PART TWO | EDITORIAL SECTION

Richmond Times-Dispatch

FEATURE SECTION | PART TWO

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MEMORABLE A. P. V. A. BALL OF JANUARY 21, 1892, RECALLED

"VISIONS OF LOVELINESS" AT ACADEMY OF MUSIC THREE DECADES AGO ARE VIVIDLY DESCRIBED

Court of King James I. Represented—Princess Pocahontas Presented—Richmonders in Tableaux—Artistic Music, Dazzling Lights and Beautiful Women.

Half a hundred of the most prominent men and women in Virginia have been cast for the principal roles in the cast for the pageant to be given in connection with the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities ball, which will be held at the Grays' Armory on January 27.

It is purposed to reproduce, as far as possible, the memorable affair of three decades ago, given by the A. P. V. A., in the Academy of Music. This will include the Court of King James I.; the presentation of Princess Pocahontas, and the grand ball itself. Costumes typical of the periods to be represented have been, or are being made, and will be ready in time for the gala event.

Miss Ellen Bagby is general chairman for the ball.

The following graphic description of the event of three decades ago, as carried in The Richmond Times of January 22, 1892, follows:

More than three centuries have passed and, like the violets beneath the snow, has slept the Saraband, covered through the lapse of time by the chill of forgetfulness. The warmer sun of a distant clime recalls the violet to earthly light; the genial hospitality of the Old Dominion extends its arms to the courtly dance. Elizabeth in her glorious reign gave to the English court its splendor and magnificence, and the goodly King James, succeeding to the throne, felt constrained to allow the same proceedings.

"On with the dance,
Let joy be unconfined,"

was still their motto, and courtly ladies with gallant knights courtesied before the royal throne. 'Twas in all truth a chivalrous age—one in which the splendors of the court, with the devotions of gallantry, mingled with the smiles of women "faire," made up the picture.

Soft were the tints, gorgeous were the colors in that royal scene, and the Academy last evening presented a picture no less gorgeous and beautiful.

Now the ball has passed into history. Today the assembly is an event of the past; the curtain of the present has fallen upon the scene.

The pages of the older volume of our Commonwealth's history are illumined with the recorded deeds of brave and gallant men, and of the inspiration of such heroic actions in fair and noble women, while the other volume, so recently turned back as to be yet fluttering in crisp disobedience, loath to leave he gaze of intense interest so long bent upon them, only dared to bear the illustrated portraits and pictures of recorded deeds.

Such rich and radiant pictures they were, bound in the simple words, "last night," and closed with the golden clasp of success.

Through many weeks plans, preparaions, work, schemes, gossip, tumults and rumors spread out over a vast compass relative to the association ball. In the space of five hours the intensity of them all is focussed with the feverish excitement that throbs with the violent emotions of perfect life. The cold gleaming blade of daylight stabs the fugitive night, and all is over.

Alas, for the instability of all things. But the glorious constellation of these dire lamentations is that the great purpose of the event has been grandly achieved, and the five hours' festival of ancestral pomp has heaped with plethoric piles the coffers of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities.

The Objects

With the knowledge and reverential appreciation of the fact that many of the time-honored places in Virginia were rapidly passing from the minds of the people and many of her historic structures were crumbling into decay, the women of the old Mother State came to the rescue.

On January 4, 1888, a number of these noble women gathered in the house of Mrs. C. W. Coleman, of Williamsburg, and here the first organized efforts were made to stay the ravages of time upon objects so intimately associated with the history of our forefathers.

They realized the difficulties which confronted them and went to work with a will.

Their first move was to band themselves together, and thus was formed the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. Two balls have already been held. Funds have been realized and much good work has been done. The old Powder Horn in Williamsburg was almost in ruins. This has been restored. The home of Washington's mother has been purchased, and upon it needed repairs made, and the grounds beautified with flowers. There is still necessary work to be done throughout the old State, and for this cause the ball last evening was held. The success of that undertaking is a guarantee of the sympathy which the people of Virginia had in the movement. The numerical growth of the association since its organization has been almost phenomenal.

The Guests Arrive.

