

**PLEASURE RESORTS**

**NORFOLK'S FACILITIES FOR REST AND RECREATION**

The Park and Drives and Other Attractions are Numerous and of Easy Access—Low Places, if Any, Surpass It.

For pleasure, recreation and facility for comfort, Norfolk affords many advantages, and is singularly fortunate. So many indeed are the attractions in this respect—splendid summer and winter resorts, boating, sailing, excursions, beautiful roads, stretches of bridges crossing the beautiful branches of the Elizabeth River, handsome suburbs, etc., that the city up to a year ago had no public park. She has, however, remedied this, having secured 120 acres, beautifully located, with forest and water view and lawn, which will become, under proper management, one of the handsomest parks in the country.

Besides, there is the Naval Hospital Park, a forest grove of seventy-five acres, on the Portsmouth side, which is always resorted to by the people of Norfolk and visitors. Then there is Lesner's Park, a concert garden, handsomely laid out. There are also numerous small parks laid out by development companies to enhance the attractiveness of their suburbs, especially the Beachwood Place, on the property of the Norfolk Company, and then there is the Ocean View and Virginia Beach resorts, Old Point and its Fort and Newport News.

Ocean View is on the Chesapeake Bay, eight miles northeast from Norfolk, with an outlook through the Virginia capes to sea. Virginia Beach is on the shores of the Atlantic, eighteen miles due east. Narrow gauge trains run regularly to both. Both have dancing pavilions, boats and teams for hire, beach and forest drives, hunting grounds contiguous and all that.

The Princess Anne, the hotel at Virginia Beach, one of the finest in the country. There is also the Ocean Shore Park hotel.

Shell roads, like those of New Orleans and Mobile, have been made everywhere throughout the trucking district of the Norfolk peninsula. From Norfolk radiate eleven of them, with total length of seventy-five miles. No speeding track could be finer than these to the old Virginia Beach, and driving has become, in consequence, one of the pleasures of life hereabouts.

The Old Point and Hampton resorts, and the numerous fishing and hunting preserves of the bay, Ocean Shore, the Dismal Swamp and the club houses and hunting reserves of the North Carolina Sounds, which

are much frequented now by Northern sportsmen—many, indeed, taken up and enclosed—any within short jaunt of Norfolk either by boat or rail.

**ABOLISHING THE SALUTE.**

An Expensive and Useless Custom Handed Down From Old Days.

Some English papers have taken up the subject of salutes in the navy service, and urge that the custom be abandoned, and that China be followed in this matter. There the imperial salute consists of three guns, and that of Mandarins two guns, or only one, according to their rank. Apparently the argument is that what suffices for the "Son of Heaven," and the "Lord of the Peacock's Feathers" is quite good enough for Englishmen. Saluting with guns is a very ancient practice. It came in with the advent of guns, and will probably continue as long as guns exist. The protest against it on the score of extravagance is not new by any means.

Naval writers of the Stuart and Commonwealth period tell us of the huge waste of powder and ball which took place in consequence of its great prevalence in their day. Pepys states in his "Diary" that when the news of King Charles' declaration came to the fleet in the Downs, "the General began to fire his guns, which he did all that he had in the ship, and so did the rest of the commanders, which was very gallant," and they heard the balls go whistling over their heads.

We are glad to be able to say that the salute is not likely to go yet, says the Court Journal, and the suggestion of abolishing it would hardly be worth referring to if it were not for the capital stories which are told by the would-be reformer in connection with the subject. Perhaps the best one relates to a visit of an English frigate to a Portuguese port some years ago. When the British ship arrived the Portuguese flag was saluted, but the salute was not returned.

Shortly afterward the Portuguese Governor's secretary repaired on board the frigate, and, with many apologies, said that the guns in the fort on shore had not been fired for several years, but if the English captain would kindly lend sufficient powder an attempt would be made to give satisfaction for any infringement of etiquette or supposed slight to the English flag.

**Ring the Frost Bells.**

Frost bells are tolled in some districts of France when frost is threatened. Immediately the inhabitants place quantities of tar between the rows of vines. The tar is lighted and volumes of dense smoke arise, thus protecting the vines.

**STREET IMPROVEMENT**

AN INTERESTING SHOWING FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS

Miles of Thoroughfares Repaved With Belgian Blocks—Detail of the Work—Shell Macadam Pavements—Interesting Particulars.

Norfolk proper has over thirty-two miles of streets, of which twelve have permanent pavements of stone—the business quarter, in fact, in its entirety. Of these twelve miles, five are Belgian block and seven cobble stone, which, however, is steadily being replaced with the Belgian sort at about the rate of one and a half miles a year. Besides this twelve miles there are about seven additional miles of shell macadam, which is the prevailing style also in the suburban extensions where they are paved at all. And everywhere in the suburbs that the county has jurisdiction there are shell roads, equal to any country highways in the land, eleven of them altogether, with total length of seventy-five miles.

