LIFE IN VANITY FAIR.

GAYETIES "BRIGHTENING AS THEY TAKE FLIGHT."

The Lenten Lull at Hand—Society Badly in Need of Rest—The "Jeffs" Informal Hop—The German Club.

The race of society has been at such speed the season through that now as it nears its end there has seemed some gradual slackening of its pace, as though too sudden a halt might be disastrous in result. The week just passed through, a most charming one and memorable for several handsome events, was so much more temperate in its dissipations than its reeling predecessors that it even seemed a forecasting of the Lenten breathing spell.

Another elegant wedding in high life gave to it that interest that such affairs are famed for. On Tuesday at 12 o'clock Miss Annie Ruffin Williams, one of the most brilliant young ladies that Richmond claimed, was married to Mr. Riley Miles Gilbert, of Columbus, O., the ceremony being performed at Second Presbyterian church, Rev. Moses D. Hoge officiating.

Afterwards a dejeuner was enjoyed at the Exchange Hotel, which was characterized by a quiet elegance and charm much appreciated by the honored few who were given this graceful opportunity to express their good wishes, which were hearty and sincere. Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert are now at the Ponce de Leon, where they will spend a few weeks before returning to their future home in Columbus.

Mrs. James Allison opened her artistic and attractive home on Tuesday afternoon at a charming informal reception. Her duties of hostess were shared by Mrs. Clemens and Miss Michler, while the dainty repast was dispensed by a bevy of attractive young ladies—Misses Byrd Greer, of Washington; Georgie Blankenship, Martha and Parke Bagby, Lelia and Nina Myers, Gertrude and Annie Leigh Camm.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Evelyn Smith entertained the Tuesday Euchre Club on Tuesday evening last at their home on east Franklin in a manner that charmingly sustained the boast of this club for its unvarying success. From 8 until 10 cards were played by the ladies, and when over the gentlemen were added to th brilliant assemblage, and a repast in every detail lavish and delectable was enjoyed. The prizes, which were very beautiful, were presented by Mrs. T. O. Barbour and won as follows:

First prize, silver inkstand, by Mrs. Moncure Perkins; second, a repousse silver pin tray, by Mrs. Alfred Gray; third, a silver hat brush, by Mrs. John Harrison, and the consolation, a silver pen and pen wiper, by Mrs. Thomas N. Carter.

The others present were: Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Whitlock, Mr. and Mrs. Ashton Starke, Mr. and Mrs. C. O'B. Cowardin, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Gray, Mr. and Mrs. John Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bolling, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Bosher, Mr. and Mrs. William Talbott, Mr. and Mrs. James Patterson, Mr. and Mrs. W. Waller Morton, Mr. and Mrs. Levin Joynes, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas N. Carter, Mr. and Mrs. T. O. Barbour, Mr. and Mrs. James A. Welch, Mr. and Mrs. G. Wayne Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Maury, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Tabb, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Frazier, Dr. and Mrs. R. G. Cabell, Mrs. Charles E. Wortham, Jr., Mrs. Edward Mayo, Mrs. Nora Leary, Mrs. A. B. Camm, Mrs. John Enders, Mrs. Moncure Perkins, Mrs. Isaac Davenport, Mrs. Laird, of North Carolina, Misses Byrd Greer, Georgie Blankenship, Netta Potts, Joan Clark, Helen Cameron and Nannie Winston, Messrs. Henry Landon Cabell, Williamson Talley, James Anderson, Richard Pegram, W. Scott Carrington, Randolph Holliday, H. A. Williams, Arthur S. Wiley, E. C. Mayo, F. A. Davenport, John H. Lyons, Saunders Hobson, John Atkinson, William Hanewinckel, Allan Potts, E. O. McCabe, Beirne Blair, Ed. Bissell, Jenifer Barton, George Lee and Dr. John Dunn.

The next and last meeting before Lent will be at the hospitable home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Bosher on Tuesday evening next, when the prizes will be presented by Mrs. John Enders.

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The Misses Blankenship gave another of their charming "at homes" on Wednesday evening between 5 and 7 o'clock. Their attractive rooms were filled with a brilliant throng of callers, who appreciate that pleasure always to be had under their hospitable roof. The young ladies of the house, Misses Georgie, Annie, Katie and Evie Blankenship, were assisted in doing the honors by Misses Byrd Greer, Florence and Phoebe Warwick, Sallie Marshall, Parke Bagby, Ellen Clark, Lucy Christian and others. Miss Bessie Pace sang some delightful selections, which added much to the pleasure of the occasion.

