

WASHINGTON LETTER.

The Topics of the National Capital by Our Regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, August 9, 1897.—The return of Secretary Sherman to Washington and his resumption of his duties as Secretary of State, at this time, when almost the entire administration is on vacation, has started the rumor mill to working over time, although Mr. Sherman declares that his return has no significance whatever; that he resumed work because he felt like it, and that he intends working right through the rest of the summer, unless a spell of warm weather should drive him away for another little rest. Most of the rumors are connected in some way with Japan and Hawaii, but this may be because of the reported intention of Minister Sewall to declare a professional war against Hawaii, which was brought on one of last week's steamers, or because of Secretary Sherman having officially notified Japan that the United States would not guarantee the carrying out of the verdict of the arbitration between Japan and Hawaii.

Some of the facts brought out in the hearing now going on before the Patent Office, in which John Wedderburn & Co. are being allowed an opportunity to show cause why they should not be disbarred from practice before that office for fraudulent practices should greatly interest the inventors of the country. For instance, Patent Office officials have testified that of the more than 3,700 applications for patents filed within two years in that office by John Wedderburn & Co., more than 1800 have been absolutely unpatentable, for lack of novelty, and the patentable points in a large number of the remainder have been of such an insignificant nature as not to justify the inventor in paying the cost of obtaining a patent, and that the firm has solicited and in many cases secured additional fees for applying for foreign patents for these unpatentable devices, as well as sought and obtained money for advertising the same for sale, either knowingly or through ignorance of what any efficient patent attorney should have known.

If Mr. Preston, Director of the U. S. Mint, is a trustworthy prophet the decline in the price of silver is likely to continue until about one-fourth of the present price has been chopped off. Speaking of the matter, Mr. Preston said: "I see no future for silver whatever, 56 cents an ounce is the current quotation, and it is my honest opinion that within six months silver will fall to 40 cents an ounce. There is no demand for it anywhere; China is not buying any, Japan is out of the business, and the only demand is from the summer girls."

The Interior Department is now wrestling with a new problem, which, while it does not involve any great or really important question, is more or less interesting, because in it are tangled up the official fortunes of two individuals who have been nominated, and confirmed by the Senate, for the same office, and who are both on their way, by different routes, to the scene of their future official labors; but the official labor of one of them will be short lived, as his resignation will be demanded as soon as the official papers can catch up with him. The story is not so complicated as might be supposed. As soon as the Sundry Civil appropriation bill, which authorized the appointment of additional United States Commissioners for Alaska, became a law, Senator Wilson, of Washington, succeeded in getting W. J. Jones, of his State, nominated for Commissioner at St. Michael, and his nomination was promptly confirmed. Then Mr. Jones wrote to Senator Wilson saying that he didn't want the place and would resign and the Senator notified the Secretary of the Interior. In order to save time Mr. L. B. Shepherd was nominated and confirmed for St. Michael, and his nomination was promptly confirmed. Then Mr. Jones wrote to Senator Wilson saying that he didn't want the place and would resign and the Senator notified the Secretary of the Interior. In order to save time Mr. L. B. Shepherd was nominated and confirmed for St. Michael, and his nomination was promptly confirmed.

The present time of year is generally referred to as vacation season by the ministers, lawyers, school teachers, merchants and others, and they are all enjoying it, but the newspaper men and a great number of the masses are still at home and are likely to stay there, pegging in day after day.

De Vos is still in the predicting business, and as it is a business that does not cost the community much he might as well keep it up. We are to have a bang-up storm from the 25th to the 30th of this month, and those who have not mortgages and whose houses had better weigh them down with something else.

The harvests are ripe and abundant, says Printer's Ink, have something which you ought to sell now. By selling that something now you help to keep the money in circulation and you get a good start for the fall. And the way to sell now, as all the time, is to let all the people hear from you—where you are and what you have to offer them.

A colored brother writing to the bishop to send a preacher, said: "Send us a bishop to preach here Sunday. If you can't send a bishop send a sliding elder; if you can't spare him, send a stationary preacher; if you can't spare him, send a circus rider; if you can't spare a circus rider, send us a locust preacher; if you can't do better, why, send us an exhauster."

