COBB'S ISLAND.

UNUSUALLY FINE SPORT, FISHING AND GUNNING.

A Charming Company, and All That Goes to Make Up a Pleasant Summer Outing.

(From a staff correspondent of the Richmond Dispatch.)

COBB'S ISLAND, VA., July 19.—The consciousness of a duty to chronicle the glorious sports and events at Cobb's comes to me with a shock not unlike that which called forth an emphatic expletive from the father of Kenneth Chillingly, when his youthful, but philosophical son interrupted him when in the act of hooking a brook trout with the psychological reflection: "Father, were you ever struck with the sense of your own identity?"

Yes, there is no time for reading, writing, or ciphering; it is fish or hunt on tides, and bathe, sail, compare notes on game bagged, or make preparation for other expeditions between tides—so the days fly by.

A GLUT OF FISH.

It is an undeniable fact that the fishing at Cobb's has been growing poorer and poorer for several years past. Indeed, it had grown so bad until recently that the fishermen were well-nigh disheartened. But a new method of fishing was tried last week, and with such gratifying success, that bushels and bushels of fine fish have been thrown away, because they could not be consumed upon the island.

BETWEEN THE DEVIL AND DEEP SEA.

The revolution in fishing came about in this wise: Gulls in great numbers had been seen for days hovering over and striking in the inlet and deep ship channel back of the island. On Saturday Davis Isdell took a party of gentlemen, consisting of Professors Charles W. Kent and W. M. Lile, of the university; Mr. R. W. Moore, of Fairfax, Va.; Mr. Charles P. James, of Leesburg, Va., and Professor J. W. Kern, of Alexandria, out to investigate the character of fish the birds were after. They drifted with the tide, and were soon hauling in fine large trout as fast as they could bait and pull. In two hours and a half they had landed 230 fish. The sport still continues, and the old habitue who arrives now will be surprised to see the fishing fleet drifting through the inlet with sails up, instead of anchored in Loon, and other channels.

The gulls hover over and strike at the little fish known as silversides, which are driven to the top by schools of trout feeding upon them below. We thus have a practical exemplification of the old saying "Between the devil and the deep sea."

A GREAT CATCH OF FISH.

Several parties have made trips to the Chesapeake Bay for blue fishing. All met with success, but the catch of the season was made by Rev. Thomas Dixon, Jr., and Mr. W. Ashby Jones. They fished with light rods, and in the first hour and fifteen minutes caught 25 red drum, aggregating 750 pounds. In the two hours immediately following they landed in the same boat 105 bluefish. This fishing was done by means of what is known as "chumming"—a machine somewhat like a sausage grinder is placed on the side of the boat and a barrel or so of fish caught in nets or pounds provided. These are ground up and thrown overboard. The oil from the fish produces a "slick" upon the top of the water which is carried for miles by the tide. The fish are thus attracted and finally come up to the boat often in great quantities. It is an exciting but by no means a cleanly sport.

THE COMPANY.

There is a goodly company here, and among them some charming people. The place is comfortably filled, though not crowded. The hotel is as well, if not better, kept than ever before. This, however, does not imply style, luxury, or any great degree of comfort. We have good bread, and the table generally is very good. This has been especially noticeable since the arrival from Richmond of Harrison Holmes, the head-waiter. It can be said in all truth, that Messrs. Cobb & Spady are ever ready to do all in their power to please their guests.

AS OF YORE.

Cobb's is reached as of yore, and about the same schedule as last year is run, with the same little noisy gas-engine boat, and its pretty little captain, Miss Ionia Roly.

Mr. J. B. Williams, of the stage-line, is as attentive and obliging as ever.

The islanders have a large fleet of comfortable and fast sailing boats for fishing and sailing, and their prices are moderate. The place was never so well supplied in this respect. As the boys grow up they are graduated for this business. Captain Henry Cobb, the youngest, save one, of the Cobb family, mans his little skiff, the White Chief, with pride and ability, and to the satisfaction of his patrons.

The cottage of Rev. Thomas Dixon, built last spring, and known as "Ye Curlew Nest," is a bright, cosy structure. It is a great addition to the island, and has been much admired.

Birds are just beginning to come in plenty. Several fine bunches of grayback and other snipe have been brought in.

The beach is excellent this year, and bathing is greatly enjoyed.

PERSONAL.

General and Mrs. Harry Heth have been here for three weeks. The General was in very feeble health, and a great sufferer from insomnia when he came. He is wonderfully improved, and sleeps like an infant.

Colonel Charles Wingo left last week, much to the general regret. He became an expert blue-fisherman and sailor during his brief stay, and in addition thereto, lost his umbrella.

Belles are plentiful, but beaux are sadly needed. Among the charming young ladies from Richmond are Misses Lena, Bessie, and Lillian Hancock, and Miss Bessie Catlin.