As the company arrived on the scene last evening and were presented to those who were doing the honors, one could only look with wonder and delight upon the vast number of beautiful faces; the maiden with the sparkle and radiance of youth and hope, the matron with maturer charms, and the grey-haired dame, with the stately grace of a generation that is passing away, all attested the truth of the assertion that nowhere can be found more charming women than in the capital of the Old Dominion. The men, too, no less than the women, of whatever age, bear well their part on occasions like this, doing honor to their State, where

"Beauty and chivalry and worth combine
To weave a crown upon her brow to twine."

The quaint and beautiful costumes of the dancers of the Saraband were most becoming to all, the graceful old-time gowns of sheeny satin or brocade, the dainty lace flounce beneath, above a daintier slipper whose pointing toes displayed rosettes, the crowning glory of woman high upon her head, the pretty Elizabethan collar, all combined to make a picture more beautiful than is easy to describe.

The Court Scene.

The picture presented by the beautiful portrayal of the court of James I. was rich in a gorgeousness of color worthy of a Rembrandt, with soft tints of an Eastern sky. There withal was an elegance, a beauty, an indescribable something that made the imagination revert to the grandeur of the Elizabethan period and in one's mind thoughts of "ladykins affire" and gallant knights arose. It was a superb scene, one seldom seen in all Southland, and one that no Titian could ever depict.

The tableau represented the presentation of Pocahontas, or Princess Matoaca, at the court of King James, and the scene was one of loveliness when the curtain arose shortly after 10 o'clock. Miss May Handy was seated upon the throne. It was not wonderful that this Queen was more beauteous than all of those who by hereditary possession have received a crown in royal splendor, since upon them a kingdom has been thrust, while to this throne beauty, dignity and grace came responsive to a people's call.

The King, Dr. Charles V. Carrington, occupied a seat beside Miss Handy, and presented a kingly appearance with his royal robes. Around the stage in artistic groups were arranged the courtiers, court ladies, pages and attendants. There is a weird, musical sound prevading the air, the orchestra is rendering the strains of music of a far-off land. Pocahontas enters, preceded by the Lord Chamberlain, while her train is held in the dainty grasp of two tiny pages. She is indeed a princess. Her beauty, her dignity of carriage, the grace of her movements, the richness of her gown—all depicit with unerring portrayal the glory, once accorded the maid of the American forests and in the person of Miss Martha Bagby, Pocahontas is no less a princess.

She approaches the throne and the King arises. She slowly mounts the steps and is greeted by the Queen. The hand is kissed, the steps are descended and by the throne the princess stands. The strains of music, now louder grown, burst upon the ear. The grand notes of "Chiq Mars" is heard, and from the stage, with beauty and grace and dignity, the dancers come and dance the Saraband. In couples they now approach and with stately bows and graceful steps, present a chivalric scene modelled after the olden time. A festive revel, with the dignity of a minuet and the coquettishness of a Virginia reel is the Saraband. What graceful movements does it show! What effects of coquetry with the devotions of gallantry! What grace of artlessness is there depicted! What beauty and dignity can there be seen!

With steps of gallant knights and beauteous maids is the dance performed, and as the last bow is given, the last smile thrown, the spectators break into rapturous applause and invoke a repetition of the Saraband.

As soon as the dance is completed the audience begins to move from the dress circle to the floor beneath, and in a few moments dancing begins. No scene could be more animated, and no picture prettier. Lovely women, brilliant jewels, handsome gowns, the soft odor of many flowers—all made a tout ensemble surpassing lovely and extraordinarily interesting.

People of the Court.

All of the costumes of those who participated in the court scene were made from plates furnished by William L. Shephard, the artist, and are of the Elizabethan period. The ladies' gowns possess high collars at the back, with square cut, decollette bodices, long puffed sleeves defined by ribbons and Watteau trains. The skirts fall over petticoats of appropriate material, and are plain. The hair is dressed high upon the head and was usually surmounted by aigrettes of ostrich tips and jewels.

Miss May Handy, in her character as Queen, was beautiful in a creation of white satin. On the bodice's front there glittered a tasteful arrangement of jewels, while a long mantle of blue velvet, trimmed with ermine, lent a pretty background effect. A crown of jewesl was worn by the young lady, and her appearance gave again to her the laurels so often won at Bar Harbor and the White.

Pocahontas.

