# WHEELING IN EUROPE.

## A Washington Boy's Bicycle Trip Over the Cheviot Hills.

### SCOTCH AND ENGLISH ROADS.

**A Visit to Abbottsford and Melrose Abbey—Pushing a Wheel Up and Over—He Had Been to America—Accommodating Temperance Inns—In Durhamshire.**

Correspondence of The Evening Star.

BOROUGHBRIDGE, ENGLAND, July 18, 1891.

THE AMERICAN IS THE EARLY BIRD in the sight-seeing season, and the hotel registers, usually designated as the "visitors' book," shows his very great predominance in numbers over the tourists. With his soft felt hat, by which he may generally be distinguished, he does the guide-book points of interest with a business air and hurries on to the next. He really doesn't know or care much about the architecture of what he considers stuffy old churches or the traditions of ancient castles, but he does them because everybody else does; and besides, you know, it is the thing to be able to say that yes, you've been there and seen such and such a place, when, after tea, your chance hotel acquaintance has pro-

NORTH OF ENGLAND VILLAGE.

propounded the routine inquiries as to when you came over, on what steamer, whether you had any ulterior motives in coming and how soon you expect to return, and at length begins on your travels. Yet no matter how faithfully you have followed the book, visited all the "views" marked with the asterisk of recommendation, there is always something you have overlooked, something you should not have missed, something that, in your informant's estimation, was all there was to be seen worth seeing. And so he gently chides you until you have a sneaking feeling that your tour thus far has been a flat failure, and you had best go back to the beginning and commence over if you expect to have any standing as a tourist among tourists.

HISTORIC STIRLING.

Stirling, with its historic castled rock overlooking the city, is quite similar in appearance to its big sister, Edinburgh, thirty-five miles to the southeast. We noticed at Stirling—and we should like particularly to have the attention of ladies possessing those useful articles, sons-in-law—that mothers-in-law, if we may be permitted to agitate an old subject, are there, at least, appreciated in a suitable manner; that is, dead ones are. In the cemetery is a headstone bearing the name of the person who erected it, "William Reid, Randolphfield," followed by the inscription. "Here is interred his mother-in-law, Jane Stewart," with the date of her death.

Four miles south of Stirling is the field of Bannockburn, where Bruce and his brave followers defeated the more numerous but less crafty English under King Edward II. The Scotch standard was planted on an eminence, and the bare stone into which it was thrust is now protected by an iron grating else it had long since disappeared in the rapacious maw of the relic hunter. Beyond is Falkirk, where William Wallace was defeated in battle by his English antagonists.

A VISIT TO ABBOTTSFORD.

Edinburgh and the quaint old multi-storied buildings, and the house of John Knox, in the old town nearest the castle, we soon left behind and found our way to "Abbottsford," the home of Scott. Paying a shilling apiece at the door we delivered ourselves to the attendant, an elderly Scotchman, who, for probably the ten thousandth time, more or less, went over the rooms open to visitors and recited his set remarks upon the furniture, etcetera, for our edification. Off one corner of the study where Scott kept his books of reference and other books most used in his work is a small box-like apartment with oak panelings, where, no doubt, he was wont to retire and without danger of distraction of mind hatch up some of the delightful stories he has left to the world.

To enable him to reach the uppermost shelves of the study a small gallery was built about the room and on the railing, at intervals, are small ledges, where books might be laid for a moment while some other volume was perused. From the gallery, just above the little thinking den already mentioned, a door leads to his bed room, from which he emerged at early hours of the morning to toil, while the rest of the household slept.

Scott bought "Abbottsford" in 1811. It was then a poor little farm known by the unselect name of "Clarty Hole." At large expense the present mansion was built, and the beginning made which, with improvements added by his descendants, who have occupied it since his demise in 1832, has made "Abbottsford" such a beautiful retreat as one might hope to have, but never by any possibility acquire with money alone. From the drawing room, one of the few apartments open to the public, one looks down toward the river Tweed over a grassy wooded slope now handsomely terraced, a change since Scott's time, when there was simply the natural slope without the artificialities of the landscape gardener.

MELROSE ABBEY.

In the neighboring town of Melrose is the old abbey, regarded as the finest ruin in Scotland, and which Scott frequently came to contemplate from a convenient tombstone in the old cemetery adjoining. This is a sixpence sight, and is well worth the money. The abbey was destroyed and rebuilt several times before it fell to its present interesting state and became a source of revenue to the dukes of Buccleuch, to whose estate it belongs. On the occasion of one of the numerous expeditions of England into Scotland in the olden times the English, returning home, had actually passed the abbey by when the abbots, with ill-conceived zeal, caused the abbey bells to be rung as an expression of joy at the departure of the enemy and the escape of the abbey from plunder. The sound of the bells clanging out upon the air reached the English, who regarded the rejoicing as quite too tantalizing to be permitted to go unnoticed. They accordingly returned in a body to enliven the merry-making by sacking and looting the establishment.

To properly see Melrose Abbey Scott advises a view by the moon's pale light; but we were obliged to forego that pleasure and bend our steps toward Jedburgh with its wealth of border reminiscences and its "Jeddart" staves of the old days. "Jeddart" justice of the same period was of the sort that punishes the prisoner first and conducts his trial later. In this way no guilty person escaped, and in this respect the system had its advantages.

OVER THE CHEVIOT HILLS.

In entering England from Scotland the bicyclist, unless he goes by a coast road, must climb over the Cheviot hills. We decided to climb, and climb we did, losing both of our most important and responsible suspender buttons in the act. Our laboring through Irish mud and against Irish winds, to say nothing of sprinting among the Scottish "braes and doons," had reduced our fair, round proportions to such an extent that until we could repair the damage wrought we found it difficult—and it is embarrassing to refer to it—to keep our breeches—well, we can't explain exactly, but the acute mind of the reader will grasp the situation.

Four miles we rode—theoretically; actually we walked up one continuous ascent, winding about among the hills up to the cloud-crowned summit. With only now and then an isolated tree and at rare intervals a clump of low-branching firs the hills present a bare, desolate appearance, without ruggedness to give them a romantic tone. The grass and heather have a rusty, brownish tinge, against which the dingy, unwashed, legged cheviot wools, herded here by thousands, are almost invisible at a distance.

ON THE DIVIDING LINE.