Mrs. General Long, of Charlottesville, and Mrs. J. B. Lightfoot, of Richmond, are probably the most agreeable talkers among the married ladies; Mrs. J. D. Burns, of Charlottesville, the most classically beautiful, and Mrs. Maude Fellner, of Pine Bluff, Ark., the most strikingly statuesque.

Mr. W. T. Sturgis alias Sir Walter Raleigh, of Northampton county, is the same wonderful and convenient hand-book of Cobb's Island travel.

Old Frank Reynolds shaved off his moustache for a dollar the other day, and now he has neither the moustache nor the dollar, but still claims to be the handsomest man in Virginia. He holds the knife.

Handsome Carl Isdell and Miss Ester Wyatt, both of the island, ran off last spring, and were married in Maryland. Why they ran off, save for the romance of the thing, no one knows.

The Virginia Press Association were to have met here next week, but the vice-president writes that owing to the difficulty of obtaining transportation, the meeting will not be held here this year.

Among the guests here are: From Richmond— Mr. W. T. Hancock and family, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Catlin and Miss Bessie Catlin, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Lightfoot, Mr. L. C. Tucker and family, Mr. J. Felix Smith, Mr. R. Smith, Mr. R. L. Arthur, Mr. J. B. Winston, and Colonel and Mrs. C. O'B. Cowardin and family; Major John W. Johnston and family, Miss Lola Hatfield, and Miss M. Hatfield, New York; Dr. A. B. Mitchell, Joseph Reynolds, Miss Reynolds, Mr. and Mrs. V. Dorsey, Mr. Marsh, General Heath and wife, Petersburg, Va.; Mr. J. W. Herrn Memphis, Tenn.; Mr. David Callender and wife, Petersburg, Va.; Mr. J. W. Heron and family, Alexandria, Va.; Mr. J. E. Campbell and family, Louisville, Ky.; Mrs. General Long and the Miss Peytons, Mrs. J. D. Bruns and Messrs. J. P. Bruns and R. M. Bruns, Charlottesville, Va.; Miss Pleasants, of Hollins Institute, Va.; Mrs. Maud Fellner and son and Miss Blanch Silverman, Pine Bluff, Ark.; Miss Turner of Little Rock, Ark.; Mrs. E. M. Thompson, Brownsville, Tenn.; Mr. W. J. Fowlke, Mr. C. R. Fowlke, Miss Addie Luck, Mrs. A. C. Robertson and children, Danville, Va.; Professor W. M. Lile, Dr. Charles W. Hurt, and R. W. Moore, University of Virginia; Charles P. Jenney and Miss L. Jenney, Leesburg, Va.; Judge W. E. Hemingway and family and Miss Turner, Little Rock, Ark.; Mr. G. A. Rosch and family, Mr. George Rineheart and family, Mr. John W. Brady, and Mrs. E. A. Ramsey, Baltimore.

Summer Visitors at Keswick.

KESWICK, VA., July 21.—(Special.)—The neighborhood is full of boarders and visitors at present. Among the many I notice at "Cloverfields," the residence of Mr. F. M. Randolph, are Dr. J. M. Gassoway and family, of New Orleans; Mrs. F. H. Baldwin, New Orleans; Miss Vairin, New Orleans; Mrs. Z. King and family, Arcadia, Fla.; Mrs. Howard Hoge and family, Richmond, and Messrs. J. A. Chisholm, Savannah, Ga.; F. M. Chisholm, New York, and John Jay, New York.

At "Edgehill," Judge Newman and family, of Atlanta, Ga.; Misses Walters, of Savannah, Ga.; Mrs. King, of Georgia, and others.

At "Fruitlands," the home of Mr. A. P. Fox, Mr. J. N. Upshur and family, of Richmond; Mrs. Foster and family, of Richmond; Miss Crow, of Richmond, and Mrs. E. L. Fox, of Scottsville.

At "La Fourche," the residence of Dr. C. S. Bowcock, Hon. C. R. Sands and family, of Richmond; Dr. R. L. Bowcock and family, of Anniston, Ala.; Mrs. Morris, of Richmond.

At "Sunnyside," the home of Mr. J. B. Pace, Bishop H. M. Jackson, of Alabama.

At "Goshen Park," the home of Mr. H. W. Jackson, Mr. John Hancock and Mr. Lewis Hardin.

At "Clamont," the residence of Colonel H. W. Fuller, Mr. and Mrs. Talbert, of Kentucky.

At "Broad Oak," the residence of Mr. E. C. Mead, Mrs. Harwood, Mrs. Franklin Harwood, and Miss Heggarty, of Richmond.

The drought here is terrible in the extreme.

GAY TIMES AT ALLEGHANY.

All Sorts of Fun, Including an Auction of Young Ladies in the Ball-Room.

(Correspondence of the Dispatch.)

ALLEGHANY SPRINGS, VA., July 21.—The tide of travel from the seaside has already set in, and each day brings in those who have enjoyed their two weeks in the surf and are now anxious to settle down for the remainder of the summer under the shadow of the mountains. Here there are no mosquitoes, no fear of malaria, and no glare of sunlight on the sand and water—only the restful green of turf and trees and the blue light on the hills. Alleghany is rapidly filling up and will be crowded to overflowing in August.

