

The Sunday Herald.

And Weekly National Intelligencer.

ESTABLISHED 1800.

AUGUST 31, 1890.

PAGES 9 TO 12

ATLANTIC CITY GAYETY.

THE WASHINGTON COLONY BY THE SEA STILL ENJOYING ITSELF.

The Season Waning, But the Board Walk Continues Crowded and the Hops Are Well Attended—The "Newport Shake"—Notes About Washington People.

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Aug. 29.—In spite of the waning of the season Atlantic City still remains gay. The board-walk is crowded apparently as much as ever with its composite gathering of people from all sections of the country, the verandahs are thronged with matrons and their charges, while the various hops are attended with as many pretty girls as they were earlier in the season. Seldom has Atlantic City seemed prettier, the ocean more exhilarating, or the girls more fascinating than they do just at this time. There is but one Atlantic City, and never before in its history has it entertained so many guests as this year. The Pennsylvania Railroad Company has erected a mammoth pavilion at the extreme southern entrance of the board-walk, where daily its trains dump thousands of excursionists from all parts of Jersey and Pennsylvania. The pavilion is nearly three miles away from the center of the city, hence the regular summer guests are not overrun with the throng that comes daily, a circumstance that caused considerable annoyance in previous years, when the excursion houses were right in the centre of fashionable Atlantic City. I stood there on Wednesday afternoon and saw three trains of seventeen coaches each pull out, all being freighted down with human beings, and still there did not appear to be any diminishing in the size of the crowd.

I stood on the beach yesterday when the surf was highest and saw the life guards safely land three men who had ventured out too far in the treacherous outward flow of the water. On this stretch of coast there are eleven of these brave fellows, who almost daily risk their lives in rescuing foolhardy men who think they know how to swim. Well, perhaps they do in lakes and rivers, but here on the crest of the foamed waters they are like so much chaff after they once get beyond their depth, and yet you cannot make them realize the difference until once they have felt themselves within the coils of the seething undertow. It is generally the great and good swimmers who lose their lives. The strangest fact is that these brave and venturesome set of life-savers receive no pay for daily patrolling the beach, looking after the welfare of the thousands who are seeking health in the bath. All they make is what generous summer boarders contribute for them, or the rewards that is bestowed by those saved from drowning.

Washingtonians have experienced lots of trouble in acclimating themselves to dancing here as the style in vogue is so radically different from what they are accustomed to at home that they are almost frenzied when they hear one of Strauss's waltzes wafted on the salt-laden air. Instead of playing the music in a measure compatible with the poetry of good dancing, the musicians wall out the notes as if each one was the last. This seems to suit the Philadelphians who move around in a waltz with one purpose in view—to see if they can go slower than the music. There is no beauty to it, and the waltz loses half its attractiveness by the funeral music. It is the same in all their other dances—Yorke, polkas, quadrilles, and lancers. A party of gay Washington lads and lasses rebelled against the style at the Wellington's hop Tuesday evening, and for a time they showed the "Quakers" what real dancing was made of. It goes without saying that they just captivated the entire place.

The hop at the Wellington Tuesday evening was in charge of Washingtonians, and it was one of the most delightful gatherings that has taken place here this summer. Mrs. L. S. Wells, Mrs. Carusi, Mrs. J. H. Doyle, Mrs. Baggett, and Mrs. Eugene Carusi, Jr., were the patronesses, with Mr. J. H. Doyle as master of ceremonies. Among the dancers were Miss Walk, Miss Maud Baggett, Miss Collins, Miss McNeir, Miss Stella Merritt, Miss Rose Alexander, Mr. Stephen Yall, Dr. William Wirt, Mr. Frank Thompson, Miss Berceaw, of Easton, Pa., but well known in Washington; Mr. Lewis, Miss La Compt, Mrs. Clarke, Miss Mamie Clarke, Miss Mattie O'Brien, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Carusi, Mr. Francis Carusi, Mr. Reisinger, son of Lieut. Reisinger, and other Washingtonians.

