ROMANCE AND TRAGEDY IN BYWATERS-STROTHER CASE WITHOUT A RIVAL

Thrilling Story of Love and Revenge Revealed When Brothers Shot Down Young Virginian as Penalty for Stealing Sister and Ruining Family Honor.

The history of this remarkable case just closed and the circumstances attendant upon the homicide, together with the tragic chain of events leading up to and following the killing of young William F. Bywaters by his wife's brothers, James and Philip Strother, characterize the entire affair as one of the most unusual, pathetic and withal sensational tragedies in the history of the Southland.

The very prominence of the parties themselves made the affair all the more sensational. Although the slaying of Bywaters by the brothers of the girl he wronged, in one sense of the word, vindicated the wrong done the woman and the family honor, the fact remains that one of the proudest families in Virginia, tracing its ancestry back to the seventeenth century, has for the first time in its existence seen the Strother escutcheon stained with dishonor. It is this fact which seems to prey upon the minds of James and Philip Strother more than the thought that they were forced to take human life in defense of family honor.

To appreciate the actions and intent of the defendants this thought must be uppermost in reviewing the killing at "Rotherwood" on the night of December 15, and the trial which has just ended. ed.

"He Ruined Our Sister."

The evidence adduced at this trial bore out the contentions offered by the brothers when placed under arrest after they had riddled Bywaters' body with bullets.

"He has ruined our baby sister," they said. "We had to kill him or could never have looked the public in the face again. You or any other man would have done the same thing."

A resume of the entire tragedy developed a tale that might adorn the pages of fiction rather than of stern truth. Seldom has any court seen unfolded such a harrowing recital of misplaced confidence, the purloining of that honor which is all woman possesses, the criminal intrigue made use of when by a criminal operation it was sought to remove the evidences of its despoliation, the confession, enforced marriage and finally the death scene when the young husband, in attempting to leave his bride of an hour, was shot, figuratively, before her eyes by her irate brothers.

It was shown at the trial that William F. Bywaters, a cousin to Viola Strother, had been an accepted suitor virtually from childhood. He was regarded as an exemplary young man. His family was of the best, and although he followed the horses, was a sportsman and lover of the hounds, his pursuits along these lines rather added to his popularity. He was a dashing, gentlemanly, polished man of affairs, and a leader of Culpeper society.

Traitor Was Protector.

Bywaters was a welcome visitor to the Strother home. In fact, as testified to by Mrs. Gaines, sister of the bride-widow, he at times had acted as protector for the family in the absence of Philip Strother, who remained with the girls after the death of the father and mother.

"He told us to regard him as a brother," Mrs. Gaines testified, "and to call on him at any time that we needed a protector. He was welcomed both as a cousin and a gentleman."

All went well until one night a month or more before the homicide, when Bywaters was seen by Philip Strother coming from the direction of his sister's room late at night. He was undressed at the time. Bywaters feigned sleep when Philip went to his bedroom, but finally awoke and volunteered the information that he had been in the room between his room and Viola's for the purpose of getting some whisky. Philip, however, the next day wired for James Strother, the elder brother, who resided at Welch, W. Va. A family council was held ,and the girl protested her innocence so strenuously and effectively that the brothers apologized for their suspicions.

Late in November Viola Strother wrote her brother James for $25, stating that she wished to visit friends at Rectortown. The money was sent and the girl left, supposedly for a two weeks' visit to friends.

Came to Washington.

She was joined by Bywaters and the two came to Washington, registering at the Montrose Hotel on November 28 as "J. T. Tyson and wife, Richmond, Va." They were assigned to room 58. The next day, so Mrs. Bywaters testified, Bywaters carried her to see a Washington physician. Arrangements were made for a criminal operation the day following. She begged Bywaters to marry her then, she said, but he would not promise one way or the other. The operation was performed, but was unsuccessful. A later one proved successful, and the witness returned home on December 13, desperately ill.

Mrs. Gaines and Philip became suspicious, but still the girl protested her innocence. Bywaters was hunted up. He, too, declared the accusation absurd. In the meantime James Strother had again been telephoned for and reached Culpeper on the 15th. French Strother, another brother, accompanied him. The family physician was called and his diagnosis removed all doubt. "I don't believe she would have lived another hour had medical attention not been afforded," he said. At last the confession came both from Bywaters and the girl. Bywaters was told he must die, but, it is alleged, begged pitifully for his life. "Let me marry her," he pleaded, "and thus repair the wrong I have done."