There is an unusually bright and merry party of young people already here, who devise every sort of amusement to fill in the hours. Drag parties, germans, cake-walks, bowling parties, &c.

Tuesday night there was an unusually brilliant german of twenty-eight couples, lead by Mr. Will Colhoun. A large number of Blacksburg cadets were present, and attracted great admiration in their natty uniforms, the female mind being prone to a weakness for brass buttons. Such good chances are not often seen as these same soldier boys.

An excursion from here to Natural Bridge and Luray is being planned by a party of ten from New Orleans, which will doubtless be a great success.

BOWLING PARTY.

Wednesday morning a bowling party was given by Mr. H. B. Stone and Messrs. Will and Ed. Colhoun. Those present were Mesdames McElroy and Pleasants, and Misses Chaffe, Giffen, Cottane, and McCue; gentlemen, Messrs. Seymour, MacDonald, Stone, and Ed. and Will Colhoun.

Mrs. McElroy carried off first ladies' prize, and Mr. Stone first gentlemen's.

A gypsy tea party in the woods is in contemplation.

Wednesday night there was an auction of young ladies in the ball-room. Stock had fallen in consequence of a glut in the market, so prices ranged only from fair to middling. There were some blocks went very low.

It is said that "the rain comes when the wind calls," so the wind has been closely watched for many weeks, but only yesterday was its call responded to by a gentle shower. A week's rain would not be too much after such a drought.

Judge Waller Staples has arrived.

Judge and Mrs. L. L. Lewis are expected the 1st of August.

Mrs. R. W. Clarke, wife of the Representative in Congress from Mobile, is here, with her sister, Mrs. Sallie Foote Waller. Both ladies are great favorites in Richmond. They will be joined by Mrs. Gardiner Tyler, who, as Miss Mary Morris Jones, had such hosts of friends in Richmond, who will not soon cease to regret giving her up.

Mr. William H. Pleasants, formerly of Richmond, but now of Jacksonville, Fla., has brought his charming wife to spend the summer at Alleghany.

A letter from this place which did not tell of the two fair woman, Mrs. McElroy and Miss Chaffe, of New Orleans, would be as broth without salt—to use a homely Scotch phrase. Their refined beauty and gracious manners win the admiration of all.

The Association of Engineers of Virginia, which met here last week, was an unusually intelligent-looking body of men. Their meeting was very pleasant, and several interesting papers were read and discussed.

Mr. J. O. Eckford, Consul to Jamaica, spent several days at Alleghany recently. He is in the States on furlough, and gives a most interesting account of his life in the beautiful little island.

ARRIVALS.

There are now over 150 guests here. Amongst late arrivals are: Mrs. E. A. Stanford and family, New Orleans; Mrs. T. C. Edwards, New Orleans; Miss Edwards, New Orleans; Mrs. R. H. Clarke and daughter, Mobile; Mrs. Sallie Foote Waller, Mobile; Misses Eckford and Estill, Aberdeen, Miss.; Judge Waller Staples, Virginia; Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Staples and family, Roanoke; Miss May Kellogg, Roanoke; Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Leary, Atlanta; Misses Leary, Atlanta; Mr. William Leary, Atlanta; Mrs. Sarling, Columbus, Ga.; Dr. C. S. Webb and family, Atlanta; J. O. Eckford, Aberdeen; Miss Marion Giffen, New Orleans; Mr. and Mrs. William H. Pleasants, Jacksonville; Mrs. F. L. Bradley, New York.

OCRACOKE'S SUCCESSFUL SEASON.

Improvements Since Last Year—A Large Company, Including Prominent People.

(Correspondence of the Dispatch.)

OCRACOKE, N. C., July 20.—Since your correspondent wrote from this delightful seaside resort last summer, the hotel property has changed hands, being purchased during the winter by Mr. N. B. Selby, who is now conducting a very successful season. The new owner has made many improvements since taking charge, adding both to the beauty and comfort of the building.

The number of guests at Ocracoke this season is quite large, many prominent people from different parts of the State being among them. From Greenville there are ex-Congressman L. C. Latham and family, C. T. Munford and wife, B. S. Sheppard and family, Ola Forbes and family, C. T. Munford and wife, Editor D. J. Whichard and family, Mrs. J. J. Laughinghouse and two daughters, Captain C. A. White and son, J. G. Moye, J. J. Cherry, and family, and others.

OTHER GUESTS.

