

THE GAZETTE.

TUESDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 28, 1896.

BARBER'S SIGNS.

The Barber's art was introduced into Rome in the 4th year of that city. The citizens were so profoundly impressed with the usefulness of this vocation, that they erected a statue to the man who devoted his talents to the hair and beard. Some connect this grateful memorial to the men of latter with the peculiar signs that distinguished the shops and barbers. This is only less satisfactory than the conceit that the pole was suggested by the word poll or head. The minds of other antiquarians have been agitated by this subject, and many of these students of multi-tenen books have indulged in conjectures as largely impractical as those. But the investigations of others have been rewarded with success. Since the emblematic stripes and ball have been explained, we wonder how these knowing scholars could have shot so wide of the mark. But our ridicule is rebuked by Columbus, and we will not allow ourselves to think that it was easy to make the egg stand on its end.

The parti-colored staff proclaimed with all the emphasis of paint the various services performed by the occupant of the shop. The ball that surmounts the pole represents a basin; the black spiral strip, decayed teeth; the red, blood; the white, the linen bandage that was bound round the arm, and the staff itself, the piece of wood that the patient held in his hand to assist the flow of the purple stream. These symbols have lost their significance for the lancet and the forceps have been taken from the barber. But the shops before which these pretty poles were planted were until recently the resort of sufferers from toothache, and of the burly fellows whose heads swam, and whose temporal arteries heaved to their excited imagination swollen with a dangerous quantity of blood. Extracting teeth and breathing veins gave a dignity and importance to the vocation of barber, and it is a plausible conjecture that at the first they were surgeons of a lower degree, and only added the razor and scissors to their other instruments when these branches of their business declined.

There is some difference of opinion concerning the intention of the golden ball at the top of the parti-colored pole. Some curious scholars tell us it signifies money.—This interpretation is sustained by the fact that we have descriptions of barber's poles that instead of a ball have a label pasted on the end, inscribed in large letters with the "word money." If this conjecture be true, the pole was simply equivalent to a modern notice that such was invariably required, and the beautiful sign that we all recognize, and the significance is made a rebuke.—This may have been the weak invention of a solitary individual, but we have the best authority for attaching a higher meaning to this decoration.

This golden ball is of greater antiquity than the winding colors. Long before the stripes embellished the pole, it was surmounted by a basin, that all who needed the skill of the chirurgeon might be able to see it at a distance, and taking heart, totter on.

The propriety of placing this symbol of their profession on a pole, is manifest, for in those days personal conflicts were common and swords and hand fists inflicted serious wounds. But the pewter basin was, in course of time, removed, and its place supplied by the somewhat arbitrary symbol that now decks the tri-colored staff.

Gay, thus describes a barber's shop of olden time: "His pole with pewter basin hung Black rotten teeth in order strung, Ranged cups that in the window stood, And well his three trade signs explained, Who shaved, drew teeth, and breathed a vein."

The following answer is given by the querist who inquires why barbers make use of the parti-colored pole as a sign. "In ancient Rome, when men loved fighting, And wounds and scars too much delight in, And mothers then had noble pride, Which we still arrogate to-day, His pole was ordered to be long and thin, With basin deck'd should grace the whole, To guide the wounded, who, unlopt, Could walk on stumps, the others lopt; But when they ended all like wars, And men grew weary of their wars, Their trade decaying, to keep swimming, They join'd the other trade of trimming, And on their poles to publish order, Thus twisted both their trades together."

In the days when barbers let blood and dressed wounds, there were no newspapers, and their shops were the favorite resort of the people who were fond of gathering news from the low soums. And as this large class of citizens were among the chirurgeons' patrons, the men of various functions took care to provide amusement for these loungers. Musicians were employed at certain hours, puppet shows were exhibited to the gaping crowd, and we may take it for granted that the profits of the shops were increased by the sale of beer.

The operators on hair and flesh were always brimful of news; the latest accident, the raciest scandal could always be obtained fresh from their waiting tongues, and we can conceive the low soums which the itching ears of the low soums had proceeded from the fluent talkers who bowed over them, as they sat in the chair that Shakespeare tells us fitted the fat and lean. And they occupied these comfortable seats much longer than gentlemen are wont to do in these days of enterprise and hurry, for barbers then not only used scissors and razors, but they also pared the nails and picked the ears and teeth.

An anecdote that is on record in a work published in 1607 does not convey a very high idea of the utility of this most useful profession. The author tells us that having been afflicted with catarrh, by the advice of his physician he was cupped by a barber.—After the operation was over the surgeon asked the patient if he would be sacrificed. "Sacrificed—did the physician says I must sacrifice." "No," answered the barber, "but I have sacrificed many who have been the better for it."