The Oath of Vengeance.

"To save the family honor and the knowledge of our sister's shame from the world, we finally agreed," French Strother said. "He was told if he ever abused Viola or failed to perform his duty as a husband we would hunt him anywhere on earth and kill him."

With this understanding the license was procured by Philip Strother and Bywaters, although Bywaters is said to have advanced various suggestions while it was being procured that a postponement and church wedding would be preferable. "You don't have to marry our sister," Bywaters was told. He acquiesced then and a few hours later, while Viola Strother lay upon what her family regarded as her deathbed, the two were made man and wife.

After the ceremony, the boys are said to have shook hands with Bywaters and kissed their sister as she lay suffering. Bywaters had said something about not being financially able to take care of a wife, and the evidence went to show that, after the marriage, the Strother brothers informed him that $1,000, due Viola Strother from the estate, would be turned over to them, and, in addition, gifts from Mrs. Gaines and her brothers would swell this amount to about $3,000 to begin life on. Bywaters screams were still ringing in his ears. In a few moments Will Bywaters gasped and died, his life being the forfeit for his folly.

Dazed, their faces drawn, and almost mechanically, the Strother brothers started to telephone.

"Send the sheriff after us," one of them flashed over the wires, "and send the coroner for Will Bywaters. He is on our roof dead. We have just shot him. He ruined our sister."

That is all that they would say and this simple statement, made when the smoking revolvers were still in their hands, is the same one with which they went before a jury of their peers and asked an acquittal. It is true that the lawyers for the defense could not plead "the unwritten law" nor could the court charge it. Technically, the defense was emotional insanity, a dethronement for the time being of reason, owing to the stress under which the minds were laboring, and the shock to family pride and honor. In reality, however, it was the "unwritten law" that was on trial—that law not recognized by any statute books and yet which has seldom been invoked in vain when twelve men, tried and true, sit in judgment upon the issues when man takes human life in atonement for woman's honor.

And yet the idea of sentiment was as far removed as possible by the courts. For justice's sake a jury was secured from the neighboring county of Shenandoah, rather than from Culpeper county, in order that there might be no factional feeling or encumbrances. Judge Thomas W. Harrison, of Warrenton, the presiding judge, was appointed by the governor of the State, owing to the relationship of Circuit Judge Grimsley to the dead man.

The prosecuting attorney disliked to serve on account of friendship for all parties concerned and Attorney John A. Keith, of Warrenton, was designated. The sheriff of the county even, related to both sides, asked to be excused and Deputy Bowersett officiated. That every precaution was used to accord defense and prosecution alike a fair trial is attested by these facts. That these results have been accomplished is obvious when it is considered that Judge Harrison has received the praise of both sides and the public as well for the able, impartial and courteous manner in which he has presided.

Two Homes Are Wrecked.

It is not pleasant to recall the pathetic scenes of the trial just ended. The happenings of December 15 have wrecked two former happy homes of the historic Piedmont section of Virginia. No one could fail to realize this when the widowed bride was put upon the stand, weak after a two months' critical illness from the effects of an operation and the awful shock attendant upon the flash of her brothers' pistols and the thud of her husband's body upon the roof, within arm's reach. During her recital the brothers sat with bowed heads and tear-dimmed eyes. The girl too plainly showed the suffering through which she has passed and must still endure, regardless of any verdict of court or jury.

"No, you can't stay in Culpeper after this," her eldest brother told her as they both wept and he stroked her head a few hours after the shooting.

This represents the shame and humiliation of the Strother family. It was exemplified as James, Philip, and French successively took the stand and, with voices shaking with emotion, told of the killing and the motives which actuated them.

"We've kept the family name out of the dust for centuries," they said, "but in a moment it's dragged down. The public will never know what this blow is to us." This is the plea that was pressed home to the minds of twelve Virginians in the hope that each man would ask the question: "What would I have done in his place?"

Of Virginia's Nobility.

The family honor referred to by the defendants is real, and not mythical. The Strother family has furnished its quota of distinguished men to a State noted for its great men. It furnished its delegates to the first house of burgess of Virginia. The records show that seven immediate members of the family, being among the sixteen justices of the peace of Culpeper county, took the initiative in 1765, and presented a formal protest to Gov. Francis Fauquier against the stamp act.