Miss Martha Bagby, as Pocahontas, or the Princess Matoaca, looked strikingly handsome in an artistic creation. She wore a white satin quilted petticoat embroidered in gold, with an overdress and mantle of crimson brocade. The bodice was tight-fitting, of red brocade, while the front was of white satin, embroidered in gold, to correspond with the petticoat. The puffs of the sleeves were defined by bands of red ribbons, while the Elizabethan collar was of real lace. The hair was dressed high on the head, surmounted by pearls and white ostrich tips. Her jewels were diamonds, topazes, and rubies, and she carried a white ostrich tip fan.

Dr. Charles V. Carrington, as King, was clad in white silk stockings, with kid shoes of the same color and blue rosettes; blue and white satin trunks and a doublet and cape of blue, lined with yellow satin, a large collar and a crown; jewels were displayed in profusion, and the garter of the Knights completed the costume.

Meredith Montague, Lord Chamberlain, was handsome in a costume of blue with gold. The cloak was lined with white satin, while the collar, shoes and sword were appropriate accessories.

Clarence Cabell, Gentleman of the Black Rod, an elaborate velvet costume, embroidered in gold.

Levin Joynes, Gentleman of the White Rod, a beautiful costume of white satin, trimmed with silver.

Morgan Robinson, as Man-at-Arms, wore armor consisting of helmet and cuirass, and carried a halberd; red and black knickerbockers, black stockings and gauntlets.

The pages, Masters St. George Bryan and Charles Bruce, wore costumes of white satin, trimmed with gold and plush. The other two pages, Masters Lichtfoot Wormeley and Daniel Talley, were clad in white satin, with pink trimmings.

The Court Ladies.

The court ladies appeared as follows:

Mrs. Simon Bolivar Buckner, of Kentucky, exceedingly lovely in a gown of silver gray brocaded satin, trimmed with ostrich tips and jet over a white satin and lace petticoat, diamond and pearl ornaments.

Mrs. J. W. Reinhart, of Boston, strikingly handsome in a creation of lilac and white striped satin, trimmed with duchesse point lace; diamond and pearl jewels.

Mrs. Bradley S. Johnson, of Baltimore, lovely in a gown of flowered moire antique, trimmed profusely with duchesse lace and diamonds.

Mrs. William L. Royall, apple green and silver brocade, trimmed with silver and pearls. The front and collar was of very old duchesse lace. Diamond ornaments.

Mrs. Edward D. Christian, Jr., white brocaded silk, Watteau train, trimmed with point lace. Diamonds.

Mrs. Levin Joynes, blue moire antique, trimmed with pearls and point lace. Pearls and diamond ornaments.

Mrs. James R. Branch, canary damask, trimmed with pearl passementaries, collar of duchesse lace. Diamonds.

Mrs. John Enders, orange and white, embroidered in gold lilies, gold girdle, border of sable fur around the train and decollete bodice, diamond and pearl necklace, and diamond ornaments.

Mrs. Robert Bosher, light blue brocade over a silver brocade petticoat; trimmings of duchesse lace and diamonds.

Mrs. Charles P. Lathrop, Jr., elegant costume of white Sicilian, trimmed with otter fur around the skirt, low corsage point-lace collar and a pearl girdle extending to the bottom of the skirt.

Mrs. Frank Christian, sea-green brocade, trimmed profusely with point lace and ostrich tips; diamond ornaments.

Mrs. Robert Gamble Cabell, white satin, brocaded in chrysanthemums, elaborately trimmed with jeweled passementerie and frills of old point lace.

Mrs. Allan E. Donnan, white satin, with Watteau train; bodice studded with jewels and girdle of jewels.

Mrs. Thomas N. Carter, yellow bendoline, trimmed profusely with duchesse point lace and mink-tail fur. The pendant worn by Mrs. Carter is, from the crown jewels of France.

Mrs. William Talbott, lilac satin, Watteau train, bodice studded with jewels, and jewel girdle.

Mrs. Tazewell Ellett, white satin gown, trimmed profusely with duchesse lace, opal ornaments.

Mrs. Thomas Bolling, mouseline de lole over white satin, the bodice and collar of pearls, with pearl ornaments.

Mrs. Meredith Montague, white brocaded satin collar and sleeves of duchesse lace; diamond and ruby ornaments.

Mrs. Alfred T. Harris, pale blue brocade, embroidered in gold, trimmed with point lace; diamond ornaments.

Mrs. Egbert G. Leigh, pink brocade, trimmed with pearls and lace; diamonds.