Miss Maud Baggett, of Washington, is one of the most attractive young ladies at this place, where, with her mother, she is occupying a cottage on Kentucky avenue. She is a dark brunette, dresses well, and is one of the best swimmers here. Another lady who attracts much admiring attention is Miss Berceaw, of Easton. She is tall and graceful and dresses exquisitely.

The latest freak in feminine society has struck Atlantic City. It is what is known as the Newport shake. You elevate your elbows sharply above the shoulders and extend the forearm obliquely down, as if you were going to pull the cork out of a bottle of claret. Your partner does the same thing, and clasps your fingers so that both arms together make a letter M. As your fingers become clasped together, each of you give three little jerks of greeting, like pulling a door-bell. Then you unlock your fingers, uncurl your arms, and the salute is done. A clergyman, amazed at the spread of the fad, said it looked like a handshake, "invented by idiots to be practiced by imbeciles." But a little thing like that never interferes with fashion.

Mrs. Harriett Martin, Mr. Frank Martin, Miss Hattie Martin, Miss Wilson, and Mrs. L. M. Scriven have left the Wellington and are now at the Maddox House, Warrenton, Va.

Miss Mattie O'Brien and Miss Marie Murray have returned to Washington.

Judge and Mrs. Carusi, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene D. Carusi, Miss Stella Merritt, Miss Emma McNeir, Miss Merritt, Mr. F. D. Carusi, and Mr. Reisinger leave to-morrow for home.

Mrs. L. S. Wells and Miss Wells left Friday and returned to Washington.

The guests of the Wellington participated in the annual donation sale of packages for the benefit of the Children's Sea-side Home Thursday evening. The affair proved to be the most beneficial one given at the resort this year. The guests donated packages ranging in value from a penny to a dollar, and the sale realized the handsome sum of seventy-five dollars. Your correspondent acted as auctioneer, and the Washington folks did a good deal of bidding.

I heard a pleasant compliment paid to Washingtonians in general last night. A prominent lady of Philadelphia was seated in the parlor of the Wellington, surrounded by a coterie of friends from the Quaker City. The whole party was engaged, as is generally the case at sea-



BREAK AWAY!

After Wednesday's Sullivan-esque Debate on the Come-Pound Lard Bill, with the Incidental Premature Discharge of Cannon, Congress Ought to Adjourn So as to Avoid an Anti-Climax. It Will Assuredly Not Be Able to Work Up Another Tableau on Which the Curtain Could More Fittingly Fall.

side homes, discussing fellow-boarders. In the course of the talk I heard the lady remark, "Well, I can tell you one thing, I can always tell Washington people when I see them." "How so?" inquired a gallant from her city. "Why, they always appear so cheerful, so genial, and seemingly have no trouble in making themselves pleasant to everybody. They come into our resorts like sunshine, and I always look for enjoyment when Washingtonians are guests." I felt like getting right up and shaking hands with myself in behalf of my native city.

Mrs. L. L. Clarke and Miss Clarke have gone to the upper portion of New York for a visit. They will return about the middle of September to Washington.

OYSTERS WILL BE DEAR.

A Well-Known Dealer's Rather Alarming View of the Situation.

In speaking of the prospects for the oyster season, which opens to-morrow, Mr. Hogan, the well-known Twelfth-street dealer, says oysters are going to be very high this winter. "The beds on the Lower Potomac and in the Chesapeake are being depleted, and each year oysters become much harder to get. It is only a question of time when it will be impossible to get oysters at anything short of a fabulous price. The best quality oysters are not brought from the Potomac banks, but come from New York and Philadelphia. We receive them all winter from those cities, and also from Baltimore and Norfolk, in large quantities. A great part of the supply consumed by the people of Washington is brought directly from the Lower Potomac in boats a few hours after they are taken.