Through the succeeding centuries, the Strothers adorned the bench, the State assembly halls, and the National Congress. The late John Strother, father of Welch, W. Va., and a member of Congress, and later of the State senate. Their grandfather served his State in Congress, and two uncles are now upon the bench. James A. Strother himself, one of the defendants, is a noted lawyer of Welch, Va., and a member of the State assembly, and former mayor of his adopted home.

The Strothers were always well-to-do, and although the family fortunes were devastated during the civil war, the blood would not down, the old homestead was regained and fortune smiled again upon them. Today James is considered especially wealthy, and Philip, the younger son, is master of as valuable a farm as there is in that section. The tragedy of December 15 is the first to taint the old homestead, either with the stain of shame and dishonor, or of blood.

"Viola Must Stay Hidden."

Indicative of the refinement thrown around this home always is the attitude of the Strother brothers toward their erring sister since that night. One little act typifies the chivalry born in them. Besieged by newspaper correspondents for a photograph of Mrs. Bywaters, James Strother sadly replied: "No, we can't give you that. Viola must stay hidden now. We are willing to tell you the truth about the matter, but we don't want her photograph published. It might be seen by some who otherwise would not recognize her, and in this way cause her embarrassment and pain when she is asking the world to forget."

And the Strothers have called in every photograph ever taken of their sister, made a house-to-house collection, and none ever has been published. This solicitude is characteristic of the men.

The Bywaters family, perhaps, may not be as old as the Strother line, but it, too, is prominent, and proud of its record. The family is distantly related to William Jennings Bryan, twice candidate for the presidency. Judge Walter Grimsley, of the circuit court, is the dead man's uncle.

Certainly there was hardly a more popular man in Culpeper county than Will Bywaters. Unknown politically, he came within sixty votes of defeating for office the county treasurer at the last election, the latter having held the office for twenty years. Had he lived he would have run again next year, and his friends say his election would have been certain. He is described as generous to a fault. On the afternoon of his death he headed a circulated subscription giving aid to an old negro whose home had been burned.

Loyal to Dead Man.

Hosts of his friends still are loyal and, despite the revelations of the trial, state that were he able to speak he could satisfactorily explain his conduct. Others praise his good qualities, but deplore what they term his indiscretion and inexplicable conduct, which cost him his life. One of the most pathetic figures in the whole case is Bywaters' mother, almost an invalid, whom he supported and with whom he lived. At times since the tragedy her reason and her life have been dispaired of.

The verdict, therefore, by no means ends the affair, which is regarded as one of the most deplorable in the history of Virginia, or any other State. The memory of the tragedy at Rotherwood will always be present in the minds of these two old Virginia families, who, heretofore, have had nothing to demark the coming and going of peaceful, happy days. Each side presents its pathos and its share of vain regrets, for, although the act has been justified, the very necessity for it makes the whole affair one horrible nightmare to the participants, and, in the eloquent words of R. Walter Moore, attorney for the defense, "Not even the poppy, nor all the drowsy syrups of the East, can restore to these men the sleep that was theirs only yesterday."

Girl Marries Burglar Who Robbed Her Father

OMAHA, Neb., March 7.—Two weeks ago Charles McKenzie robbed the home of James Noonan, and, according to Noonan, secured jewelry worth $85. The next day McKenzie was arrested and jailed.

Miss Margaret, the pretty daughter of James Noonan, armed with a marriage license and a preacher, has called at the county jail and married the burglar. As she was the principal witness against McKenzie, and as the Nebraska laws will not permit a wife to testify against her husband, McKenzie cannot be convicted and will be turned loose.

Two weeks ago the house was robbed, and from descriptions McKenzie was thought to be the burglar. He was arrested on complaint of Mr. Noonan, and confessed, but declared that he wanted to see his sweetheart so badly that he broke into the house for that purpose.

Noonan threatens to shoot his son-in-law on sight.

MAN-A-LIN

Copyright 1906, by The Manalin Co.

Constipation

And many ailments dependent upon it, such as biliousness, discolored and pimpled skin, inactive liver, dyspepsia, overworked kidneys and headache, are promptly relieved by

Man-a-lin.

