

Republican Progress

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LETTER FROM CALIFORNIA.
SAN DIEGO, CAL., December 25, 1887.

EDITOR'S PROGRESS:

When I reached this place early in October the weather was very pleasant. The bay and its surroundings were beautiful, and, taken altogether, it was delightful; and then the activity displayed in real estate transactions, and in building up a fine city on these barren hills in so short a time was wonderful to one unused to such fascinating things. But after a few days study on the subject, we began to discover that even this is not protection and that this favored spot has its disadvantages, that the dust, fleas and mosquitoes are, to say the least, very unpleasant, and that it can scarcely be called a health resort. Ague, typhoid, malarial fevers and rheumatism are very prevalent, even in the temperate climate of the coast, and they are much worse in the hot valleys of the interior. They boast here that this is the most even temperature in the world, yet old residents have told me that they have seen the temperature change forty-five degrees in but a little more than four hours.

Before the rains set in the prevailing breeze was from the sea (southwest), and very steady during the day, except from 7 to 9 o'clock a. m., when it was calm. Rain came on the 25th, and that day and the next (Thanksgiving) the rain-fall was over two inches; more they say than the total fall last year. Since the rain there is no dust, and not so many fleas and mosquitoes; but at the same time the weather is not so pleasant, as we have heavy fogs and high winds, amounting to storms at times. We feel the cold severely as but few have fires to go to, and have to endure it till the sun comes out, and a lady recently summed up the climate by the remark, that "she would rather be warm in a cold climate than cold in a warm climate."

This city is improving rapidly, building fine business blocks and handsome residences, and expending \$400,000 upon a sewerage system and \$80,000 to improve the city schools. I believe this place is destined to be of importance. The hotels, restaurants and lodging houses are reaping a rich harvest. The furniture and grocery stores are doing well. Mechanics who are connected with the building trade, teamsters and laborers get steady work and good wages. Still there is a feeling that this state of affairs cannot last very long and then what? I am satisfied that there is a check in real estate sales. No panic, so far, as had been predicted, but simply a feeling that prices had been forced too high and that they would have to wait and let the city catch up with the prices. All who own outside property, have been forcing it upon the market, and have been getting more for 25x100 foot lots than an acre should have sold for. Taking everything into consideration, I think to-morrow, are coming from the west—Indiana, Kansas, etc.

This country may continue to prosper, but there is a risk that should be considered. To an Indiana farmer the change is very great, and not always agreeable. From grassy plains to the barren hills of this country, where it requires years to produce fruit; and as to vegetables, a man has to compete with Chinese cheap labor. I believe the grass crop of Indiana alone, is of more value than all the productions of this state, aside from the wheat of the central part.

It is true that they have no storms here. Still, I believe people here have to take greater care of their health than in Indiana, judging by the number we meet who are suffering from colds, rheumatism and malarial troubles. And then the want of electricity in the air is plainly and at times painfully felt, and that is attributed to the very large proportion of insanity that prevails on this coast, as it is said, that the ratio is six times as large as in any other state. Many will be disappointed in not finding a beautiful country and I can say to such that there is no use in looking for a beautiful country where the grass does not grow and clothe the hills and valleys with verdure.

The orange of this country is not equal to Florida, and the trees are dying with the scale, and the vines are dying with a new disease in many of the finest districts. The complaint is also made that there is but little profit in grapes at eight dollars per ton. The expense of living here is very high, and the inconveniences to be endured are many, not the least of which are the fleas, mosquitoes and dust, and they are almost equal to the plagues of Egypt.

Very few of the people who have come here I think feel at home, and are not willing to tie themselves down here. In fact, that is characteristic of California and has always been, but few feel at home here. They feel that they are just staying here while business is good, or, as they used to express it in the mines, until they made their pile, then they would go back to God's country.

HOME.

—There is no light nonsense in the following from the Texas Sifters: "Did you ever find a man who had a good home that was paid for that was an anarchist? You never did and you never will."

—Hello, Jones, pawned your watch?" "No, "made a New Year present of it to my wife. Will get it to-morrow, after all the newspapers secure it."

