THE SPECIAL DELIVERY.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL PREPARING TO PUT THE

System in General Operation October 1st—Rules for the Government of Postmasters.

WASHINGTON, August 16.—The Postmaster General has issued a circular of information and instruction to postmasters concerning and preparatory to putting into operation on October 1st, the act of August 4th, 1886, authorizing the extension of the special delivery system to all postoffices and to all mailable matter. The circular provides that every postoffice in the United States and Territories, and the District of Columbia, now established and which shall be established while the foregoing act remains, is hereby designated as a special delivery office. These regulations take effect October, 1886, after which date every postmaster will be held responsible for the immediate delivery of every article of mailable matter which may be received addressed to his office properly stamped with a special delivery stamp. Such immediate delivery must be made when the article is directed to an address residing or having a place of business within one mile of the postoffice. The obligation to so deliver does not extend to an address beyond that distance, but the postmaster will be at liberty to make such delivery beyond such limits and to receive the compensation therefor, as in any other case. It is commended, as a proper and considerate thing to be done, in accommodation of the sender whenever it is reasonably convenient. The hours within which immediate delivery shall be made shall be at least from 7 o'clock a.m. to 6 o'clock p.m., and further, until the arrival of the last train, provided that such arrival shall not be later than 9 o'clock p.m. Postmasters are not required to make delivery of special delivery on Sunday, but will be at liberty, however, to deliver special delivery letters and parcels arriving on Sunday. Such immediate delivery may, at third and fourth class offices, be made by the postmaster himself, by any assistant or clerk, or by any other competent person he may employ as messenger. The service contemplated by the law requires that all special delivery matter shall reach the address with the greatest possible expedition after it arrives at the postoffice. Postmasters should, therefore, open all mails at once on their arrival and immediately separate the matter bearing special delivery stamps, and stamp or write on the envelope or wrapper the name of the office and the date and hour when the matter arrives. Next, the matter must be numbered, after which it must be delivered without loss of time. For every special delivery article delivered the postmaster must take a receipt. After a special delivery article has been taken out for delivery and has been returned, with the information that the person addressed has removed to the delivery of another office, and the article is then forwarded it is not to be regarded as entitled to special delivery the same as ordinary matter when bearing a special delivery stamp in addition to the full postage and delivery fee required by law and the regulations. No effort will be spared by postmasters or any other postal authorities to expedite the mailing of matter bearing special delivery stamps. The words "secures immediate delivery at special delivery office" will, however, be changed to read "secures immediate delivery at any postoffice" on the special delivery stamp now in general use. The use of the stamps with the former words will be continued until the present supply is exhausted. Suitable supplies of the special delivery stamps will be sent to any postoffice in the country which may make requisition for them, and are to be sold by postmasters in any required amount and to any person who may apply for them, but they can be used only for the purpose of securing the immediate delivery of matter. Under no circumstances are they to be used in the payment of postages of any description or of the registry fee, nor are any other stamps to be employed to secure special delivery except the special delivery stamp. The special delivery stamp must be in addition to the lawful postage, and any article of first class matter not prepaid with at least one full rate of postage, and any parcel of any other class of matter on which postage has not been fully prepaid, in accordance with the law and regulations, must be treated as held for postage, even though bearing a special delivery stamp. Postmasters at fourth class offices are not in any case entitled to commissions on the special delivery stamps on letters and parcels mailed by them. No failure in any instance where delivery is possible can be considered excusable. Every complaint of a failure in such a delivery will be promptly investigated and the responsibility fixed, with proper consequences. No office, however small, is exempt from this obligation, and the system and duties under it are so simple that no excuse can be accepted for any failure to meet the obligation. Should there be as many special delivery stamps sold as one-fifteenth the number of ordinary stamps—and larger sales may be fairly expected—the gross allowance on this account will equal the total compensation now paid to all fourth-class postmasters together. Their interest coincides with duty.

