

BETSEY BLESSING.

The summer of the year 1776, when the American army was stationed in New York, the commander-in-chief, Gen. Washington, was indulging in a brief resting spell after dinner when he was approached by an orderly, who saluted and said: "A young woman who calls herself Betsey Ann Blessing would have speech with your excellency."



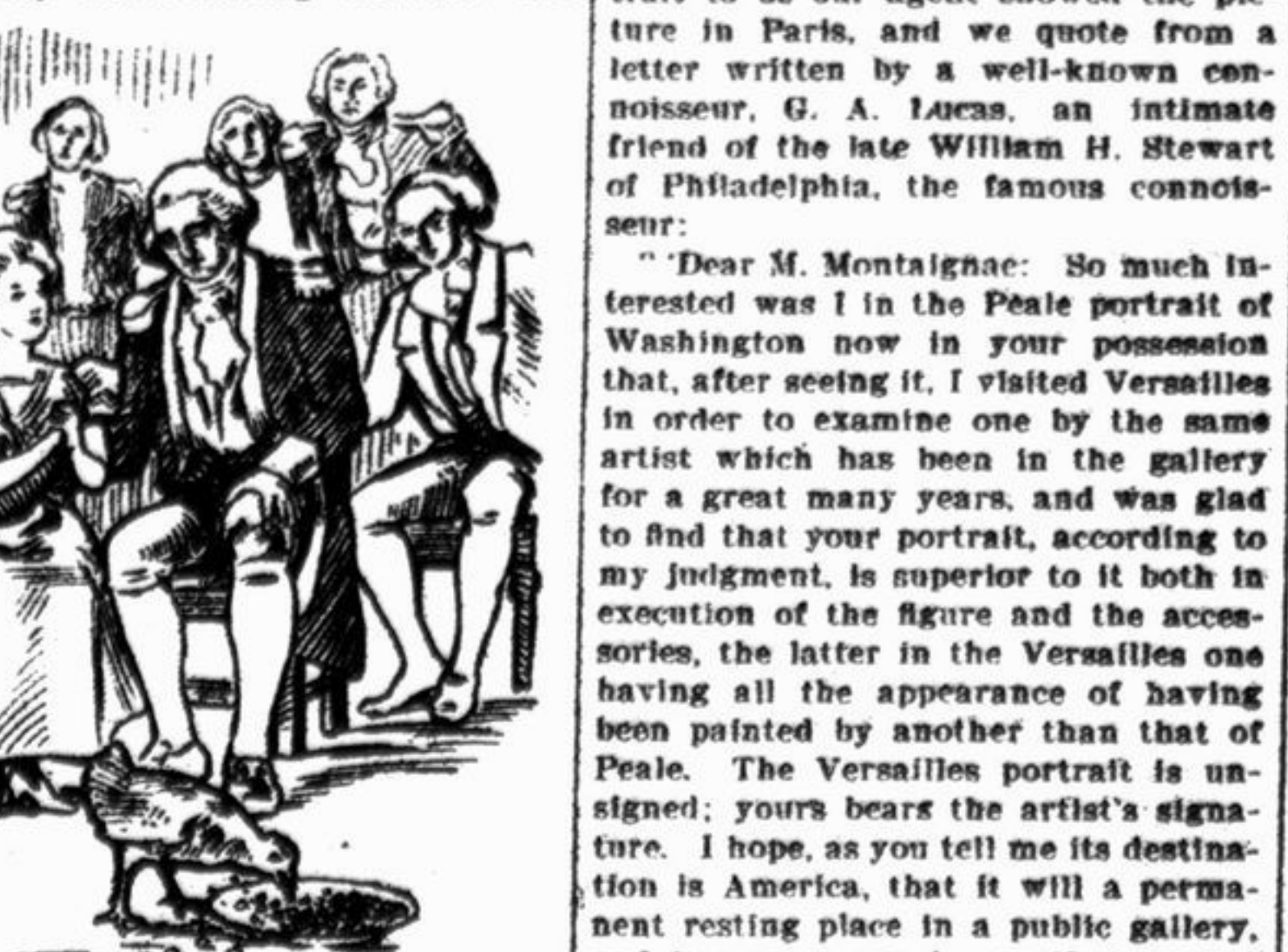
"Betsey Ann Blessing?" repeated Washington, with a momentary show of irritation: "who is she, and why may she not defer her business till the morrow? I warrant me that her lover is a prisoner of war, and she is ready to swear that he is a loyal whig! What think you, Holdfast?"