—Mr. Editor: Local option with regard to the liquor traffic in the State of Indiana, is a mooted question, with reference to which the people ought to be informed. No class of men is perhaps so well qualified to impart such information as those who are supposed to have given some attention to constitutional and statutory laws, and the reports of judicial decisions; therefore that no seeming partiality may be manifested, I respectfully call upon any one, or all, of the Bloomington Bar, (not to write an argument, pro or con) but to give through the columns of your paper a brief and candid answer to the simple question, "Is Local Option constitutional in Indiana?" I see no good reason why any one should be noncommittal on this subject. The expediency of Local Option is a different question altogether.

W. H. JONES.
[Globe Democrat.]

EL PASO, TEX., Dec. 28.—The Pullman Car Company was mulcted in \$75 damages in a suit lately instituted in the El Paso County Court by Frank E. Hunter and wife, for carrying them a less distance than agreed upon when purchasing a ticket. The case came to the County court on appeal from a justice's court, and the sum involved being under \$100, there is no appeal from the decision.

Cincinnati Telegram: "I see Fred Douglass is agitating a new doctrine," remarked a prominent colored gentleman to the writer. "He thinks the time will come when the Chinese will overrun this country and that they will help to solve the labor problem which today disturbs both North and South. He is in favor of queating the fuller rights and privileges to the Chinese, granting them the ballot, naturalization, property rights, to hold public office, intermarry with blacks or whites and testify in our courts of justice. Douglass says the Chinaman is accustomed to toil, dexterous with his hands, a good laborer and will furnish America with cheap labor. Douglass has suffered many peculiar disappointments during his lifetime, and since he married a white woman, contrary to custom, I am not at all surprised to hear of the oddity of his views regarding the destiny of the Chinese in this country. From a medical standpoint the negro is not only a healthier creature than the Chinese we see, but is absolutely free from many secret vices which afflict the Mongolian race. He is unaccustomed to the use of opium, and leprosy is a disease unknown to him. I think Douglass' theory is odious, abominable and atrocious. He is perhaps in his dotage."

—A paragraph from the address given on the floor of the United States Senate a few years ago:

"With mad, women shared the dangers of the Mayflower on a stormy sea; the treacherous landing of Plymouth Rock, the rigors of a New England winter, and the perils of a long, dreary winter. With him she bravely threw off the British yoke, felt every pulsation of his heart for freedom, and inspired the glowing eloquence that maintained it through the century."

—For several months past there has been considerable speculation about the silver and lead ore which was discovered in Dubois county only a short time ago. Quantities of the ore have been shipped to Chicago, Indianapolis and other points, and tested by competent assayers. The richest ore is from the mine owned by Messrs. Conrad and John Shultz in the northern portion of the county and on the bank of the White river. The metal from the mine, after several tests, is valued as follows: "Silver \$59; gold \$3; zinc, \$3—total of \$65 per ton.

A smelting furnace and other machinery have been received, and in a few weeks will be in operation. It is also believed that lead will be found in paying quantities.

—President Smart, of Purdue University: "All who hope to see Rome with all its glories had better go to Italy very soon. There will soon remain no vestige of the ancient city. Nine years ago I saw the Latin capital, and while in Europe this summer I again went to Rome. The change is amazing. When I first saw it the population was 130,000; now it is a vast city of 500,000 souls. I have never seen such growth and such vast enterprises as are on foot there. Armies of men are at work on the streets and in building. Parisian flats have come into vogue, and the tall walls of modern buildings are obscuring the architectural classics. The Coliseum once stood in a field almost in the wall and surrounded by new buildings. Some of the finest old churches are almost covered up by high tenement houses. The modern Italian cares little for the fading glories of old Rome. He has ruthlessly divided up the very Seven Hills, as it were, into corners enough to wad a pop-gun."

—Paper will stick to walls that are washed in a solution of one fourth pound of glue to a gallon of water.

—A small quantity of quicklime placed where there is mud or moisture will preserve articles from mildew.

To remove paper labels from old bottles, wet the face of the label with water and hold it for an instant over any convenient flame. The steam penetrates the label at once and softens it.

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