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To Summer Absentees.

Persons leaving the city during the summer months can have THE EVENING CRITIC mailed to their address, in any locality, for 35 cents per month, or three months for $1, payable in advance. THE CRITIC will be found the best medium for keeping absentees thoroughly posted on what transpires at the Capital. Orders can be sent by mail, or left at the business office. Address changed as often as desired.

SINCE the Attorney-General exploded the delusion which the Adjutant-General practiced upon the Secretary of War, it is beginning to be suspected that he is nothing but a snare Drum.

IT IS announced in the "Personals" that Mr. Merrick will take an extended tour for recuperation as soon as the trial is over. We don't care anything about the trip; but, being a taxpayer, we would like to know whether the per diem goes on or not.

THERE is the usual amount of backing and filling about the yellow fever reports. The truth doubtless is that there have been cases of vomito at Matamoras and Brownsville, but of a sporadic character. It is pretty late in the season for the scourge to assume an epidemic form in any event. There can, however, be no harm in enforcing a strict quarantine against the infected ports.

THE reports from Robeson's district indicate that the railroad war upon him was more effective than his friends expected. The fight was made particularly bitter in Camden County, and the delegation, which had all along been conceded to Robeson, was divided. This brought about, as reported by the Associated Press, a tie on the whole number of delegates—45 to 45. If this is a true statement of the case, it is probable that both Robeson and Nixon will be retired and some new man nominated.

THE Attorney-General having decided that the Government need not secure a receipt in full from the Kidwell estate before proceeding to reclaim the flats, work will commence immediately. We suggest that in appraising the Kidwell property for condemnation its present unimproved condition be taken as a basis of appraisement. Or perhaps a still better way to test the value of the property would be to bring suit against the Kidwell estate under the laws of the District for maintaining a nuisance! Happy thought.

IT WAS a queer notion that the recommendation of three of his subordinates should be mandatory upon the head of a Department. But a man who is in the habit of obeying his private secretary cannot be judged by ordinary rules. Implicit obedience is a good thing in the right place. But there are occasions when a Cabinet officer makes himself ridiculous by endeavoring to act as chief clerk to a cabal of bureaucratic subordinates. Perhaps the rule that water finds its own level was operating in the case under consideration. But we insist that if a man is to enjoy the irresponsibility of a clerk he shall cease to draw the salary of a responsible Secretary.

IT DOES not seem to us that Lieutenant Graydon, United States Navy, was guilty of a capital offense, or even a milder felony, in calling the attention of the President to his invention. The President and the Lieutenant are both of the same genus of mammals.—*Post.*

Our esteemed contemporary does not appear to take account of the fact that the Administration was enjoying its vacation at the time mentioned. To call the attention of an Administration to any useful invention when it is enjoying itself may not be a misdemeanor under the statute, but it is certainly conduct prejudicial to good discipline in the military or naval code. Let the case of Lieutenant Graydon be a warning. Presidents of the United States are no longer common men. That may be the theory of the Constitution but it is not the doctrine of modern society.

IT IS EXTREMELY doubtful whether anything will be done toward improving the Navy under the Appropriation bill passed by the last Congress. The appropriation was so involved with provisos, and the discretion of the Executive branch of the Government so unlawfully curtailed and crippled, that it is doubtful whether a valid contract could be signed under its provisions. Beck, assisted by Sherman and Ingalls, seems to have done his work more effectually than it was at first imagined. The result is that if the Secretary of the Navy were to advertise for bids to build the two new cruisers authorized in the bill, he would not get any responsible offers. There would be bids, doubtless; but they would come from persons who could not do the work, and whose sole object in bidding would be to prevent the work being done.

The conclusion is that we shall never be able to proceed satisfactorily in the reconstruction of our Navy until the representatives of Great Britain in Congress and the lobby shall have been incontinently routed, horse, foot and dragoons. There is a sentiment growing in the country which will by and by make the accomplishment of this task comparatively easy. But just at present we may as well conclude that British influence is paramount in our legislative halls, and until it is overthrown we cannot rebuild our Navy without England's consent, which will undoubtedly be withheld.

