

**INTERESTING LETTER
FROM DR. WOLCOTT**
(Continued from page 5)

ida was under the Spanish flag Amelia Island, because of its remoteness from the seat of government, at St. Augustine and because of its nearness to Georgia was a rendezvous for slave traders, smugglers, pirates and other freebooters, since contraband landed there was easily slipped into the territory of the United States. R. W. Chambers in his recent and very interesting book, "The Happy Parrot" gives a graphic account of Amelia Island in the old slave running days. Fernandina flourished under these circumstances and became a place of importance because of the illicit traffic carried on there, also in the early part of the civil war it was a famous harbor for blockade runners and many valuable cargoes from Nassau and from beyond the Atlantic were landed. In recent years the greater part of the shipping trade has been diverted to Jacksonville and the town is a sleepy relic of by-gone days with many ancient reminders of its romantic past. What activity there now is on its water front is carried on chiefly by the Greek shrimpers and oystermen whose picturesque fleets give color to the harbor.

Describes Old Fort

Upon the beach about four miles north of the old town is old Fort Clinch, built about 10 years before the civil war, to command the entrance to the harbor and the St. Mary's river. Robert E. Lee as an engineer officer of the U. S. Army, was a member of the board which located and built the fort. It is a massive, square fortification of brick and masonry with great earthworks, and is surrounded by a wide moat now empty of water. There are parapets and gun platforms and embrasures and loopholes commanding every approach. There are casemates and under ground passages and chambers large enough to shelter a small army and substantial brick storehouses and barracks for officers and men. The construction is so massive that the entire fort could be restored to its original condition for a comparatively small sum of money, but of course it is useless now and would be little protection against an enemy armed with modern high powered guns and high explosives, so it stands empty and deserted with its sallyport open and undefended, and is visited only by occasional tourists and picnic parties, since it can only be reached by boat or by driving along the beach at extreme low tide. The fort was manned by the Confederates during the early part of the civil war and afterwards was seized and held by the Federals, now its only tenants are bats and sea birds.

Sees German Ship

The German school ship Oldenberg lay at the Fernandina dock the day we were there, taking on a cargo of rock phosphate. She is a splendid vessel of 3000 tons, 270 feet long and square rigged on each of her three tall masts. She carries a crew of 72 men of whom about 50 are cadets training for the German merchant marine, and is a beautiful example of the old fashioned sailing ships, now so nearly vanished from the ocean. The cadets are a fine, manly looking lot of young men who

look pride in showing us over their beautiful ship. The Germans are good seamen and as everyone knows, their merchant fleet which has been built up mainly since the war, is today one of the finest on the ocean.

Wreck of Schooner

Another ship that we have been interested in recently is a fine, big four masted schooner, the Ada Tower, which was driven upon the beach where we bathe in summer, by a gale before Christmas. She was on her way from Cuba for a cargo of lumber when the storm struck her and was unable to make the harbor entrance, her anchors would not hold and she was driven ashore, fortunately without loss of life. But the beautiful schooner will never sail the seas again and lies dismasted and abandoned, a melancholy wreck upon the beach.

I wonder if I have ever told you about an ancient live-oak tree that is growing near here, upon the estate of a friend whom we often visit. It has a spread of 165 feet and is said to be the largest in Florida. I wonder if there is a tree in Illinois or Wisconsin with as great a spread of branches or as huge a trunk? If there is I would like to hear about it.

With kindest greetings to all our old friends I am

Faithfully yours,
P. C. Wolcott.

England is now learning that it isn't the first cost of a mandate that counts so much, but the upkeep for the downput of the uprising.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

While the eighteen-day diet fad is at its height it would seem to be a good time to invite the dieters to visit for a couple of weeks.—Louisville Courier-Journal.



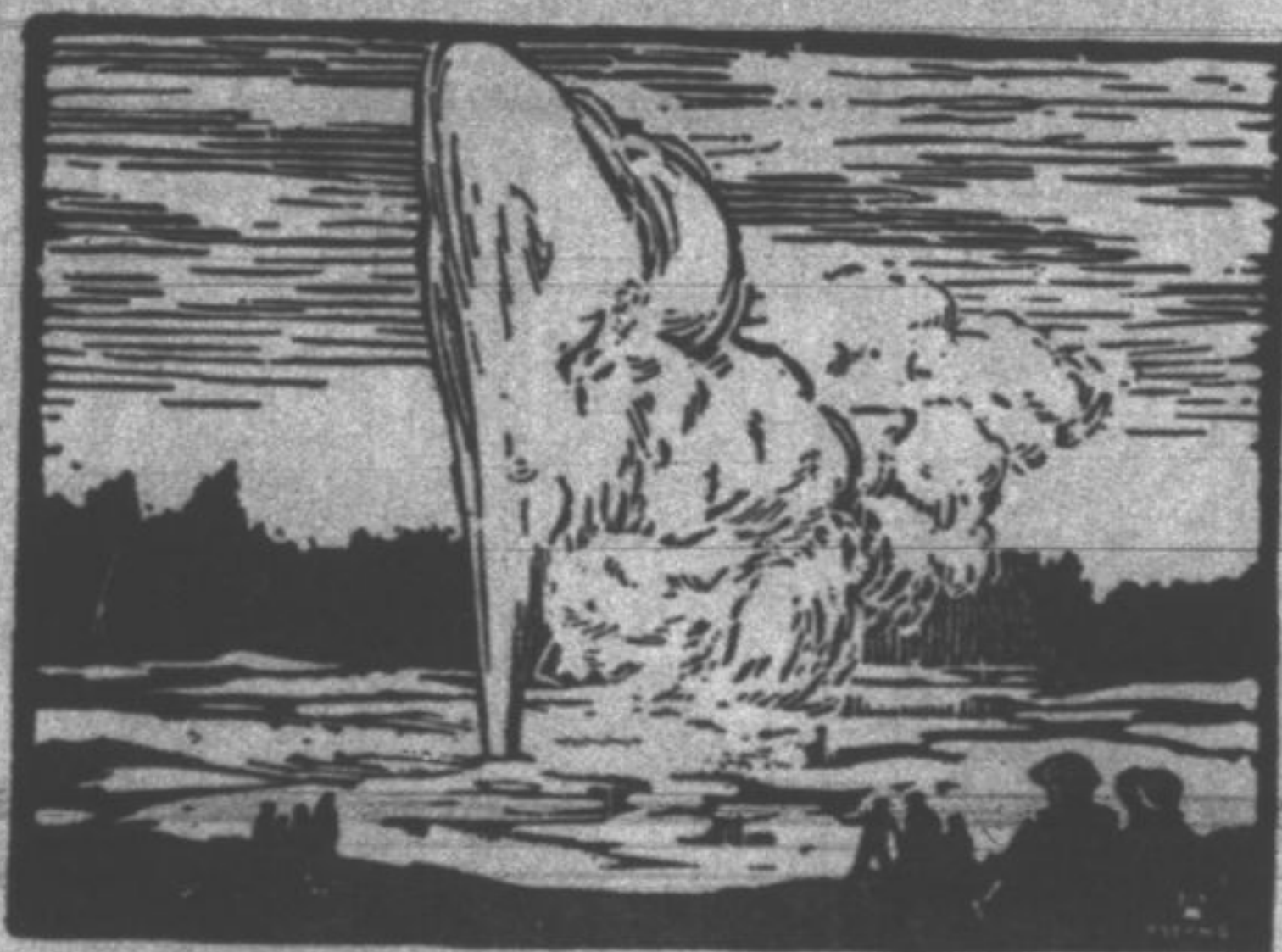
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