PEALE'S WASHINGTON.

Philadelphia, opposite the old liberty bell, of the large full-length portrait of Washington, which is said to have been painted by the noted Philadelphia artist, Charles Wilson Peale, in 1781, has naturally attracted considerable attention from art connoisseurs and visitors to the hall, particularly as the painting has been hung in its present position with the announced object in view of its purchase for \$9,000 by the city from the American Art association of New York, its present owner.

Since the picture has been placed in the old state house Charles Henry Hart of that city, the noted expert on historical painting, has discovered some very curious and interesting material regarding it. Among other things Mr. Hart has pointed out the fact that the painting is not an original from life, but a replica, one of several copies made by the artist and sold for thirty guineas each, or about \$150. Mr. Hart has further stated that the original painting is still extant, and, moreover, in Philadelphia, hanging in the hallway of the country place of the late Thomas McKean, Germantown, and is in excellent condition. This picture was purchased at auction by Henry Pratt McKean in 1854 for \$300.



PEALE'S PORTRAIT. Interesting Facts Concerning the Picture and Its History. The recent placing on exhibition in the main hallway of Independence hall, Philadelphia, opposite the old liberty bell, of the large full-length portrait of Washington, which is said to have been painted by the noted Philadelphia artist, Charles Wilson Peale, in 1781, has naturally attracted considerable attention from art connoisseurs and visitors to the hall, particularly as the painting has been hung in its present position with the announced object in view of its purchase for \$9,000 by the city from the American Art association of New York, its present owner.

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Latest News from the Scene of Conflict.

BULLER REPORTED FLANKING.

In Which Case He May Reach Ladysmith—British Parliament Indorses the Government's Policy—Arbitration Talked Of. Wednesday, Feb. 7. The British columns are putting themselves in motion in all parts of the South African war field. A combined attack upon the Boers appears to be in progress. Gen. Buller has gained a footing on the plateau north of the Tugela after two days' hard fighting. On the far western border Lord Methuen has begun a turning movement against the Boer right, while Gen. Macdonald threatens the Boer flank, thus relieving the pressure on Lord Methuen's front. Lord Roberts, who, according to an informant in close touch with the war office, is in the middle of the theater of war, has begun the march on Bloemfontein. The Boers have taken the initiative against Gen. Gatacre, attacking two of his positions at Sterkstroom. It really looks as though the general forward movement so long talked of was in progress. Gen. Buller's third attempt at relieving Ladysmith absorbs attention. His losses, as mentioned by one correspondent, are 250. The only telegram from Boer sources asserts that one of Gen. Buller's attempts to seize the fords failed, but they admit that he has lodged forces on one kopje. Three thousand more militia have been ordered to prepare for embarkation.

Thursday, Feb. 8. Answering a question in the house of commons, George Wyndham, parliamentary secretary of the war office, stated that in addition to the 180,000 troops in South Africa, mentioned in a speech recently made by him, the government decided to send seventeen more battalions of militia and 3,000 yeomanry, making a total for the militia of over 20,000 men and for the yeomanry of 8,000. The total in South Africa, he added, would then be 194,000 effective, exclusive of sick and wounded. Answering another question, Mr. Wyndham said that 2,235 officers and men of the British army were missing, but it was uncertain how many of them were at Pretoria. As to their protection in case the British besieged Pretoria, Mr. Wyndham said the government left that to the discretion of Lord Roberts. Gen. Buller is holding his own, according to the latest reports. An advance of five miles more will enable the Ladysmith troops to co-operate with him. His losses up to Tuesday noon numbered 233. Gatacre has strengthened his outposts near Sterkstroom, but has not massed his troops for an advance toward the Orange River. Boers in the Coloburg district have been bombarded by Gen. French, but they have received reinforcements and are assuming the offensive. Little is known in London as to the significance of Gen. Macdonald's fighting near Methuen's Modder River camp, but only skirmishing is reported. Secrecy regarding Lord Roberts' campaign plans is still maintained by the British war office.