Among those from Washington I notice J. H. Small and family, T. W. Tilghman and family, John Fowle and family, F. V. Rowe and wife, T. Harvey Myers and wife, C. E. Wahob and family, and others. From Wilson, F. M. Williams, A. P. Branch and wife, P. B. Deans and family, R. G. Briggs, C. B. Ruffin, J. T. Wiggins, D. Herring, and Lot Williams. From Tarboro', Dr. M. B. Pitt, H. B. Macnair, R. B. Hyatt, R. H. Williams. From Asheville, Colonel W. E. Williamson. From Salisbury, Editor J. R. Whichard and family, M. C. Quinn and son. From Makleyville, H. W. Wahob and George Credle. Several other towns are represented.

Many others have been here, and in looking over the register for a few days I find the names of J. E. Routh and family, and Miss Dunlop, of Petersburg.

A camp-meeting will be held on the island, beginning August 9th. These are occasions attended by large crowds and much interest.

This is the finest place for fishing and bathing on the coast. Some gentlemen from Tarboro' took home with them this morning thirty-five large sheephead, the result of their skill with rod and line.

WYTHEVILLE'S GAY SEASON.

Mrs. Kent's Brilliant Reception—Lawn Party Prevented by a Rain-Storm.

WYTHEVILLE, VA., July 21.—(Special.)—Mrs. L. G. Kent gave the most charming of the season's entertainments on Tuesday afternoon and evening.

The reception for the married ladies was held from 5 until 7 o'clock. Mesdames R. C. Kent, R. L. Poage, F. H. Terry, and Stephen Putney, of Richmond, received with the hostess, and were most becomingly gowned, Mrs. T. S. Kent in white silk, with purple violets; Mrs. Poage in white silk, with pink sweet-peas; Mrs. R. C. Kent in black silk, Mrs. Terry in blue silk, and Mrs. Putney in white silk.

From a bower of ferns and wild clematis blossoms. Miss Annis Kent served the claret punch, and Misses Ellen and Flora Stewart, and Helen Moore were the pretty waitresses.

The reception-rooms were transformed into fairyland by softly-shaded lamps and masses of ferns and flowers everywhere. Tall ferns and pink lotus buds decorated the hall, and exquisite cut-flowers beautified the lunch-room.

The young ladies and gentlemen were invited for the evening, and elaborate preparations were made for a most charming lawn party. A gypsy tent, where fortunes were to be told, bonfires, Chinese lanterns, and other accessories were in readiness, when a violent windstorm, spoiling the perfect plan.

PLENTY OF FUN.

But youth is not easily daunted. After the shower the moon came out, and most of the eager guests assembled to throng the house and porches, and found plenty of compensation in games, music, and conversation for the fun they had missed.

Mr. and Mrs. Christian and daughters, of New Orleans, and Mrs. Friend, and Miss Laura Jones, of Petersburg, are at Mrs. W. S. Poage's.

Misses Holt, of Lynchburg, are visiting at Judge W. H. Boiling's.

Mrs. Barclay, of Baltimore, is making a visit to her father-in-law, Rev. T. M. Barclay.

Mr. West, Jr., of the firm of West & Randolph, of Richmond, is stopping at the Fourth-Avenue Hotel.

A DEBUTANT'S PARTY.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Spiller gave a beautiful debut-party to their eldest daughter, Miss Sue Spiller, last evening. One hundred and fifty guests were invited, and a large proportion of them were present. The beautiful lawn and handsome pillared porches were lighted with bright-colored lanterns. The Wytheville String Band furnished the music for the dancers, and there were other diversions for those who did not wish to dance. A delicious supper, comprising every suitable delicacy, was served at a late hour, and the best part of the moonlit night was gone before the happy young revellers turned their feet homewards.

Miss Sue Spiller is a very pretty and most lovable young lady, and will fully sustain Wytheville's reputation for charming girls.

Thirteen guests arrived at the Boyd Home on last Sunday.

Messrs. J. L. Presson and Herbert G. Hull, of New York, who have been looking after their iron interests at Ivanhoe, in this county, are in Wytheville this evening, guests of General J. A. Walker.

Excursions and horseback parties to Chimney Rocks, the Fish Hatchery, Stony Fork, and other points of interest are very popular since the weather has been so delightfully cool. The "ant beds" on top of the mountain make an interesting point for a drive or excursion, but it is not so well known to the visitors.

The Fish Hatchery property is now owned by the United States, and they are making a beautiful spot of it. Pond lilies and Egyptian lotus cover the beautiful lakes, and many varieties of bright-coated fish dart here and there in the clear water.

The weekly german will be given at the Boyd House Friday evening.

General James A. Walker will address the Confederate veterans of Floyd county at their reunion on the 28th.

Misses Motts, of Texas; Milner and Ford, of Baltimore, and Louise McMaster, of Princess Anne county, Maryland, are visiting Miss Sue Spiller.

IN STAUNTON'S SOCIAL CIRCLES.

Notable Events of the Week and Movements of Well-Known People.

STAUNTON, VA., July 20.—(Special.)—Mr. McChesney Yarbrough and Miss Mary Yarbrough, of Richmond, are in the city, guests of their grandmother, Mrs. William S. McChesney, on Kalorama street.