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Mrs. T. C. Williams, Miss Mary Williams and Mrs. Edward Buek entertained their friends at another informal reception on Thursday evening between 5 and 7 o'clock. There is no more artistic interior in the city than is to be seen in this charming home, and the luxuriance of rare flowers, as well as growing plants, which enhances its elegant furnishing, makes it most charming in effect.

The hostesses were assisted by Mrs. James Pleasants, who served the punch; Mrs. R. T. Bosher poured the tea, and Mrs. Breeden the chocolate, while the young ladies who served in the dining-room were Misses Alys Connelley, Joan Clark, Helen Cameron, Netta Potts, Elise Williams and Callie Ryland.

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Even the fair yaung fledgelings are permitted a taste of the sweets of society, which have been so abundant this season. On Friday evening between 5 and 7 o'clock, at the invitation of Mrs. C. D. Langhorne, a lovely bevy of young girls gathered at her charming home, in honor of Misses Florence and Agnes Robinson, of Baltimore. There was a freshness and buoyancy of spirit in their enjoyment of the delightful event, which was revealed in their radiant young faces in the most charming manner. A table of delicacies, made more attractive by the graceful guard of beautiful flowers, was presided over by little Misses Phyllis and Nannie Langhorne, who are bright and attractive wherever they be. Those present were: Misses Florence and Agnes Robinson, Annie Ingram, Mary Hill, Mary Donnan, Mary Carrington, Abbie St. John, Phronie Pegram, Marian Meade, Elsie and Nellie Colburn, Stanley Atkins, Rea Watkins, Fannie McGuire, Annie McGuire, Maude Miller, Annie Lee Alfriend, Catherine McIntyre, Ansie Nolting, Maria Dunlop, Vivian Conway, Gabrielle Page, Mary McCaw, Lizzie Boyd Sue Crenshaw, Sue Wellford, Hermine Moore, Annabel Jenkins, Emily Cary, Mary Hayes, Virginia Hayes, Grace Parsons, Agnes Edwards, Tiny Martin, Lucy Wormeley and Lelia Gray.

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On Tuesday evening Madame Guillaume gave a novel and delightful entertainment to the members of one of her private French classes. French alone was spoken during the evening, which proved a charming departure. Cards occupied a part of the evening, and a delightful repast was served. Those present were: Mrs. Isaiah H. White, Mrs Arthur Lefroy, Mrs. Junius A. Morris, Misses Clare Guillaume, Helen Montague, Anna Boykin, Ellen London, Loulie Nolting, Adele Williams, Loulie Williams, Bessie Call, and Miss Jane Rutherfoord and Miss Kate James.

* * *

Mrs. Robert H. Whitlock entertained a few ladies on Monday evening in honor of Mrs. Laird, of North Carolina, and though the number of guests was small and the evening informal, it was characterized by that elegance and enjoyment which always marks the hospitality of this charming hostess.

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Mrs. T. C. Williams, Miss Mary Williams and Mrs. Edward Buek opened their beautiful and artistic home on Thursday evening for another charming informal reception. Exquisite flowers and plants enhanced the usual attractiveness of their home, and their friends spent a delightful evening. The hostesses were assisted in their duties of honor by Mrs. James Thomas, Mrs. R. T. Bosher, Mrs. James Pleasants, Mrs. Breeden, Misses Alys Connelley, Joan Clark, Helen Cameron, Callie Ryland, Elise Williams and Netta Potts.

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Mrs. J. B. Pace and Miss Bessie Pace will be "at home" informally on Tuesday evening next from 5 to 7.

Miss Narcissa Barton gives a valentine dinner party on Tuesday evening next at her home at Barton Heights.

Mrs. Lucien Tatum gives a luncheon on Tuesday next.

Mrs. F. M. Boykin will give a dinner on Tuesday evening.

Monday evening the last Richmond german of the season will be danced at the Masonic Temple.

Miss Lizzie Bridges in company with Miss May Handy and Miss Madge Ould will leave to-morrow for Baltimore.

Miss Conrad, of Winchester, and Miss Shipp, of Lexington, who have been visiting Miss Bridges, have returned to their homes.

Miss Bogart, of New York, is visiting Mrs. Rawlings, south Fifth street.

Echoes of the praise that rang so heartily through Richmond from those who had the pleasure of witnessing the recent amateur performance of "Our Boys" are still heard on every side. The praise, too, seems not to have been confined to the Seven-Hilled City, for the Danville Daily Register of Friday has the following to say:

"Our Boys," which was presented recently in Richmond by home talent, is said to be a most interesting play, and we suggest to the Ladies' Benevolent Society that they invite the company to come here and give an entertainment for the benefit of the Home for the Sick. Mr. Rosewell Page is a member of the company, and we feel sure that he will do what he can for Danville."