"Washington is the best market in the world for oysters. Every year the people get to like them better, and the demand becomes greater. There are more consumed here than in any other city in the country, New York not excepted. The consumers like the best quality, too. The demand begins with the opening of the season, and continues unabated until the first of May, when oyster-taking is prohibited. The largest demand, we find, is during the months of December and January. During those months it is not a question of how many we can sell but of how many we can get. There are from three to five thousand people engaged in the business on the beds of Maryland and Virginia, and the beds are raked pretty thoroughly every year for their product, but the demand can be by no means met. The quality procured from these beds during the first month of the season is far inferior to that of those which are got later. The season for dredging, or oyster-catching proper, does not begin until October 1. The dredgers get their supply from the deep water where the tongs can't get at them. The dredgers' catch is far superior. The oysters and the oyster-eating public doesn't get a fair chance. The law protects the former from May to September, but the oyster pirates are dredging meantime, and fill the market during the whole of the summer. In this way the oyster does not have time to accumulate, and the fall supply is constantly dwarfed by this violation of the law."

To Cresson Springs and Return.

A personally-conducted pleasure tour to Cresson Springs via Pennsylvania R. R. Special train will leave B. and P. depot 8:10 A. M. Thursday, September 4. Tickets for the round trip, including one day's board at the Mountain House, will be \$5, good for ten days.

COL. ROBERT ALL RIGHT.

The President Pleased With Him, But Not With His Civilian Colleagues.

A HERALD reporter in across John Ambler Smith yesterday, and had a talk with him over the District embroglio. Mr. Smith takes a good deal of interest in matters and things that concern the District. Said the reporter: "Do you think Mr. Hine will be reinstated as District Commissioner?"

Mr. Smith replied: "You ought to know better than to ask me that question. President Harrison is neither an ass nor a Hayes. He is a firm man and has a determined policy, and he will not swerve from it. He has been much disappointed in his civilian Commissioners. When a clean sweep of the members of the District Government opposed to the Administration was expected there has been no such thing. The civilian Commissioners have not done what they were expected to do, and Democrats have been retained in some of the most important offices. The wishes of President Harrison in this respect have been utterly ignored."

"Now, sir, as far as Commissioner Robert is concerned, he seems to me to be a stern and able officer, who is doing his best to enforce the law as it stands, and to tell you the truth, he is more like Stonewall Jackson in character than any man I ever met. He has the same qualities of conscientious devotion to duty and stern decision in execution, and I know that he has the full confidence of the President, and all his acts have met with approval. The press has to some extent criticised his acts and motives, but that is because they do not understand him. Rest assured that his measures and methods will receive the full support of the Administration, and all the efforts of Democratic spies and Democratic newspaper writers can avail nothing to the contrary. Mr. Harrison is well aware of the insidious and underhand methods and plans that are being used to injure Col. Robert."

"And finally I can testify that the government of this District is rotten to the core, and that particularly in the Guy precinct, where I resided for a time, disorderly and gambling houses were openly carried on without police molestation and against the repeated protests of residents."

Another Elks' Excursion.

The Elks' Annual Reunion Association intend giving one more of their delightful excursions, which are always refined and first-class in every particular. The committee having charge of this affair propose to excel all former efforts, and it is safe to predict that those who attend will have as enjoyable an evening as was ever spent on the river or at Marshall Hall. In order to avoid confusion those desirous of taking the morning and afternoon boats must purchase tickets either at Droop's or from members, as no tickets will be sold at the wharf for the early trips.

How to Clean Russet Shoes.

From the Detroit Free Press. Do you of the russet shoes know how to clean the leather and restore it to its first estate? Of course, you have tried the varnishes and washes and found them altogether vexatious of spirit. And the real thing is so easy when you know about it. Just squeeze the juice of a lemon on a bit of soft cloth, give the leather a thorough treatment with this, and see if your shoes don't look as well as they did when you bought them.

ANACOSTIA'S SCHOOLS.

Another Lively Letter on the Question of the Trusteeship.