It was 4 o'clock when we stood on the summit, with one foot in bonny Scotland, the other in merry England, and completed our one hundred and ninetieth mile by wheel in Scotland and our six hundred and forty-eighth of the tour. It was time we thought of a stopping place for the night. A consultation of our map showed what appeared to be a promising town at about the proper distance ahead; Corsenside it was, in large type, and, after the fashion of the map, prefixed by dots to represent the town. Yes, Corsenside was the place at which to stop, and we set out for Corsenside, an inspiring head wind, our old companion, fanning our brows and deterring us from making rapid progress. Alas for our intention to spend the night at Corsenside! Had we persisted in that intention we should still be looking for Corsenside. People of whom we inquired on the road had never heard of it, and we changed our minds and Corsenside for a wayside inn which, like many of our American country road houses, represented the village of Horsley and was at once the post office, the store and the gin mill. Happy combination! The prospect was pleasing; crackers to eat, ale to drink, and postage stamps to lick! But our host did better than this, and we were treated to our first genuine, unadulterated, unsifted cream since arriving in the United Kingdom.

AT DURHAM.

Durham, Durhamshire, with thy cathedral and narrow slippery streets, how glad we were to find thee! Thy rural inhabitants seemed so ignorant of thy whereabouts when we spoke thy name in our own vernacular that we would fain think thee a second Corsenside. We were under the impression when we paid our sturdy host his sturdy bill and left our Horsley inn that we were well out of the hills. The impression was soon corrected. We rose and fell for the better part of the day over the abrupt ascents and descents of the old Roman road, Watling street, crossing en route the line of the wall of Severus, built from Newcastle on the east to Carlisle on the west during the period of Roman occupation of England to keep the Picts and Scots to the north at home. At the point of our crossing remains of the wall were still to be seen in the form of a succession of irregular, grassy mounds of considerable height.

AMERICANISMS.

At our quiet little "Temperance and Commercial Hotel" in Durham we found a quondam Canadian farmer in the person of an English commercial traveler, who some years ago went to America—as he said, though the accepted meaning over here of America is United States—on an unsuccessful farming venture in the province of Quebec. He had guessed we were Americans—"Yankees," as they say—when he overheard us "guessing" about something. With a series of hysterical chuckles he enumerated our many, to him, odd and amusing expressions. "They were sure they would," he said, speaking of some American neighbors of his farming days, "yet they always 'guesed.'" Then our habit of "fixing" everything, that was very amusing indeed, and our "all right;" but "all right" we are hearing Englishmen use nowadays, much as they may have laughed at it heretofore, and in Devonshire, in the southwest of England, we understand it is a common provincial expression.

Our acquaintance commented upon the superior position of the American farm hand who "gets his $1.50 or $2 a day and eats at the same table with you"—the latter part of which proposition seemed rather to disgust our acquaintance—while the English farm hand "is doing well if he gets his 3 shillings and finds himself." One distressing detail of the quondam's farming experience appeared to be the fact that his farm was fifteen miles from the nearest "pub," and with the recital of this item he emphasized his taste for a "generous drop of bitter" by requesting our landlady to send across the way to the "pub" and get him a pint.

TEMPERANCE HOTELS.

These temperance hotels are to be found in all the large towns not only of England, but of Scotland, Wales and Ireland as well. In prices they are always cheaper than the others, and many of them are large, quite elegant establishments, yet without much of that stiffness and formality usual to most pretentious English hostelries. As their name implies, no intoxicants are sold; there is no bar, side door or otherwise, and if you must have your "bitters" you must go out for it, unless, as was she of Durham's temperance hotel, your landlady is an accommodating body and will "send out" for it, or what is more, go for it herself. Generally the temperance hotel is a small affair, neat and comfortable; just the place for ladies traveling alone. Some of them are bad, very bad; and then the maid who serves you at table will have an apron—we were about to say a white apron—but it has not been washed since it was new, and that was long ago. And the table linen, and linen in general, is changed not oftener than once a week, come what may.

E. E. S.

Written for The Evening Star.

**A Slave's Grave.**

I.

A long-neglected spot
Forgot!
A solitary mound
New found!
A white-haired man upon the green
Whose falling tears were all unseen.
"She died," he sobbed, "at just fifteen,
Irene!"

II.

She lay in yonder grave,
A slave!
Her mother's only child,
Beguiled
From earth to heaven at God's decree
To sit beside a Father's knee
Whose royal edict set her free.
Not we.

III.

Her mother was Adele,
Ah, well!
A blossoming quadroon
In June,
Who wedded Alf, the lowly sire
Of Arthur, Mattie, and Sapphire,
She with a mother's fond desire
On fire.

IV.

Her master broke the ban;
His man
Was sold in Tennessee,
Ah, me!
And Arthur to the block was sent,
And Mattie into Georgia went,
While Sapphire from her, hired or lent,
Was rent.

V.

Her owner, then a youth,
In truth
Pampered her as his pet,
While yet
In secret love the years flew by
Till what was once an infant's cry
Became a gentle maiden's sigh
So shy.

VI.

Their daughter passed away,
The day
Was veiled from verdant bloom
In gloom;
The father's heart was broken, reft,
As aspen by the lightning cleft,
And nought for him in life was left,
Bereft!

VII.

Was it the hand of Fate
Thus late
Which led the parent back,
Alack!
Upon that grave to mourn and cry,
To kneel in prayer to heaven on high
Then heave a sudden soul-felt sigh—
And die?

—DAVID GRAHAM ADEE.

Yarrow Farm, Laurel, Md., August 3, 1891.

**The Lost Hat Dodge.**

From the Chicago Mail.

The wind was blowing stiffly and the bridge at Dearborn street was open.

"Look out for your hat, my boy!" shouted an old gentleman of portly appearance, but he was too late. The hat—a battered straw—rolled into the river. The boy began crying and dug his knuckles into his eyes.

"Well, young man, you will have to buy another hat now."

"Ain't g-g-got nuthin' ter buy with," snuffled the youngster.

"That's too bad. Here's a dollar for you."

Twenty minutes later I was at the Clark street bridge.

"Catch that hat, please, mister!" and as the old, worn-out head covering floated into the river, a small, bareheaded boy sank down on the pavement, sobbing violently. Three men's hands went into their pockets and three silver quarters gravitated toward the small boy. I peered into his face. It was the same lad.

First Statesman—"How is the official investigation into those boodle charges coming on?"

Second Statesman—"Splendidly, splendidly. We've succeeded in not finding out a thing."—*New York Weekly.*

"Ah," said Chappie, gleefully, "this sea air makes me feel as fresh as a daisy."

"Are you sure you weren't born so, Mr. Hapkins?" asked the summer girl, who was beginning to long for a change.—*N. Y. Herald.*

Mr. Clarkson says the republican party must get closer to the farmer. It is believed, however, that the grand old party will have a hard time crowding in ahead of the lightning-rod man and the book agent.—*Detroit Free Press.*

Miss De Suell (angrily)—"You told me this horseshoe lace pin would bring me good luck, and now Count De Monchunt has proposed to another girl and my poodle is dead."