The following special instructions are given to postmasters at free delivery offices: All postoffices which on the 1st of October, 1886, may be free delivery offices, are hereby excepted from the operations of the above order, so far as the same prescribes the methods of immediate delivery, and at all such free delivery offices the special delivery system will be retained throughout, and the employment of a regular force of messengers as at present, and postmasters at such offices will continue to be governed by the regulations in the circulas of August 11, 1886, published in the Postal Guide for January, 1886, and by the instructions issued in pursuance thereof, except as the same are herein modified. Postmasters are not required to make delivery of special delivery matter on Sunday, but will be at liberty, however, to deliver special delivery letters and parcels arriving on Sunday. The law provides that the Postmaster General "may contract for the immediate delivery of all article from any postoffice at any price less than eight cents per piece when he shall deem it expedient. Postmasters at free delivery offices will, therefore, forward any propositions from corporations or other reputable parties for performing the immediate delivery of mail matter at their respective offices with a statement of all facts and such recommendations as they may see proper to make.

Tired of Life.

DANVILLE, PA., August 16.—S. W. Armistead, assistant postmaster at Danville, committed suicide by hanging. He left a letter saying he was tired of life. Nothing is wrong in his accounts. The deceased was a prominent man here, and was Past Noble Grand Master in the order of Odd Fellows.

ALLEGHENY SPRINGS.

VISITORS FROM MEMPHIS AND OTHER SOUTHERN POINTS.

The Scenery Along the East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia Road—Balls and Germans.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE APPEAL.]

ALLEGHENY SPRINGS, VA., August 13.—Having floated out from Memphis on the usual wave that rolls mountainward with tidal regularity about the 1st of August, my modest skiff has landed me on the "old Virginia shore." What a comfort to lay aside busy care and pursue the quiet themes of peace here in the beautiful heart of the Old Dominion. The tide of fashionable summer travel has set to the mountains of Virginia, where the elevation, the beauty and fertility of the country, its wild mountain scenery, its pure, sparkling waters, all combine to render this the most attractive region of the Blue Ridge and Allegheny. Already quite a number have arrived from Memphis and other Southern points, and many more are expected. Looking back over our entire trip from Memphis hither we feel lost for language with which we may adequately describe its delight, its beauty, its luxury, its magnificence. Speeding along the attractive route of the great system known as the East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia railroad, whirling past beautiful towns and cities, green valleys and rich fields of grain, a scenery of surpassing beauty and grandeur greets the eye. Nearing Chattanooga, we dash along the winding Tennessee, and if we could surpass the superlative would say that nature had vied with herself in chiseling out this gorgeous seam of mountain scenery. Sweeping along around the curves of this beautiful stream, scenes of enchantment following each other in varied and vivid succession, burst upon our fascinated vision and seem to chase us in untiring tide. The East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia railroad has been the most generous patron of science and has vied with other great and progressive systems in utilizing all appliances that could assure the safety and comfort of the traveling public, and of recent years the management have given considerable attention to the development of the mineral wealth along its line, abounding in rich veins of the most useful metals, such as iron, copper, lead, zinc, coal, etc.

At New River Station we catch glimpses of the famous New River, whose lapsing, laughing waters, leaping after each other in rippling wavelets, play in the golden sunlight and bathe in silver spray its countless isles. Upon the banks of this classic stream are the celebrated Hawks' Nest and New River Falls, embalmed in the realms of song and story, and within its enchanting limits are earthly visions that challenge a peer in all the land.

The grounds here are beautiful and extensive, with a frontage on the famous Roanoke, which, freshened by a gentle breeze, glistens like a huge necklace of diamonds in the sunlight, and the balcony of the Grand Hotel looks out upon a vast lawn as lovely as an English park, sweetly overspread with a velvet mantle of deep summer green and adorned with fountains, flowering shrubs and shade trees of noble forest oaks and luxuriant silver maples, each of which has its romance and legends as numerous as the fair women and brave men who dream or flirt away the happy hours beneath their leafy canopies. In the near distance looms the celebrated Salt Pond mountain, whose Alpine peaks skyward climb in rare and unique combinations, and presenting a boundless succession of terraced mountains which meet the eye in magnificent panorama.