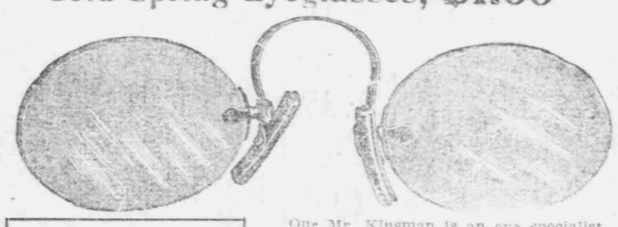
This remedy removes the constipation, when all of the above ailments disappear.

Pills and drastic cathartics will be found entirely unnecessary after the beneficial effects of MAN-A-LIN have been experienced.

In all Cases of Colds, Influenza, La Grippe or slight Febrile affections, a few doses of Man-a-lin are advisable.

THE MAN-A-LIN CO., Columbus, Ohio.

Gold Spring Eyeglasses, $1.00



We Offer You the Best Optical Service

Our Mr. Kinsman is an eye specialist—a graduate in his profession and also a student so far as working out problems of his profession are concerned. You can consult him with absolute confidence in receiving proper advice.

The condition of your eyes often governs your health. Consult our Mr. Kinsman and learn the exact state of your eyes.

This store is an optical establishment only—not a Jewelry store with an optical side line.

KINSMAN, EYESIGHT SPCIALIST, 908 F St. N.W., South Side

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD

Bulletin.

EASTER ON THE ATLANTIC CITY BOARDWALK

The annual Easter parade on the Boardwalk at Atlantic City is one of the grandest sights in the world. It can't be duplicated. For hours that great esplanade, stretching for five miles along the ocean's edge, is thronged with the fairest and best of American society. Thousands from all parts of the country go every year to participate in this formal opening of the post-Lenten season, until Easter at Atlantic City has come to be a National event.

At no period of the year is Atlantic City more attractive than at Easter. Band concerts are given daily on the piers, with dances in the evening. All the larger hotels have their own orchestras, and the theatres offer special attractions. Nowhere is the after-Lent gaiety more pronounced, or more enjoyable, than at Atlantic City.

Through Pullman parlor car at Atlantic City, via Delaware River Bridge Route, leaves Washington every week-day at 12:35 P. M. Trains leaving Washington at 10:00 A. M. (Saturdays only), 4:00 P. M. week-days, and 8:50 A. M. and 4:00 P. M. Sundays, make direct connection in Broad Street Station, Philadelphia, for Atlantic City, via the Delaware River Bridge.

The Palais Royal
A. LISNER

Babbitt's Best Soap—P. & G. Naptha Soap—Star Soap — Kirkman's Borax Soap. No mail orders.

3½c

Gold Dust — Brook's Crystal Soap — Pyle's Pearline—Household Ammonia. None sent C. O. D.

29c 69c $1.98 98c

A strongly made Step Ladder at 29c.; a family size Food Chopper, with four steel cutters, at 69c.; a large Oil Heater, with Miller smokeless burner, at $1.98; a Bissell Carpet Sweeper at 98c. These special prices for tomorrow—Friday—only. Not more than one of each to each purchaser.

The Basement Floor

Access by Stairway and Elevator

Heavy Tin Wash Boilers, with cover; 50c size. Tomorrow. 39c

Oval Ham Boilers, with cover; large 29c size. Tomorrow. 19c

Drip Coffee Pot, nickel-plated; 50c size. Tomorrow. 25c

Sugar Boxes, with hinged cover; hold 3½ and 7 pounds. Tomorrow. 10c

Covered Ash Sifters, to fit any size can. Tomorrow. 49c

Folding Wash Benches, hardwood, strongly made; hold two tubs. 29c

Slaw Cutters, with steel knife; regular 25c size. 15c

R. & H. Reading Lamps, nickel-plated, complete with 10-inch dome shade. $1.15

Chamber Sets, 10 pieces, decorated in assorted colors; regular price, $2.25. $1.48

Toilet Slops Jars, with cover and ball handle; regular price, 75c. 49c

Dinner and Tea Sets, 100 pieces, handsome floral and gold decorations; usually $6.95. $5.95

