

THE OCALA BANNER.

The paper "Of the People, for the People and by the People."

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OCALA, FLORIDA, FRIDAY, JULY 5, 1901.

DOLLAR A YEAR.

OCALA'S GAY CELEBRATION.

IN HER HOLIDAY ATTIRE SHE ENTERTAINS HER GUESTS

WITH BICYCLE RACES, HORSE RACES, BASEBALL GAMES, BALLOON ASCENSIONS AND GOOD MUSIC.

Congressman Sparkman, of Tampa, as Erator of the Occasion, Delivers a Patriotic Speech—Fire Department Exhibitions of Skill Well Received—A Red Letter Day for Ocala Merchants—Festivities Close With "Cake Walks" in the Evening.

Early yesterday morning crowds of people began arriving in Ocala to participate in the big time promised all the strangers who entered our gates on the Fourth of July, and by the time the morning trains got in and deposited their human burdens the city was crowded with patriotic celebrators of every age, color and creed from every nook and corner of this and adjoining counties.

Had the committee on arrangements had the power to select the weather for the occasion they could not have improved on that which prevailed. The early forenoon was very comfortable, and just as Old Sol was getting in his choicest bit of summer heat, about noon, a delightful rain fell for about a half hour, leaving everything as cool and pleasant as the poet's ideal spring morning.

There was an abundance of ice water in barrels distributed at various points on the streets where the festivities were to take place, and the immense quantities of Ocala's excellent water consumed during the day showed the appreciation of the recipients.

Promptly at 10 o'clock, as announced, the program was begun, and, thanks to those who had charge, everything came off with almost the precision of clock-work.

First was a bicycle race, open to all, in which Moses Liddell, an Ocala boy, easily carried off first honors, a \$5.00 prize. He also won the \$3.00 prize for boys under twenty years of age.

The \$2.00 prize for boy bicyclists was won by Bert Dash.

The colored bicyclists then took the track and the prizes were awarded: First race, \$3.00, Minder Williams; second race, \$2.00, Tommie Thomas.

The sack races, which had by far the greatest number of entries, were greatly enjoyed by the spectators. In the white boys' race Orilee Landers won the first prize, and Walter Yonge second. Coley Wells won first prize in the colored boys' sack race, and Thomas Calhoun second.

At 11:30 a building, erected for the purpose on the south side of the public square, was set on fire and the department called out. The hose and hook and ladder companies made splendid time in responding to the alarm, and showed to the satisfaction of all residents and property owners that we have a splendid fire department and one that can get to the scene of a conflagration on short notice. Marion Hose Company No. 1 won the first prize, \$100.00; and Ocala Protective Hose Company No. 4, second prize of \$50.00.

One of the leading features of the day's attractions, the balloon ascension, then took place. The aeronaut, H. M. Phillips, of Hudson, Mich., who is one of the best in his line, made the ascension, and his performances on the trapeze while the balloon was shooting skyward were watched with great interest, everybody admiring his fearless manner in which he swung from his apparatus in mid-air. A light breeze was blowing from the east when he went up, and in consequence he landed only a few blocks from the starting point. This was the first balloon ascension many of those present had ever witnessed and some of the remarks and comments heard were very amusing.

Shortly after 12 o'clock Congressman Stephen M. Sparkman, of Tampa, delivered the oration of the day in the court house to a large, comfortably packed audience. The speaker was happily introduced by Hon. R. A. Burford.

At 2:30 in the afternoon the hose companies had another contest—coupling hose, throwing streams of water, etc.—and Marion Hose Company No. 1 was again the successful winner of the first prize. Time: No. 1, 38 3-5 seconds; No. 4, 39 2-5 seconds.

Everybody then repaired to the baseball grounds, where exciting games were played.

The game played at the ball park by the Ocala and Tampa clubs (white) was the most exciting one of many months and resulted in the home team being defeated by a score of 9 to 6. Another game will be played at 10:30 this forenoon, and the Ocala boys promise to redeem themselves and sustain their past record.

As the colored baseballists could not arrange with any out-of-town team to meet them on the diamond, the Ocala Propers and Ocala Excelsiors, both of this city, crossed bats. This game resulted in a victory for the former by a score of 17 to 6.

The ball games, white and colored, were witnessed by large and enthusiastic crowds.

A laughable feature of the day's doings was the climbing (and attempts at climbing) of the greased pole, planted in the northwest corner of the courthouse square. A large ham was suspended at the top of the pole, and this, besides five dollars' worth of merchandise to the winner, caused many to make a trial, much to the amusement of spectators. After several hours of unsuccessful attempts by others to get the prize, Ezekiel Smith, colored, captured it, and many were the envious eyes that followed him as he bore his hard-earned trophy away.

A horse race, just south of the city, engaged the attention of lovers of that sport at 3:30 in the afternoon, between Mr. J. H. Blackiston's swift-footed steed and one from Tampa, the former winning the half mile run by thirty-five yards. It is rumored that several of Ocala's horse admirers are jingling about \$1000 of foreign capital this morning as a result of the race.

Throughout the entire day the citizens and visitors were treated to beautiful and patriotic music which was rendered by the Metropolitan Band, white, and the Ocala Cornet Band, colored, which was greatly appreciated.