Here upon the bosom of this imperial mountain is a favorite retreat for rambling lovers, where the sound of insects is heard among the wild honeysuckle, the smell of the fern is delicious, the air is sparkling and the sky varies in wonderful cloud effects. In the deep shade of the sequestered ravines are the haunts of the pheasant and wild turkey, and the speckled trout sports in the limpid waters of the winding Roanoke that skirts the rugged base of the mountain. The invalid here quaffs vigor from the sparkling fountain and breathes a pure mountain air that makes his blood tingle with delight and gives to his cheek the bloom of youth and freshness. Here the days are sweet and balmy and the sun pours, in brighter effulgence, its streams of gushlight upon the gladsome earth. Fat herds are scattered about, shading themselves under the trees or nipping the succulent grass amid lovely scenes of pastoral beauty, and plumed birds of Southern skies lend their songs of joy and exultation to the inspiration of happy couples who stroll or promenade the graveled walks. 'Tis sweet to commune with nature here amid romantic realms of dreamy woodland or sit and watch the filmy clouds hanging over the valley and touching like a silver veil the dim blue crest of the distant mountain. This is a perfect summer's evening, such as poets sing; the sinking sun rests like a crown of glory upon the cerulean brow of the mountain; a golden flush of color adorns the radiant horizon. Nature alone can tint those shades of evening and melt into that mellow glory the lights and shades of the dying day. Now the twilight steals out of the forest and shadows are creeping over the wooded slopes, the cattle low in the lane, the sheep bells tinkle on the hill tops and the presence of beauteous woman brightens each scene with her smiles and graces. While feasting our eyes amid this array of sweet attractions, breathing the balmy air, listening to the chant of waterfalls and at peace with all the world, a lesson is written upon the heart and sense, awakening new thoughts of the grandeur of creation and leaving ineffable impressions of the mighty power and goodness of nature's God in thus touching with a kiss this favored spot where all around is loveliness, glory and peace.

Among the belles here are the Misses Lena Jackson and Smith, of New Orleans; Misses May Ketchum and Grace St. John, of Mobile; Misses Hagood and Willis, of Galveston, and Misses Kirk and Reese, of Atlanta.

The german last night was the most brilliant of the season and marked a jolly good time, and the windows and doors of the grand ballroom, with its various artistic adornments, were thronged with eager spectators to behold the merry guests whirling in the mazy dance, and the rich costumes and rare diamonds glittering beneath the brilliant chandelier presented a scene of charming interest.

VISITOR.

MONTEAGLE, TENN.

THE NUMBER AND VARIETY OF THE SCHOOLS.

Some of the Features of This Charming Resort—The Fairmount Concert.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE APPEAL.]

MONTEAGLE, TENN., August 14.—To select from a programme so full of interest any special item is absurd; to try to enumerate all with any idea of their values, hopeless in the space allowed. Memphians are esteemed here for their activity in promoting the best interests of the great movement, and are representatives of the very best Southern American element. We have had this week the record of the splendid summer schools, which has been shown in statistics of work done by the faculty of fine specialists—twenty-two in number. The number and variety of schools has made anything, from primary to post graduate studies, open to any and all conferences, and conversations have added value to the students' application to books. Language, art and music have each been especially notable for the progress made and the methods of instruction practiced.

Frank Beard, the great chalk talker, gave four lectures this week in the amphitheater. To these were added talks to the children (illustrated) that were new, original and brilliant. He left yesterday leaving impressions not to be effaced by any successor.

