keep the secret of "guilty" or "innocent" to himself and let the player try to solve the puzzle and where the catch comes in.—Philadelphia Record.

Invisible Ink.

Every now and then a boy wants to know how to make invisible ink. The best preparation is based on the use of cobalt, a reddish white metal of the iron group. The peculiarity about ink made from this base is that it may be made to disappear and to reappear at pleasure. To prepare it take zaffer, which is a crude cobalt oxide easily obtainable at drug stores, and dissolve it in nitromuriatic acid until the acid extracts from it the metallic part of the cobalt, which gives the zaffer a blue color. Then dilute the solution with common water. If you write with this liquid on paper, the characters will be invisible, but when exposed to a sufficient degree of heat they will become green. When the paper has cooled they will disappear. It is necessary to expose the writing to the heat carefully, for if the paper be heated too much the characters will not disappear after once appearing.—Chicago News.

King Caesar.

This is an outdoor play for boys. Two bases, or homes, are marked out—one at each end of the field or playground. Half the players go to each base—all but one, called "King Caesar," who stands between the two bases. The others run to and fro, and it is the king's business to catch them as they pass. When he catches one he taps him on the head, saying, "I crown thee king." The player thus caught joins in the capture of the others, helping to make more kings until all have been caught. The last player caught is the winner of the game and becomes first king if the game begins again.

Puzzle Your Friends.

Ask them what number of three figures multiplied by 8 will make exactly 10? Answer—14 or 125. Place three twos together so as to make 24. Method—22 plus 2 equal 24. Take 1 from 9 and make it 10. Method—IX; take away 1 and leave X. Add 1 to 9 and make it 20. Method—IX; cross the I and we have XX. Prove that 1 taken from 19 leaves 20. Method—Take the I from XIX and we have XX.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Playing Store.



A customer arrives and inspects the goods.—Youth's Companion.

A Riddle Answered.

Can anything be light and heavy at the same time? Why, of course. Didn't you ever hear of "heavy clouds of light gray?"

NEW SHORT STORIES

When Landis Was Bowled Out.

Congressman Charles B. Landis of Indiana tells a story of how he was bowled out at a political meeting he addressed during the campaign of 1904. He was paying his respects to the Democrats in no uncertain terms, ridiculing their principles and their aims and placing their candidates in a ludicrous light. "Take even the places their candidates inhabit," he shouted. "Hill occupied Wolfert's Roost." "Jeers and howls of derision from the mob." "Cleveland located his home at Buzzard's Bay." "Roars of laughter." "And now Parker, he comes from Esopus." "Hardly had the outburst caused by



"HELLO! MAY I ASK A QUESTION?" this sally died away when a tall Irishman in the rear of the crowd yelled: "Hello! May I ask a question?" "Certainly!" responded Mr. Landis. "What in thunder have you got to say about the places the Democrats came from when you have a lobster who hails from Oyster Bay?"

Why He Climbed.

Max Goldberger, author of "The Land of Unlimited Possibility," is a firm believer in America's future and has molded all Germany to his opinion. "Mr. Goldberger made a thorough study of us during his visit here," said a Milwaukee banker. "At a dinner that I gave him he expressed the greatest confidence in our financial, social and political stability."

"He said that everything pointed upward, and the signs of prosperity were as easy to read in America as the signs of something else were easy to read in Heinz Wienerschnitzel."

"Heinz Wienerschnitzel, he explained, with a smile, was awakened by his wife in the dead of night."

"Heinz! Heinz!" she whimpered, "wake up! There's a burglar downstairs! I hear him!"

"Heinz was out of bed in an instant. 'Hist!' he said."

"And slipping on shoes and trousers, he stole softly from the room."

"Some time passed. The wife, listening intently, heard nothing. Anxiety overcame her at last. She crept to the stairway, leaned over the balustrade and called:

"Heinz!"

"Well, what is it? her husband's voice replied. It came not from below, but from above."

"What on earth," said Mrs. Wienerschnitzel, "are you doing up in the attic?"

"Why," said Heinz, "didn't you say the burglar was downstairs?"

Phonographic Proof.

Lincoln Beachy, the well known balloonist, was talking in Toledo about Henry Farman's recent marvelous flight with his aeroplane in Paris.