* * *

What a good, old-fashioned, jolly dance was the "informal hop" the Jeffs. gave Wednesday night. Walking costume and not evening dress was understood to be the regulation thing, and a delightful affair it was, illustrating to all beholders that radiant smiles and happy hearts are not always donned or doffed with those "fine feathers" that some old fogy says "make fine birds." How pretty and gay the sweet faces of the girls looked, in spite of sober plumage, and how lithe and graceful the swaying forms, instinct with health, life and happiness, and how gallant the men were, with the cares of business tucked out of sight and thought in those "every-day" coat pockets. One man confessed frankly that he never could enjoy himself very much if he wore his Sunday coat on Monday, and no doubt he voiced the sentiment of the entire masculine half of the throng, for most men hate formality. Professor Stein's orchestra twanged away blithely, catching the spirit of the evening, and all went brightly as a marriage bell and a good deal less ceremoniously. At 9 o'clock the dance began, and waxed merrier and merrier as the "wee sma'" hours approached. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Alexander H. Myers, Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Hutzler, Mr. and Mrs. Aleck Schaap, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Whitlock, Mr. and Mrs. Marx Gunst, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Gans, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Newman, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Cohen, Misses Rose May, Daisy Wasserman of Wilkesbarre, Pa., Rebecca Bernstein of New York, Lillie Aronheim and Yetta Kaufman of Charlottesville, Messrs. Milton Marcuse, Charles E. Levy of New York, Herbert Stramberg of Baltimore, and others.

* * *

Her satin shoe, so soft and bright,
Tied with a knot of ribbon blue,
Is like a bird in rythmic flight—
Her satin shoe.

She waltzes as the fairies do,
Led by Titiana, through the light
Of moonbeams and the silvery dew.

She danced into my heart to-night—
I'm quite undone. Ah, if she knew
Would she discard in elfin spite
Her satin shoe?

On Thursday evening Belvidere Hall put on festive finery and blossomed with roses, for on that occasion the Social German Club gave one of its always enjoyable dances. The supper, dainty and delicious, was served by Zimmermann, and Professor Thilow's band gave forth "a concord of sweet sounds" that made the toes of beholders tingle to trip in time to its merry measures. The feminine portion of the throng, not content with "the garden in each face, where roses and white lilies grew," had rifled the hot houses of their loveliest blooms, and the caressing air took up the varied perfume and scattered it throughout the hall. Mr. Morris Archer led the german with Miss Newman, of Brooklyn, and he was assisted by Mr. Michelbacher with Miss Daisy Wasserman, one of Wilkesbarre's sweetest daughters, and a sister of Mrs. Alexander H. Myers, of east Grace street. Those present were: Misses Daisy Wasserman of Wilkesbarre, Bernstein of New York, Newman of Brooklyn, Kauffman of Charlottesville, Whitlock, Matilde Kraker, Daniella Stern, Minnie Mitteldorfer and Messrs. Morris Archer, Michelbacher, Simon Whitlock, J. Myers, B. Myers, Leroy Mitteldorfer, Henry Binswanger, Moses Binswanger and others.

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The "Pleasure Club," which was to have been an entertainment last week, evidently concluded to set its clever wits to work for a week longer and shine with double brilliancy this coming one, and when ten pretty and charming girls and two no less charming matrons combine for the purpose of captivating how bewitching and delightful they are sure to be!

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The Cape Charles City "Pioneer" has a most complimentary notice of the readings by Messrs. Thomas Nelson Page and F. Hopkinson Smith given last week in Richmond.

* * *

The marriage bells that rang in Richmond last Wednesday chimed as far away as Wilmington, N. C., for the "Messenger" of that city has the following to say: Miss C. N. Grace Hiden, youngest daughter of th Rev. Dr. J. C. Hiden, once pastor of the Baptist church in this city, but now of Richmond, Va., was married in Richmond on Wednesday morning to Mr. Edward Wilkinson, a prominent business man of Birmingham, Ala.

* * *

Rev. Dr. Calisch left last night for Savannah, Ga., where, on the evening of Monday, the 13th, he will deliver a lecture in behalf of the Young Men's Christian Association of that city, taking for his subject, "Religion and History." We Richmonders have enjoyed a number of Dr. Calisch's discourses, and can, therefore, appreciate the intellectual treat in store for Savannah.

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Messrs. Julius Straus, Herman Whitlock, Samuel Binswanger will leave shortly for Macon to attend a Grand Lodge meeting of the I. O. B'nai B'rith. Mr. Samuel Binswanger will be accompanied by his charming daughter, Miss Blanche Binswanger.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Valentine with their two children are registered at The Felix, Roanoke.