Some interesting items from Winchester and Bryantown. The Queenstown News seems to be in demand. On Saturday afternoon people are watching and waiting for it. Capt. William H. Sadler, who is on the sick list for several weeks with a carbuncle, is now much improved. Some young men feel down-hearted when their lady friends go home and leave them. We think there are several with us. The fishing at the Narrows is very poor, but the fishermen report "steam gillnets" quite plentiful. Come down friends, and try your hand. E. L. Thomas will have his new store completed by the first of September and will open for business immediately upon its completion. Winchester and Buzzardsville baseball clubs played a creditable game of ball, Wednesday at Winchester. Score 6 to 2 in favor of Winchester. The brass band would thank their friends if they would keep out of the hall on their meeting nights for they are sure that the music sounds better at a distance. Many city visitors are with us. It is restful, quiet, healthful here. As some one remarked there is "no fuss and feathers" here. It is substantial peace and comfort. When a young man falls in love at the age of sixteen it soon wears off and he stops for several years, then when he makes another start he means business; so look out for him girls, he has broke the rope again and is coming out. After the rain the sun, but this community became almost skeptical of the fact that "behind the cloud the sun was still shining" as no evidence of this loyalty being as visible. It was a case of going "by faith and not by sight."

The Winchester Brass Band gave a treat to its many friends at Thomas' School, Thursday afternoon. Refreshments were served in abundance to over three hundred people. The band has only been organized about four months and plays elegantly. We wish them success. Owing to an increase in the number of scholars in the Winchester Public School the County Commissioners have contracted for a new schoolhouse to be used for the first three grades. The old house is to be used as a high school, with Sydney P. Townsend, of Centerville as teacher. Mr. E. L. Thomas, our present efficient teacher, will occupy the new house. A young man who resides on the lane known as Stevens' lane, who has a break in his speech which you might term stammering, was out with a young lady one evening recently and got so deep in love that he left his hat and one of his shoes behind. It might have been caused by the old gentleman appearing on the scene as it was about 1 o'clock in the morning. We hope he will keep earlier hours in the future. Several days ago, some of our young girls went down to the shore to go to bathing. They hid their clothes which they changed for their bathing costumes in the thicket. When they got through bathing, they could not find them. Some of our smart boys had been there and got them and never returned them until the next night. Young girls should keep away from the shore or else be careful where they leave their clothing for they do not know who is on the watch. The oystermen and their dependents, which means the whole community, are patiently awaiting Sept. 1st, anxious to ascertain if the general prosperity that according to the city dailies has waxed throughout the country, will give them a swift demand for their product and at living prices. The supply was very small at the close of last season and cannot be expected to be much better now, so they hope for prices that will give them a fair day's return from their limited supply.

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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Locals and Otherwise in a Condensed Form for our Readers.

We camp closed Wednesday. Beautiful moonlight nights. A number of our citizens are on the sick list.

Watermelons and peaches are now becoming plentiful in our market.

The merry-go-round started business Wednesday evening at Bolingly.

The lively stable man's harvest is now at hand. No idle horses in the stables.

The tournament at Cardova on Wednesday, was a grand success. Over \$100 was realized.

A physician says the "bike" used with common sense is valuable; used as a race horse it is a curse.

If Horace Greeley were alive he might say: "Go to Klondike, young man, and freeze up with the country."

We are still having plenty of rain, which retards farmers from threshing, but is an advantage in breaking fallow.

"Flay Fever and Summer Colds are 'broken up' by '77," Dr. Humphreys' famous Specific; 25c. all druggists.

If you want to spend a pleasant day and enjoy the salt breeze, take in the tournament at "My Lord's Gift" on the 25.

Notwithstanding the fact that our bailiff is always on the alert, a number of horses attached to heavy wagons trot through town.

The summer girl hath enterprise; she'll come equipped, we trust, with a gaiter, percha shirt waist, that simply can't be missed.

The County Commissioners have had a new self-cover oak table and the combination desk placed in their office in place of the old ones.

Our oystermen will soon need new tongs and shafts for the season's work. They can get them made to their liking at W. S. Delahay's.

The Queen Anne's Railroad has purchased three additional new passenger coaches and is now well equipped for that part of the business.

This is the season of the year when we would rather have the moth eat up all the woolen goods in the house, than go down town for camphor balls.

The Town Commissioners of Centerville wanted pure drinking water, and as a consequence recently had the water-works of that town thoroughly cleaned.

Nothing was ever gained through attempts to suppress a legitimate new item. It always comes out in one way or another.

The summer girls are endeavoring to boom the new fall. They suggest that engagement bicycles be abandoned by the young men instead of engagement rings.

Peaches are now bringing paying prices, and are selling readily at from 80 cents to \$1.10 per basket. Unfortunately, however, there are but a few who have them to sell.

The cantaloupe crop of the county promises to be quite large. They have not ripened in sufficient quantities yet for extensive shipment but will begin to get to market next week.

