## 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 speil 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?"

"If it please your excellency, she is well favored, as far as I could know from her crying, for she is in sore trouble."

"Aye! I am a true soothsayer! Crying, is she? Show her in, Holdfast, and see that the guard trouble her not I misdoubt my own judgment in giving audience to strangers in these troublous times. It may hap that Misstress Blessing prove a traitor in disguise."

The orderley soon returned, ushering in a girl so young she appeared like a child, and indeed acted like one. for no sooner did she stand in the presence of the great man than she seized his band—that hand of stalwart proportions - and dropping on her knees kissed it with the ardor of a devotee. Meanwhile the tears streamed down her face in piteous torrents, and her form shook with suppressed emotions.

Washington had a tender heart, and he was greatly distressed by this unusnal scene.

"Now, Mistress Blessing," said Washington, in his kindest manner, "tell me what brings you hither, and what your errand may be?"

"I came hither to save your excellency's life!" was the startling response.

It is a matter of history that Gen. Washington never disdained the simplest detail of army news, also that dispatches of the greatest importance were brought to him in the most trivial way. Instead, then, of laughing at the apparent presumption of this weeping girl, he bade her tell him everything, promising her immunity from punishment in case her news was not as weighty as she anticipated.

Thus encouraged, she began he story.

"On the morow your excellency is to dine with several officers of your command, under guard?"

"How do you know that, girl?" asked Washington, much surprised. "Your excellency will lay certain plans against the enemy before the

company?" "Proceed!" commanded Washington



"NOW, MISTRESS BLESSING, WHAT BRINGS YOU HITHER?" excellency will be a new vegetable, of

which you are very fond." "Ab," laughed the general, "you have lost or forgotten an order from the kitchen. Here indeed is a new version of the mountain and the

mouse!" "I know not, gracious sir, what meaning that hath of the mountain and the mouse," cried Betsey, "but if a mess of green peas he served at table on the morrow, I beg and beseech you. sir, not to taste of them!"

"Wherefore, Mistress Blessing?" asked Washington, in his sternest manner.

"The peas will be poisoned!"

"How do you know this?" demanded the general, in the tone which made his soldiers quall when they heard it. "Speak, and see that you trifle not with me. Nay, child, do not fear! If what you say be true, not you, but the traitor who planned the dastardly deed, shall suffer!"

"No. no!" retorted the trembling girl, "no one must suffer! Is it not enough that I have dared to come into a lion's jaws to tell of the deed to insure safety for the designer thereof? Now that I have warned your excellency, permit me to retire from your distinguished presence."

Gen. Washington gave a signal, and instantly an armed gnard of scidiers responded.

"Arrest this girl!" he said, sternly, PARTOOK EAGERLY OF THE PEAS. and keep her under gnard until such lover, after turning him into a patriot, time as she sends for me to confess her fault!"

"That will I never, though I die in prison!" was the defiant reply, as the girl, who had entered bowed and weeping, raised her head proudly and walked out with the soldiers like a young queen.

All was tumult in the kitchens at Richmond Hill, and cooks were running about getting into one another's way, when a fair-haired youth in the the main hallway of Independence ball, hours,



PEALE'S WASHINGTON.

garb of a serving-man loitered in and | Philadelphia, opposite the old liberty made his way unobserved to the great fireplace, where he uncovered the skillets in which the vegetables were simment and instantly took his departure.

His next appearance was under the window of that room in which Mistress Blessing was incarcerated.

"H-1-s-t! Sweetheart! The dose is ready. Keep heart until the morrow, when I will myself release thee to ride pick-a-back on my roan horse. It is told in the town that Betsey Ann Blessing is arrested for a spy! Keep up your courage, sweetheart!"

"If you would befriend me, betake yourself to some safer place," whispered Betsey's voice through barred window far above him. halter will be ready for your neck you are seen or suspected, and, listen, if your dose takes effect, you are no longer lover of mine!"

The youth went away, grumbling about all being fair in love and war.

If Washington was different from his usual self at that historic dinner, the fact was not even recorded. There was much secret discussion of weighty affairs with his guests, and he gave close attention to the viands set before him. It was not, however, until the vegetables were served that be made any allusions to the food. When his favorite vegetable, a dish of green peas, was uncovered, he demanded attention, and when all was silent, re marked in a loud voice:

"There is death in the pot!"