The Rev. A. B. Snead, a young clergyman, of Pulaski City, Va., is in the city, the guest of Mr. Robert C. Craig.

Mr. H. O. Williams, of Richmond, State Secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association, is in the city, visiting Captain Hugh M. McIlhany.

Miss Annie De Pras and child returned from a fortnight's visit to New York city, where she was the guest of her aunt, Mrs. Louise Todd.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Judson Cushing left Thursday for a visit to Atlantic City.

Mr. and Mrs. Milton P. Funkhouser left Thursday to spend the summer at Black Rock Springs.

Miss Janie Robertson is in Harrisonburg, visiting Miss M. L. Conrad.

Mr. Grayson Burruss, of Richmond, spent several days here this week.

Major and Mrs. Benjamin T. Bagby are at Atlantic City.

Miss S. Glenn Atkinson is in Winchester, the guest of Miss Cary Barton.

Captain Charles Littleton Cooke and family and Mrs. Kate Kilby have rented a rustic cottage in Buffalo Gap, and are spending the summer there.

Mrs. Lyman Chalkley has been quite sick for two weeks past.

Mr. Selden Walke has accepted a clerkship at the Warm Springs Hotel.

Mrs. Edward M. Alexander is at Variety Springs.

Miss Madge Gilkeson is visiting friends at Brandy.

Mr. and Mrs. John Brackley are spending their vacation at Augusta Springs.

Captain Charles S. Roller is in Richmond this week.

Mrs. Ludolph W. Gunther and her son, Mr. Chandler B. Gunther, of Baltimore, are in this city, guests of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Burke, on east Frederick street.

Mrs. Talulah E. Dabs, of Fort Smith, Ark., arrived Thursday from Lexington, Ky., and is the guest of Lieutenant and Mrs. Albert J. Dabney. Mrs. Dabs spends each summer here, and is a charming addition to Staunton's social circles.

Misses Mamie and Addie Slig are in Salem, the guests of Mrs. Frank Chalmers, on Union street.

Mr. Allan Caperton Braxton is at "Elmwood," Union county, W. Va., where he is one of a house-party at the country home of Mrs. Judge Bingham, of Washington, D. C.

Mr. J. W. Tinsley, of Middlebrook, has been appointed principal of a Hagerstown (Md.) male high school.

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Robertson have returned from their wedding journey, and are now at the Wesleyan Female Institute.

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Shuey, of Washington, D. C., are spending the summer at their country home, near Buffalo Gap, this county.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Barkman are visiting Mrs. W. H. Matheney, of McDowell.

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander F. Robinson have returned from a ten-days' visit to Virginia Beach.

Mrs. Charles E. Young, of Charlottesville, is the guest of her sister, Mrs. Mary Atkinson Walke.

A GOOD LOCAL AGENT.

Mr. John Randolph Tucker, Jr., oldest son of Congressman Harry St. George Tucker, is the local agent of General Fitzhugh Lee's "Life of General Robert E. Lee."

Mr. L. A. Frazier, formerly one of the proprietors of Yost's Weekly, has sold his interest therein to Messrs. A. B. Blackburn and W. C. Straughan, and has attached himself to the Staunton Daily News.

The Rev. Robert C. Jett, of Immanuel Episcopal church, is enjoying an outing at Atlantic City.

Rev. A. M. Frazier, pastor of First Presbyterian church, is spending the summer with his family, near Rockbridge Baths.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank D. Kennedy have returned from their wedding journey.

The Staunton Baptist church has voted its pastor, the Rev. W. J. Cox, a vacation for the month of August.

Licentiate David K. Walthall, of Union Theological Seminary, will fill the pulpit at the First Presbyterian church during Mr. Frazier's absence on his vacation, beginning Sunday, the 22d instant.

Miss Ellen Guigon has just returned to the city after a visit of several months to friends in the Northern Neck of Virginia.

Mrs. Walter Q. Hullihen, who has been an invalid for several months, left Friday for Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, accompanied by her husband, the Rev. Walter Q. Hullihen.

Messrs. Peter H. Mayo and Thomas Nelson Carter, of Richmond, passed through here this week en route to Goshen, where their families are spending the summer.

Miss Eliza Braxton is visiting friends in Norfolk en route home from Virginia Beach, where she spent a fortnight.

Mr. W. Dabney Crenshaw, of Richmond, was in the city this week.

Mr. Thomas R. Joynes, of Petersburg, is spending the summer here.

Mr. Algernon B. Reese, of Charlotte, N. C., is spending a few days here, visiting his father, Dr. B. P. Reese.

Mrs. John D. Young, of Louisville, accompanied by her daughter, Miss Evalyn Young, are in the city, guests of Mrs. David May.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Burke and Mrs. William Starke Burke are spending an outing at Atlantic City.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Mason Miller are spending the summer at Cold Sulphur Springs.

Mrs. Henry C. Lay, of Baltimore, is in the city, visiting her brother, Dr. B. M. Atkinson.