To the Editor of The Sunday Herald:

ANACOSTIA, Aug. 29.—Your issue of August 24 contains a communication signed "Ipsé" that was evidently written by some one who parts his hair in the middle to keep his mind from slopping over, though even such precaution is unavailing. The avowed object of the article was to defend Dr. Witmer against the movement recently made here to secure another incumbent for the office of county school trustee, and the writer seems to have been completely hypnotized by the Doctor. "Ipsé" sets at the feet of the St. Elizabeth assistant like a blind Hindoo beneath his god on wheels, wearing out the butt-end of the English language and all the debris left over from high-school graduating exercises in the losing cause of his idolatry.

Against Dr. Witmer as a scholar and a gentleman I have nothing to say. But we want a trustee who is hampered and hemmed in by neither stone walls nor governmental employment—a full-blooded American citizen, free, white, and twenty-one. One who is accessible to the public, who uses the office for something besides an entree to society. Upper crust is not essential, and a man who is willing to cut open-faced pie will do for us. The incumbent, it is true, never slept at his post, for he was never there long enough; and, as "Ipsé" says, he may fit the place without a wrinkle, but with a score of our children forced to go out of town for a common-school education it is high time to have a few new wrinkles in our public-school management. "Ipsé" sweats out a formidable array of hypocritically injected adjectives without striking the intellectual flint or throwing a single ray of light on our serious school problem. His forensic howitzer wasn't loaded, and he merely wasted the wad in the air. His squash-vine eloquence climbs high, but it grows nothing but gourds after all. At first he roosts high, but is soon attacked by the nightmare and falls off his perch.

"Ipsé" says the request for another trustee is a flank movement to oust the local superintendent, Mr. Petty, adding that "Mr. Petty was a soldier under Pickett, and needs no other endorsement than this; let him rest." "Ipsé" is quite mistaken. There is no "flank" movement. A number of our public-school patrons think a change of local principals would be helpful to our schools, have said so openly, and acted on that line. The implication that any one wants to be rid of Mr. Petty because he was a Confederate soldier is disingenuous. All honor to those who fought on either side! But a man who served with Pickett is old enough to be a quarter-stretch behind the times, and so I join with "Ipsé" and emphasize the request to "let him rest." Pickett's men got so in the habit of being at the front that they don't know when they have been there long enough. It is time to give young America a chance. One of the first movers in the opposition was a follower of Ewell in the Confederate Army, but we are looking to future achievements, not to past glories now. It is the interest of our children first, last, and all the time, no matter who it hurts.

\$1.25—Pen Mar and Return—\$1.25. Wednesday, September 3, the Pennsylvania Railroad will run the last excursion of the season to Pen Mar. Special train will leave the B. & P. depot at 8:15 A. M., returning leave Pen Mar 5:37 P. M. Fare for the round trip, \$1.25.

OUR CITY'S DRUG STORES.

THERE IS ONE TO ABOUT EVERY 1,500 INHABITANTS.

This Proportion, However, is Not Larger Than in Other Cities—One Druggist Admits, However, That We Are Fond of Taking Plenty of Medicine.

There are 151 drug stores in Washington, one to about every fifteen hundred inhabitants. The number is neither larger nor smaller in proportion to population than it is in other cities. The prices of drugs here are lower than they are in almost any other city of its size.

The values of our drug stores vary greatly, ranging from a hundred to two hundred dollars for some of our suburban shops to as high as thirty-five thousand, which is the valuation placed upon a well-known centrally-located drug store by a druggist who ought to know. The average commercial value of the stores is probably two thousand dollars. Like every other business, the drug business tends toward centralization, and becomes more and more difficult with every year to start a new stand with any show of success. A few years ago a stand could have been started in a business portion of the city for fifteen hundred or two thousand dollars; to-day it would take at least four thousand.

With the progress of the times, from a resort for which man applies for remedies for all the diseases flesh is heir to, drug stores have become bureaus of information and centres of general convenience. The telephone, city directory, and postage-stamp drawer all have their places in the modern drug store, and each adds its quota to the public convenience, whose cost is taken unwittingly by the patient like the sugar on the coating of his pill.