A DIFFICULT UNDERTAKING.



BRITISH ARTILLERY CROSSING THE LITTLE TUGELA RIVER UNDER FIRE.

Dubois Would Succeed Shoup. It is reported at Boise that ex-Senator Dubois, a former republican, who went into the silver republican ranks in 1896, is now trying to secure the endorsement of the state democratic convention for the senatorship to succeed Senator Shoup.

Friday, Feb. 8. The British, who were in possession of the kopje at Molen's drift, abandoned it after a bombardment by Boer cannon and retired across the Tugela river to their former position. The Neueste Nachrichten of Leipzig prints a special dispatch from a correspondent who claims that General Buller's third attempt to relieve Ladysmith has completely failed. A Boer dispatch asserts that on Tuesday 2,000 British soldiers sallied toward Colenso from Chieveley to create a diversion in favor of General Buller, but that they were quickly driven back. Colonel Plumer's Mafeking relief force, according to a Pretoria dispatch, was repulsed at Ramutsa by the Boers Friday, Feb. 2. Ramutsa is only a few miles south of Gaberones, showing that Plumer has made little progress since last heard from. General Gatacre has strengthened his outposts by driving back the Boers at Pen Hoek and Byrd's river.

Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 10 11. Joubert has sent 6,000 men across Tugela, probably to outflank Buller. Boers also hold position south of Colenso. Roberts arrived on Modder river and forward movement is expected. Boers outflanked British near Reunburg. Boers threatening Pietermaritzburg. Shelling of Kimberley continued. Kimberley has been living on horse flesh since Jan. 8. The Times says war teaches inadequacy of British land forces to empire's needs. German capital said to control railroad from Delagoa Bay to Transvaal. Mgr. Jollivet, Catholic vicar in Transvaal, says Boers treat priests well. Buller's third failure to relieve Ladysmith causes a falling of spirits throughout the British empire.

Sunday, Feb. 12. Official announcement having been made that Lord Roberts is personally in command of the British forces at Modder river, there is reason to expect important developments in the campaign in South Africa. An early invasion of the Orange Free State seems imminent. Hobirk's and Bastard's necks, which the Boers took possession of Saturday, have been recaptured by the British. The Boers were shelled out. There has been a heavy bombardment of Kimberley. The fire of the Boer big gun at Kamperdam has been very trying. Death rate enormously high. Supplies scarce.

Funeral of Major Logan. Youngstown, Ohio, Feb. 8.—Thousands of citizens and people from the surrounding towns and country passed through the vestibule of St. John's Episcopal church, where the body of Major John A. Logan lay in state surrounded by military guards. The sealed casket containing the body reposed in the vestibule of the church, which had been most beautifully decorated with appropriate hangings. It was folded about with the national colors, and across the bier lay a broad band of silk, engrossed with the legend "Major John A. Logan, 33d U. S. V." The casket was not opened. The profusion of floral tributes was extraordinary. Great masses of American beauty roses, pillows of violets and other rare and beautiful flowers almost concealed the casket and were used effectively in the church interior decorations.

Rich Gold Strike in Idaho. Excitement continues around Elk City, Idaho, over the rich gold strikes.

A FORMER AMERICAN SAYS.