Miss Evelyn Spottiswood Berkely, is spending several weeks at Virginia Beach, chaperoned by Mrs. Robert L. Parrish, of Covington.

The handsomest equipage in the city is a handsome pair of Kentucky-bred, docktailed bay horses, given by General John Echols, of Louisville, to his daughter, Mrs. M. Erskine Miller. These horses have taken prizes in the show rings at St. Louis. The turnout, handsome carriage, with its splendidly-appointed harness, is not surpassed by any equipage in the State.

ROCK ALUM FILLING UP.

Varied Amusements, Including Seances, Serenades, Card Parties, Etc.

(Correspondence of the Dispatch.)

ROCKBRIDGE ALUM SPRINGS, VA., July 21.—The season is already a great one here, and the bookings for the next ten days assure a very large crowd by the 1st of August. Every train this week has brought a number of guests. Mr. B. F. Terry, the very efficient manager, has been kept busy locating them in the hotels and cottages. Hops take place every evening, and are being well patronized, although they will not attain their brilliancy before the 1st of August. Fishing-parties have varied the pleasures for the men, and some fine "brook trout" were caught not far from this place, and enjoyed for breakfast by those who were the favored ones. Cards still hold their sway, and grow in popularity. Mrs. Horace McDermont, of Dayton, Ohio, who was so well known in Maryland as Miss Rosalie Thurston, gave a beautiful euchre-party on last Monday evening at her cottage. The porch was brilliantly lighted, and made very attractive with wild flowers and ferns, blue and white predominating in the decorations. The prizes were handsome, and were won by Mrs. Robert Cabell and Mr. Brice, of North Carolina. Mrs. McDermont is prominent here, as one of the promoters of social pleasure, and she has made many friends.

PRETTY GIRLS.

There are some very pretty girls among the guests, and one or two reigning beauties. Prominent among the late arrivals are: Mrs. Clark, of Florida, who was Miss Barbour, of Virginia, and first cousin of Mr. Barbour Thompson, of the Richmond and Danville railroad; Miss Elizabeth West, great-niece of Thomas Jefferson, her mother being Lucy Isham Randolph.

SPIRITUALISTIC SEANCE.

One of the most entertaining and novel events of the past week was a spiritualistic seance given at Mrs. Cabell's cottage, in Baltimore Row, on Wednesday evening. The mystic and witching hour of 12 P. M. was the one selected for the meeting. Hypnotic influences filled the air, and fascinated the entranced spectators, who were eager to be initiated into the weird mysteries. Fortunes were told, and spirits of departed friends were called up, not by central office, but by medium, whose powers were truly marvellous. Ghost-stories filled the air until the gray dawn, for the experiences were so realistic that, for that night at least, Morpheus had no power to charm nor arms to woo.

A SERENADE.

A beautiful serenade was tendered the "Lulu Gang" by Major John Ludlow, of Norfolk, their president and organizer. Delightful music for the moment even quieted their restless and exuberant spirits. After its soothing influence had held sway its hearers, in the spirit of poesy, took possession, and an extempore selection was inscribed to the popular and deserving Major Ludlow, who is the "prince of good-fellows," and contributes so much to the enjoyment of the guests at these Springs. Mrs. C. C. McPhail was toasted as the general wit of the party. It is needless to add she responded in her very best manner.

COMING EVENTS.

A "fancy ball" for children is booked for August 7th, to be followed by a "Bal Pondre" the next week for the older folks.

The crowd has increased so much that the Grand Hotel and Burke Cottage have been opened and are rapidly filling up. Wagon-loads of trunks from the railroad depot are seen ascending the hill as I write this hurried letter, and there is one steady rush of belles and beaux, the like of which has not been known for several years.

The many friends of Mr. William G. Waller will be sorry to hear of his extreme illness. Mr. Waller came here several weeks ago in wretched health, and has grown steadily worse. Mrs. Waller was telegraphed for, and reached here today. Mr. Waller is a nephew of President John Tyler, and for many years was managing editor of the Times, in Richmond, Va.

A very merry coaching party came over from the Warm Springs and spent yesterday with us, among them being Mr. and Mrs. Brydon Tennant, of Richmond; Mrs. Allan Donnan, of Richmond, who is the daughter of Dr. Talmage, of New York; Mr. George Gibson, of Baltimore, and Mr. W. T. Dill, of Norfolk.

ARRIVALS.