The Dancers.

The young ladies and men who danced the Saraband are as follows:

Miss Irene Langhorne, queenly in a beautiful costume of white brocaded satin, elaborately trimmed with ropes of pearls and point d'Alenson lace. In the hair was an aigrette of ostrich tips and a fan of ostrich tips was also used. Mr. John Atkinson, her partner, a doublet of pale blue velvet with a cape of the same material. The breeches were of sky blue, with hose and slippers of the same color.

Miss Emma Harksdale was exceedingly lovely in a costume of yellow brocade with flowers attached to ribbons a la Sara Bernhardt. The collar was of real lace of an antique design, while a pearl aigrette was worn in the hair. Diamonds and emeralds were the ornaments. Mr. Frank M. Parker, Jr., her partner, an elaborate costume of ivory white satin with a cape of Nile green plush.

Miss Lalla Harrison was handsome in a gown of white satin trimmed elaborately with gold; an aigrette of ostrich tips and diamond ornaments. Mr. Edwin Hobson, a pale green satin suit, trimmed with gold bands, green plush cape and green hose and slippers.

Miss Alys Conally, pink brocade, trimmed with duchess lace. The bodice's front was studded with garnets, and an aigrette of the same jewel was worn in the hair. Mr. Cary Sheppard, a costume of cream-colored brocade, profusely lined with pink satin and silver.

Miss Gertrude Howard, white brocade, trimmed with satin and point lace. Mrs. John Bryan, pale lilac satin with a cape lined with royal purple. The doublet was of purple with silver trimmings. Lilac hose and slippers.

Miss Berta Wellford, white satin and brocade with a diamond necklace and an aigrette of diamonds. R. V. Wilson wore pale pink satin, trimmed with white and silver.

Miss Bessie Fauntleroy, lavender satin and brocade trimmed in antique point lace, an aigrette of pearls and diamonds. H. D. Flood, a costume of white velvet and satin, trimmed with lavender.

Miss Annis Howard, white brocade and pearls with a tasteful aigrette of pearls and ostrich tips. Robert Campbell, pale blue satin with a cape of brocade velvet. The costume was trimmed with silver.

Miss Ellen Hobson, white brocaded satin with gold and antique point lace trimmings, diamond ornaments and an aigrette of ostrich tips and diamonds. Edwin Woodbridge, a costume of cream and red brocade trimmed with gold. The cape was gol colored plush lined with satin; cream-colored hose and slippers.

Miss Marion Robins, pale blue satin trimmed with old point lace and diamonds. Stuart Hume; cream-colored doublet trimmed with blue, cape of cream brocade velvet trimmed with blue.

House Decorations.

Above the dancers just in front of the curtain, was hung a large reproduction of the great seal of the association, the three ships upon a background of blue, they being of silver. Upon the stage handsome portiers hung and relieved the scenery of some of its bareness.

The house was elegantly decorated by the ladies, and appeared quite regal for the services for which it was intended. Its background was a soft tint of yellow with just enough color to give it a pretty effect. About the railing of the balconies, tasteful draperies were hung, and the whole combined to make an effect entrancingly pretty. When it is known that to the ladies of the association is due the credit of the laborious undertaking, it is wonderful that the effects were so pretty. Messrs. Woodward and Lathrop are to be thanked graciously by the ladies for courtesies.

The Floor Committee.

The floor committee was ever upon the alert to see that all guests enjoyed to the full benefit the scene of loveliness and brilliance. Thomas N. Carter, in selecting his committee, showed excellent discriminating ability, and the gentlemen fully appreciated the cares and responsibilities imposed upon them. The gentlemen wore blue rosettes and were as follows: Messrs. John Rutherford, Iredell Jenkins, Rosewell Page, Thomas Atkinson, Edward C. Mayo, F. W. Hanewinckel, Levin Joynes, W. R. Meredith, John F. T. Anderson, Frank Devenport, Thomas Bolling, A. B. Guigon, Arthur Seddon.

The Lights.

Never has the association held such an auspicious ball as regards the lighting of the houses. Last evening the rays from gas and incandescents were dazzlingly brilliant, in fact, the light was better than anticipated, and was commented on with complimentary terms. Over 600 incandescent lights of more than the usual power, with the many jets usually found in the house, poured their brilliancy upon the assemblage. A large chandelier containing 100 incandescents had been placed just east of the gas chandelier and, in addition to this, strings of lights were arranged just under the gallery. The effect, consequently, was dazzling and the Richmond Railway and Electric Company succeeded admirably with their undertaking.

