

QUERIES & ANSWERS

THE WESTWARD DECLINATION OF THE MAGNETIC NEEDLE.

BEN BUTLER'S POWDER-SHIP.

Its Explosion at Fort Fisher, and the Effect Produced Thereby—Qualifications of Assessors—History of Oakwood Cemetery—Etc.

To the Editor of the Dispatch: Please answer through your paper this question: How must a creditor proceed to collect a bond bill from an United States soldier, now in fort in another State, due bill held and oblige.

Canada's Position. To the Editor of the Dispatch: Does England derive any money revenue from Canada in the way of taxes or otherwise? Is the Governor-General elected by the people or appointed by England?

Life-Saving Service. To the Editor of the Dispatch: Will you be kind enough to inform me to whom I must write to get information about the life-saving stations on the coast, and what is the minimum of stature of those they will take in the service?

The Top Brick. To the Editor of the Dispatch: A bolt in a wall sustains as much weight as the lower brick. B bolts A that it does not. Who is right? Decide bet.

Oakwood's History. To the Editor of the Dispatch: Of whom did the city buy the Oakwood Cemetery, and in what year? XXXX.

A Cow Case. To the Editor of the Dispatch: Bought a cow for \$30 cash and sold her for \$35 at a credit of eight months. Reckoning the interest at 6 per cent, how much did I gain? Davies arithmetic says the answer is \$3.53—1. I would like to know how to make that. By answering you will oblige a constant reader.

The Dead Sea. To the Editor of the Dispatch: Will you kindly answer the following questions: 1. Do fish or any living creatures exist in the Dead Sea? 2. Why is it called the "Dead Sea"? 3. What body of water contains the greatest proportion of salt? By answering the above you will greatly oblige.

Real Estate Assessor. To the Editor of the Dispatch: Are there any qualifications requisite to the position of Real Estate Assessor, who is appointed every fifth year by County Judge? By answering in the Weekly you will oblige many interested in this, to farmers, most important subject.

Declination of the Magnetic Needle. To the Editor of the Dispatch: A few years ago I asked the Dispatch the following question: "At what date did the North Magnetic Pole begin its great westward movement, and when did it begin moving east again?" The work I now have before me, on surveying, simply says: "This pole has been gradually moving westward for several years, and will perhaps continue to do so for several years to come."

his paper. Let some of our professors of mathematics to some of our higher institutions of learning answer. J. A. R. Paint Lick, Va., April 19, 1897.

We have gotten an official answer for our friend, as follows: United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, D. C., April 20, 1897.

To the Editor of the Dispatch: Referring to your letter of April 15th, asking for a reply to the query of your correspondent, herewith returned, I beg leave to say that the question is not put in such a way that it can be answered offhand, for the phenomena are very complex. For your information under another cover Appendices Nos. 11 report for 1889; 7 for 1883; and 1 for 1876, relating to the subject. The following remarks will perhaps answer what your questioner intended to ask.

From 1879, so far as we can tell, the north end of the magnetic needle at places in the vicinity of Richmond moved toward the east for the next declination was decreasing—until some time in the last decade of the eighteenth century, when the declination actually became east, and reached its greatest easterly declination about 1822. At this easterly declination about 1822, the declination began to increase, and reducing it to zero about 1828, and from that time onward the westerly increase has been maintained up to about 1875. See in particular the Table for Williamsburg, page 308, Appendix No. 1, Report for 1883. Respectfully yours, W. W. DUFFIELD, Superintendent, O. H. T.

Our correspondent may have the books referred to if he will send stamps with which to mail them.

The Powder Explosion at Fort Fisher. To the Editor of the Dispatch: I was much interested in the account of the "explosion of the powder-ship at Fort Fisher" in the Note and Query column of your issue of March 14th last.

I was a member of the Station Artillery, stationed on the coast, some distance north of Fort Fisher, at the time of the explosion. In March (I think it was) 1865, General Butler wrote to me for some information in regard thereto. I did not then know that the matter had been a subject of discussion, simply wrote him all that I could remember about it. We thought it was the shock of an earthquake. The next morning we learned what it was; that the concussion was so great as to have broken the glass in the windows in Wilmington; but that the fort was not hurt. It was said that, being of sand mostly, the shaking up had settled this and made the fort stronger than it was before, etc. I told him further, what was of great consequence to me, that I was lying on my right side asleep at the time; that the concussion destroyed the drum of my right ear; that I had not heard a sound with it since; but got along with my left ear quite well until 1878, when that ear began to fail me, and that since 1881 I had been practically a deaf man, my left ear having been seriously injured by the same concussion which destroyed my right. He soon replied to the effect that "it was a rebel, and ought to have lost my head, as well as my hearing."