The arrivals this week are M. J. Hessburg and wife, Danville, Va.; Mrs. Lawrence Schoolcraft and child, Virginia; Mrs. C. C. Shriver, Baltimore; Miss Payne, Warrenton, Va.; Mrs. Shadruck, Culpeper; Mr. Waller R. Staples, Roanoke; Miss Staples; Mrs. Martin, Virginia; Mrs. A. J. Watkins, Miss Elise and Miss Nellie Watkins, all of Richmond, Va.; Mr. Lee G. Watkins, Staunton, Va.; Mr. Charles A. Bland, Charlotte, N. C.; Mrs. W. A. Gregg, Charlotte; Dr. L. E. Flannigen, Charlottesville; Mrs. H. D. Shrewsbury, Charleston, W. Va. (four children and two nurses); Mrs. Tate Sterrett, child, and nurse, Virginia; Mr. and Mrs. Brydon Tennant, Richmond, Va.; Mrs. Allan Donnan, Richmond; J. L. Minor, Virginia, G. B. Stacy, Richmond, Va.; George T. M. Gibson, Esq., Baltimore; J. N. Brown and wife, Miss Brown, Anderson, Va.; Mrs. E. L. Perryman, Miss Perryman, Mobile, Ala.; Mrs. M. G. Hudson, Mobile, Ala.; J. E. Dame, Esq., Richmond, Va.; A. R. Cocke, Virginia; General and Mrs. Charles E. Hooker, Mississippi; A. A. Martin, Esq., Portsmouth; Dr. and Mrs. A. G. Watson, Joseph A. Watson, Miss Edna Watson, Baltimore, Md.; Mrs. Ridgley McBlair, Master McBlair, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. S. J. Ryan, Washington; J. N. Smith and wife, Charlotte, N. C.; Miss E. West, Washington, D. C.; Dr. H. W. Harper, University of Texas; Mrs. Oates and daughter, Charlotte, N. C.; Miss Graham, Miss Hickenson, Charlotte, N. C.; Mr. and Mrs. P. Letterman, three children, two nurses, Charlottesville; Mr. Kaufman, wife, and child, Maryland; G. D. Letcher, Esq., Lexington, Va.; Mrs. George B. McAdams, Richmond, Va.; Mr. Thomas McAdams, Miss Louise McAdams, Miss Mattie Bowie, Richmond.

Everybody is interested in the approaching encampment of the First Virginia Regiment, under command of the gallant Colonel James Branch, of Richmond. An influx of pretty young girls is expected next week from Lexington, Baltimore, and other places, which, with the soldier boys, will make "revelry by night."

Miss McLaurine's Reception.

BALLSVILLE, VA., July 17.—(Special.)—Since the silver wedding of Rev. and Mrs. John R. Bagby, on June 27th, nothing has afforded our young people more pleasure than the little reception given by Miss Edna McLaurine in honor of her guests, Misses Cordie Winston, of Bowling Green, Va.; Lily McLaurine, of Washington, D. C., and Annie L. Farrar, of Jetersville, Va.

About fifty young friends were present and the large yard at "Mt. Laurel," lighted up by Japanese lanterns, presented a peculiarly bright and attractive appearance, as the happy young faces of those lovely girls and attentive boys moved to and fro. The evening was perfect, and from 8 till 12 o'clock the gayeties lasted, only interrupted by a call to refreshments, which were abundant and served on a long table on the lawn. Long will this occasion be remembered by some—and longer by some who possibly may be able to date a new-found happiness to this little social.

The Alliance people, or Populists, will have a grand pic-nic at this place on July 27th. Dr. Winston will address them.

Ballsville, it seems, is to have two new tobacco-factories. Mr. Milton McLaurine is preparing to build, and the Alliance folks talk of building, too.

Improvements Needed.

(Chicago Record.)

Theatrical manager: I've just been reading Shakespeare's "Hamlet," and I'm struck on it.

The Play-mender: Yes, sir.

Theatrical manager: But it's too all-fired gloomy, and now I want you to take hold of it and liven it up for our new specialty company's trip out West.

In Turn, Like Clothes.

(Truth.)

"So your brother has the measles, Johnnie? When are you going to have them?"

"When my brother gets through with them, I suppose."

At the Last Day.

(Detroit Free Press.)

St. Peter: Are they all up?

Gabriel (taking another blow on his trumpet): Yes, everybody except the Philadelphians.

CAPT. HARROLD DEAD

THE MAN WHO MARRIED MRS. SARRELL AND THEN DISAPPEARED.

Crops Ruined by the Long Drought—A Fruit Enterprise—Large Wheat Yield—Northern Neck Politics.

COMORN, KING GEORGE COUNTY, VA., July 21.—(Special.)—Captain James Harrold, who several months ago came here from Washington, D. C., and married Mrs. Anna Sarrell, at first sight, and then suddenly disappeared one day while the bride was out, died in Washington a few days ago. The romantic marriage, which grew out of an advertisement, created almost endless comment. The groom's very sudden and unexplained disappearance so soon after the marriage created a new sensation, and before these unusual occurrences cease to interest gossips and quidnuncs here comes the news of the old "Cap.'s" sudden demise, to still further keep his name sounding over the hills here, that knew him scarcely long enough to love him

Mr. Harrold was a pensioner, and his widow here will visit Washington next week, and claim her right to his pensions in the future.

A BOY DROWNED.