"The aeroplane will some day rule the air," he said. "Modern invention makes this probable, particularly the invention of motors that are at once very light and very powerful."

"What a useful thing modern invention is," said Mr. Beachy, with a laugh. "I know, for instance, a Toledo man who started the phonograph going suddenly the other night."

"His wife looked up from her book. 'What kind of a record is that?' she cried. 'It sounds like a dog fight in a sawmill!'"

"It is your own record," said the husband triumphantly. "I set the machine on you last night in your sleep. Now maybe you'll believe that you snore."

The Political Orator.

There is little telling what some men will say when making nominating speeches in political conventions, says the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Bill Irwin, chief clerk in the secretary of state's office, who knows more anecdotes probably than any other man in the state, tells one concerning a nominating speech by George Kleinpeter, an attorney at Carrollton.

"Gentlemen," he began, "Alexander the Great conquered the world and wept because there were no more worlds to conquer. Caesar had his Brutus and Charles I. his Cromwell. Napoleon overran Europe, remapped Asia, divorced his beloved wife, Josephine, and died an exile upon the lonely shores of St. Helena. Therefore, gentlemen, I nominate Sam Clark for prosecuting attorney."

A HANDSHAKE.

Story of a Parting Clasp by One Who Observed It.

They had been talking about various ways of shaking hands and had pretty well gone over the ground covered by all the philosophic writings on handshakes when one of the men in the group said:

"The most expressive handshake I ever saw was given by one man to another. There was no tie of kinship between them."

"Each was about forty. Both were in perfect health. One had the prospects of many years of life. The other was to die within a minute, and the man whose hand he held was to kill him."

"It seemed to me then that I could read the meaning of the handshake given by the man about to die to the man about to kill him. It seemed to say: 'You are a good man, and I like you. I thank you for many acts of kindness and especially for this friendly grasp.'"

"Then, with a gently lingering clasp, he let the other man's hand slip from his own. There was a volume of meaning in that motion."

"It seemed to say that there were the morrow's sunrise and many more for the man whose hand he was releasing, but for him a few moments more of life, and then—It seemed to say that there was an age of human companionship in every instant during which the two hands touched."

"It seemed to say that when the clasp was broken he was forever cut off from the living and was as one dead. And many other things it seemed to say that I cannot translate into words."

"Within a few seconds one of the men gave the signal that ended the life of the other."

"It was a case," the story teller continued, "of the hanging of a man in Connecticut for murder. While under the influence of liquor with other men he had dealt one of them a blow that resulted in his death."

"The condemned man was not by nature or inclination a criminal. He had never been arrested before he was taken into custody for murder."

"The sheriff, who shook hands with him on the gallows just before the drop fell, had a genuine liking for him. He offered the condemned man the usual merciful portion of liquor before the execution, but the man refused it."

"By the way, I have seen several persons hanged, and I think this man was the only one I ever saw go to the scaffold without being 'doped' with liquor, and then he was the steadiest in nerve of them all. His only betrayal of weakness, if it was such, was his noticeable clinging to the sheriff's hand before releasing it."—Washington Post.

In the Berth Below.

It is asserted by some naturalists that the puma, the second largest of the big cats of South America, neither feared man nor regarded human beings as its prey, but on the contrary sought their society. The following anecdote from "Animal Artisans," by Mr. C. J. Cornish, long a resident of British Guiana, supports the belief that the puma seeks the society of man instead of attacking or fearing him.

When making an expedition up one of the large rivers in a steam launch our friend gave a passage to an elderly Cornish miner who was anxious to reach the gold fields. Not wishing to intrude upon his hosts, he did not sleep on board the launch, but always swung his hammock between two trees on shore. As climbing into a high slung hammock is not easy, he usually fastened it rather low, and his weight probably brought it to within three feet of the ground at the bottom of the curve. One morning, being asked how he had slept, he complained that "the frogs had made such a noise underneath his hammock that they had kept him awake."

Some Indians of the crew who were folding up the hammock laughed a good deal when they heard this, and being asked the reason, said, still laughing, "Oh, 'tiger' sleep with old man last night!" They had found under the hammock the marks of where a puma had lain. The noise which had kept the occupier of the hammock awake was the purring of the puma, pleased at occupying the "next berth" below a man.