In the supper-room the effect of the light was no less beautiful. The clusters of incandescents lent a brightness to the already bright room that was appreciated and favorably commented on. Heretofore, it can be said in all truth the supper-room has not received the attention that such an importan. adjunct deserves, but last evening such was not the case, and the supper-room, its approaches thereto and the whole arrangement was satisfactory and favorable in every respect.

The Lower Boxes.

The lower Grace Street box was occupied as follows: Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Langhorne—Mrs. Langhorne wore an elaborate gown of green brocaded satin trimmed with pink chlon; Mrs. William Wright, of Philadelphia, white brocaded satin, trimmed with duchesse lace and fine diamond ornaments; Miss Cox, pale blue satin, thread lace; Mrs. Moncure Perkins, gray silk, yellow chiffon; Mr. Bohlen, of Philadelphia; Mr. John Atkinson and Mr. Leigh Page.

In the lower Franklin Street box were Mr. and Mrs. James B. Pace—the latter was clad in green brocade, with gold trimmings and diamonds; Mr. and Mrs. Schwarzelder, of Brooklyn—the latter wore black velvet, trimmed with white brocade, Miss Schwarzelder, green moire, fur trimmings and diamonds; Miss Bessie Pace, yellow faille, otter trimmings; Governor P. W. McKinney and Mr. Scott Carrington.

White and gold were the predominent colors in the supper-room decorations, and the spacious hall presented a beautiful scene with its animated crowd of lovely women and gallant men. On the walls were festoons gracefully draped, embracing the soft tints of white and gold, and these draperies alternated between attractively arranged shields and spears. The low-pitched ceiling detracted somewhat from the excellent and tasteful arrangement, but the spaciousness of the room lent to the effect a grandeur that reminded one of the salons of some ancient dynasty. The ladies were exceedingly wise and showed good taste when they selected the tints white and gold. There is an elegance about the colors that is in striking contrast to the tawdry red, white and blue so often seen, and with such soft tints the wreaths of evergreens, holly, and roses made the picture a just and pretty one for so grand an event as the association ball. Not only into wreaths were the evergreens woven, but pretty borders made of the plants encircled the ceiling and wainscoting, and brought out in bolder relief their pretty patterns. About the many columns of the room were entwined ropes of the plants with white and pink roses, and the whole combined to make the apartment present a spaciousness and beauty commendable and excellent.

Crystal pyramids, cut glass, flowers and plants lent their pretty effects to the several long tables so admirably arranged, and the first sight of the room was one not soon to be forgotten. Chef Zimmerman, with that full comprehension of the demands to be made on his patience, experience and ability, had arranged everything with a precision that was enjoyable and gratifying to all who partook of the collation, and for the admirable service rendered by him the association should be extremely gratified. The spaciousness of the room was appreciated by all who have attended heretofore the association's balls. There was not during the whole evening that inconvenient crowding so often experienced, and one had the chance last evening to discuss the menu with all the ease and comfortableness to be possessed at the home circle. The viands were served in an excellent manner and embraced the following attractive menu:

Raw Oysters Pickled Oysters
Fried Oysters
Roast Turkey, Cranberry Sauce
Saddle Mutton Beef Tongue
Virginia Ham
Cicken Croquettes, Cream Sauce
Turkey Salad, Mayonnaise Dressing
Potato Salad Celery and Olives
Sweet and Assorted Pickles
Ice Creams, Fancy Cakes, Fruits
French Coffee

The supper-room, the repast, the entire arrangements were satisfactory and the collation was enjoyed and complimented. It was unquestionably an improvement on those partaken of at former occasions, and Mr. Zimmerman deserves the plaudits of all.

As to the decorations, Mrs. Randolph Latimer Morris and her very competent committee are responsible, and they did their work with a tastefulness and appreciation of the beautiful that was gratifying and commendable.

Notes and Incidents.

A very important part in making the ball such a decided success was the orchestra. The musicians in attendance were the best artists in Richmond's musical world, and they rendered the selections in a decidedly satisfactory manner. Professor Laube, of course, directed them while the Saraban was being performed, but John Baseler succeeded to that position after that festive dance, and the "dance" music was beautiful and well rendered.