I sent a pleasant reply, and on April 25, 1883, he again wrote: "I wish you could give me the exact distance you were from Fort Fisher when the explosion took place. The boat was found exactly 70 yards from the northeasterly bastion of the fort, anchored in about six fathoms of water. That would be, you see, directly up the ocean side of the peninsula. I should like, if you can give it to me, your exact position with reference to the explosion, the distance from it. In the report of the Secretary of the Navy for 1885 there is a plan of the fort and of the situation of the powder-boat. Perhaps, by looking at that, if you have access to it, you can refresh your recollection."

I then replied that I had not previously known the necessity for being exact as to distances, etc.; that I was only a private soldier at the time, took no notes of the incident, and had passed through too much since to remember anything about it very distinctly, but thought we were ten miles or more from the fort at the time, etc. In one of his letters to me, Butler claimed, as you state, that the ship was improperly exploded; that, owing to the cowardice of some one, his orders were not properly carried out, and only a small portion of the powder was exploded, etc. ALEXANDER BROWN, Norwood P. O., April 13, 1897.

Notice to Correspondents. No notice will be taken of anonymous communications.

In answering queries our first attention will be given to the letters of those correspondents who ask but one question each. We cannot publish copyrighted songs and poems without the permission of the owner of the copyright. This column is not an advertising medium. No query will receive attention the answer to which would necessitate the advertising of any person's business or wares. Nor will any attention be given to long "strings" of questions. Every week numbers of correspondents ignore this rule of ours, and afterwards wonder why their queries are not answered. Many queries are not answered because similar ones have been recently answered. We cannot undertake to ascertain the value of old coins. For that information write to some dealer in them. We cannot undertake to answer queries by mail; we can only answer them through this column. We are frequently called upon to republish poems and songs, but we will not undertake to do so, except where the production called for has some historical or peculiar literary merit, and is not of easy access to the average reader. Address "Query Editor, Dispatch Office, Richmond, Va."

N. B. We do not read unsigned letters.

Reason and Wisdom. (Observations of a Philosophical Friend of Ours.) "Let your reason serve. To make the truth appear when it seems hid."

Inasmuch as reason is the endowment that distinguishes us from the lower animals and asserts our kinship to higher beings, we naturally make a great deal of it. It is the active testing, judging faculty within us, by which we intelligently receive, appropriate, and use the light and knowledge obtained through our senses. We see, hear, feel, smell, and taste, and draw our conclusions as to what has been done, what is, and what is to be done. So we know what is our duty, wherein is our safety and our good. Reason is the live power; wisdom is the grand result; the divine condition of life. Don Quixote tells Sancho Panza that the stomach is the laboratory of the whole body. And, who do you come to think of it, a man's wisdom is about the measure of his being. It embraces his judgment, his knowledge, his conscience, his feeling, and his loyalty to God, his life and happiness, his whole nature. And just as the operation of the stomach accomplishes the health, strength, and joyous life of the whole body, so does the reason work for the soul. Dismissing, appropriating, and digesting is the operation of the stomach, and wisdom are the best results in both cases. Most of us know more about our stomachs and livers than we do about our heads and hearts; some few, just the reverse. It would be a good thing to study them together. Psychology and physiology

are largely identified in their operations, as well as in their vocabulary. Read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest it. The right process in the one case is the same as in the other, and inwardly work up is the process. The excruciating knowledge is that wisdom giveth life to them that have it. The perfection of eating is that food gives to the body healthy blood, which is the life of the soul. The five senses open the doors and avenues through which knowledge of the outside world reaches the brain, the presence chamber of the soul. We can not say what offices they all have for the stomach in giving life to the body. The office of reason, in turning observations and knowledge into wisdom, is very suggestive of that which the gastric juice in the stomach performs in turning its acquisitions into blood and life. "Who knows the intimacy of body and soul? Is it a wonder that the tabernacle of the flesh should reveal and illustrate the secrets of its wonderful possessor—the spirit?" Good and joyous health makes the strength and power and energy of the giant who rejoices to run a race. And knowledge that is turned into light and loyalty makes the wisdom of the wise man, whose ways are ways of pleasantness, and all his paths are peace. Strength and health is a grand result; and wisdom strengtheneth the city man more than many mighty men a wise man.

The service that the stomach and its juices do for the physical and mental depends upon its own soundness and purity and health; and the service that reason does for the soul is dependent on its health and soundness. A stomach with its juices is a stomach, whether it is healthy or diseased, and whether it is reason, whether it be right or disordered. People have been known to say, they wished they had no stomach or liver, because they give them so much trouble. And so men have been known almost to starve for want of reason, because it is they reach such absurd conclusions. A stomach may be thoroughly diseased and reason may be thoroughly diseased.