The gentleman soon discovered that the tooth-drawer had got hold of the wrong word, and said to him, "Surely, sir, you mistake yourself, you mean sacrificed." "Oh mistake yourself," answered the barber, "I have heard it said sacrificing and as sacrificing I never heard of it before." And the gentleman could not persuade the barber that he was not empowered to sacrifice persons sick with catarrh.

The statute in force in England late in the last century, requires surgeons and barbers to use a pole as the sign of their callings.—The staff planted in front of the surgeon's office was distinguished from the one that denoted the barber's shop by a galley-pot and a red rag.—Charles Dumas.

GUANO.—750 bags Kettledale's Manufactured Sch. Sauschanna, for sale by WM. H. FOWLE & SON, oct 22

WORTHED HOODS FOR LADIES, School Children, and Infants, Wools, Mitts, Woolen Gaiters, Infants Yarn, &c., at 25 Cents. RICHARDS, oct 22

WOODS' HAIR RESTORATIVE and Mrs. Allen's Zylololium, for sale by C. C. BERRY, 72 King street, oct 22

JUST RECEIVED another supply of Shetland Wool and Zylololium of all colors, at C. C. BERRY'S, 72 King st. oct 22

FIRE INSURANCE NOTICES, &c.

ALEXANDRIA AGENCY OF THE NORTHERN ASSURANCE COMPANY, LONDON. HEAD OFFICE FOR THE UNITED STATES, No. 37 South Third Street, Philadelphia. CAPITAL PAID UP \$6,298,800.00. PAID UP CAPITAL AND SURPLUS \$2,191,111.02. SECURITY TO POLICY HOLDERS. Against loss or damage by Fire, almost every description of property, and offers to Merchants and others desiring insurance, the sum of a capital of \$6,298,800, for the whole of which, and for any liabilities beyond, the shareholders are INDIVIDUALLY RESPONSIBLE, even to the extent of their entire fortunes. The Shareholders number about one thousand, and as a large portion of these are persons of great wealth, the most ample provisions exist for meeting every possible claim against the Company.

SUBJECT TO THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES. In appointing an Agent for the United States, the Company has empowered him "to appear to and accept any action or legal proceedings instituted against or by said Company, in the same manner as if the Company were a Corporation or Company established by the laws of the United States, or any State or Territory of the United States."

PROVISION FOR PAYMENT OF LOSSES IN THE UNITED STATES. A SPECIAL PERMANENT FUND HAS BEEN PLACED AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE AGENT AT PHILADELPHIA, TO ENABLE HIM TO ADVISE AND PROMPTLY PAY ALL LOSSES, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO LONDON.

LIBERAL TO THE INSURED. The uniform course of the Company has always been an liberal one towards Policy Holders. No just claim has ever been disputed, and prompt payment of losses is a standing rule. During the past year, losses exceeding \$425,000 were paid. Losses paid soon as the amount is ascertained.

ANNUAL INCOME. The Income of the Company is now about \$1,000,000, increasing gradually each year, showing that it has the confidence of the different communities in which it does business.

RATE OF PREMIUM. The Rate of Premium will be moderate, and in all cases will be based upon the character of the cover. The rate will be set in from the start. The conditions of Insurance are framed with the greatest liberality.

JAMES T. CLOSE, Agent. 208 Office in Exchange Block, on King street. 208-41y

SOUTHERN PROTECTION INSURANCE COMPANY, VIRGINIA. CAPITAL OVER \$500,000 DOLLARS. AND CONSTANTLY INCREASING. The Charter of this Company offers more favorable advantages to the farmer and others, than any other Company chartered in the State, by insuring with it, without a premium note. If the applicant prefer, he can pay the full amount of the premium in cash, or by effecting a cash insurance for two years, the insured saves one-eighth of the amount of the premium, and gets a small premium note, the insured saves nearly one-half of the amount charged by Stock Companies, when insuring from year to year. This is the advantage resulting from the combination.

CASH AND MUTUAL PRINCIPLE. This Company commenced issuing Policies against loss or damage by fire, on the 13th day of March, 1854, since which time over seven thousand seven hundred persons have insured, and among the members of the Company, and over seventy thousand dollars have been paid for losses. Having increased our business during the past year, we feel grateful for the liberal patronage bestowed upon the Company thus far, and for the confidence reposed in the Company's officers. The Directors hope and believe, that by prudence, caution, and a rigid system of economy, they will establish for this Company a reputation for cheapness and safety not surpassed by any Company in the U. States.