At 3 o'clock yesterday the receipts at West's Johnston's were $1,550, and it is estimated that the total will amount to over $2,000. The expenses at a rough calculation will allow the association to receive a net profit of $700 approximately.

Among Those Present.

Those gathered within the four walls of the Academy were the most representative of Richmond's fashion and social life, and among the prominent ones present were Mrs. Joseph R. Anderson, charming black velvet, point lace, diamonds; Mrs. Alexander Archer, pink brocade; Mrs. Otway S. Allen, Parisian gown of Nile green; Mrs. J. F. T. Anderson, white satin, silver trimmings; Mrs. George Wayne Anderson, gray brocade, chiffon trimmings, diamonds; Miss Lou Adkins, canary brocaded silk and lace; Mrs. M. B. Arnat; Miss Lucy Atkinson; Miss Bessie Addison, blue faille, chiffon, diamonds; Miss Vergie Archer, yellow silk, old lace trimmings; Miss Belle Armstrong, of Washington, pink tulle; Miss Mary Anderson, yellow silk, point lace trimming; Miss Mary Alfriend, pink silk, flower ornaments; Mrs. John Benson, black silk, gold trimmings; Miss Virgie Brock, lemon satin, trimmed with fur; Miss Bledsoe, of Baltimore, white China silk, point lace, diamonds; Mrs. Thomas Bolling, white satin and embroidered chiffon pearl passementerie; Mrs. Robert S. Bosher, pale blue brocade, over silver brocade petticoat, duchesse lace and diamonds; Miss Louise Brander, blue silk; Mrs. Bonner, white brocaded silk and diamonds; Mrs. Thomas Barber, white brocade; Miss Ellen Blair, robin egg blue silk; Miss Booth, of Williamsburg, white chiffon; Mrs. Seddon Bruce, white satin, diamonds and pearls; Mrs. Thomas Brander, black lace, gold trimming; Mrs. James Branch, Jr., canary damask, duchesse lace and pearl passementerie, diamonds; Miss Mary Cook Branch, black net and diamonds; Miss Adele Buerthe, Nile green silk; Miss Lucy Booth, of Williamsburg, white brocaded silk; Miss Nonnie Buerthe, blue silk and pearls; Miss S. J. Bosher, Miss Jennie Bethel, of Danville, white silk and diamonds; Miss Johnson Bingham, pink crepe de chine; Miss Carmichael, blue crepe de chine, chiffon lace; Mrs. J. K. Connally, pink brocade satin; Miss Virgie Cadot, crepe de chine, lilac trimmings; Mrs. Thomas N. Carter, yellow silk and tulle, diamonds; Miss Bessie Catlin, pink China silk and chiffon lace; Miss Mary Cullen, [illegible] colored silk, rubies and diamonds; Miss Helen Cameron, of Petersburg, grey brocade; Mrs. John A. Coke, white silk and diamonds; Mrs. Seymour Cadot, white bocade; Miss Pearle Cook, Washington, white satin trimmed with pearls, red carnations; Miss Emma Carrington, pink silk trimmed elaborately with chiffon trimmings; Mrs. James H. Dooley, white satin, gold trimmings; Mrs. R. Powell Dunn, heavy corded faille, pearl trimmings and diamonds; Mrs. S. G. Dudley, in her wedding dress of white faille en train and diamonds; Miss Fannie Dickinson, of New York, old rose faille covered with black net spangled with gold; Mrs. Allan E. Donnan, white brocaded satin, bodice studed with jewels, girdle of jewels; Miss Lucy Day, lilac silk, chiffon trimmings; Miss Dammann, of Baltimore, pink silk; Mrs. A. H. Drewry, lilac silk, silver passementerie; Mrs. John Enders, Jr., white and gold brocade, trimmed with fur bands; Mrs. Tazewell Ellett, white satin and duchesse lace, opals; Mrs. Harry Frazier, Worth gown of light blue, diamond ornaments; Miss Lucille Fuller, white mulle; Miss Lena Green, pink silk and crepe lisse; Miss Guigon, Nile green silk, trimmed with white chiffon; Miss Willie Green, blue satin embroidered in silver, diamonds; [illegible] Alfred Gray, blue satin; Miss Lottie Hartman, white silk, duchesse lace; Miss Anise Howard, white silk and diamonds; Miss Gertrude Howard, white brocaded silk; Miss Emma B. Howard, lavender tulle and pearls; Miss Sarah Hairston; Miss Hickson, of Danville, white mulle; Miss Columbia Hayes, lilac silk and flowers; Mrs. A. R. Holderby, Jr., pink China silk, chiffon lace; Mrs. John Hancock, white satin; Miss Julia Harris, yellow silk and duchesse lace; Miss Helen Hobson, white brocaded silk, gold trimming; Miss Ariadne Johnson, white tulle; Mrs. Bradley S. John-