Jeweler—"Madame, what more could heart desire?"—*Jeweler's Weekly.*

Gigantic lady (to policeman)—"Sir, can you not see me across the street?"

Policeman—"See yer across de street, is it? Sure, mum, I can see ye a mile off."—*Outing.*

# ANDREW JOHNSON.

## How Senator Grimes Came to Vote Against His Impeachment.

### THE FIRST W. L. I. PARADE.

**A Tough Time for Washington Soldiers in Baltimore—A Mexican War Story—Military Incidents of Long Ago—The Late John C. Rives—An Old Corner Stone.**

Written for The Evening Star.

MY CORRESPONDENCE HAS BEEN neglected for the last two weeks, and in giving it the attention it merits my contribution this week will be an olla podrida, but interesting, I hope. Mr. Hawkins Taylor sends me some most interesting matter concerning the early history of Iowa. He says I made the mistake in speaking of my old friend George W. Jones of Iowa, one of the seconds of the Cilly duel, as from Nebraska. Strange mistake, indeed, for "Jones of Iowa" was as familiar as a household word with me for many years. He was at that time (1838) a delegate from Michigan, entering Congress in 1835, and came into Congress as Senator on the admission of Iowa as a state. An incident in his career I find in Lanman's Congressional Dictionary. On his return from New Granada in 1861, where he was sent as minister, he was arrested for disloyalty and imprisoned in Fort Warren, where he had distinguished companionship. Mr. Taylor could not have read my articles very attentively, for he says it was strange I left out the name of that eminent Senator (Grimes) when speaking of the republican defenders of President Johnson from impeachment. I spoke in a previous article particularly of his efforts to restrain the more radical members of his party and told of an interview arranged at my house (one of the block of the Arlington now) between Senator Grimes and the President. Mr Reverdy Johnson had told me that Mr. Grimes wanted some assurance that if acquitted Mr. Johnson would not take revenge on his persecutors, and on consultation with Mr. Wallace Worden, then one of the private secretaries of the President, it was arranged that Senator Grimes should meet Mr Johnson and satisfy hiself as to the future disposition of the President. We—Mr. Reverdy Johnson, Mr. Worden and myself—felt authorized to give such assurance from our knowledge of Mr. Johnson's disposition, but it was determined to give Mr. Grimes the personal assurance of the President. I invited Mr. Grimes to supper with Mr. Reverdy Johnson, the President and Mr. Worden, and after supper we withdrew and left the President and Mr. Grimes together. The interview lasted probably an hour. What transpired no one knew, but Mr. Grimes voted for acquittal.

Mr. Taylor says: "Senator Grimes did more effective work than all the other republican Senators that supported Johnson. He scarcely slept for a week before the final vote."

I was commissioned by Mr. Johnson to convey to Mr. Grimes a letter of thanks, tendering him any service he could render. I do not think they ever met after that night at my house. I knew Mr. Grimes long before he became Senator, as the counsel of Messrs. Gales & Seaton in some property they owned in Burlington, Iowa, and learned from their appreciation of him what a sterling character he was.

ABOUT JOHN C. RIVES.

Mr. Taylor says John C. Rives came to Washington from Shawneetown, Illinois. He was for many years cashier of the old Shawneetown Bank, owned by John Marshall, a Scotchman and the uncle of Judge Samuel S. Marshall, who for many years most ably represented his district in Congres. Mr. Taylor says:

"The bank was one of honesty, never suspending specie payment in the panics of 1837 and 1857. A cave in a rock on the Ohio river a short distance from Shawneetown was for years the headquarters of counterfeiters and other thieves and law breakers, and they got so strong that they elected their friends to the county offices. The good people of the county organized a company of regulators and my brother-in-law, Dr. Gilmer, and John C. Rives were members of it and Rives was made captain, and after a fight with the thieves they drove them from the country. Dr. Gilmer and John C. Rives corresponded after Mr. Rives came to Washington, and he said Rives was the best offhand shot he ever saw Gen. Jackson was in the habit of joining Rives in target shooting and Old Hickory made the best shots. The President learned of Mr. Rives' capacity of bookkeeping, and just at that time the city finances were badly tangled and the President got the mayor to employ Rives to straighten them out, and that led up to his being associated with Blair, who had no capacity for finance. This I heard from Dr. Gilmer. Rives originally came from Kentucky."

THE FIRST W. L. I. PARADE.

The article on the Baltimore encampment has resuscitated some of "the old guard" who spent that week of bad weather in Baltimore. Capt. Asbury Tucker and John H. Thompson of the Treasury Department are sole survivors of the Washington Light Infantry, which made its first parade on the 12th of September, 1836, Capt. John A. Blake commanding. After the retirement of Capt. Blake, Richard France was elected captain. Sergeant John T. Given gave me an interesting incident in which the Infantry had a touch of real warfare at the encampment. Baltimore earned the name of mob town at a very early period of its existence. Before the war of 1812 some printing offices were sacked and burned, and in 1835 the houses of Reverdy Johnson and John Glenn and Mr. Morris, directors of the Bank of Maryland, were torn down after being sacked. There was a fearful element there, the rival fire companies supplying the material. While the Washington Light Infantry were performing guard duty, Lieut. Nat Hammond, being officer of the day, and Sergt. John T. Given sergeant of the guard, several hundred roughs tried to force the guard. At that moment Gen. Stewart, commanding the encampment, came up with his staff and ordered the guard to repulse the attack and led them, cutting and slashing into the crowd and taking several prisoners, who were placed in the guard tent. The crowd dispersed, but with threats of returning that night and attacking the camp. The guard was doubled and ball cartridge served, but they did not come. A law had passed the legislature of Maryland making it a serious misdemeanor to interfere with the military, and the next morning the prisoners were tried by court-martial, but Col. France, in the kindness of his heart, managed to be absent and they escaped with a reprimand, and as they left the camp, followed by jeers and shouts, a more dejected looking crowd was never seen. When the encampment broke up the same element followed the Washington Light Infantry to the depot, threatening them.

A MEXICAN WAR STORY.