A great excitement ensued; the guests, who were in full uniform, drew their swords, and murmurs of "Death to the traitor?" were heard on every

Then Washington sent for Mistress Blessing, who came with a defiant light in her eye, and was given the seat of honor at her host's right hand. She took it with a dignity that called forth approving and admiring comments. Soldiers are proverbially gallant, and those of " 76" were no exception to the

A servant was next sent out by the commander-in-chief on a peculiar errand. He returned, bringing with him a live and particularly active chicken, which partook eagerly of the dish of

And in five minutes by the watch it lay dead in their midst. Betsey Ann Blessing married her



and Washington himself gave away the bride. How much he knew remained his own secret, but green peas never afterward graced his table or were alluded to in his conversation.

PEALE'S PORTRAIT.

Interesting Facts Concerning the Pieture and Its History. The recent placing on exhibition in

bell, of the large full-length portrait of Washington, which is said to have been painted by the noted Philadelphia mering on the hearth. When he came artist, Charles Wilson Peale, in 1781, to that one containing the peas he has naturally attracted considerable dropped in a handful of some condi- 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 ar \$360.

Concerning the history of the copy of this picture now offered for sale to Philadelphia, the following is an ex tract from a communication received by Director Riter from Thomas I Kirby of the American Art association:

"Replying to your inquirtes in reference to the portrait of Gen. Washington by Charles Wilson Peale, now in our possession, we will state that the painting was purchased in Cadiz, Spain, in February, 1896, by our Paris agent, M. Montaignac. This painting for many years was in the hands of bankers in Cadiz, held as collateral, and although they knew the work to be the portrait of an American general, did not know it to be a portrait of our immortal Washington, M. Montaignae, in sending the work to us, states that the picture was ordered to be painted by Don Juan Marailles, Spanish minister to the United States in 1779, in connection with Gen. Washington's presence in Philadelphia. While Peale painted seven or eight similar portraits, we consider the one in our possession the finest sample he produced, and failing to find the slightest hint of retouching or restoration. We also believe that our portrait is the only one having the signature of artist and date (1781). Before sending the portrait to us our agent showed the picture in Paris, and we quote from a letter written by a well-known connoisseur, G. A. Lucas, an intimate friend of the late William H. Stewart of Philadelphia, the famous connois-

" Dear M. Montaignae: So much interested was I in the Peale portrait of Washington now in your possession that, after seeing it, I visited Versailles in order to examine one by the same artist which has been in the gallery for a great many years, and was glad to find that your portrait, according to my judgment, is superior to it both in execution of the figure and the accessories, the latter in the Versailles one having all the appearance of having been painted by another than that of Peale. The Versailles portrait is unsigned; yours bears the artist's signature. I hope, as you tell me its destination is America, that it will a permanent resting place in a public gallery, and it now occurs to me that a most fitting one would be Mount Vernon. I am always happy when I see "epaves" of our early history rescued from loss and destruction and finding a home in our country, where they may be always seen and fully appreciated and admired."

The Vegetarian's Heart. The heart of a vegetarian beats on an average 58 to the minute; that of the meat-eater, 75. This represents a difference of 20,000 beats in twenty-four

## THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Latest News from the Scene Conflict.

## BULLER REPORTED FLANKING

In Which Case He May Reach Lady swith-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 Bbers 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 lossés, as mentioned by one corre spondent, 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. S.

Auswering a question in the house of commons, George Wyndham, par-Hamentary 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 battlions of militia and 3,000 yeamanry, 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 effectives, 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 besteged Pretoria, Mr. Wyndham said the gov ernment 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 Strekstroom, but has not massed his troops for an advance toward the Orange River. Boers in the Colesburg district have been bombarded by Gen. French, but they have received re-enforcements 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.

Friday, Feb. 9. The British, who were in possessio 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 Leipsic prints a special dispatch from a correspond ent 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. Colone 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

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 Rensburg. Boers threatening Pieter maritzburg. 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 Tra://waal, Mgr. Jolivet, Catholic vicar in Transvaal, says Boers treat priests well. Buller's third failure to relieve Ladysmith causes failing of spirits throughout the British empire.

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 neks, which the Boers took possession of Saturday, have been reoccupied by the British. The Boers were shelled out. There has been a heavy bombardment of Kimberley. The fire of the Boer big gun at Kampersdam has been very trying. Death rate enormously high. Supplies scarce,

Monday, Feb. 12.