"Magna pars libertatis est bene moraturus." "Great and good reason, because it is they reach such absurd conclusions. A stomach may be thoroughly diseased and reason may be thoroughly diseased. Mere stomach and appetite cannot be depended upon for health and strength. And mere reason and fancy cannot be depended on to give us light and judgment and strength to make us wise. It is as absurd to exalt and defy mere reason, as it is to exalt and defy mere stomach. The dignity, merit, and reliability of reason depends on its health and soundness. Neither strong reasons nor strong stomachs are guarantees of life. Neither reason nor conscience are absolutely safe, and the uncertainty of both imply a higher and controlling influence—that is, to make them what they should be, avert the consequences of their irregularities, and shape our ends in spite of them. There is no such thing as human reason, as we know it. We were born for it, but without it. The idea of it is the Divine instinct; the craving it is the thirst for the living God. God is light. Without Him our case is hopeless. He is the blind lead the blind into the ditch. The work and blessing of the Word of God is to rectify the judgment, to make the reason sound, and purify the heart that controls all. If the eye is single, the whole body is full of light; and its singleness, simplicity, and justice come of an honest and good heart, which we are to keep with all diligence, as out of it are the issues of life.

The wisest man is he whose whole being is most in obedience to the law of God, which is the Will of God—not skilled in logic and familiar with systems, but he who, in the fear of God, does His will from the heart; consciously and intelligently, living, moving, having His being in Him. The great of living manhood is a man, reasonable service. In the person of Jesus Christ we worship Ideal Reason—Infinite Wisdom.

T. P. A.'S TO MEET.

ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION TO BE HELD NEXT SATURDAY.

IMPORTANT LEGISLATION LOOKED FOR

Achievements and Personnel of the Local Post-Work of the National Association—Mr. C. W. Saunders the Next State President.

The annual convention of the Travellers' Protective Association of America, Virginia Division, will be held in this city next Saturday, May 1st. The members of Post A, of this city, anticipate a large attendance, and are making preparations to give the delegates a hospitable reception.

The convention will be held in the assembly-room of the Chamber of Commerce at 10 o'clock A. M. Saturday. Much important work will be done at this convention. Delegates will be elected to the National Convention, to be held in Nashville, Tenn., June 1st, and instructions given them as to the various questions that will come up for discussion at that time, and also as to their vote on



MR. R. B. WALTHALL, (Secretary Post A.)

any of the travelling men in this country, some of whom have national reputations as AI salesmen, and are known from Maine to Florida and from New York to California, and some of them travel in European countries. The Committee of Arrangements for the entertainment of the delegates while in the city and at the banquet to be given at Ford's Hotel at 9 o'clock Saturday night, is composed as follows: C. W. Saunders (chairman), Joseph Wallerstein, John B. Culpeper, Robert H. Ellis, Jr., and it is needless to add that everything will be done to ensure the comfort of the visitors. The responses to toasts at the banquet will be made by a number of prominent citizens, and Messrs. Cunningham, Watkins, Hopkins, and Cunningham will sing several selections, and the Blues Band will play during the intervals.

The following are the officers for the Virginia Division: President, W. P. Redd, Danville; First Vice-President, Major J. W. Raleigh, of Richmond; Second Vice-President, C. A. Epps, of Petersburg; Secretary and Treasurer, George Gibson, Jr., of Richmond; Board of Directors: John Harwood, R. S. Christian, S. Doughty, of Richmond; C. C. Alley, of Petersburg; L. W. Davis, of Norfolk; chairman of Railroad Committee, Joseph Wallerstein, of Richmond; chairman of Legislative Committee, John S. Harwood, of Richmond; chairman of Press Committee, John B. Culpeper, of Richmond; chairman of Hotel Committee, T. W. Helm, of Danville; chairman of Employment Committee, Charles E. Wingo, of Richmond.

The officers of Post A, of Richmond, are as follows: President, R. W. Spillman; Vice-President, John C. Hagan; Secretary and Treasurer, R. B. Walthall; Board of Directors—S. Doughty (chairman), John A. Taylor, H. Ellis, Jr., W. Raleigh, J. H. Capers, Jr., M. L. Hinesinger, Thomas Poindexter; Railroad Committee, Arthur B. Clarke, chairman; Legislative Committee, W. S. Lockett, chairman; Press Committee, John B. Culpeper, chairman; Hotel Com-

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION'S WORK.