I met another of the veterans of that encampment, Mr. William H. Nalley, who was so inspired with military ardor that he went to the Mexican war as a sergeant in Capt. William H. Digges' company. This regiment was raised, he said, by the late Col. Charles Lee Jones, but for some reason the command was given to Col. George W. Hughes of the engineer corps. The other companies forming this regiment were commanded by Capt. Ned Barry, Dan Drake Henry, "Big Bill" O'Brien, Capt. Edw. Branch Robinson. My old friend Capt Gus Klopfer, was first lieutenant of the company commanded by Dan Drake Henry, who for some reason returned, and Capt. Klopfer took command of the company. The regiment landed at Vera Cruz. Another regiment of Washingtonians were with Watson's command, Maryland troops, and with Gens. Worth and Taylor. Sergt. Nalley related an incident for which Col. Hughes was subsequently sued before our court. A man named Jim Davis, from Georgetown, was guilty of an assault on a Mexican woman, and Col. Hughes ordered him to be given thirty-nine lashes. He was tied to a gun and the lashes laid on lightly by the corporal, and when Davis was untied he flapped his arms like a chicken cock and crowed. Col. Hughes was present and ordered him to be tied up again and thirty-nine lashes laid on hard. On the return of the regiment Col. Hughes was sued and fined $1,000.

MILITARY INCIDENTS LONG AGO.

Many incidents of the Baltimore encampment, when talked over by the veterans, are awakened. The award of the flag to the Maryland Cadets caused such sympathy for the Lancaster (Pa.) Fencibles that a splendid flag was gotten up by the citizens of Baltimore and the Independent Grays. Capt. Law carried it to Lancaster and presented it to the Fencibles. The Maryland Cadets were a splendid company. They made the first lengthy trip of a military company, lasting three weeks, to Boston in 1842, and some remarkable events marked it. At Philadelphia they arrived while a serious riot was raging, and they were entertained in Independence Hall by citizens, the military being engaged in putting down the riot. At New York their drill at the battery was witnessed by thousands, and on arriving at Providence that city and the state were under martial law. The Dow rebellion was in full blast. At Boston they encamped on the common and their reception was regal. On their return to Baltimore the know nothing riots broke out and Gen. John Speer Nicholls was in command of the troops. The Asquith street nunnery was surrounded by a mob of thousands and the mob outnumbered the troops ten to one. Col. Law, commanding the Independent Grays, was asked if he could clear the street and he said he could with three companies, and he asked for his own, the Maryland Cadets, the Independent Blues, and he did clear it and dispersed the mob after severe fighting. They were called "the silk stocking company," but they did their duty when called on. They visited here on the occasion of laying the corner stone of the Washington monument or the inauguration of Gen. Taylor, I cannot remember which. I had secured quarters for them at the National Hotel, but there was no company to receive them. The Infantry had several companies as their guests, and I don't remember that there was any other company here then. The Blues had disbanded, I think. I know my military ardor had oozed out like Bob Acres' courage, and my uniform, resplendent in gold lace aigalette and all, had been given to an eminent actress and done service as *Claude Melnotte* when he returns from the war to "outbid yon sordid huckster." Excuse digression. There was no company to receive the Cadets, but Dr. Boyle, always equal to the occasion, said: "We will receive them," and we did, marching at their head to the National Hotel.

AN OLD CORNER STONE.

The name of Capt. Ned Barry brings up another reminiscence of the long past. I obtained through my friend, Mr. McDermott, a copy of the inscription on the corner stone of the Barry Chapel, of which I wrote some months ago. It has been preserved and is enshrined in the wall of a vestibule of St. Dominic's Church, South Washington. A cross is at the head. "In the name of the Blessed and Undivided Trinity, amen, this first stone of a small Roman Catholic Church is laid in the city of Washington in the year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ 1806, and dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title and name St Mary, * * * erected by and at charge of James Barry." Capt. Ned Barry, as everybody called him, was one of the sons of James D. Barry, the nephew and heir of Mr. James Barry. He married the daughter of Griffith Coombes and lived at Poplar Point, opposite the navy yard, where he had an estate of some 800 acres. Dr. McWilliams, whose father was an eminent physician here for many years, was, with Charles W. Goldsborough, Peter Force, Richmond Johnson, Adam Lindsay, one of the guardians of the poor and physician in 1822. He was also one of the board of health with Dr. Sim, Dr. Huntt, Dr. Sewell and others in 1821. I find he was president of the Botanical Society, organized in 1817, and counsellor with Dr. Thornton, Mr. Gales, Dr. Huntt and George Hadfield, the architect, and of the Columbian Institute, founded in 1816. Dr. McWilliams has a legendary history of a house on Capitol Hill occupied by six bachelors, all six feet tall, who subsequently married, and each had six sons, all six feet tall. These bachelors were Jas. D. Barry, Dr. Frederick May, Thomas Law, Louis Phillipe, the exile, and two others whose names he had forgotten.

SIX MEN WITH SIX SONS EACH.

We can vouch for two of the six after they became Benedicts, James D. Barry, whose sons were Ned Barry, Dave Barry, James Barry, Robert Barry, Dan. Barry, Griffith Barry, Dr. Frederick May's sons were Dr. John Frederick May, who died recently, William May, George May, Henry May, Charley May and Julian May. Dr. Noble Young was the authority for this legend.

WHAT WAS CALLED RAPID TRAVELING.

A correspondent kindly sends me this extract from the "Port Folio of 1816." It is headed "Traveling." "The following statemate of distance, fare, expense and time of traveling from Philadelphia to Quebec may be of some use to the traveler. From Philadelphia to New York by steamboat and stage, $10, thirteen hours, ninety-six miles. New York to Albany by steamboat, $7, twenty-four hours, 160 miles. From Albany to Whitehall by stages, $5, and expenses $3, twelve hours, seventy miles. From Whitehall to St. Johns by steamboat, $9, twenty-six hours, 150 miles. From St. Johns to Montreal, $3, 4 hours, thirty-seven miles. From Montreal to Quebec by steamboat, $10, twenty-four hours, 186 miles. Total, 699 miles, 103 hours, cost, $47.

"Thus a person may travel 700 miles in a little more than four days, at an expense of $50 or about 7 cents per mile, and sleep comfortably on the way. The arrival and departure of the stages and steamboats are so arranged that the above route may be performed in about five and a half successive days and the traveler tarry six hours in New York, nine in Albany, nineteen at Whitehall and six at Montreal. Such expedition in traveling, we believe, cannot be equaled in any other country on the globe." The same distance is now run in fourteen hours at a cost of $14. I was reminded by Mr. Bryan of J. B. Bryan & Brother that in 1852 we went to the whig convention at Lundy's Lane, held on the anniversary of the battle where Gen. Scott won his first laurels, and we were nearly three days going. From Baltimore to Frenchtown by rail, from Frenchtown to Newcastle by boat and then by rail to New York. The time from here to Lundy's Lane, near Niagara Falls, is about twelve hours

ABOUT EX-SECRETARY RAMSEY.