Miss Bernstein, of New York, is visiting Miss Simon.

A Lovely Tea.

Mrs. Manly B. Ramos gave an elegant tea on Thursday from 4:30 to 7 P. M., at her residence, No. 111 south Fifth street. The large parlors were elegantly decorated in pink and yellow, and a fine collection of rare flowers and hot-house plants filled the corners of the rooms on the ground floor, and transformed the hall in a cosy conservatory.

Mrs. Ramos was assisted in the reception of her guests by Miss Mabel Page, Miss Jennie Bargamin, Miss Stallie Burr and Mrs. T. Goddin. The guests were quite numerous, and the entertainment was greatly enjoyed by all present. The tea was given in honor of a sister of Mrs. Ramos, Mrs. James Holmes, of Orange, N. J., who is visiting here at present.

If you feel weak and all worn out take BROWN'S IRON BITTERS

SOCIETY IN THE STATE.

PLEASANT ENTERTAINMENTS ON THE THRESHOLD OF LENT.

Dickens Receptions, Teas, Dramatic Performances and Many Other Social Events—A Week of Gaiety.

LYNCHBURG, VA., Feb. 9.—On Monday night a "Dickens reception" was held at Calisthenic Hall, which was largely attended by many of our most cultivated people and highly enjoyed. The characters were taken from Nicholas Nickleby, and were admirably presented. Miss Cecil Poole personated Miss Fanny Squeers, and her "make up" was most excellent, as also that of Mr. Esten Shumate, who went as Nicholas, and his sister, Miss Shumate, as Miss Kate Nickleby. Could the master have been present, we are sure he would have pronounced them faithful portraitures of the children of his brain. Refreshments were served after the tableau, and everybody had a pleasant and sociable time.

On Tuesday night our mirth-loving people had quite an embarras des riches in the way of entertainments, a "brownie tea" being held at the residence of Mr. Burrows Johnson, on Grace street, where the "little folk" as well as those of larger growth spent a charming evening. Mrs. Johnson was assisted in entertaining her guests by Miss Nannie Hutter, who gave several recitations in inimitable style—notably, as apropos to the occasion, "The Gobelins Will Catch You, if You Don't Watch Out!"

The same evening, at the residence of Major C. V. Winfree, on College Hill, a French play, entitled "Les Cuisinieres," a kitchen scene in one act, the dramatis pesonae being Hile. Leontine Fleury and her pupils, was presented. The play was enacted in the French tongue, but it was not at all difficult to follow and appreciate the bright little comedy, so vivaciously were the parts sustained by the performers, who were as follows: Madame Beloiseau, Mrs. Taylor Gleaves; Francoise, her cook, Mrs. Reuben Quinn; Ernestine, her maid, Miss Mollie Early; Heloise, the milliner, Mrs. Ham. Wilkins; Catherine (an Auvergnate), Miss Maud Smith; Virginie (a Normande), Miss Lizzie Winfree; Mere Grobec, mother of Francoise, Mlle. Fleury. The moral of the play was, "When the cat's away the mice will play!" and one of an imaginative turn can well conceive the opportunity taken by the servants in the absence of Madame Beloiseau to give a dinner party, and the indignation and dismay of the lady, who, returning sooner than was expected, finds her retainers enjoying themselves in the most hilarious manner.

The intellectual part of the feast being over, it was pleasantly announced by Captain John M. Payne that the French cooks desired the audience to discuss specimens of their culinary lore in the dining-room, a summons that was joyfully obeyed, and it was not until a late hour that the well-pleased company dispersed.

To-morrow night at the Young Men's Christian Association Hall, an evening with the poets, artists and musicians will be given, with the following interesting programme: Recital of poem, "One Morn a Peri at the Gate," by Miss Annie Brown; Angel, Miss Ettie Adams; Peri, Miss Ruth Jennings. 2. Scene, "False Flew the Shaft!" Mr. A. H. Jennings and Peri. 3. Representation, "Sweet Said the Angel." 4. Picture, "But See, Who Yonder Comes," Miss Lizzie Winfree and Mr. Sidney Kelly. 5. Illustration, "There Was a Time, He Said," Mr. Harry Nicolas and Miss Jennie Heald. 6. Description, "Joy, Joy, Forever!" Angel, Peri, Louise Adams, Marguerite, Snead, Mary Christian, Helen Owen, Ruth Lavinder, Lizzie Adams, Bessie Johnson, Page Ambler, Alex. Mahood and Mina Lile.

