WASHINGTON LETTER.

From the Regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, June 29, 1893.—Even as strong a will as that possessed by Mr. Cleveland, and few men have it, failed him in that respect, more occasionally bend under the ministrations of a woman. An old lady from Virginia was upon her personal application to President Grant many years ago appointed to a position in the war department. She has grown old and feeble bodily, although her intellect is still bright, and the other day Secretary Lamont suggested to her, as she was no longer able to perform even the light duties which had been imposed upon her, that she should resign and spend the remainder of her life quietly. Instead of taking the hint she called on Mr. Cleveland. After telling him where she was employed she following conversation took place: "Mr. President, I was appointed by my enemy, Gen. Grant, and now that my friends are in power I am to be discharged." "I have nothing to do with it, madam; Mr. Lamont is the man for you to see." "Do you know Mr. Lamont?" she asked seriously. "Certainly," replied Mr. Cleveland, smiling in spite of himself. "And are you also acquainted with Senator Daniel?" I also have that honor." "Well then, you must see them and tell them what I want. I am too old, Mr. Cleveland, to ask such favors of these young men, so you must attend to it for me." "But, madam—" "Never mind, you will do this, I know. Will you not? And tell them not to increase my duties. They are light; but heavy enough for a woman reared as I was. I will depend upon you. May I not?" Mr. Cleveland stared at her a moment as if he hardly comprehended, and then said: "Oh, yes—certainly—of course you may." The will and audacity of the old lady triumphed. Mr. Cleveland not only requested Sec. Lamont not to disturb her, but also to see that her duties were made as light as possible, and the old lady is loud in her praise of him for doing it.

Secretary Morton isn't so certain as President Cleveland and Secretary Carlisle appear to be that Congress will proceed as one to unconditionally repeal the Sherman silver law as soon as it meets. In reply to a direct question asking his opinion he said: "I do not know about that. I am a little uncertain as to just how Congress will stand on that question. I am hopeful of the repeal of the Sherman law and think it may be repealed, though there is an element of doubt. I see no objection to the repeal of the ten per cent tax on state bank currency as a compromise with those who want more money in circulation. Under one condition the absolutely free coinage of silver and gold alike might be agreed to as a compromise. That condition is that both be desired of their legal tender quality and be placed upon their intrinsic merits."

That the grand jury will this week find indictments for manslaughter against Col. Ainsworth and the three officer men who were with him committed by the coroner's jury for criminal negligence in connection with the killing of those who lost their lives by the falling of the floors in the old theater building is well-nigh certain, but their trials cannot take place till fall. Col. Ainsworth and two other of the indicted men are government officials, and neither of them has been suspended from office. Secretary Lamont has revoked his order appointing a military court of inquiry to look into Ainsworth's connection with the matter, and according to semi-official information neither the President nor the war department will take any further steps until the conclusion of the civil trial. Public opinion here is almost unanimous that these men should at least have been suspended from office pending their trial, but probably in no place in the country is public opinion quite so powerless as in Washington.

A delegation of French farmers sent to the United States by the government of France, to investigate our agricultural methods, are at present in Washington. The inspector general of the French department of agriculture is at the head of the delegation. Secretary Morton has been very attentive to the visitors and has given them pointers that will aid them in gathering information from their visit to the World's Fair.

Quite a flutter was caused a few days ago in one of the uptown hotels in which politicians congregate by the offer of a gentleman to wager one hundred dollars that no extra session of Congress would be held in September. An ex-congressman took him up. He then offered to duplicate the wager and when there was no taker offered to include October; by that time his apparent confidence had staggered the crowd, which appeared to think that he had some inside information of a contemplated change in program. Whether he really had such information or was merely endeavoring to create a sensation and was willing to pay for it is a question. The latter is more probable.

The Florida Phosphate Boom.

"The boom is burst. The bubble is pricked," writes Alfred Allen in The Cosmopolitan of the Florida phosphate craze. While it lasted it was a craze only equaled by the gold fever of California or the orange grove excitement in Florida itself. But it is over now, and Mr. Allen is glad of it. Thousands of speculators and some hundreds of honest people have been ruined, the price of phosphate rock has dropped in the Liverpool market from $15 to $12 a ton, yet now the business will be conducted on a legitimate basis and "those who survived in spite—not will—will be cure of their profits."

The height which the speculative fever reached may be judged from the fact that although the output from the Florida phosphate mines does not equal the demand, yet the price is going down steadily. "In this sensly mortality cable of falling prices has took hold the boom of falling companies." The discovery of phosphate rock was made in Marion county, Fla., in June, 1889. The beds undoubtedly underlie a large portion of central and southern Florida. This substance is worth more than gold in some respects, for it will restore productiveness to exhausted soil. Carted from the earth increase quantities of phosphate sold. This the Florida rock replaces. One ton of the rock supplies a meadow of 160 acres with the phosphate and the hay crop took off.

Fortunes were made and lost in phosphates, as in the gold regions. The Florida miners mostly call the rich rock "phosphate," and it has proved fat indeed to some of them. In Citrus county many were preparing for a grand exodus to a more fertile region when the mines were discovered. The phosphate rock is found in the poor pine lands. The Citrus county natives would have been glad to sell their farms for a dollar an acre. In a few weeks the mineral discovery made the price jump in some instances to $50 an acre. The natives sold their property, and had at one time more money than they ever expected to have all their lives. "Some sifted themselves by dreds," writes Mr. Allen. It is probable that most of them are as poor today as they were before they were suddenly made rich by "phosphate." One trick they soon learned was to salt the surface of their land with the rock hauled from the mines, but the experienced prospector quickly detected the little game. Farmers are much like other people.

A doctor lately read an essay on traumatic psychosis following a fractured skull. He went out of his way to hunt up words to keep the public from knowing that he meant, or thought he meant, insanity caused by a fracture of the skull.

Mr. John Hooper

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