I have a letter from the Senate library informing me that Alexander Ramsey, who was a member of the Twenty-eighth Congress, is still alive, residing at St. Paul, Minn. In 1841 I went to Harrisburg for the purpose of settling an outstanding debt with the legislature of Pennsylvania. In those days the members of the various states legislatures were supplied with certain newspapers, and the *National Intelligencer* was always among those selected, and for some reason there had been no settlement of the account with the state of Pennsylvania for some years. I had a letter to Mr. Ramsey, a young whig lawyer at Harrisburg, from Mr. Seaton, and as the settlement required legislative action I left the matter in his hands. The following year Mr. Ramsey came to Congress and was one of the most active of the whig members. When I saw Mr. Ramsey last, some few years ago, he was full of life and vigor and seemed really but little changed in all those years. I think he was the first territorial governor of Minnesota and when admitted as a state was elected governor and then Senator and Secretary of War and then commissioner to settle difficulties with Utah or the Hot Springs, I forget which.

WHERE THE OLD LIBRARY IS.

I have a letter from Mr. Wm. J. Marsh, the nephew of the late James F. Haliday, informing me that the Washington library was turned over to the Young Men's Christian Association complete by the surviving directors. Mr. Marsh says: "The exact date I cannot recall, but up to the time the Y. M. C. A. occupied their building, corner of 9th and D streets, it was under their charge, for often in my youth, fifteen or eighteen years ago, I have been there and obtained books. The library was a very fine one." I am very glad to know that the collection has been preserved. The Washington library was established by a subscription of 200 persons at $12 each, and was incorporated by Congress in 1814. The great need of Washington is a public library open in the evening. The Congressional Library closes at the very time when those who would be benefitted are at liberty to enjoy that benefit. The thousands who are employed under the government are not free to avail themselves of the advantages of a library until after 4 o'clock. When the great national library is completed that will be open in the evening, as I understand, but that is a long while to wait, and, in the meanwhile, this great need should be supplied. Washington will be in the future the educational center of the country and an early effort should be made to establish a public library open from 9 a. m. to 10 p. m. So many millions have been bestowed and bequeathed for the establishment of libraries throughout the country that our city, with all its vast and beautiful improvements, lacks this public benefaction.

Mr. Spofford of the Congressional Library informs me the books when handed over to the Young Men's Christian Association were sadly depleted in the years which had passed since they had been of use to the stockholders, and through Dr. James C. Hall, one of the surviving directors, he had exchanged some of them for more modern and more suitable books for such a library, and among the books thus obtained was Mr. Madison's copy of the "Federalist," with his notes, annotations and the supposed names of the writers for that really great work. Mr. Jefferson's copy of the "Federalist," containing his notes, was saved from the conflagration of the library, and he differs from Mr. Madison as to the authors. The two copies are so highly esteemed that they are kept under lock and key and rarely seen. I inquired of the secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association about the books. He was much interested in learning where they came from, as they were regarded as most valuable and were not allowed to be taken from the building. The association is so sadly cramped for room that the usefulness of their library is very much impaired. It is to be hoped in the near future this association, which is of such value in a community, may be suitably provided with a building commensurate with its worth.

OLD ARMY AND NAVY OFFICERS.

Looking over the National Calendar for 1821 its most interesting pages are those containing the list of the army and navy at that time. In the Navy Department Smith Thompson was Secretary of the Navy; Benjamin Homans, chief clerk; John Boyle, John H. Sherburne, Charles Hay, Henry Rich and Thomas Fillebrown, jr., were all the clerks employed in the department proper. Naval commissioners' office employed seven clerks and a draughtsman, Conrad Schwartz. I find some familiar names in going over the list of the marine corps. Col. Henderson was commandant, Maj. Miller and Maj. Gamble, Lieut. J. L. Kuhn, Charles R. Broome, Thomas A. Linton, James Edelin, Park G. Howle, E. J. Weed, Christopher C. Floyd, Augustus A. Nicholson, James McCawley, jr. These were all previous to the year 1820. In Col. Augustus A. Nicholson's office at the marine barracks I saw what I took to be a caricature of an officer in a queer uniform, cocked hat with a high feather sticking out of it, but Col. Nicholson informed me it was a portrait of Lieut. Floyd, a noted character in his day. The sword worn at that day is still in use in the corps, and at Gibraltar at a dinner an English officer made some unpleasant remark about the sword worn by Lieut. Floyd, who placed his card on the point of his sword and passed it across the table to the English officer as a challenge, and a duel was the result, and the Englishman was wounded. Floyd was a confirmed duelist and I think Col. Nicholson said he was eventually killed. The officers named above came down to the time of my recollection, and were nearly all on the staff of the commandant.

IMPROVEMENTS IN 1820.

Col. Force states in his calendar that during the year 1820 the following improvements have been made, according to the annual statement of Mr. John Sessford: "A Catholic church and a Presbyterian church have been built, an Episcopal church and a Presbyterian church have been considerably enlarged; a circus has been erected, a city hall, a Masonic hall and a theater begun. A spring discharging about forty gallons of water a minute has, at an expense of $2,000, been prepared to supply a part of the city with water. Upwards of 12,000 running feet of brick pavement have been laid in the second and third wards."

The circus alluded to was built on the site of the stable which for several years was kept by Walker & Kimmell on C street between 6th and 4½ streets. There Madame Celeste made her first appearance here. Spectacular pieces were produced and I remember as a wonderful production "The Cataract of the Ganges," with real water, obtained from the spring nearly opposite, which supplied all that part of the city.

In 1821 the grandfather of Gen. M. C. Meigs, Josiah Meigs, was commissioner of the general land office and Return Jonathan Meigs, jr., was Postmaster General Abraham Bradley, jr., and Phineas Bradley were assistant postmasters general, Andrew Coyle, chief clerk; James M Varnum and Wm H. Beard, John McLeod, Chauncey Bestor, Wm. G. Elliott and David Shoemaker were clerks. Josiah Meigs was president of the Columbian Institute, founded in 1816. It consisted of five classes, viz: Mathematical sciences, physical sciences, moral and political sciences, general literature and the fine arts. It was composed of resident corresponding and honorary members. It was in existence until the founding of the Smithsonian Institution and was absorbed in it.

JOHN F. COYLE.

**Noblesse Oblige.**

If I am weak and you are strong,
Why then, why then,
To you the braver deeds belong;
And so, again,
If you have gifts and I have none,
If I have shade and you have sun,
'Tis yours with freer hand to give,
'Tis yours with truer grace to live,
Than I, who giftless, sunless, stand
With barren life and hand.

'Tis wisdom's law, the perfect code,
By love inspired;
Of him on whom much is bestowed
Is much required.
The tuneful throat is bid to sing,
The oak must reign the forest's king;
The rustling stream the wheel must move,
The beaten steel its strength must prove.
'Tis given unto the eagle's eyes
To face the midday skies.