THOS. T. HILL, Trustee for Wm. Baker. 207-The above sale is postponed to Tuesday, November 1st, at same hour and place.

THE FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF ALEXANDRIA, continues to insure against Fire, generally, in Town and Country as heretofore, on the most reasonable terms.

THE "POTOMAC INSURANCE COMPANY OF ALEXANDRIA," offers a reliable insurance for such Fire and Marine risks as they may receive at their office, No. 11, Fairfax street.

HARDWARE, CUTLERY, &c. HARDWARE, CUTLERY, HOUSEKEEPING GOODS, FANCY SOAPS, PERFUMERY, &c., at 83, King street, Alexandria, Va. CHAS. H. BERRY, respectfully informs his friends and the public generally, that he is now offering his large and well selected stock of 1000S at Auction, for cash, or its equivalent. Since taking out license as an Auctioneer, he has received many orders, and he is now offering a first rate assortment of GOODS, to suit all classes. Country merchants who deal for cash, can obtain great advantages in their purchases in such articles as—Wool, Hides, Furs, Trunks, Bags, Hats, Caps, Spades, Forks, &c., in that line.

BEARS OIL, Antique and Rosin Oil, Bay Rum, Cologne, Extracts, Fancy Soaps, &c., in the Perfumery line. Pin-needles, Scissors, Shears, Table and Pocket Cutlery, Andirons, Shovels and Tongs, Blacking, Brushes, Stove Polish, and a thousand other articles not necessary to enumerate in this line. Call and see for yourself, and do not forget the place, 83, King street, right on the corner. oct 11

NEW GOODS.—I offer for sale the following GOODS, and in doing so would say, that they have been purchased at the lowest market rates; I am therefore prepared to, and will sell them at the lowest market rates.

25 tons Bar, Bands, Vices, and Sheet Iron Cast Iron, Anvils, Hammers, &c. in our line, 200 lbs. Short Axes 250 lbs. Long Axes 2000 lbs. of very superior quality 2000 cwt. and Hickory Spokes 5000 Extra Hubs, warranted to be the best article made, 3000 lbs. best Bright Springs. Also, a complete assortment of Fish, Fairbank Scales, Thimble Skins and Boxes, Wagon Bows, Bent Rims, Screw Plates, Long and Short Handle Shovels, &c. W. M. H. FOWLE & SON, oct 14

WANTS TO BUY.—I have received a large quantity of the following COOKING STOVES, Diamond Rock, Stewart Stoves, Pennsylvania, Leander, Charter Oak, Nevada, Comet, Western Diamond, Wisconsin, York Complete, and Nippon Plates. PARROT STOVES, for Coal—2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

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AUCTION SALES.

BY T. M. CORMICK—AUCTIONEER. SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE IN FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA.—By virtue of a deed of trust executed by John F. Dyer and wife, dated the 10th day of October, 1886, and recorded among the Public Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, in Book 10, page 10, the undersigned, Trustee therein named, will offer for sale at public auction, in front of the Mayor's office, at 12 o'clock A. M., on Wednesday, October 29th, the following property, to-wit: A LOT OF LAND, in Fairfax County, Virginia, containing about THIRTY-FIVE ACRES, situated between the Little River and Leesburg Turnpike, about one and a half miles from Alexandria, and a quarter of a mile from the Episcopal Seminary. The lot adjoins the lands of Bishop Johns, Jr., and others, and is well watered, and is accessible from Turnpikes by good roads. The land is divided into four fields, and the tract is enclosed by good fencing nearly all new—this binding on the road being of the best North Carolina plank. About ten acres are well set to grass, and will yield from 6 to 8 tons of hay. The situation is elevated and healthy, with a fine growth of forest oak covering about five acres, and there is a good spring of water on the land. The improvements consist of a two-story brick house, with a porch, containing about THIRTY-FIVE ACRES, situated between the Little River and Leesburg Turnpike, about one and a half miles from Alexandria, and a quarter of a mile from the Episcopal Seminary. The lot adjoins the lands of Bishop Johns, Jr., and others, and is well watered, and is accessible from Turnpikes by good roads. The land is divided into four fields, and the tract is enclosed by good fencing nearly all new—this binding on the road being of the best North Carolina plank. About ten acres are well set to grass, and will yield from 6 to 8 tons of hay. The situation is elevated and healthy, with a fine growth of forest oak covering about five acres, and there is a good spring of water on the land. 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