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 bler lay a broad band of silk, engrossed with the legend "Major John A. Logan, 33d, U V." The casket was not opened. The profusion of floral tribues 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 Idaha.

never been able to redeem himself. Excitement continues around Elk The affairs of his constituents have City, Idaho, over the rich gold strikes. suffered from his unpopularity, and he

## to deservedly retired."

The Danger of Catarrh Cintments That Contain Mercury.

AVOID DANGER.

A FORMER AMERICAN

More Than Doubled Their Et

The following letter, written l

John Cummings of Wetaskiwin

berta, Canada, formerly of War

ton, to a friend in the United

is only one of a hundred similar

and what was done by Mr. Cum

dominion.

can more easily be done today by any

good, sober and industrious farm

who chooses to make his home in the

Dear Sir: You want to know how

We located five miles northeast of

got along since I came into Northern

Alberta. I am happy to inform you

Wetaskiwin: left Farmington, Wash.

on the 29th day of May, driving all the

log house the first fall, and to make

comfortable for the family

stock. We then built four stables, 12:

20 inside, so that we could put every

down to the fifties, and worked hard

getting up the stables, and got throug

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 door

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

I can go ten rods back of my house

and count ten residents. 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 com-

paratively out of debt and an unusual-

ly big crop to thresh and prospects of

fair price, and I expect we are as

well contented a lot of people as there

is to be found from Fferida to the

My son bought two pounds of twine

to the acre, and when we started to

bind some barley we found that in-

stead of taking two pounds to the acre.

it was taking nearly five pounds. Then

you ought to have seen him hitch up a

eam 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

SENATORIAL COUR**TESY.** 

To Offend Against It Means Rain to

the New Member.

dragon which new members of the up-

per 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 tra-

dition never gain the good will of the

great body in which they sit, and these

rarely serve but one term, their pres-

ence during that term being tolerated

rather than enjoyed. The antipathy

felt for a former senator by his asso-

clates is still remembered. He sat

among them, occasionally he spoke to

empty seats, now and then he intro-

duced a bill, and he exercised his off

cial functions for the whole period of

his term, but he was not of the sen-

ate. 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 be be ostracised by his

colleagues?" "In his early days," re-

sponded the other member, "he

affronted senatorial courtesy. He has

Senatorial courtesy is the great

and takes an enormous amount o

looked as spry as crickets.

Klondike.

thing inside them when the cold

way. We had time to build

that I am not ashamed to tell.

Doubled Their Cultivated To

This journal, although more partieularly devoted to all that interests finance, commerce and manufactu ing, is nevertheless always awake to the need and wants of its renders. the subject be what it may, We were asked to investigate and report w the merits of the various estarrh re dies on the market. The prod of preparations of injurious com tion cannot, unfortunately, be a or restricted at present, or until o state legislatures can be induced to pass such suitable and stringent laws as will effectually prevent their pearance on the market. In the m time, the people must look out themselves. In this matter, we l made a most careful and pal investigation, realizing the cos that would be placed in our reply. medical staff employed to make m investigations were most favore impressed with the preparation know as Hall's catarrh cure, manufact by F. J. Cheney & Co. of Toledo, Ol and agreed that this peerless rep deserves our highest indor Many of the catarrh remedies on market contain mercury, which stroys the sense of smell and deras the whole system when as through the mucous surfaces. From analysis we found that Hall's catarri cure contains no mercury. It is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the sy tem. We have no interest whater in this matter beyond faithfully serving our readers, and as our is ment is extended without reward any kind, and is wholly unsolicited by this company, and will be r with the full credence that all statements have met with for the par eighteen years.—Southern Review of Commerce.

What She Murmered in His Hay, "Harold," said the dear girl, "am the only girl?"

Harold grouned involuntarily. "Am I the only girl you ever I she was the only girl you e she was the only girl you loved Indianapolia Pres

chat's that i



A DIFFICULT UNDERTAKING.

BRITISH ARTILLERY CROSSING THE LITTLE TUGELA RIVER UN-DER FIRE

Dubols 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 indorsement of the state democratic convention for the senatorship to succeed Senator Shoup.

Public School Destroyed. The West End public school building of Washington, Ind., was destroyed by fire Sunday morning. It was a brick Loss, \$12,000; insurance,

It is semi-officially reported shops, roundhouses and general offices of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad company will be removed shortly from Louisville, Ky., the general offices be ing established in St. Louis and the

Louisville & Nachville Changes.

shops going to Nashville. Fire Does \$5,000 Damage. Spontaneous combustion and a consequent explosion in the hardware store of the late Charles Davis, in We bash, Ind., Sunday morning, caus