—CARLOTTA PERRY.

**Loss With Profit.**

From Judge.

I.

II.

III.

IV.

V.

VI.

VII.

Stranger—"This tree seems to be loaded with apples."

Rural miss—"Yes, sir. Pop says this is a good apple year."

"I am glad to hear that. Are all your trees as full of apples as this one?"

"Oh no; only the apple trees."—*Good News.*

# THE NAVAL MILITIA.

## One of the Earliest Advocates Was Assistant Secretary Soley.

### THE FRUIT OF HIS BOOK.

**History of the Attempt to Secure Legislative Action in Congress—Secretary Tracy's Strong Letter in Its Behalf—States That Have a Naval Militia of Their Own.**

THE HISTORY OF THE GROWTH OF the naval militia idea is an odd one, illustrating to a certain degree the tendency of the American mind to amalgamate the best features of several plans and to compromise to the best advantage on every question that cannot be carried in its entirety. It also illustrates the fact that the average American has not yet overcome his strong repugnance to the location of a large standing army near him, and that he recognizes the fact that it is a part of the duty of a citizen to add his mite to the common welfare.

As early as 1882 a book was written which contained a reference to the need of a naval force of citizen sailors as an adjunct to the regular force and a feeder to it in time of war. The work was entitled "The Blockade and the Cruisers," and its author was the present assistant secretary of the navy, Hon. J. R. Soley. He referred to the history of the early part of the civil war to prove his proposition that the country had not the adequate naval force, and he particularly called attention to the fact that what the navy most needs in cases of emergency is the service of men accustomed to handling ships and munitions of war, and not green hands picked up at random from the great cities without reference to their fitness.

The suggestions of the writer has borne fruit, though perhaps his remarks fell at the time on stony ground. He does not today claim to be in the least responsible for the advance made in the organization of naval militia forces, nor does he wish to take to himself any of the credit that attaches to the position of the promoter of the system that is now growing with a gratifying rapidity. He is working hard, however, for the success of the scheme, and to him will, no doubt, be given the honor when the labor has been performed.

THE ORIGINAL IDEA DIFFERENT.

The naval intelligence office of the Navy Department has studied the question very thoroughly during the past three or four years and it has been responsible for a good deal of the literature that has been produced on the necessity of some sort of a naval militia in this country. The original idea was quite different from that which has at last taken root and sprung up into the semblance of a fact, and it was only abandoned when it was found that the scheme was not acceptable to the average Congressman, and, through him, the people at large. This first thought was to organize in the country bordering on oceans and gulf a force that was to be called the "Naval Reserve," and that name has clung to the plan even up to today, although the distinctive feature of a reserve has been abandoned and the force that is being formed now is no more nor less than a militia, pure and simple.

There is more in the difference between these terms than one might at first suppose. The naval reserve was to be a force gathered from the people whose callings make them acquainted with the sea, signed to a partial enlistment with the United States navy, but free for eleven months in the year. For thirty days in each year this force was to be amenable to the authority of the government, and was to be called out for active service in instruction on board ship. This pre-supposed the possibility of obtaining enough men from the active walks of life who could and would afford the time that such a service would demand. Of course these volunteers were to be paid for their month's work at the regular rates established by law for the pay of the navy, but after a good deal of discussion the plan was abandoned, for it was seen clearly that it would be next to impossible for the government to obtain, without drafting, the services of a sufficient number of men of intelligence and good habits, who would be willing to sacrifice their resting terms in summer for thirty days of what would prove to be hard work. The idea of compulsory attendance upon the drills that would have to form a part of the system was altogether repugnant to the average intelligence, and it was on this basis alone that the theory of the formation of a strictly naval "reserve" was altered to include the element of volunteering that has made the land militia so much of a success.

BILLS INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS.

The movement to establish a naval reserve went so far as the introduction of a number of bills in Congress, the best of which, for the purposes of illustration, being known as the "Whitthorne bill," from the name of its author. This bill was introduced January 4, 1883, and provided for the enlistment, as a naval reserve, of all persons between the ages of eighteen and forty-five of the following classes: "All seafaring men of whatever calling or occupation, and all men engaged in the navigation of the rivers, lakes and other waters; all persons engaged in the construction and management of ships and crafts or any part thereof upon such waters, together with ship owners and their employes, yacht owners, members of yacht clubs and all other associations for aquatic pursuits and all ex-officers and enlisted men of the navy."

This bill provided for the holding of an annual drill of these men, not to exceed one month in length, who should be paid at the same rate as men and officers holding similar rank in the regular navy. It also contained a clause providing for the payment of an annual mileage subsidy by the government to the owners and builders of steam vessels suitable for use as cruisers for this auxiliary navy. This latter provision as to subsidizing vessels with a view to their future use by the government has since been enacted in another measure that had no other bearing upon the question of a naval reserve.

It was estimated, in a plan drawn up by the Navy Department when the matter was under active consideration, that fully 15,000 men might be enlisted under such an organization from the different parts of the country. There were also some additional estimates made of the numbers that might be furnished by the various states, and these figures will show the expectations at that time: New York, 2,500; Massachusetts, 1,600; Maryland, Michigan and California, 900 each, and so on through the list of states with water fronts whereon their naval reserves might be drilled.

The Whitthorne bill, however, did not become a law. It was quite thoroughly discussed at the time of its introduction, both in Congress and in the columns of the press in all parts of the country, and the general verdict was that it was not adapted to the needs or the views of the people of the present time. It was decided then that the idea of a semi-regular reserve would not follow out the idea of volunteer soldierdom sufficiently, and from that conclusion has grown the present theory of the naval militia.

INTENDED PROVISION FOR THE DISTRICT.

One of the first measures designed to carry into effect this latter plan was the Grout bill, introduced January 21, 1890, providing for a battalion of naval militia in the District of Columbia. This bill also failed of passage, but as it comprehended a plan for an organization that might be well taken as a model, it may be alluded to here. It provided that there should be organized in the District of Columbia a battalion of naval militiamen, organized into four companies under the command of an officer with the rank of commander, who should be provided with a suitable staff. Each company was to have as officers one lieutenant, one junior lieutenant and two ensigns, and was to be composed of not less than two nor more than six crews, each crew to have not more than sixteen petty officers and men. The petty officer in naval parlance corresponds to the non-commissioned officer in land forces. There was to be an officer of the regular navy detailed for duty with this battalion as its adjutant, just as there is an officer of the regular army sent to the District National Guard. The battalion was to be provided with stores, clothing, equipage, ordnance and other supplies necessary for the proper training, service and instruction of the volunteers. The bill, however, contained a provision to the effect that all such property should be issued to the commanding general of the District militia, who should account for it to the Secretary of the Navy. It was this provision that undoubtedly caused the demise of the measure, which was generally looked upon as a move in the right direction. It was referred to the Secretary of the Navy by the naval committee of the House for report and he returned it with an unfavorable indorsement on the ground, it was then supposed, that the bill was defective in putting the naval militia under the charge of the commander of the land militia of the District. The Secretary then had another and a broader measure in mind, and this is the next step in the history of the growth of the idea.