Ho for Cone River!

To the Editor of The Evening Critic:

The above caption met the eyes of the readers of the *Grand Army Journal* last week with a glaring description how to enjoy yourself. The following is a copy of a paragraph on the tickets sold: "No improper persons allowed." (?) "Noble knights of the baton will be in attendance to further make the trip a delightful one. Our committee is selected for the occasion."

I do not wish to say much upon the subject, but would like to utter one small sentence in reference to moonlight and Sunday excursions or floating Hades' din, that the notice be called to the honorable body of Commissioners that when an organization posts handbills to herald the news that a delightful time is guaranteed they should be held to the same.

The Continental Glee Club, of this city, advertised that those who wished to enjoy themselves should go on their excursion, with the assurance that everything would be carried out to the letter, thus gulling a great many to take their families. But hearken to the result: The steamer J. W. Thompson left Sixth street wharf at 12:55 on Saturday, September 2, with about fifty or sixty ladies and 375 drunken loafers. As the boat steamed down the Potomac, the loafers meandered through the ladies' cabin, swearing and cursing because they were compelled to wait until the boat had passed Alexandria before they could swill the horrid rum that was stored behind a rough board counter. As the sailed past the boundary line of the city, the gong was sounded, rallying the drunks around. They came swearing and howling, pushing and surging to see who would be the champion drunk of the day (Sunday). The committee were all provided with state-rooms, and the ladies were compelled to stand up during the balance of the night, holding to their babies in dread. The extra mattresses were reserved for those who drank the most rum and could curse the hardest. The small space of the after cabin was first allotted to those having families, but that was reconsidered by the committee on the grounds that if the drunks did not get a little respite they would not be able to get up a fight on the morrow. The ladies and their families were therefore requested to go below and watch the working of the engine. As daylight approached so did the drunks the bar, calling lustily for an eye-opener. During the night a number of them had them cut up for repairs. And thus the wild revelry went on. Cursing, swearing and fighting was the order of the day. Occasionally one would lose an eye or a section of some part of his body—a slice from the ear, arm or leg, wherever it could be reached most handy. Particular mention should be made of Mr. Brown, one of the committee, and the only one who stood up to protect the gentler sex. He stood at post during the whole night, urging the rabble to desist, but he could avail but little, as they had full control and sway, and their object was to be as disagreeable and as profane as possible.

When the boat landed at the wharf yesterday morning at 1 o'clock the crowd that crossed the gang-plank at that solemn hour was, with but one exception, one of the worst that ever stood on the deck of a privateer.

The ladies did not leave until daylight.

Well might the John W. Thompson be called the "floating hell." It may not be out of place to state that there were five policemen on board the boat—all members of the club—and they did not offer to quell the riots. G.

Let Us Have Some Egyptian Alabamas.

To the Editor of The Evening Critic:

Has England accorded Arabi Bey belligerent rights? She sends flags of truce to him, and receives the same from him, and in all other respects treats him as a belligerent. This being the case, would it not be lawful for him to issue letters of marque and reprisal to cruisers under his flag? If he would only do so, the ocean would soon be covered with swift and powerfully armed cruisers under his flag, and fitted out by men who are anxious to make money and avenge the wrongs inflicted on our commerce by rebel cruisers fitted out and manned by Englishmen. Let Arabi just authorize such cruisers and England would soon have commended to her lips the same cup she pressed upon us from 1861 to 1865. British commerce would be swept from the ocean as clean as our own was. Isn't this thing worth looking into? Let us have the law on this question, and in a hurry. KEARSARGE.

A Chance for 'Em.

To the Editor of The Evening Critic:

I understand that Brother Rosecrans is paying pseudo Republicans $1,000 for each compilation of stimulated facts that may be carried to him. As soon as this fact becomes generally known, General R. will find it an uphill business to raise the money to pay for all the literature that will be tendered him. Who is the next man to sell out? PAUL PRY.

General Drum on General Sturgis' Reappointment.

Wash. Cor. Balt. Sun.