Mrs. Alden (Pansy) is now giving her charming lessons to the children. She also lectures, or rather talks, to primary teachers on their work. These two prominent persons, by their talent, claim the attention of all. A great Alabama day, upon which, beside other ceremonies, the corner stone of the Alabama Teachers' Home was laid with Masonic honors. Col. Johnson is here, first in every good work. Miss Anna Johnson's sweet voice is heard in our concerts. Miss Emma B. Browne has been instrumental in securing attractive features to the assembly. Mrs. Carrington Mason, gifted, accomplished and full of grace, is the center of a charming coterie of friends. The work of Alfred Mason in the wood carving class has had comment from teacher and visitors, who saw a panel and some smaller works of this clever young artist that were not only creditable, but finished with the touch of genius. Miss Henderson, the teacher, says for the class here that the work is worthy of much older students. Little Elizabeth Mason has been the sweet model of the sketching class, of which Mrs. Mason is a leading member. Seated on a log, with a graceful pose, the pretty, innocent face surrounded by soft locks confined by a close cap, looks up with a lovely expression. A souvenir was given the little lady by George W. Chambers, the sketch done by himself and adorned with his autograph. Mrs. Campbell, pleasant, intellectual, graceful and kind, has contributed to Memphis papers some spirited letters of the doings here. Mr. and Mrs. Bingham left here this week. They were spending some time with Miss Celia, whose charming voice delighted the audience gathered to hear the programme of the summer concert of Fairmount College for Young Ladies. The programme was composed of selections designed to show the training and attainment of pupils. We give it:

PROGRAMME.

PART FIRST.

Symphony—No. 1 C.....Beethoven
Misses Bessie Campbell, May DuBose, Annie McBee, Gussie Ballard.
Italian Concerto.....Bach
Miss Carrie McConnell.
On Wings My Fancy Ranges....Mendelssohn
Miss Gussie Ballard.
Concerto—No. 1 Bb.....Mozart
Miss Mamie Ballard.

PART SECOND.

Impromptu—No. 2 Eb.....Schubert
Miss Lena Juny.
Concerto—No. 1.....Mendelssohn
Miss Mattie McBee.
Hark, Hark the Lark.....Schubert
Miss Celia Bingham.
Gr. Sonato—f Minor.....Schuman
Miss McCandless.
Valse Brilliante.....Moskowski
Misses G. Ballard, M. DuBose, M. McBee, A. McBee.

Miss Kate Leslie McCondless is a teacher who combines qualities which inspire ambition by brilliant performance and has a rare gift of imparting knowledge and skill. The concert was carried through without flaw, the symphony of Beethoven getting its deserved share of hearty applause as a wonderful feat of performance. The Misses Ballard executed twin pieces with brilliancy. Miss Lena Juny, a young girl, surprised her friends by her knowledge of her piece and perfect self possession during the difficult rendering. Miss Celia Bingham's solo, "Hark! Hark! the Lark!" was rapturously encored. The clear, full, rich notes of a charming voice were managed and given in an artistic manner. A lady, who is competent to speak with authority, said: "This is assuredly the finest school concert I ever attended. Miss Bingham's singing was glorious." Miss McCandless has had German training. Conscientious work with pupils has had rich results this year. Miss Bingham's voice has grown since last we heard her. Miss McCandless's one performance was such an exhibition of power as to make her recall an earnest one. Quite beyond even the best of teachers we have heard her performances create the question, "Why teach at all?" Indeed, there are very few with such gifts that would consent to the fatigue, but rich reward in results, of teaching. Mr. McBee has always had in his school a superior musical department. Miss McCandless succeeds Mrs. K. Wayne Wilson, a musician of renown now in New York city as instructress of a large class. The Assembly (to return) next week, will be an interesting one. New faces and new interest comes after the little blank space of the departure of the school devotees. This will be "temperance" week—the Hon. George W. Bain, of Kentucky, will lecture Tuesday and Wednesday. The weather has been warm here, nights cool and moonlight superb. We have fine music and much of it daily, in addition to set programmes for concerts every Friday. Monteagle is peculiarly Southern, hence peculiarly charming.

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Prof. Chs. Ludwig Von Seeger

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