NOTES.

Mayor Fishel and his corps of workers who made the Fourth a memorable day in Ocala's history deserve every whit of the praise being bestowed on them by our appreciative citizens.

The cash sales of one of our retail business houses amounted to over \$800.

Mr. Raymond B. Bullock, as marshal of the day, was a stunning success and performed the duties of his office admirably. His aides, Messrs. S. R. Birdsey and Clifford Anderson, also proved to be the right men in the right place.

We are under obligations to Mr. J. F. Williamson, one of judges, for courtesies extended the reporter.

While everybody made plenty of noise and had a good time generally, the absence of the rowdyism usually indulged in on similar occasions, was especially noticeable.

The Fourth of July, 1901, will long be remembered as a red letter day in the mercantile history of Ocala.

The two balloon ascensions went off without a hitch, and altogether were the most successful ever witnessed here. The aeronaut, H. M. Phillips, thoroughly understands his business.

The Fourth of July celebrations in Ocala are annually occupying the same position in Florida as Mardi Gras in New Orleans does to the southern states. Everybody looks forward to "Ocala's Fourth."

The crowning features of the day's festivities were the "cake walks" by the whites at the armory, and the blacks at Marion opera house. Both places were packed, and the laughter and applause spoke too plainly of how much the performances were enjoyed. At the armory, Charlie Brian, as "Mr. Grabba Chicken Southcut," and Albert Beck as "Miss Holdemround De-Neck," won the prizes for the best "cake walkers," and Robert Mathews as "Count Highstepper Blueblood," and Lee Miller as "Miss Bridgewhist Boobyprize," for the best costumes. The whole performance was a screaming success. Judging from the applause at the opera house, the colored people also had bushels of fun.

Science has found that rheumatism is caused by uric acid in the blood. This poison should be excreted by the kidneys. Foley's Kidney Cure always makes them well. Anti-Monopoly Drug Store.

THE DAY WE CELEBRATE.

HON. STEPHEN M. SPARKMAN'S PATRIOTIC ADDRESS.

REFERS TO OCALA AS "THAT GEM AMONG THE CITIES OF THE STATE."

He Speaks of Incidents Relating to Declaration of Independence Over a Century Ago and Its Impress Upon the Nations of the Earth—Liberty the Rightful Boon of the Human Family—Pleads to Liberty Lovers for the Defeat of Imperialism.

Fellow Citizens, Freeman, Patriots, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I wish at the outset to thank you for the kindness manifested by the invitation given me to address you. Although we belong to the same geographical section of Florida, and notwithstanding that I hail from a town which lies at your very door, and within three or four hours' travel of your city, this is the first opportunity I have ever enjoyed of speaking to an audience composed mainly of the people of Marion county and Ocala. And appreciating more highly than I can express in words the invitation extended to me, I wish to thank you sincerely, as I do, for the opportunity which it affords me of meeting and addressing the people of Marion county and of this section of the state.

I am also glad to be here and to witness the evidences of growth and development which I see on every hand. We all remember too well the great disaster which overtook Florida's leading industry a few years ago, a misfortune the like of which no section has ever experienced since civil war killed and devastated in the South more than a third of a century ago. This great calamity fell heavily upon all portions of South Florida, more upon some sections than upon others, but today the tracings of its icy fingers are almost obliterated, and the town of Ocala—that gem among the cities of the state—thoroughly imbued with the spirit of progress, is still abreast of that wave of advancement now passing over the South, and which embraces Florida, in its onward march. Situated in one of the most fertile regions of the state, the center of a county, the resources of which are unsurpassed, with a people active, energetic and progressive, no city in Florida has a brighter future than has Ocala, and none I venture to predict will surpass her in future growth and development.

But my friends I am pleased to meet you for other reasons. We are all American citizens, and as such no day appeals more strongly to our patriotism, our love of home, of country and of liberty than does the day whose anniversary we are now celebrating. Diversified, it is true, are the vocations which follow. Some of us may belong to the so-called learned professions; others may follow mercantile and kindred pursuits, why many may belong to that larger and more important class, known as the laboring classes.

But whether lawyer or physician, preacher or layman, merchant or clerk, farmer or mechanic, our every heart's throbs is in unison with the sentiments which gave birth to the day we now celebrate, and we all alike stand with uncovered head in the presence of that flag whose stars and stripes, even in the face of passing history, are still the emblem of liberty, as they are of national and majestic power, and whose folds only wave today, whether over native land or foreign shores, as a result of the triumph of those principles which make this day dear to every true American heart.

But time was when the flag meant more for humanity than it does today; when the Declaration of Independence was respected and revered by those in high places, but that time though recent, is not now; and in view of the events, of the immediate past, the conditions which surround the present, and the uncertainties which cloak the future, it is fit and proper that American citizens should gather here and elsewhere throughout the land on this day to commemorate the birth of liberty on American shores, and to pledge anew their devotion to the principles which have

made this the asylum of the oppressed and the home of the free.