A Glimpse of Ouida.

Ouida (Louise de la Ramee), in green silk, sinister clever face, hair down, small hands and feet, voice like a carving knife; also her mother. At dinner puns and jokes; Ouida silent. The ladies go to the drawing room upstairs, and when, after an interval, we follow them we hear before the door opens a voice going on inside like a saw and on entering find Ouida saying in loud, harsh tones, "Women are ungenerous, cruel, pitiless!" Planche, taking refuge on an ottoman, with a face expressing humorous alarm: "God bless my soul! I think they're angels. I adore them. They're the best half of the world."

Ouida, with severity: "I entirely disagree. The woman nearly always leads the man astray," etc. "Women can't be impersonal."

Mr. Cassell philosophizes on the subject rather materialistically. Ouida departs after inviting Planche and me to visit her at the Langham hotel, where she is bidding at present with her mother and an immense dog. She carries a portrait of the latter around her neck in a locket, which she detached after dinner and handed around for inspection, with the remark, "This is my hero" (perhaps the hero of one of her books). She asked somebody present, "Have you read my last book?" "Not yet."—"William Allingham, a Diary."

WOMAN AND FASHION

A Study in Tan.

This practical house gown is developed in tan cashmere, with bands of topaz velvet and yoke and sleeves of Irish crochet in burnt ivory tone. The skirt is a five gored model, with a pret-



SIMPLE HOUSE GOWN.

ty flare at the foot. The box plaited jumper is decorated with fabric buttons, and individuality is gained from the shaping of the neck and the extended armholes.

Flat Togue In Favor Again.

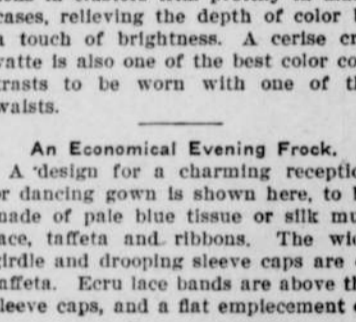
Though the toque never really went out of fashion, for there are many women who, like Queen Alexandra, found it becoming and refused to give it up. It has not been generally worn in recent days. The round toque, which fits close to the head and is worn perfectly flat with no upstanding trimming, is finding such wide favor that it threatens the sovereignty of the huge picture shape. These toques frequently are made of velvet to match the gown with which they are worn and are bordered with fur or with the feather trimming that has become popular again.

White and Cream.

It is evident that as many lace waists on the burned ivory tone as those made of white or cream are to be worn. Heretofore the lighter tones have been the favorites for elaborate creations of this attractive adjunct to the well gowned woman's wardrobe. The burned ivory laces are seen also in combination with white, and heavy Russian effects are used with net, the net often embroidered. Tiny gold buttons in clusters trim prettily in many cases, relieving the depth of color by a touch of brightness. A carise cravatte is also one of the best color contrasts to be worn with one of the waists.

An Economical Evening Frock.

A design for a charming reception or dancing gown is shown here, to be made of pale blue tissue or silk mull lace, taffeta and ribbons. The wide girde and drooping sleeve caps are of taffeta. Ecu lace bands are above the sleeve caps, and a flat emplacement of



FASHIONED FROM THIN FABRICS.

the lace decorates the blouse. The lace falls in points over the bust and is emphasized by long ribbon loops. Bands of taffeta are on the skirt, finished with knots of pink roses. Estimated price:

Ten yards of mull (50 cents yard)..... \$  
Lace, two yards..... 2  
Taffeta, ribbon, etc..... 1

Total.....\$10

The Empire Slant.

The empire influence is still perceptible in the shortening of the waist line at the back of many of the newest coat models, but on the whole the square stole lines that suggest the garments of ecclesiastical dignitaries are in the lead, and their fitness of effect is relieved by trimmings of braids and cords disposed in an endless variety of ways. Usually a wide braid emphasizes the lines of the garments, and the narrower braids or cordings make the various curlicues.

DANGEROUS FREIGHT.

Cargoes That Are a Source of Danger to Vessels.