Part II.—1. Vocal Solo, Miss Maud Watts. 2. Grecian Statuary (poetical description), Miss Kate Langhorne; Bass Solo, Mr. Walker Pettyjohn; Statuary, (musical interpretation), "Rock of Ages," Miss Elizabeth Lewis; Piano Solo, Mr. Emil Berger.

We challenge comparison with any city, even "big" Richmond, in the way of unique, elegant and intellectual entertainments. Our amateurs will present "New Market," a play written by Mr. John Shuman, of the Virginian, author of "Virginia," on Friday night, the 24th of February, at the Opera-House. The leading parts will be taken by the amateurs of the Zouave Club, who made such a success of the latter play last year. Professor Poythress will be the musical director, and the stage will be under the management of Mr. Samuel Spencer.

A pretty marriage occurred at Memorial church, on College Hill, Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, the contracting parties being the Rev. Porter Hardy, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and Miss Janie L. Mahood, an attractive young lady, of this city.

Miss Lizzie Bardin, the guest of the Misses Hutter, returned to her home in Charleston, S. C., on Monday.

Mrs. Catherine M. Walker and her daughter, Mrs. Edward Saunders, of Rocky Mount, Franklin, are the guests of Mrs. John H. Lewis, Court street.

Mrs. Sears and Miss Winnie Sears, of Virginia, are stopping at the Norvell-Arlington.

Mrs. Greenwood Nowlin, assisted by her mother, Mrs. Pendleton, and her sister, Miss Lucy Pendleton, gave a very charming "at home" on Tuesday from 5 to 7, which was numerously attended. RUTH RIPPLE.

Fredericksburg.

FREDERICKSBURG, VA., Feb. 11.—Interest in social affairs this week has been greatly enhanced by the presence of a number of charming visitors who are for a time gladdening the homes of their friends and relatives here. Some of these are social stars at their own homes in sister cities, and have received many attentions from our society people. Among these fair visitors may be mentioned Miss Kate Conrad, daughter of Hon. Holmes Conrad, of Winchester, who is the guest of Misses Carmichael, on Eighth street, and Miss Carrie P. Moore, of Richmond, who will spend the month of February with her friend, Miss Jeannette S. Bradley, on Eleventh street.

Marriages, sociables, card parties and lectures have been some of the events of the week.

On Tuesday evening last an elegant entertainment was given by Mr. and Mrs. Washington Elms at their beautiful and hospitable home on Cedar avenue, in honor of Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Merriam and daughter, of Phoenix, N. Y. A large number of invited guests were present, and together with music and song and the most tempting refreshments, elegantly served, the evening was delightfully spent.

Last Wednesday night the Baptist church was filled with an animated, expectant gathering, friends of Miss Florence J. Skinner and Mr. Henry McGhee, who had congregated to witness the ceremony which made the happy pair one. Potted palms and plants lent a charm to the decorations, and richly colored shades on large piano lamps subdued the lights about the altar. Rev. Dr. T. S. Dunaway, pastor of the church, officiated in his usually impressive manner, and Miss Mary J. Quinn rendered sweet music at the organ. Messrs. Reuben McGhee, Jr., W. L. Watson, Sylwood Ball and W. N. Blake were the ushers, and the following were the bridesmaids and groomsmen: Miss Kate Aldridge with Mr. William Moxley, of Washington; Miss Annie Bowling with Mr. W. L. Brannan, of this city; Miss Mary A. Hicks with Mr. Eberhard Fordan, of Washington; Miss Maggie Nicholson with Mr. Douglas Moxley, of Washington. The bridesmaids were handsomely dressed in dotted mull, ribbon and lace.

Miss Jennie Moxley was the maid of honor. She wore white Henrietta, satin trimmings, pearl ornaments, la France roses.

The bride was attired in cream colored Henrietta, bengaline silk, chiffon trimmings, pearl ornaments and Marechal Neil roses. Mr. and Mrs. McGhee left on the 9 o'clock train for a bridal tour.

On Wednesday last Mr. James E. Berry and Miss Ida V. Wine, both of Stafford county, were united in marriage at the residence of Rev. T. S. Dunaway, D. D., who performed the ceremony.

Madame Rumor has it that two of Stafford's most charming belles will soon become brides. The fortunate grooms expectant are citizens of Richmond.

Many of our people enjoyed a rare treat Thursday night when Rev. Dr. H. M. Wharton, of Baltimore, delivered in the Baptist church before an immense audience one of his inimitable lectures. His subject was "My Hearers," and for nearly two hours he swayed his audience as he liked. The lecture was delivered for the benefit of the Sunbeam Society, and a handsome sum was realized for their treasury.