The National Association has done very effective work all over the United States in the way of securing railroad concessions in passenger rates and excess baggage rates, and facilities to the travelling men generally, and comforts and conveniences to them by the hotels throughout the country. One of the largest western passenger associations within the last year saw fit to withdraw their two-cent mileage from the travelling men, but through the persistent efforts of the National Association, they were induced



MR. C. W. SAUNDERS, (Next President of the State Travellers' Protective Association.)

to put it on sale again. The railroads introduced a bill in the last Georgia Legislature, to the effect that no one outside the railroads could sell railroad tickets, but the active efforts of the National Association defeated the scheme. The gathering together of the travelling men at their national convention is an event looked forward to with great pleasure and interest, and the meetings are always largely attended, and no means are spared to make the visiting "knights of the grip" enjoy themselves. National conventions have been held in the last ten years at Denver, Col., Little Rock, Ark., Milwaukee, Wis., Peoria, Ill., San Antonio, Tex., Terre Haute, Ind., and the next one will be in Nashville, Tenn., on June 1, 1897. The World's Fair was in progress at Chicago at the time the delegates were returning to Chicago, arriving there Travellers' Protective Association



MR. JOHN B. CULPEPER, (Chairman of Press Committee.)

Day, and one hundred thousand travelling men saw the sights on the Midway Plaisance, and took in the big fair for all it was worth. The convention at San

Antonio, Tex., will long be remembered, as the delegates took a trip to the City of Mexico, had an audience with President Diaz, of the Mexican republic, drank Pulque, and ate hot tamales, saw the bull fights, and all the amusements incident to a visit to our sister republic.

THE RICHMOND POST.

The Richmond Travellers' Protective Association will compare favorably with



MR. JOSEPH WALLERSTEIN, (First Vice-President National Travellers' Protective Association.)

mittee, A. V. Shea, chairman; Employment Committee, D. S. Harwood, chairman; delegates to the State convention from Richmond—B. T. Truitt, A. B. Clarke, R. S. Christian, C. W. Saunders, John Harwood, S. Doughty, M. Call, J. H. Capers, Jr., H. Ellis, Jr., and Felix Heesberg.

The national officers of the association residing in Richmond are Joseph Wallerstein, First National Vice-President; John S. Harwood, chairman of the National Legislative Committee, and John B. Culpeper, member of the National Press Committee for the States of Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina.

The election of officers for the ensuing year will be an interesting feature of this convention. Mr. C. W. Saunders, of this city, is prominently spoken of as the next State president, but no accurate forecast can be made as to who will be called upon to fill the other offices.

THE TOAST LIST.

This will be the programme of exercises at the banquet Saturday evening. Address of welcome, Hon. Richard M. Taylor, Mayor of Richmond; response to same, Major J. W. Hawley. Song, by Messrs. Haddon S. Watkins and Thurston Cardozo. "Essential Qualifications for a Successful 'Travelling Man,'" Colonel John S. Harwood. "Commercial Traveller of To-Day," Colonel John Bell Bigger. "National Association," Joseph Wallerstein. Song, by Captain Frank Cunningham. "Commerce, Past and Present," S. Dabney Crenshaw. "Fair Ladies," Hon. B. B. Mumford. "Daily Press," Colonel C. O'Conor. "Virginia Division—May She Ever Increase in Wisdom and Strength," Hon. J. Taylor Elyson. "Hotels, Past and Present," Mr. Arthur B. Clarke. Song, by J. Stuart Hopkins. "Railroads of To-Day," Mr. John D. Potts. "Our Friend and Ally, the Chamber of Commerce," Mr. R. A. Dunlop. Toastmaster, R. W. Spillman, president Post A, Virginia Division, T. P. A.

BON AIR.

The Cool Snap—The Fruit-Dry Weather. BON AIR, VA., April 24.—(Special).—The cool spell now seems to have broken up. Whilst the days have been warm, the nights and mornings have been cool, not to say cold. On the mornings of the 18th, 19th, 20th, and 21st there was frost, and a thin skin of ice on standing water. But the weather is very dry, and I cannot see that the peaches have been at all injured. Some of the fruit has cast its bloom, and the wonder is that it was not killed, but it appears to be unharmed. One old negro told me that this was fruit year, and frost would not hurt it. Nor do early vegetables or flowers show any effects of the "cool snap." Peaches in a garden nearby, is in bloom, and the flag bushes are covered with a wealth of bloom, looking as nice and as fresh as if perpetual summer reigned over them.

There has been but little rain for several weeks, and the ground is getting very dry. This is the seventh successive clear day, and no appearance of falling weather. Mr. Evans has several times recently promised us rain, but it doesn't come. The young oats look well, and planters are busy getting corn in the ground.

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87 Children's Reefer Suits, Ages 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. We've accumulated the above number of Odd and End Reefer Suits, in hand some Plain Cheviots and Pin-Stripe Worsteds, Black and Blue Seres, silk braided, values that range from \$3.25 to \$5—to-morrow's price \$1.99.

MEN'S SHOES. For to-morrow only Genuine Sattin Calf Shoes, value \$2. To-morrow, \$1.48. YOUTH'S STEPS. 126 Hats, left from lot of manufacturers' samples, all this season's shape, Dunlap, Knox, and Miller blocks, value \$2 to \$4. To-morrow, \$1.25.

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