Messrs. Wm. W. Beck and Henry W. Catlin, of Chestertown, left last week by way of steamer for Baltimore, to ride horse back through the Shenandoah Valley. Quite a novel trip.

The colored camp near Chestertown, in this county, has been a bar-vest for the officers. Six men in default of the cash to settle with a justice for their frolic Sunday night is now boarding at the jail in Chestertown.

On Sunday last at Ocean City, Mr. R. Gittings Duckett, who resides near Booker's wharf, came near drowning. He was enjoying surf-bathing, but ventured out too far, and became helpless. Assistance was quickly rendered, which saved his life.

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KENT ISLAND ITEMS.

Personals and Locals Gathered by Our Island Correspondent.

Lots of the young girls of the Island are getting wheels. Mrs. F. C. Tolson, of Baltimore, is visiting on the Island. Mr. Samuel Skinner, of Baltimore, is on the sick list for several weeks with a carbuncle, is now much improved. Some young men feel down-hearted when their lady friends go home and leave them. We think there are several with us. The fishing at the Narrows is very poor, but the fishermen report "steam gillnets" quite plentiful. Come down friends, and try your hand. E. L. Thomas will have his new store completed by the first of September and will open for business immediately upon its completion. Winchester and Buzzardsville baseball clubs played a creditable game of ball, Wednesday at Winchester. Score 6 to 2 in favor of Winchester. The brass band would thank their friends if they would keep out of the hall on their meeting nights for they are sure that the music sounds better at a distance. Many city visitors are with us. It is restful, quiet, healthful here. As some one remarked there is "no fuss and feathers" here. It is substantial peace and comfort. When a young man falls in love at the age of sixteen it soon wears off and he stops for several years, then when he makes another start he means business; so look out for him girls, he has broke the rope again and is coming out. After the rain the sun, but this community became almost skeptical of the fact that "behind the cloud the sun was still shining" as no evidence of this loyalty being as visible. It was a case of going "by faith and not by sight."

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THAT KEATING AFFAIR.

State's Attorney Harper Denies Sheriff Woolleyhand's Charge.

State's Attorney J. Frank Harper, who was absent from home on a trip to California at the time of the session of the Circuit Court for Dorchester county, on July 26th, last, when Sheriff James L. Woolleyhand was fined for contempt of court for not carrying out the sentence of the court relative to B. Palmer Keating, positively denies that he ever advised the sheriff that his course was legal and proper. He states that, as a matter of fact he advised him to the contrary. The sheriff is reported as having said, in his examination before the court, that he had consulted with State's Attorney Harper, and that the latter had told him he was doing right. Mr. Harper says that the sheriff has never, at any time, approached him in reference to the granting to Keating the privilege of leaving the jail, but that, on the contrary, before he left on his trip to the West, in June, he voluntarily went to Sheriff Woolleyhand, and advised him that, if the reports were true, to the effect that Keating was being granted this privilege, he was committing an illegal act, and it would undoubtedly result in trouble to him in the end. Mr. Harper denies that he has ever said anything to the sheriff, the deputy sheriff or any one else that could possibly be construed as advising the course which the sheriff pursued, and he regrets that his absence from home at the time prevented a prompt denial. Sheriff Woolleyhand writes to Mr. Harper, August 9th, as follows: "In reply to an alleged statement, reported in a newspaper as coming from me, in which I am made to connect you with my conduct towards Mr. Keating, I must say most positively that I have been entirely misquoted. I made no such statement as appeared in the papers. In no wise did I there fall from my lips any claim that I have acted under your advice in the matter, I do remember saying I had advised with the State's Attorney. I further said that I had called the attention of the county commissioners to the matter, and they informed me I was doing nothing more than my predecessors had done. I also said that the Court and State's Attorney were aware of my proceedings; because none of my acts were secret but all were overt. As to my assertion, however, that you actually advised me that I was doing right, this I deny in the plainest possible English. Those who so reported me certainly misunderstood my language."

Several days ago, some of our young girls went down to the shore to go to bathing. They hid their clothes which they changed for their bathing costumes in the thicket. When they got through bathing, they could not find them. Some of our smart boys had been there and got them and never returned them until the next night. Young girls should keep away from the shore or else be careful where they leave their clothing for they do not know who is on the watch. The oystermen and their dependents, which means the whole community, are patiently awaiting Sept. 1st, anxious to ascertain if the general prosperity that according to the city dailies has waxed throughout the country, will give them a swift demand for their product and at living prices. The supply was very small at the close of last season and cannot be expected to be much better now, so they hope