Since 1888 up to June 1st, 1894, according to the report of Maj. Adam Tredwell, the chairman at that time, of the Board of Streets, Sewers and Drain Commission, the following streets have been furnished with Belgian block pavement: Water street, 14,000 square yards; Main street, 13,200 square yards; City Hall avenue, 4,020 square yards; Botetourt street, 2,335 square yards; Cumberland street, 2,200 square yards; Charlotte street, 1,705 square yards; Holt street, 5,085 square yards; Madison street, 889 square yards; Nebraska street, 445 square yards; Nivison street, 1,119 square yards; Roanoke square, 889 square yards; Commerce street, 1,615 square yards; Brewer street, 2,800 square yards; Tripoli street, 2,800 square yards; Washington street, 1,280 square yards; Fayette street, 614 square yards; Plume street, 8,030 square yards; Church street, 21,000 square yards; Freemason street, 11,590 square yards; Commercial place, 4,500 square yards; Courtney street, 593 square yards, and New Market square, 2,100 square yards, making a total of 100,861 square yards, or about 6 1/2 miles of street. Since this report, Union street has been paved with Belgian block throughout and half of Chapel street.

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**TO DRY DAMP WALLS.**

An Application Which Prevents the Absorption of Moisture.

Sylvester's process, says the English Mechanic, consists in using two washes or solutions for covering the surface of the walls, one composed of Castile soap and water and one of alum water.

The proportions are three quarters of a pound of soap to one gallon of water and one-half pound of alum to four gallons of water, both substances to be quite dissolved in water before being used. The walls should be quite clean and dry, and the temperature of the air not be above fifty degrees Fahr. when the compositions are applied. The first, or soap, wash should be laid on when boiling hot, with a flat brush, taking care not to form a froth on the brickwork. This wash should remain twenty-four hours, so as to become dry and hard before the second, or alum, wash is applied, which should be done in the same manner as the first. The temperature of this wash when applied may be from sixty to seventy degrees Fahr., and this also should remain twenty-four hours before a second coat of soap wash is put on. These coats are to be applied alternately until the walls are made impervious to water. The alum and soap thus combined form an insoluble compound, filling the pores of the masonry and entirely preventing the water from entering the wall.

**MAKING DARK OAK.**

An Ammonia Treatment Which Gives It the Desired Color.

It is stated in the *Monteur Industriel* that the dark oak employed in decorative woodwork is prepared by submitting the wood for a certain length of time to the action of ammoniacal vapors, the latter rapidly imparting the dark tint which is in so much request. The operation consists simply in arranging the material that is to be rendered of a dark color in a tight room, into which no light penetrates.

For the treatment of small pieces a large box whose joints are closed with strips of paper glued to the places whence the vapor might escape, suffices for the purpose, while, for larger pieces a hermetically closed room is essential. Into the box, or room, are put several flat vessels, containing liquid ammonia, they being placed upon the floor so that the vapor may fill the space and give the tanning of the oak a very dark brown color, which will not be altered if a little of the wood be

removed from the surface. The liquid is not allowed to touch the wood and the depth and richness of the color will depend upon the quality of the ammonia that is employed and the length of time of the exposure to its fumes.

**AN APPLE TREE 140 YEARS OLD.**

In Fruit Long Before the Revolutionary War.

The Providence Journal says: An article on "Two Famous Apple Trees," near Fruit Hill, in Smithfield, in the Journal of November 28th, has led me to call attention to an old Rhode Island greening tree, now standing on the Dr. Solomon Drowne farm, at Mount Hygeia, in North Foster.

In 1801, when the Doctor purchased the farm of Henry Jones, this tree seemed to be dying of old age, and Mr. Jones remarked to the new owner that as he considered it the most valuable tree on the place he felt sorry to see that it probably would last but a few years. The Doctor, prompted by this remark, and his desire to perpetuate so fine a fruit, had the soil, which seemed rather poor, removed for some eight or ten feet in a circle radiating from the tree and new rich earth filled in, pruned it of all dead branches, and had the satisfaction in a few years of seeing the old tree again in a flourishing condition, and was amply repaid by a beautiful supply year by year of the largest and most delicious and famous Rhode Island greenings. And the tree, to the knowledge of members of the family, now living, has borne uninterruptedly every year since. This season, although many of the larger limbs have succumbed to old age and fallen off, it bore about two bushels of fine apples, as some of the members of the Rhode Island Horticultural Society, who saw specimens of the fruit and sampled them can attest.

The tree measures near the ground ten feet five inches in circumference, and five feet up only three inches less. It was thought to be at that time (1801) upwards of 50 years old.

**A New White House.**

There is a rumor in the air, says the *Churchman*, that President Cleveland desires a new executive mansion, that several architects have submitted sketches for such a building, and that it is not unlikely that in the near future Congress may be asked to enact the legislation necessary to carry the project into effect.

**The Cant of Criticism.**

Of all the cants in this canting world, tho' the cant of hypocrites may be the worst, the cant of criticism is the most tormenting.—Sterne.

HUGH N. PAGE. WM. PANNILL.

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