A very sad case of drowning occurred here a few days ago. Three little boys were boating in a mill-pond, when one of them, against the protests of the others, jumped overboard to dive, and as he did not rise, it is supposed that he became fastened in the mud at the bottom of the pond. The two could do nothing to extricate their unfortunate companion—nothing but to break the heart-rending news to the grief-stricken parents. Some time afterwards the little fellow's body was recovered.

The crops in some sections of Stafford county have so long suffered from the drought that no amount of rain now can redeem them. Some of the farmers there state that their fields have not been wet since about the middle of May, and that the sections which have suffered most will not produce a bushel of corn per acre, even on the best soil.

Rev. W. G. Bates, Captain G. W. Gribsby, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Minor, and others, of this county, are this week in Mathews county, in attendance upon the Methodist District Conference.

Mr. and Mrs. Osceola Green, of Chicago, are visiting their aunt here, Mrs. Fielding Lewis.

Mr. Joseph Perry, one of the oldest mechanics here, cut his foot very severely a day or two ago while hewing a post, and his condition since has been serious.

Mrs. William Murphy died near Passapatanzy, this county, a few days ago, after a brief illness.

Misses Nancy and Georgie Green and Miss Helen Pollack, of Washington, D. C., are guests of the Misses Lewis, here.

FRUIT EVAPORATOR.

For several weeks past Dr. T. T. Arnold, an enterprising farmer here, has had a large fruit-evaporator in full blast, preparing for the winter markets enormous quantities of blackberries. This enterprise has made a good local market for berries, and opened employment for most of the boys and colored women in the neighborhood.

The large canning establishment which has been in course of preparation for some months at Port Conway is about ready to begin operations. This promises to furnish a market for a variety of vegetables and employment for a number of hands.

Many of the most prominent residences of the county are well filled with city people, some of whom are visiting relatives, while others are boarding here to escape the heat of the crowded cities.

The weather during a part of this week has been too warm to work farm-teams more than a few hours in the mornings—the thermometer registering as high as 100 in the afternoons.

The wheat yield, now that threshing is about finished, is the largest and most satisfactory for many years. Some of the King George farmers threshed over 2,000 bushels each. Mr. J. J. Sale, in the upper end of the county, raised 1,400 bushels of wheat and 700 bushels of oats.

A few King Georgians, who have thus far failed to solve the problem of "hard times" and who cannot see their way out of their straitened circumstances, have turned their eyes towards the ranks of the Industrial army, but so far their feet have not followed those wandering eyes. No one is willing to take the lead in that direction, and it would be entirely unlike King Georgians to make any such move.

POLITICAL.

The political feeling among the masses here is very unsettled. The Populists have somewhat better blood for the Democrats now than they had last year, and do not show such signs of fight as formerly. The Democratic Executive Committee will probably effect a complete organization the first week in August, but the other two parties seem to be holding off, and it is very doubtful whether either of them will be in the congressional fight next fall—in fact, a prominent Republican has already said that as the Eighth District is safe to the Democrats, it would be much more discouraging and disastrous to King George Republicans to take a hand in the fight and then be defeated, than it would be to simply hold off and accept defeat, nothing sacrificed. And it is certain that leading Populists here are of the same opinion at present concerning their party. The course of these Republicans and Populists for the next sixty to ninety days will depend upon the edicts of the State leaders to some extent, though it is thought by no means certain that they can be mustered out, even by the big-guns. These allusions are made advisedly, and not merely as conjectures.

The lower district of Stafford county, adjoining this, will vote on local-option the first week in August. So far there has been nothing like a canvass made there on the issue, and it is understood that none will be made, although a goodly number of both parties are quite enthusiastic on the subject.

A MARRIAGE AT MEHERRIN.

Mr. Lee W. Morton Weds Miss Page Pettus—Brilliant Reception.

MEHERRIN, VA., July 21.—(Special.)—Our little village was the scene of a brilliant gathering on Wednesday night, the occasion being the marriage of one of Meherrin's most attractive and accomplished young ladies, Miss Page Pettus, of "The Castle," daughter of Captain T. T. Pettus, a brave ex-Confederate officer, and one of our highly-honored citizens, to Mr. Lee Morton, of Eureka Mills, Va., a brother of Major J. W. Morton, of Keysville, and Mr. John R. Morton, of this place. The ceremony was performed at the Wesleyan Methodist Episcopal church, by Rev. A. B. Sharp, assisted by Dr. W. E. Edwards. The church decorations were most artistic, doing credit to the taste of the friends of the bride. The Lohengrin march was beautifully rendered by Miss Lucy Morton, of Keysville. Mr. J. M. White was best-man. The ushers—sixteen in number—were Messrs. Thomas Spencer, Flood Morton, Charles Jackson, Flournoy Morton, Taylor Jackson, C. C. Wall, G. V. Morton, Charles Dance, B. O. Scott, E. W. Dickerson, J. W. Davis, Charles Rhodes, Julian Price, and J. H. Price. The lady attendants were Misses Nettie