SECRETARY TRACY'S LETTER.

On the 13th of May, 1890, Secretary Tracy addressed a letter to Senator Allison, chairman of the Senate committee on appropriations, calling his attention to the importance of providing for the issue of arms and other stores to what he referred to as the "recently organized naval militia of the country." His letter is an important contribution to the literature of the development of the volunteer navy. He said: "One of the most vital defects in our present naval system is the want of an organized militia, so trained that in case of necessity it will be prepared to supply the demands of the naval service. The number of seamen now allowed by law is 7,500. Most of them are necessarily scattered in various parts of the world. They would not be available at all in an emergency nor would they be sufficiently numerous to form more than the nucleus of an active force.

"At the outbreak of the civil war there were only 200 seamen on the Atlantic coast at the disposal of the government for the crews of the ships fitting out. Largely in consequence of this naval operations during the first six months were delayed and obstructed. The necessities of war afterward increased the force to 50,000. Most of the crews were destitute of naval training, and to obtain even these it was necessary to pay heavy bounties.

"The want of a supply of men in reserve places the navy at a great disadvantage as compared with the army, which has always behind it a well-trained militia, which makes its real numerical strength. Without this it would be a feeble instrument of national defense. The navy needs its reserves as much as the army, and they should be composed not only of trained seamen, but of trained naval seamen.

"The development of the militia is in the interest of a true economy. Its cost to the general government lies only in arms and equipments for training. The remainder of the expense is voluntarily borne by the states. Compared with the cost of a regular force of the same size this expense is little more than nominal, as the periods of active employment are confined to what is required for training purposes alone."

The Secretary recommended an appropriation of $50,000 for the aid of the militia that might be organized in the various states, but the committee, in acceding to his request for a starting amount, cut the figure down to $25,000, which was appropriated and which became available on the first of the present fiscal year.

A bill was introduced in the House on the 12th of June, 1890, making an appropriation of $50,000 for the establishment of the naval militia in the various states, to be apportioned according to the number of representatives of each state in Congress. This bill failed of passage through the agreement on the provision in the naval appropriation act, to which reference was just made.

AGITATION IN THE STATES.

That ends the legislative history of the case.

While all this was being done in Congress there was a tremendous agitation going on outside in boards of trade and other organizations in the large seaport cities of the country, urging that something be done for the permanent establishment of a well-organized naval militia. When it was seen that Congress was disposed to take hold of the question in a fostering manner, the states began to act themselves through their legislatures, and laws were passed in several instances providing for organizations of battalions and companies. Massachusetts was the first to act legislatively on the subject. During the session of 1888 an act was passed "to establish a naval battalion to be attached to the volunteer militia." It was to consist of four companies, as was suggested for the District of Columbia, and it was to be a part of the militia force of the state. Then came New York, which passed an act June 14, 1889, to what was practically the same effect. It provided for the enlistment, as a part of the already organized militia, but in a separate system, of the same classes of individuals mentioned in the Whitthorne bill. They were to be organized into three battalions of naval reserve artillery, and a battalion of four companies to comprise the torpedo corps of the militia of the state.

Rhode Island was the next to enact a law for the organization of such a force, but her establishment, like herself, was designed to be but a little one in size, though a giant in system. It provided for but two companies, one as an artillery reserve and the other as a torpedo company. The act was based directly upon that of the state of New York, and contained the same provision as to the supplying of arms and munitions by the government.

California is the last one that has passed a law on the subject, and her act was approved March 31, 1891. It is similar to the others mentioned and provides for a battalion of four companies.

Besides these laws bills were drawn up and presented to the legislatures of New Hampshire and Pennsylvania, but owing to the pressure of other matters action on them was deferred until the next sessions. It is more than probable, however, that laws will be passed this winter in not only those states, but in Vermont, Maryland and North Carolina, as well as other states that are not so certain as those named.

In North Carolina there is already a good deal of enthusiasm on the part of the public and there has been a great many applications for enlistment, although there is yet no state law regulating the matter. The same condition of things exists in Vermont.

THE FOUR PIONEER STATES.

As the laws of the four pioneer states stand today the organized naval militia is limited to a force of 2,002 men, as follows: New York, 1,300; California, 338; Massachusetts, 238, and Rhode Island, 126. The limit has not been reached, however, though it is expected that by the 1st of October it will be fully attained. The force in New York now numbers 206 and is increasing all the time. That in Massachusetts is at the top notch and the ranks of the battalion are full. Rhode Island has but two torpedo boat crews and her entire force numbers but 37, while California is now undergoing the first organization.

The government, in the meantime, has not been wasting time, but it has done its share toward putting the new bodies on a working basis. A circular was issued from the Navy Department on June 20 setting in motion the machinery of distributing the $25,000 appropriated by Congress for the purpose of supplying the militia with arms and equipments.

It is expected that all of the money will be put out this year and that an additional appropriation will be obtained from Congress at the next session for the continuance of the work thus well begun. It is the hope of the naval authorities that a larger amount will be granted, for it is probable that by another year there will have been other enactments of laws by states now without any naval or militia forces, and that those that have organized will be enlarging, and in fact, the prospect is that within twelve months there will be a surprising advance made in this line. Fifty thousand dollars at least will be required, if not $100,000, which is the sum given for the support of the land militia.

THE DISTRICT HAS DONE NOTHING.

In all this it is a glaring fact that the District of Columbia has done nothing, has been encouraged to do nothing, has been allowed to do nothing. This is due to several causes. In the first place the anomalous position of the District with respect to the matter of legislation and the dependence that must be had upon Congress for every cent of appropriations tend to delay everything here until starts have been made in other directions. It was one of the purposes of the Grout bill to make an experiment in the District that should serve as an object lesson for all the other parts of the country, but this purpose was defeated by the failure of the measure, and thus it has been necessary to wait for other legislation before steps could be taken toward forming a local organization.

An unfortunate bar to further action has been placed in the way in the act appropriating the $25,000 for distribution. Reference to the circular quoted above will reveal the fact that Congress said that this money should be expended for the purchase of "arms and equipments for naval militia of various states." Ordinarily when similar provisions are made the laws are so worded as to include with the states both the territories and the District of Columbia, but in the present instance the single word "states" appears, and it is very doubtful whether the District would be admitted to the benefits of the act on that account.