Toilet Pitchers and Basins stone china; large 59c size. 48c

Glass Butter Dish, Sugar Bowl, Cream Pitcher and Spoon Holder, for. 19c

Easter Vases, 16 inches high, fancy shape; 25c value. 10c

Crystal Glass Bowl and six Dishes to match, for. 17c

Mop Handle and large Cotton Mop, regular 25c. 15c

Dust Pan and Dust Brush regular 24c. 14c

Rust-proof Wire Clothes Line, 50 feet. 8c

Nickel-plated Cuspidors, fancy pattern; large 19c size. 10c

Patent Flour Sifters, with crank; large 15c size. 8c

Chamber Pails, with cover, Japanned, in assorted colors; regularly 25c. 15c

Square Clothes Hampers, with wooden bottom; regular $1.48. 98c

Wooden Coat Hangers, regular 5c; 2 for. 5c

Iron Garbage Pails, with cover; 50c size. 29c

29c 100 Pieces, $5.95 19c

The PALAIS ROYAL

G Street A. Lisner 11th Street

Mr. Lecturer:

Let Us Make Your Stereopticon Slides

The New and Better Way By Our New Wet Plate Process

HENRY A. FARNHAM
Commercial Photographer
936 F St. N. W. Phone Main 113.

Pure Leaf Lard

Direct from the Belmont Dairy Farm. Put up in 5-lb. palls. Price per pail, 70c.

Phone North 929

Belmont Dairy Co., Incorporated, 2016 14th St. N. W.

RED WINE VINEGAR

Exceptionally fine in quality—made in the Bordeaux style.

40c gal. 10c qt.

CHRISTIAN XANDER

Quality House 909 7th St. Phone M. 274

No Branch Houses.

ORDER THE NEW WHITE HOUSE BREAD

"The Bread of Quality"

WHITE HOUSE ROLLS

"The newest thing in rolls"

They're absolutely pure. Delightfully palatable. Look for the name "White House."

Sold wherever bread is sold.

BOSTON BAKING CO.
1st and B Sts. S. W.

Carbon Paper Modestly Priced

Fine Quality Carbon Paper, Black, in letter and legal sizes, per box of 100 sheets. 68c

Better buy today.

R. P. ANDREWS PAPER CO., Incorporated, 627-629 La. Ave. N. W.

Prize Winners

of the $20,000 Geographical Contest will be announced in a few days.

T. P. CULLEY, 523 Eleventh St. N. W.

E. Z. For Constipation

Take a friend's advice: "When constipated use E. Z. TABLETS." Cases of 20 years' standing have been cured by them. Get a bottle—it's the right medicine. 100 Doses 25c.

O'DONNELL'S, 904 F St. N. W.

LIMITED SPECIAL OFFER

New Columbia Graphophone, with Six 10-inch Records . . $28.60

Handsome new Graphophone has a large quartered oak Cabinet, a noiseless Motor that can be wound while running, and a beautifully decorated flower Horn—black or red. It is equipped with the same patent aleminum Tone-Arm and the same Reproducer that have made the Graphophone famous for mellow resonance and sweetness of tone.

The six records are regular 10-inch Columbia disc records—beyond comparison for pureness of tone, faithful reproduction and absence of foreign noise.

COLUMBIA PHONOGRAPH CO.
1212 F STREET N. W.

Electric signs are sure to attract the right kind of attention.

Potomac Electric Power Co.
Contract Dept., 213 14th St. N. W.

Times Want Ads Bring Results.

Amusements.

Washington College of Music Concert Series.
NEW NATIONAL THEATER
TOMORROW AFTERNOON,
4:30 o'Clock.

SCHUMANN-HEINK Song Recital FAREWELL APPEARANCE

PROGRAM:

I.
(a) Arie from the opera "Mitrane".....Rossi
(b) Du bist die Ruh.....Franz Schubert
(c) Wohin.....Franz Schubert
(d) Der Wanderer.....Franz Schubert
Mme. SCHUMANN-HEINK.

II.
Piano soli: Ballade Opus 47.....Chopin
Mr. Joseph Maerz.

III.
(a) Heimweh.....Hugo Wolf
(b) Drei Zigeuner.....Liszt
(c) Widmung.....Schumann
Mme. SCHUMANN-HEINK.

IV.
(a) Sapphische Ode.....Brahms
(b) Six Hungarian Gypsy Songs (Cycle).Brahms
1. Ye Gipsies, Ho, Sound Your Harps.
2. High and Towering Rima Stream.
3. Know ye, when my Lov'd one is fairest of all bliss.
4. Roving God, thou knowest how oft I've rued this.
5. Art thou thinking often now, Sweetheart?
6. Rosebuds Three.
Mme. SCHUMANN-HEINK.