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

MIRRORS OF RICHMOND

Anonymous—By the Man in the Linen Duster

JOHN SKELTON WILLIAMS

When dear old John L. Williams was conducting his modest brokerage establishment in the basement of one of Main Streets colossal structures more than forty years ago, everything along Main Street bespoke contentment and serenity. Everybody was happy. The average salary amounted to less than three figures, and fashions as depicted in tailor's plates were not always strictly adhered to. A man could wear a silk hat and a linen duster without evoking comment from the group that gathered around George Schoen's soda fountain. While the crowd in George Ives' caravansary just back of the Schoen shop merely passed cursory reference. The sun shone brightly upon all alike, and the fancy and ordinary soirees in the hall over Levy Brothers' store were patronized

John Skelton Williams

by the elite and the bourgeorsie alike. The razzle-dazzle rubbed elbows with the high-brow without causing a knock-down-and-drag-out affair.

With a bevy of youngsters on his hands Mr. Williams was as happy as a sunflower on a July morning, although it must have been an awful proposition to have kept that bunch supplied with sugar-kisses and shoes during those days of the scarcity of money. All the kiddies were happy. They didn't mind flocking into old St. James Church and filling up the family pew any time. Nor does history record that any of them interrupted Rev. Joshua Peterkin during the course of his remarks. Many of the people now here, bearing the burdens of forty-five or fifty years may remember Mr. Williams as the benevolent gentleman who stopped long enough in his hurry from his banking rooms to the postoffice, next door, to put them on the head and give them a penny for being good. This anonymous writer does remember. Some of the youngsters used to "lay" for Mr. Williams in order to get that penny.

Factotum in Father's Office.

Among that crowd of Williams boys was John Skelton. He was the boy wonder of Main Street. He could walk faster without stumping his toe than any of the Maurys, or the Berrys, or the Hills, or the McAdamses, or the Hobsons or the Branches. He did not mind giving little Tom McAdams a half-block handicap and then beat him to it, whichever way they decided to go. John Skelton was the main clerk and factotum in his father's office. He was strong on detail, and had the efficiency sharp beat to a frazzle. Not only was he strong on having the kindling wood piled symmetrically in the corner by the little grate in the back office, but he hated to see a cobweb anywhere. It made him feel bad when he observed Hanover mud on the wheels of Walter Sydnor's ancient buggy that brought him in to his office in the building back of the Williams counting house, although it might have been rahting like blue blazes along Mechanicville turnpike, and the roads out that way were no better in those days than now. But his strong forte centered upon his walking.

A young fellow dropped into the Virginia Baseball League several years ago, touted as a great pitcher. He hung up with the Roanoke team, and lasted one game as a twirler. He passed two men, hit another, filling the bases, and then let Barley Kain push the ball over the fence when the game was tied up. This youngster had a winning way otherwise and carried an open face, so he was kept on the team, but put in right field. He muffed the first chance, and was retired to the bench, and the next day appeared as gatekeeper on the part of the Roanoke team. Several years later I was strolling along the streets of Roanoke, when that same ball player passed like a Western tornado. Scraps of paper on the street blew up behind him and dust arose in his wake.

Head as Good as His Legs.

He darted down the street, and rushed into the massive French-glass doors of a handsome establishment. A sign, in gilded letters above the door bore his name, and announced that he had the best cigars and soda in town. It was a soft-drink palace for fair.

"How did you happen to reach this stage of wallowing in wealth?" he was asked.

