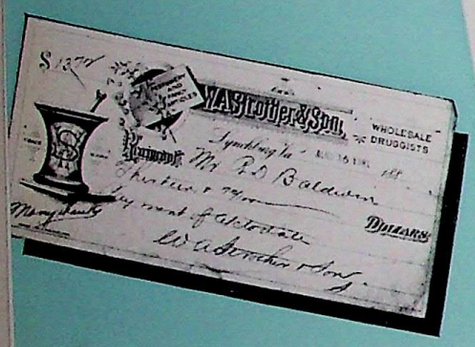
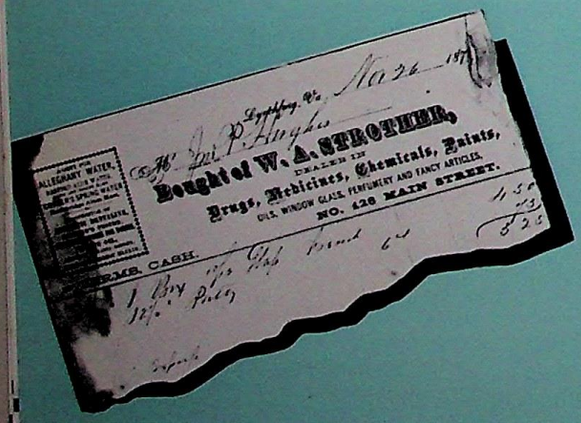
This letter out of the past is reproduced for one purpose: to illustrate how far the nation has advanced in less than a century. From the bitter conflict of the 1860's, we are now a united people, indivisible, happy in our friendships and business associations across this great country of ours, from coast to coast and border to border.





Lynchburg, May 14th, 61

Messrs. Schieffelin Bros. & Co.

New York

Gentlemen:

Your very amusing letter came duly to hand today and from its tenor you must think that Lynchburg is so far out of the world that we have not yet heard there was a war between the north and the south, that we never see New York papers and are totally unconscious that the leading men in New York are firing their money (not their precious persons) by millions to whip and subjugate the south, that they have sent regiments of black hearted villains to rob, ravish, burn, pillage and destroy our homes and firesides and intend to parcel out our lands and negroes to themselves. All this, of course, we don't know and you ask us for a remittance. We would say that we intend at some future day to pay every dollar we owe in the world but at present we have other uses for our means. One of our young men and the writer of this (Mr. Wm. Strother) expects to welcome our friends from the north at the point of the sword and we shall be most happy to meet then and there some one representing Messrs. Schieffelin Bros. & Co.

Hoping this explanation satisfactory, we remain

Very respectfully,

W. A. Strother & Co.