V.
Piano soli: Rhapsodie Hongroise No. 12..Liszt
Mr. Joseph Maerz.

VI.
Prison Scene from "The Prophet"...Meyerbeer
"FIDES"....Mme. SCHUMANN-HEINK.

Seats now on sale at "E. Arthur Smith's, in Sanders & Stayman's, 1327 F st. Prices, 75c, $1, $1.50, $2. Boxes, $25.

Chase's POLITE VAUDEVILLE

Daily Matinees, 25c. Evenings, 25c and 50c.

MABEL McKINLEY,

The Distinguished American Soprano, CATHERINE HAYES and ISABELLA JOHNSON offering the Amusing Oddity, "A Dream of Baby Days," Max Millian, the Brilliant Violin Virtuoso, Geo. B. Reno & Co. Louise Raffin's London Hippodrome Monkeys, James Mooney and Ida Holbein, Carroll & Baker, "The Haunted House" Motion Pictures.

NEXT WEEK—JOCK WHITFORD, JULIAN ELTINGE, BERT LESLIE & CO., DUFFIN-REDCAY TROUPE, Etc. BUY SEATS TODAY.

Only Show in Washington at Popular Prices.

MAJESTIC

THE FAMILY THEATER.

Mats. Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.

W. F. MANN Presents

THE COW PUNCHER

A PICTURESQUE STORY OF THE GOLDEN WEST.

Next Week—HARRY CLAY BLANEY in THE BOY BEHIND THE GUN.

TONIGHT 8:15 NEW NATIONAL MATINEE Saturday

MR. WILLIAM FAVERSHAM

By Arrangement with Chas. Frohman.

THE SQUAW MAN

NEXT WEEK MATINEES WED. & SAT.

Klaw & Erlanger Present

GEO. M. COHAN'S Music Play,

45 MINUTES FROM BROADWAY

With FAY TEMPLETON And Original New York Cast.

SEATS NOW ON SALE

COLUMBIA TONIGHT at 8:15

MATINEE SATURDAY AT 2:15.

The Famous Racing Play

CHECKERS

With HANS ROBERT And the entire New York Cast.

By HENRY M. BLOSSOM, JR.

Author of "The Yankee Consul," "Mme. Modiste," "The Red Mill," and others.

NEXT WEEK—SEATS NOW ON SALE.

JESSIE BUSLEY

—IN—

"In the Bishop's Carriage"

WITH SUPERB SUPPORTING COMPANY.

BELASCO TONIGHT 25c to $1.50

Independent of the Theatrical Trust.

Matinee Saturday—25c to $1.00

DE WOLF HOPPER With Marguerite Clark and the DE WOLF HOPPER OPERA CO. in

"HAPPYLAND"

Original New York Theatre Production

SUNDAY NIGHT—Symonds' Surpassing Motion Pictures and Illustrated Songs. Genteel Vaudeville.

NEXT WEEK--SEATS NOW

TAKE A MERRY RIDE WITH THE TOURISTS And . . . Richard Golden

To Hindustani and The Land of Music and Laughter.

Popular with the People NEW LYCEUM

MATINEE DAILY. ALL THIS WEEK.

YANKEE DOODLE GIRLS

4—FUNNY COMEDIANS—4.
7—VAUDEVILLE ACTS—7.
GIRLS! GIRLS! GIRLS!

Next Week—STAR SHOW GIRLS, with CUNNING, the Jail Breaker and Wizard of Handcuffs.

POLO — POLO

TONIGHT.

CONVENTION HALL

SPALDING vs. U. & I.

Rink will be closed all day Saturday.

DANCING Davison's Academy and Residence, 719 Sixth St. N. W.

Thorough and Reliable. Years of Experience. Class Evenings, Tuesday, Thursday. Beginners at 7. Dancing Receptions, 8:30. Private lessons given any hour, with music. Teachers, Mr. and Mrs. Davison. Ball Room for rent.

ASSEMBLY DANCES
NATIONAL RIFLES' ARMORY,
Every Saturday Evening. Dancing 8:30 to 12.

Excursions.

GREAT FALLS OF THE POTOMAC.
Do Not Fail to Visit.

Equal in beauty to Niagara. Magnificent scenery. Huge cliffs. Great gorges and rapids. Secure your excursion dates for next season. 25 cents round trip. Take G. F. & O. D. R. R. cars at 25th and M sts. de11-tf