The Navy Department, while it cannot see its way clear to a construction of the law that will admit the District to benefit under the provisions of the appropriation, is very well disposed toward the sentiment that there should in reason be a naval militia here at the capital city that can be pointed to as the model of the whole organization, and it is probable that it will soon take steps to inaugurate a movement in the direction of the creation of sufficient local interest to warrant the formation of a small battalion, possibly a torpedo boat crew, which, with the facilities at hand at the navy yard for thorough drill and instruction, could do some very interesting and valuable work.

A glance at the future shows a beautiful view at the mouth of Chesapeake bay, with the naval militia forces of the states of Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina and the District of Columbia assembling there to go through their annual maneuvers jointly, under the direction of the officers of the regular navy. Such an event would become one of the greatest local importance, and it would have the most wholesome influence upon the loyalty and patriotism of the citizens of the various states, bringing them together in a common work, and forming of them a reserve force that would be of countless value in time of war or in case of any emergency.

DISEASES OF THE EYE.

**Defective Vision in Children—Its Cause, Effect and Prevention.**

From the Philadelphia Star.

The rapid increase in the number of those who are obliged to wear glasses nowadays (especially children) is so alarming that we are at once driven to the conclusion that the human vision is now more defective than ever before. But such is not the case. Formerly spectacles were thought to be necessary only for the old and the idea of children wearing glasses was considered the greatest absurdity.

Fortunately this erroneous idea is fast dying out. With the advancement of science and the discovery of certain defects of vision hitherto unknown, the public are becoming better educated and are not slow to apply the remedy when any defect of vision is found to exist. But much still remains to be done in this direction.

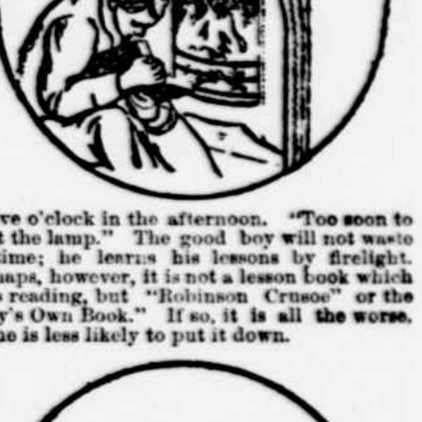
Dr. Brudenell Carter, one of London's most eminent eye specialists, has of late endeavored to open people's eyes to their own shortsightedness. He is amazed at the ignorance of parents and teachers with regard to the very existence of visual defects in their children and gives them excellent advice. Unfortunately nearsighted children are often ignorant of their own calamity. They are thought "stupid" because they cannot read the clock or the blackboard the same, or, rather, at the same distance, as other children. They lose legacies because they are a few seconds behind in recognizing some relative from whom they have expectations. They are supposed to be wanting in dutiful interest, whereas, until the visitor comes quite close, they don't know whether it is their uncle, their aunt or the letter carrier. It is not until some serious consequence follows from the want of observation that the malady is discovered. The public ignorance is no less about a matter one would think equally patent. "The popular notion that shortsighted eyes are strong eyes and that they improve with age," says Dr. Carter, "is erroneous." That they do not so improve is a fact one would think obvious to at least all nearsighted persons unless of a very sanguine disposition.

Parents and teachers are, to a great extent, responsible for the increase of defective vision in children. Much can be done to prevent it.

When quite young, children often show a disposition to hold objects very close to their eyes, others have a slight tendency to squint, thus showing that there is an inequality in the eyes. If attended to in time this can be remedied by wearing specially prepared spectacles for a given time; but if neglected, spectacles will be of no avail and nothing remains but a surgical operation. Parents cannot be too careful about this matter, as many a child has lost the sight of one eye on account of the ignorance and negligence of the parents.

When a child first enters school its eyes should be thoroughly tested by means of certain simple tests in the hands of the teacher, so that it can be ascertained beyond the possibility of a doubt whether the sight is defective or not and able to bear the necessary strain arising from close application to study. Nothing is of so much importance to a child as its eyesight. Little or no progress can be made at school unless the eyes are in a normal condition.

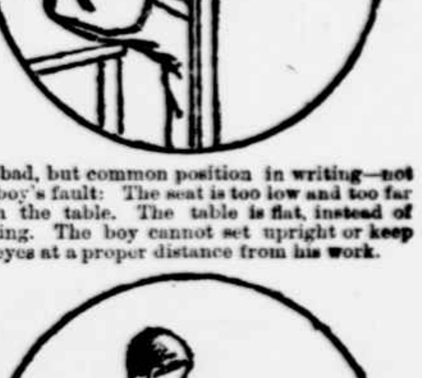
The following cuts will show some of the causes of defective vision, which parents and teachers will do well to consider.



Five o'clock in the afternoon. "Too soon to light the lamp." The good boy will not waste his time; he learns his lessons by firelight. Perhaps, however, it is not a lesson book which he is reading, but "Robinson Crusoe" or the "Boy's Own Book." If so, it is all the worse, for he is less likely to put it down.

A bad light; a small print; a difficult lesson. The boy hopes to get the Latin grammar into his head by putting his head into the Latin grammar. He is doing his best without knowing it to make himself short sighted for life, and is very likely to succeed.

Another matter of equal importance is the construction of the desks, the admission of the light and the position of the body. Teachers should see that the desks are constructed properly, as the faulty arrangement of school desks has much to do with the prevailing short sight of the present day. The light should be admitted so as to fall over the left shoulder if possible. The body should be kept upright and no lounging or stooping permitted. The following cuts will show a badly constructed desk and a bad position, also a properly constructed desk and a good position:



A bad, but common position in writing—not the boy's fault: The seat is too low and too far from the table. The table is flat, instead of sloping. The boy cannot set upright or keep his eyes at a proper distance from his work.

A good position in writing: The back straight, the shoulders square, the work exactly in front, the eyes at least twelve inches from it.

Written for The Evening Star.

**The Wheelmen's Song.**

With swift, silent wheel,
As with pinions of steel,
We dart like the swallow o'er the land, skimming low.
We speed like the wind,
And leave far behind
All who by conveyance prosaic must go.

We ride at our ease,
We swim in the breeze,
While we taste all the joy that keen exercise brings.
All trouble and care
Are lost in the air
When we mount on our own inexhaustible wings.

Then up and away!
With distance we play!
Our blood flowing faster and warmer we feel
The houses flash by—
We shout as we fly—
And we sing of the joys of the swift, silent wheel!

—LINCOLN B. SMITH.