"Well, you see," he replied. "I have a habit of walking fast. All the citizens see me at least once a day. The yare quick to observe up here, and when they noticed that I was Johnnie on the spot all the time, that I lost no time in doing a thing, that every minute with me counted, they fell over themselves in lending me money and giving me kind words of praise. And being a young man with some ambition, here I am, with the best place of its kind here. I got it all through walking fast." And as the years passed this place grew into branches all over town.

John Skelton Williams walked fast up and down Main Street. It was, for a long time, like walking up and down the six stone steps that led into the Williams' counting-house. It didn't get him anywhere. In John skelton's case, the speed with which he propelled himself from his father's office to the newspaper office on the corner below and to the William Ellis Jones printery, where all the letterheads and statements and prospectus sheets were gotten off the press, was merely, metaphorically, the swinging of the pendulum that set all the other pieces of mechanism to work.

His thin shanks kept mental works going. His head was as good as his legs. If one of the Main Street horse cars had cut off his legs, he would have learned to walk on his hands. He just had to get somewhere. He couldn't let his benevolent old dad keep on hustling for him, and his bunch of little tow-headed brothers. While some of the other boys who started life along Main Street slept, John Skelton was busy digging into tomes, and busy disfiguring pieces of good white paper with mathematical problems. He built a lot of castles in the air and he built houses on the sands. But he kept at it, and soon the financial world from Wall Street to Main Street recognized the firm of John L. Williams as something of a factor.

Great Man at Figures.

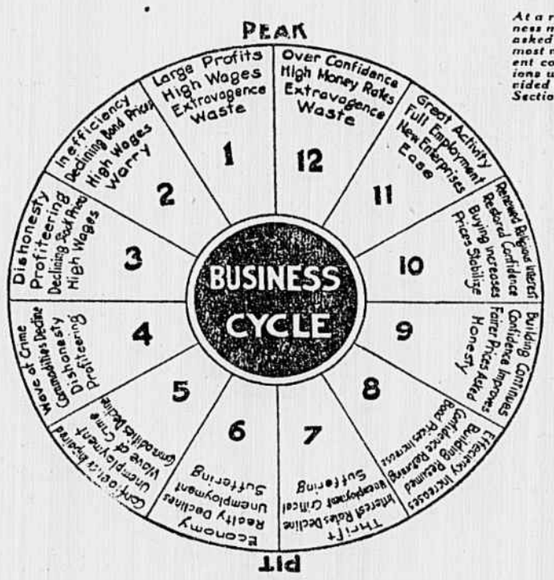
After John Skelton had taken time to deduct enough from the current revenue of the firm to buy a suit of clothes from one of the Main Street stores, and had begun to discover himself, you would have thought he might have stopped walking fast. But he didn't. While his legs grew huskier and his feet larger, his head also grew in the knowledge it held, and, perhaps, in size because of that knowledge. He didn't take after his father in this respect. He never did have time to stop and pat a youngster on the head and hand him a penny. But he grew with his city and his country.

He didn't cause much enthusiasm among the people along Main Street. They were not impressed with his display of pedal activity and stamina. He had to show something else. And he did. He got to be, as every one knows, the greatest man at figures in the United States. But, not being a politician, he got the worst of it when the politicians spread their net. At any rate, John Skelton Williams has done more probably than any one man to put his home town on the map of the world. If a town can produce one man like that, it can produce more. John Skelton didn't have a monopoly. His walking proclivity was primarily responsible for his success. The activity of his legs kept him awake, and that gave him the opportunity to think, and in thinking he achieved things.

In a world the man who walks fast generally proves successful in any undertaking.

Australia Encourages Aircraft.

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA, Dec. 30.—The Australian government will pay a bonus of £3 a pound on the weight of all airplanes, not including the engine manufactured in the Commonwealth, in order to encourage the industry in this country.



At a recent meeting of business men those present were asked to select the division most nearly ascribing present conditions. Their opinions were about equally decided between Section 8 and Section 9 of this Chart.

IRRESPECTIVE of changing business conditions, the stability of this bank is like a rock foundation.

And upon this solid basis of financial strength, made even stronger by our never-failing spirit of cooperation and courtesy, many sturdy business enterprises have been built.

Their progress and prosperity testify to the ever-increasing value of our service.

STATE & CITY BANK
—AND—
TRUST COMPANY

Uptown Branch
Harrison and Broad

MAIN OFFICE
1111 EAST MAIN

Northside Branch
2916 North Avenue