Doubled Their Cultivated Land. More Than Doubled Their Stock. The following letter, written by Mr. John Cummings of Wetaskiwin, Alberta, Canada, formerly of Washington, to a friend in the United States, is only one of a hundred similar ones and what was done by Mr. Cummings can more easily be done today by any good, sober and industrious farmer who chooses to make his home in the dominion. Dear Sir: You want to know how I got along since I came into Northern Alberta. I am happy to inform you that I am not ashamed to tell. We located five miles northeast of Wetaskiwin; left Farmington, Wash., on the 28th day of May, driving all the way. We had time to build our log house the first fall, and to make us comfortable for the family and stock. We then built four stables, 12x20 inside, so that we could put everything inside them when the cold got down to the fifties, and worked hard getting up the stables, and got through dubbing on the 1st of December; but, to our surprise, we had no use for the stables only for the milk cow and two spans of horses. The balance of the horses lived on the prairie all winter, and took care of themselves. The doors of two stables were left open for them to go into in a cold time, but they would not do it, but stayed out on the prairie the coldest night we had and looked as spry as crickets. I can go ten rods back of my house and count ten residences. I know all of their circumstances. Every one of them have doubled their cultivated land, and doubled their animals, and a great deal more. All of us are comparatively out of debt and an unusually big crop to thresh and prospects of a fair price, and I expect we are as well contented a lot of people as there is to be found from Florida to the Klondike. My son bought two pounds of twine to the acre, and when we started to bind some barley we found that instead of taking two pounds to the acre, it was taking nearly five pounds. Then you ought to have seen him hitch up a team and make for town for 100 pounds more. I cannot say how it will thresh. All I can say is that it is well-headed, and takes an enormous amount of twine.

SENATORIAL COURTESY.

To Offer Against It Means Pain to the New Member. Senatorial courtesy is the great dragon which new members of the upper house must propitiate before they are received into the confidence of their colleagues. Some members of the senate, and there have been many notable instances, who disregard tradition never gain the good will of the great body in which they sit, and these rarely serve but one term, their presence during that term being tolerated rather than enjoyed. The antipathy felt for a former senator by his associates is still remembered. He sat among them, occasionally he spoke to empty seats, now and then he introduced a bill, and he assumed his official functions for the whole period of his term, but he was not of the senate. He was as distinctly outside as though he did not occupy a seat in that body. "What did he do?" asked a man to whom his story had been told. "Why should he be ostracized by his colleagues?" "In his early days," responded the other member, "he affronted senatorial courtesy. He has never been able to redeem himself. The affairs of his constituents have suffered from his unpopularity, and he is deservedly retired."

AVOID DANGER.

The Danger of Catarrh Remedies That Contain Mercury. This journal, although more particularly devoted to all that interests finance, commerce and manufacturing, is nevertheless always awake to the need and wants of its readers, let the subject be what it may. We were asked to investigate and report upon the merits of the various catarrh remedies on the market. The production of preparations of injurious composition cannot, unfortunately, be stopped or restricted at present, or until our state legislatures can be induced to pass such suitable and stringent laws as will effectually prevent their appearance on the market. In the meantime, the people must look out for themselves. In this matter, we have made a most careful and painstaking investigation, realizing the confidence that would be placed in our reply. Our medical staff employed to make such investigations were most favorably impressed with the preparation known as Hall's catarrh cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co. of Toledo, Ohio, and agreed that this peculiar remedy deserves our highest endorsement. Many of the catarrh remedies on the market contain mercury, which destroys the sense of smell and deranges the whole system when entering through the mucous surfaces. From analysis we found that Hall's catarrh cure contains no mercury. It is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. We have no interest whatever in this matter beyond faithfully serving our readers, and as our endorsement is extended without reward of any kind, and is wholly unostentatious by this company, and will be received with the full credence that all our statements have met with for the past eighteen years.—Southern Review of Commerce.

What the Married is His Son. "Harold," said the dear girl, "am I the only girl?" Harold groaned involuntarily. "Am I the only girl you ever told she was the only girl you ever told she was the only girl you loved?" Indianapolis Probe.

Old Man Getting an Idea. "That was a cunning you were, wasn't it?" "Oh, it's only a little thing, I just put it there."