Colonel W. W. Ashby, United States consul at Colon, and wife sailed for the United States last Tuesday. They were due in New York on Friday and are expected to arrive here to-night, where they have a large number of relatives and numerous friends.

Among the recent marriages which have taken place in Caroline county was that of Miss Cora L. Carter and Mr. Charles B. Mahon. The pretty ceremony took place at Upper Zion Baptist church, and Rev. Andrew Broaddus, D. D., officiated. After the ceremony the bridal party, with invited guests, repaired to the home of the groom, where refreshments were served and dancing enjoyed.

Mr. John Joipher and Miss Mary E. Toombs, both of Caroline county, were married a few days ago at the residence of the bride, Rev. Mr. Reddick, of Bowling Green, officiating.

Staunton.

STAUNTON, VA., Feb. 11.—Mrs. William H. Cooke, of New York, has been spending the winter in Staunton, and last night she gave the most elaborate reception of the season to her many friends and those of her daughters. The whole lower floor was thrown into one, and beautifully decorated with cut flowers and growing plants and lighted with hundreds of twinkling lights. The spacious back porch was ceiled and converted into a charming supper room, so as to have space enough for the dancers inside. The music was furnished by the Stonewall Band Orchestra, and the exquisite supper was served by a caterer from Baltimore, Md. The reception lasted from 8 till 10 o'clock, and then dancing began and lasted till far into the night.

It was thought the last german had been given until after Lent was over, but the young people said no, and the club will give a charming cotillion at the German Hall at St. Valentine's eve. After that there will be six weeks of churchgoing, good works and spring sewing. Then, after Easter, the young girls will be as bright and blooming as the flowers, and ready for all the fun that falls to their lot.

The Young Ladies' Missionary Society of Trinity church are holding a "Housekeepers'" bazaar. This society has done much good work in the Diocese of Virginia.

Mrs. John Cannon Hobson, of Goochland county, is visiting her mother, Mrs. Annie Fisher Camp, at the Deaf, Dumb and Blind Institution.

Newport News.

NEWPORT NEWS, VA., Feb. 11.—The minstrel performance given by the Mandolin Club, composed of home boys, came off Thursday evening, and proved to be one of the most successful entertainments ever given here. The house was packed and jammed, and several hundred dollars realized, which will be turned over to the Huntingdon Rifles, for whose benefit it was given. The musical productions were fine, and the jokes new and spicy. Among the most prominent ones who took part were: Dr. H. M. Smith, Messrs. Morton and T. Marye Krouse, Archibald, Kenny, Guy, Richardson, Williams, Barclay and others. Dr. Smith is to be congratulated, as the success of the entertainment was almost entirely due to his efforts and management of the whole affair.

"El Rio," the ship launched here in October, went out Thursday on its first trip.

There will be a large german here next Tuesday night at "Casino," which promises to be a delightful affair.

Hampton.

HAMPTON, VA., Feb. 10.—Mrs. William Young entertained several of her friends on Thursday evening at her home in West Hampton.

The hop given at the Armory Hall on Wednesday night by the Junior German Club of Hampton was much enjoyed by the few who were fortunate enough to receive invitations.

The King's Daughters gave a "five o'clock tea" at Mrs. Baker P. Lee's on Thursday afternoon. Many were present, and the sum realized was given to the hospital fund.

Mr. Eldred Jones, of the firm of H. R. Booker & Co., is quite sick.

Farmville.

FARMVILLE, VA., Feb. 10.—Mrs. R. B. Tuggle gave a most delightful euchre party on last Tuesday evening in honor of her guest, Miss Nellie Tuggle, of Blackstone. Among those present were: Misses Bessie McKinney, Carrie Morton, Josie Morton, Kate Price, Belle Johnson and Mrs. J. H. Wool; Messrs. W. P. Venable, F. McKinney, F. Bugg, W. C. Flournoy, A. T. Gray, T. Clarke, R. Cralle, and Drs. Anderson and Wool.

West End T's.

The West-End T's had quite an enjoyable time Friday night at the residence of Mrs. E. V. Wood, their president. It was the occasion of their first anniversary, and after submitting their report a contest between six ladies for a handsome silver medal took place. Miss Nannie Pegram was the winner, and was presented with the medal by Mr. Joseph H. Shepherd. A nice collation was served, which was greatly relished by a company of fifty persons. The next contest will be for a gold medal.

Monday Musicale.