Adjutant-General R. C. Drum, one of the Commissioners of the Soldiers' Home, said today about the restoration of General Sturgis to the governorship: "The recent order of the Secretary cannot be construed otherwise than as a reflection upon the members of the Commission. When he issued the first order removing General Sturgis from the Home he claimed to be in possession of such information as would warrant the promulgation of the order. The facts in the case have not changed the least since then. Of course I do not mean to criticise the motives that actuated the Secretary in this matter; but I think he should have adhered to his original position if he felt justified in directing the change in the first place.

"The commissioners found it impossible to get along harmoniously with General Sturgis, as he is unfitted for the position he now holds. I have no personal feeling against General Sturgis, but I do hold that there are many officers in the Army who are better qualified for the position than he is. When President Garfield sent for me to arrange the detail of General Sturgis as governor of the Home I told him that if he hunted the Army Register through and through he could not find another man so utterly unfitted for the place as was Sturgis. President Garfield, however, said that he was urged to make the appointment by numerous friends, and it would have to be done."

General Drum said he did not know how the matter would turn out. General Sturgis had refused to co-operate with the Commissioners before, and it was not probable after all that has been published to the world for him to do so now. He also said that the statement that Sturgis had been denied admission to the monthly meetings of the board was false. He says General Sturgis has only attended one meeting since he became governor. General Drum says Senator Conger came to see him and requested a great many things that Sturgis had said, all of which were untrue. The General concluded by saying: "The fact of the business is Senator Conger went to the Secretary and actually bulldozed him into restoring General Sturgis to the command of the Home."

Reported Himself Alive.

Balt. Sun To-day.

A laughable scene occurred at the Seventh Precinct, Third Ward registration office, yesterday afternoon, where Samuel James William Henry Johnson, colored, appeared as an applicant for registration, bringing with him, as he said, two respectable colored witnesses ready to affirm that he was still in the land of the living. He said he went to the polls last year where he had been voting for five years, and they told him he was dead. He expostulated, and said he had not even been sick, but all to no purpose. So he went home and told his wife, who exclaimed: "Marcy! what's this world coming to, honey!" "But now I have come with my witnesses to prove I'm alive," He was sent to the Sixth Precinct, where he belonged, and was registered.

The Cholera Year.

Kansas City Journal.

The coming year, 1883, will complete the term of seventeen years since the last cholera epidemic of 1866. That was separated by a like space from 1849, and the visitation of 1849 was preceded by that of 1832. The fearful mortality at Yokohama and Manila, saying nothing of the reported appearance of the disease at Cairo, is not inspiring, but there is no known reason why cholera should be constantly expected once in seventeen years. Its first known outbreak was in 1817 fifteen, and not seventeen, years before that of 1832. We need not, therefore, conclude that it is sure to come upon us in 1883, but its ravages among the islands of the Pacific should lead to a timely abatement of those nuisances which provide it with food.

Mr. Frank Howe and the Lotteries.

The following appears in the New York *Sun* to-day.

To the Editor of the Sun:

SIR: You will oblige me by giving an unqualified denial to the statement concerning which you invite information. I am not the attorney of the Louisiana Lottery or any other lottery company whatever. Before I became chief clerk of the Postoffice Department I was asked by a person purporting to represent the Louisiana Company if I would accept a retainer. Since taking office I have been asked by an agent of the Kentucky Company to resign and accept a much larger salary from his company. Both these offers I declined, and I relate them because they embrace all I know respecting any lottery company in connection with the Postoffice Department.

I have also been requested at different times to take interests in various patent devices for postoffice use, but these I have uniformly declined.

You may say for me that I am free from any "embarrassing association" whatever. I have endeavored to keep myself specially independent because of the personal relation subsisting between the Postmaster-General and myself.

I feel quite sure that all those who know me will not need this denial on my part. You are at liberty to make such use of this as you think proper, only I should like the denial to be prompt and explicit. I am very truly yours,

F. H. HOWE.

Still Another.

OPELIKA, ALA., Nov. 1, 1880.

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History of Ancient Egypt, 2 vols., by Prof. Rawlinson; $6.
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