Exhaustive experiments by the New South Wales government have now proved—that what has all along been suspected—that wool will under certain conditions ignite spontaneously and that consequently it is a dangerous cargo to carry.

Probably, therefore, it will be added to the list of commodities which the board of trade decrees must be stowed with extra care, commodities which include such diverse articles as matches, acids, gunpowder, coal, wheat and timber.

This, however, will be but poor consolation to the harassed sea captain, since all these things have to be carried anyhow, somehow. Besides, the danger frequently lies not so much in cargoes known to be dangerous as in those supposed to be safe.

Thus a cargo of glass bottles came within an ace of wrecking the sailing ship Camel off the Isle of Wight a short time ago, and a patent drying preparation sufficed to send to the bottom of the strait of Magellan the Doterel and the 143 souls aboard her.

Potatoes that decayed into a putrid pulp engendered a pestilence that a couple of years ago killed eleven out of twenty-seven of the crew of one of the finest vessels in the American mercantile marine and nearly caused her total loss off Tenerife. This year in one of the Liverpool docks the emanations from a cargo of soap blew a ship well nigh to bits and killed a number of men who were working in her hold.

The other day a bark put out from Cadiz with a huge block of granite poised near her after hatch. This through some mismanagement fell into the hold, broke through her bottom and sank her there and then. Three huge vans filled with furniture caused the Marie Roze to capsize and founder in Marseilles harbor.

Finally there is the extraordinary case of the Southern Belle, lost last spring between Tahiti and the New Hebrides, the cause of the wreck being officially described as due to "monkeys gnawing cordage."—Bermuda Royal Gazette.

Excitement on the Sun.

There is now visible upon the sun's disk a remarkable array of spots in which rapid changes are taking place. The activity to which they are due is no doubt connected with the great sun flame, shooting up to an elevation of 325,000 miles, which was recently observed at the Radcliffe observatory, Oxford. The entire length of the disturbed area, which lies practically parallel with the sun's equator, is not less than 350,000 miles.

Recent spectroscopic studies of great sun spots have stimulated interest in these wonderful phenomena by showing that in the nature of the light given forth from them they bear a resemblance to certain red stars which appear to be in a more or less advanced stage of decadence. Thus they serve as indications of the existence of a tendency in our sun toward a change of state which will probably end in its ultimate extinction.—Garrett P. Serviss in New York American.

Pacific Coast Halibut.

That a large part of the eastern fresh halibut comes from the Pacific coast will probably surprise many of the lovers of that huge fish. The business of western halibut is growing constantly, and the supply going to Boston comprises about all of the 25,000,000 pounds a year taken by the fishermen in Seattle and Alaska. The fish is carefully boxed and iced down and then rushed to Boston by express freight and sold back again to New York, Chicago and other large centers for distribution. Comparatively little halibut is taken to Boston in vessels.—San Francisco Argonaut.

New Drowning Theory.

An Illinois physician has revived the idea of resuscitating drowned people by first immersing them in a hot bath for twenty minutes or longer and then resorting to the old and ordinary methods of restoration. He says the lungs of a drowned person do not contain water, a spasm of the larynx occurring which prevents the entrance of water for a period of nine days. Drowning, so called, is merely suspended animation and not death. By this process life may be saved if the body has not been submerged more than six hours.

A Year's Crops.

According to the eleventh annual report of the secretary of agriculture made public recently, the main crops of the country are valued as follows: Corn, \$800,000,000; hay, \$675,000,000; cotton, \$675,000,000; wheat, \$500,000,000; oats, \$300,000,000; potatoes, \$190,000,000; barley, \$115,000,000; tobacco, \$67,000,000; rice, \$19,500,000; poultry and eggs, \$600,000,000; dairy products, \$800,000,000.

The Blue and the Gray.

Missouri boasts a new society, the United Veterans of the Civil War, made up of Union and Confederate soldiers. Missouri was on the borderland between north and south, and "brother against brother" was more than a figure of speech. The Missouri society may lead to a united grand army of blue and gray.—Youth's Companion.

English Not Wanted.

It is an exceedingly significant and a by no means infrequent experience to read advertisements in Canadian papers that end up, "No English need apply."—Sidney Brooks in Harper's Weekly.