The celebrated Schubert Male Quartette, assisted by Miss Bertha S. Clark, violinist; Miss Laura B. MacCorkle, reader and whistler; Miss Evelyn M. Ellis, accompanist, will be the attraction. These are all first-class artists, having a national reputation, and they will render the following well-selected programme:

1. "Star of Love" (Buck), Quartette.
2. Violin "Legende" (Wieniawski), Miss Clark.
3. "Night Witchery" (Storch), Quartette.
4. Reading, "The Message" (Proctor), Miss MacCorkle.
5. Solo, "Mistress of My Heart" (De Koven), Mr. Battle.
6. "Old King Cole" (Edes), Quartette.
7. Violin, "Souvenir de Haydn" (Leonard), Miss Clark.
8. "Bugle Song" (Hatton), Quartette.
9. Solo, "Visions of Rest" (Baker), Miss MacCorkle.
10. "Still, Still With Thee" (Gerrish), Schubert Quartette.

Money for the Institute.

On Friday evening the trustees of the Richmond Female Institute tendered a most delightful reception to the president and faculty of the school. Besides the president and faculty nearly all of the members of the board of trustees, and the students were present.

Rev. Dr. Tupper presided, and Rev. Dr. William E. Hatcher delivered a congratulatory address, and President Nelson responded. Toasts were responded to by Rev. Drs. Cooper, Hiden and Hatcher.

Over six thousand dollars was secured on the bonded debt of the institution

Among the matronly ladies present were: Mesdames Nelson, Davis, Gwaltney, Coter and Cooper. There were about sixty young ladies present.

The Sheltering Arms' Dinner.

The dinner served at 803 east Main street yesterday from 12 to 5 o'clock was a great success. It was arranged by the King's Daughters for the benefit of the Sheltering Arms.

A choice selection of viands and delicacies was served, and those who were present pronounced the dinner a most delightful one.

Among the most enthusiastic workers in this laudable cause were the young ladies from Mrs. T. William Pemberton's circle.

Some of those who waited at the dinner were: Misses Dicie Denoon, Mary Chalmers, Mary Denoon, Alberta Berry, Ida Chambers, Mary Cameron, Lou Eggleston and others.

Circuit Court of Appeals.

Judges Goff, Dick and Hughes were present at the United States Circuit Court of Appeals yesterday.

After making and entering the decrees and judgments of the court in the cases decided at this term the court adjourned until Friday, March 10th, at 12 o'clock.

York River Line.

A tri-weekly schedule goes into effect to-day. Steamers will leave West Point for Baltimore on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 5 P. M. Parties desiring to use this line should leave Richmond by the Richmond and Danville railroad at 3:10 P. M. on days named.

Additional expenses, if any, caused by delays on account of ice, must be borne by passenger.

What folly! To be without BEECHAM'S PILLS.

THE BLOODY ANGLE.

COL. CARTER ON GEN. WALKER'S ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE.

Artillery of the Army of Northern Virginia Never Taken by a Front Attack if Supported.

Editor of The Times:

I have read with interest in your Sunday's paper, General James A. Walker's account of the capture of General Edward Johnston's division, in the salient, near Spotsylvania Courthouse, May 12, 1864, and also the editorial on the subject in your issue of February 7th.

General Walker's record for splendid courage, as well as his whole career as a soldier, is well established and known in the Army of Northern Virginia, and is a guarantee of the correctness of his account of the battle as he said it.

While, however, the damp ammunition of the infantry may have prevented a successful resistance against the attack of Hancock, the chief cause of the capture of the division was the absence of the artillery from the line, the removal of which had been ordered and carried out the afternoon of May 11th.

This reason General Johnston always asserted with emphasis and feeling; he justly and indignantly denied to the end of his life the statement in some current accounts, and in one history, that he was surprised on this occasion.

The salient projected far in advance of the general direction of the line of battle. General Walker's description of the woods and ground around and works forming it is excellent.

Speaking in a general way, the whole projection, called the salient, may be likened to an irregularly shaped horseshoe, with heels turned out, a mile or more around and a half mile across the heels. It was a wretchedly defective line, in a military sense, its adoption having been brought about as described by General Walker. It was only kept because of the work done upon it, and the belief that our troops, entrenched, could never be driven out.

So defective was it that in the battle of the 10th in order to confront that onset I had to transfer the guns and caissons from the inside and right of the toe of the horse-shoe to the corresponding positions outside of the works, with our backs to the enemy at that point, fortunately not there in sight. But the breastworks were good of the kind, and much of the ground in front was sufficiently open to see for a short distance the enemy's lines, when charging, and had the artillery been in place the line could not have been carried.