"Drugs are comparatively cheap in this city," said Mr. R. L. Elliot, secretary of the Board of Pharmacy. "Our rents are much lower, and we do not have to keep so large a stock on hand as they do in larger cities. The rents in some cities are very high. I know of one drug store in Chicago which pays \$25,000 rent. In New York and other large cities they pay ten and fifteen thousand frequently. In Washington the highest rent paid is by Scheller & Stevens, who pay \$4,000 a year.

"Washington people take a great deal of medicine. When they are not sick they think they ought to take medicine to keep well, and when they are sick they simply add to the quantity. The popular idea among Washington people when they feel out of sorts is that they have malaria, and malaria is a trouble for which there is no end of remedies, patent and otherwise. There is at present a great deal of typhoid fever in the city. It is probably caused by the numerous changes in the condition of the atmosphere. A few hot days with a sudden cool spell is very hard on any but a perfectly healthy person, and at this particular season the systems of most people are considerably relaxed. Intermittent fevers are also quite prevalent. As a consequence we sell a great deal of quinine. Quinine is the principal medicine bought, any way, and it is used to a very great extent in the city. Yes, its 80 per cent. cheaper than it used to be. It enters into a great many prescriptions, and such medicines generally are decreasing in price. Opium preparations are also sold in large quantities, and the price of opium during the last ten years. Ten years ago opium cost \$12 a pound; to-day it can be bought at \$4. An amount of laudanum which formerly cost 20 cents can now be bought for 10. Other drugs have fallen proportionately. Our profits have also fallen."

"Your profits are still quite large, aren't they?"

"In one sense, I suppose they are. On individual sales our per cent. of gain is usually large. But people who think we coin money should look at the cost of running an establishment of this kind. We must have good locations, plenty of light and room, places well fitted up, an extensive stock on hand, must keep one or more clerks always, and in the end we don't sell as many drugs as casual observers would imagine from the number of people who enter our stores. If we could sell medicine as fast as we could hand it over the counter drugs would be cheaper, but we can't, and our expenses have to be paid. Stand in a drug store two or three hours some day and watch the people come in. A large proportion of them either want postage stamps, candy, soda water, or some little article whose price is very low. A stone-mason is paid five or six dollars a day for three dollars' worth of work, but the reason is that he can only work a little over half the year, maybe not so much. On the same principle people ought to be willing to pay us a little more than cost price on prescriptions and drugs generally."

"Do you sell many patent medicines?"

"A great many, but they are sold at almost cost price, and are hardly worth shelf-room to us in themselves."

"If a living is so hard to make in your business, don't druggists sometimes resort to dishonest methods?"

"They try to occasionally, but are usually caught up. Our Board of Pharmacy here, whose duty it is to investigate all such affairs, has so far done very well in exposing cases of any evasions of the pharmacy law. The principal evasion is the employing of unregistered help. The law expressly requires that all men who prepare prescriptions shall be regularly registered as pharmacists in the District of Columbia. The requirements for registration are: The applicant must have served five years in a drug store, or must have attended our pharmaceutical college for three years, passing his examination at the expiration, or must have passed an examination before the board, and must be at least twenty-one years of age. This law in particular is broken in a number of instances, and unregistered assistants are frequently allowed to put up prescriptions, and sometimes are left for hours in charge of the store. In the spring we prosecuted a number of men who had violated this law, and in the fall still more will be prosecuted. The safest rule for the public is to refuse to allow any one under twenty-one to fill a prescription. A great many mistakes occur from the violation of the law requiring competent assistants, but they are usually hushed up. Of course, unregistered is cheaper than registered help, and for that reason so many druggists employ it. It is a dangerous practice, and should be stopped."

—Good summer reading—a Washington story by Emily L. Sherwood, a well-known society writer. "Willis Peyton's Heritage." For sale at all book stores and news stands.