All civilized nations have festive days or anniversaries which they are accustomed to celebrate and thus to commemorate some event in the political history of each, dear to the people of such country. But there is not in the wide range of political history a day more fittingly celebrated, or one which witnessed events fraught with greater interest to mankind than that which we commemorate today.

The Fourth of July, 1776! What associations cluster around that immortal date. On that day a new light burst forth from out of the darkness and gloom, which had hung over the earth for ages, and casting its beams across the pathway of man, kindled anew the fires of hope in the human breast wherever the glad news was told that a republic had been born in this western world, whose chief cornerstone was the rights and liberties of all the people.

For generations mankind had groped in darkness ever conscious of a higher political destiny, but only now and then catching glimpses of its light as the centuries came and went. All men were created equal before the law and in the enjoyment of liberty and happiness, but few in all the ages had understood the full meaning of this grand truth; and yet the germ implanted in the human breast, when man, created in the image and likeness of his Creator, first walked the earth in the presence of Jehovah, had never died. Although its fortunes had been various throughout that long night of time, no season of adversity had ever been able to quench the fires that burned on liberty's altar, and from the early dawn of civilization there has secretly existed a land on whose shores this light has not shone, dimly it may have been, but the spark was always there requiring the mailed hand of force to keep it from bursting into a consuming flame.

Far back in the dawn of history before the pyramids of Egypt first reflected the rays of a tropical sun, we discern the germ of constitutional government by which it was sought to make life, liberty and even property secure. Sacred history tells us of the government of the patriarchs over their families, and there it will be seen that the idea of freedom of will, of thought and of action was predominant, God alone being the ultimate judge of the action of the individual. And, again, on the shores of Palestine, on its sacred mountains and its vine-clad hills, where the hand of Deity was ever seen, and where God ruled directly the destinies of His children liberty was cherished as long as the will of the people, uncontrolled by extraneous forces, was felt in the shaping of their destinies.

Under the influence of those principles, crude though they then appeared, the feeble fugitives who had fled from Egyptian bondage became an empire of wisdom, of wealth and power. Their liberal institutions produced statesmen, poets, historians and warriors, who will continue to challenge the admiration of posterity by the splendor of their achievements as long as men shall tread the shores of time.

But an hour came when public virtue was debauched by the lust of conquest and of gain, and when primitive purity faded away until the masses broke forth in one wild demand for a king. The king came and ruled Judea, and popular government was at an end among the Jewish people.

Again, in classic Greece and ancient Rome, the sun of liberty arose shining with a light second only to that which, in the 18th century, lighted up the shores of this western world with its benignant rays. Then Spartan and the Athenian, in that far off age, drank deeply at freedom's fount, and reckoned themselves among the favored of earth. They had their codes of laws, which they revered, and their delightful memories which they cherished. They pointed to their great battlefields as we now point to ours, and erected monuments of marble and of brass in

Dr. Geo. Ewing, a practicing physician of Smith Grove, Ky., for over thirty years, writes his personal experience with Foley's Kidney Cure. "For years I have been bothered with kidney trouble and enlarged prostate gland. I used everything known to the profession without relief, until I was induced to use Foley's Kidney Cure. After using three bottles I was entirely relieved and cured. I prescribe it now daily in my practice and heartily recommend its use to all physicians for such troubles, for I can honestly state I have prescribed it in hundreds of cases with perfect success. Anti-Monopoly Drug Store. m

honor of their great, and to commemorate victories obtained over those who assailed their liberties. They kept their festive days of joy and exultation, as the fourth day of July and other national holidays are commemorated by the American people. Indeed, these votaries of liberty in ancient Greece sounded all the shoals and measured all the depths of honor and fame, and achieved immortality in every department of human activity.

So, too, with the Roman republic. Her foundations were laid deep and wide on the shores of the Mediterranean, and for a time withstood the assaults of despotism and tyranny. For generations before the light of the Christian era bathed the world in its beams, the Roman citizen had become immortal in art and arms, and today the devotee of liberty loves to dwell upon that period as marking one of the grandest eras recorded in the annals of the past.

True it is that liberty's sun did not continue to shine over the land of Greece, or to light the pathway of the Roman citizen; for the power of kings and emperors, aided by venality and corruption among the masses, was able finally to overthrow the liberties of the people, and to enthrone the tyrant where they once reigned supreme. But liberty was not dead. And although its light had paled in Southern Europe, and the glory of the Greek and the Roman had gone down in the gloom of despotism, the principles of liberty had not ruled in vain. They had left their impress upon the world's history, and had shown their power for good in the development of the human race. They had built a monument of light, of liberty, of science, and of art, which will stand, and will forever endure, towering up on the background of history like a gilded dome against the dark and distant sky.

The dark ages came, to be sure, and liberty appeared to sleep for a thousand years; but it was not the sleep of death, for her achievements and her glory still lived and gave hope to the oppressed, as they were ever the terror of absolutism throughout those gloomy ages.

But the tyrant ravaged fairest portions of earth for centuries with the sword and the torch. Despots ruled with an iron hand, and the condition of mankind was deplorable to the last degree. Still the wheels of progress and of civilization had been only temporarily checked. The germ of liberty had not perished from the earth; it was immortal and could not die.

(Continued on sixth page.)

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