One of my battalions of artillery in command of Major R. C. M. Page, occupied the toe and the right of the salient. It was withdrawn the afternoon of May 11th by order of General Long, chief of artillery, second corps (Ewell's), who was doubtless acting under orders, and who said the cavalry had reported the renewal of the flank movement towards Richmond by the enemy.

The object of the withdrawal of the artillery was to prevent the disclosure of our expected movement that night.

General Johnston protested at the time against the withdrawal of the artillery, saying he had been along his front and had seen no indication of a movement of the enemy.

I told him we greatly preferred to remain, the breastworks were built, we would be in place and, supported by infantry, absolutely impregnable against successful assault, but must, of course, obey orders. The battalion was taken to the rear, and went into bivouac.

The night was dark, murky and dripping. About 1 o'clock sounds of troops marching, counter-marching, halting and chopping bushes in front of the salient were reported to General Johnston. He at once dispatched a courier to General Ewell, reporting these facts, and asking the return of the artillery. This courier lost much time in finding General Ewell's and General Long's headquarters. Failing to return in time, General Johnston sent off another courier with more urgent calls for the artillery.

I was sleeping close by General Long's headquarters, and one of the couriers finally reached him. The order was quickly sent me to be in position by daybreak. Striking a light, I indorsed on the order that it was then twenty minutes to daybreak, and the men all asleep, but the artillery would be in place as soon as possible.

All too quickly it dashed out in the mud and darkness, the battery of my brother, Captain William Page Carter, in the lead, by turn, that morning. Most of this battalion reached the salient point just in time to be captured, before being unlimbered and placed in battery, the enemy pouring over the breast works in rear of them. Only one gun of Captain Carter's battery unlimbered in the very apex of the salient, and fired a single shot, when he, in person, helping to load the gun, heard behind him the order, "Stop firing that gun."

Turning his head, he saw within a few yards of him a large number of bluecoats, with muskets leveled at him and his men. He shouted to the officer, "Don't shoot my men," and, of course, was compelled at once to surender.

Captain Carter reports General Johnston limping up and down on top the breastworks, not deigning to protect himself, with stick in hand, from his wound at Aleghany, his clothes torn, encouraging his men in every way, by word and deed.

General Hancock said to General Harry Heth after the war that the attack on the salient was an accident, due to the location of a white house in front of it, which afforded a conspicuous object for the centre of his lines of battle for attack, and that he was not aware of the existance of a salient.

He furthermore said that he had 30,000 troops, in five or six lines of battle, and could have carried the salient, even had the artillery been in place.

The salient was a weak position, affording a divergent, instead of a convergent fire, and General Hancock believed, of course, what he said, for he was a gallant soldier and a gentleman, and the stoutest fighter of all the corps commanders we had to encounter during the war, his attacks always meaning heavy pounding from start to finish, but he is mistaken in this conjecture.

It would be a sufficient reply to say that neither he nor anyone else ever saw, during the war, a good line of artillery of the Army of Northern Virginia, properly suported by infantry in breastworks, with open front, carried by direct front assault, and the production of a single instance during the war may be safely challenged.

It matters not as to the five or six lines of battle in column of attack. When the front lines go down those in rear are not so eager to come along, the moral effect being as to the physical, several (or more) to one.

In further reply to General Hancock's surmise it should be stated that notwithstanding his success at first his attacking column never reached half way to the heels of the horse-shoe salient.

Some soldiers seem disposed to think artillery is "sound and fury signifying nothing."

True, it cannot take the place of infantry. Infantry is the bulwark of every army of every age. Men with muskets can scale heights, descend depths, pierce thickets, and, numbered by thousands, can go anywhere and fill the air with deadly missiles. Artillery is a dependent auxiliary, defenseless except under proper conditions, but massed in long line with open ground ahead is impregnable against front assault.

Skeptics would be disabused had they seen McClellan's sixty guns at Malvern Hill's plateau repulse time and again the flower of our infantry—the finest, in my belief, the world has ever seen.

I fully concur in the views you express in the editorial of the 7th of February as to the superiority of the Southern soldier over the Northern. To an ordinary intelligence an enlistment of 700,000 men, all told, half fed, half clothed, practically unpaid and poorly furnished in all appointments of war, holding at bay for four years an enlistment of 2,700,000 men, with above conditions exactly reversed, ought to furnish mathematical demonstration of the superiority of the Southern soldier over the Northern. The philosophic reasons for this fact are not so easy to fathom.

I have written the above to throw some additional light on a disaster which was not well understood in current accounts and which was always a source of irritation to General Johnston.

There was no sturdier, truer, braver division commander than General Edward Johnston, commonly known as "Old Alleghany." THOMAS H. CARTER.

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