

The Pioneer.

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JAMES B. FERGUSON, Editor.

THE STOCKTON HOUSE.

This magnificent place about which so much has been written and said within the past few months, is now completed and on Thursday last was formally opened for the reception of guests. To any one who stood a half year ago upon the ground now occupied by this grand Hotel, it seems as if nothing less than magic could be at the foundation of the enterprise. The beautiful fountains of the Arabian Nights which the palace rises at the foot of the majestic appear to be repeated. All that was then to be seen was a low wet marsh to which the tide had access whenever it chose to cover it, through which ran little perforating creeks, fringed by a general air of sandy desolation, and skirted by deeper marshes still in which the mud hens fed free from the eyes of the beholder. Still, the property was on Cape Island and faced the sea, possessing the same beautiful rolling shore that enables the houses every side, and as was seen by the keen intellects of Col. J. G. Stevens, Judge York, Gen. Sewell, Mr. A. W. Markley, Mr. Bullitt and others, might easily be made a splendid site for the erection of a grand Hotel. The first difficulty to be overcome, after the purchase of the land was to make it possible for a house to be put there at all, and after that to make the grounds attractive to the fastidious tastes of pleasure seekers who naturally would not desire to be set down in the mud. To accomplish these ends a good foundation was possible which was obtained by reaching the hard pan below the mud of the marsh, and placing the piers which were to sustain the structure upon it. Next the entire surface of the large area required to be raised to the height of eight feet above what it was then. Nature acting through old ocean had piled plenty of sand at a few feet distant and hundreds of teams were sent to work and once accomplished. Then the surface was covered with rich soil brought from the country beyond, grass seed planted upon it and before the house was half completed there was a green carpet surrounding it. The general direction of its construction was placed in the hands of Gen. Sewell and as a consequence, just as many men as could work to any advantage in all the different departments were at once engaged in the labor of construction, while at the same time a magnificent breakwater was being built along the receding sea front. In order to secure the pecuniary advantages it was necessary that the house should be opened for the season by the last of June, and the work was driven forward regardless of expense with that object in view. A name was required that should connect so splendid an enterprise with New Jersey history and the "Stockton House" was finally adopted as a tribute to one of our State's most distinguished sons. To secure the fullest comfort of the guests Mr. Gardner the popular manager at Willards in Washington was selected to take charge of the Hotel. In the conception of its projects it was determined that all the appliances of a first class city Hotel should be found in this one, and they have carried out their plan. The House has been built by Mr. C. C. Williams late of Bridgeton, under the architectural supervision of Mr. Button of Camden, and in both its appearance and solidity does ample justice to their previous eminent reputations. Its dimensions have been several times described in our columns so that the repetition is unnecessary now, except to say that while the rooms are large and commodious, with wide halls and staircases, there are nearly three hundred apartments for the accommodation of guests, of whom we presume a thousand might be made luxuriously comfortable at any one time. The dining room accommodates eight or nine hundred. The large parlor and reception room will contain as many people each as most of modern churches. There are suites of rooms on the first floor for the occupancy of persons whose state of health will not allow them to ascend with ease the staircases. The furniture is of the most beautiful description in all parts of the House and has taken many a thousand to procure. Pier glasses throw back the likenesses of the promenaders, and cool fountains give refreshing in their very appearance. The finest and best of wood are used in the ornamentation of the House. The staircases wind one above another along an unobstructed view from the lower hall to the ceiling, while windows of stained glass give a soft and subdued light over the vision. From almost all of its rooms the eyes can rest upon the sea and watch the varying phases of its untiring waves, and in the space of a few yards the bathing houses which open upon the waves can be reached. The limits of this article make it impossible to describe more minutely this grand addition to the beauties of Cape Island, but it is not saying too much to affirm that the "Stockton House" with its magnificent accommodations will add from eight hundred to a thousand of the wealthier people of our country to the summer population of the Island. Nearly a hundred of its rooms were engaged a week before its opening, and almost entirely by persons who have not heretofore made Cape Island their summer resort, so that while it will be filled no doubt, to its utmost capacity, the other prominent houses retain those who have heretofore dwelt with them, and will have all their customary guests, as they have had in the past. This is the case, and it is known at Congress Hall and presume that it is so with the others.

Some idea of the size of this magnificent structure may be formed from the fact that the main building has a front of three hundred feet and a depth of seventy-five, and there is a wing facing the sea in another direction which includes fifty by four hundred feet, and to this it is intended to add another wing of the same size before the house is understood to be completed. Three quarters of a million of dollars will have been expended by the bold projectors of this enterprise by the time it is entirely finished, a sum which goes far beyond the cost of the most magnificent Hotels heretofore found at any of our watering places. The public hall is fifty by one hundred feet. Side rooms all along are devoted to the various necessities which now make a first class Hotel an epitome of a town. Separate buildings contain the servants apartments. The kitchen arrangements are simply perfect, at least they were so pronounced by a party of ladies who were escorted by the politeness of Judge York, through their mysteries. Twenty thousand pieces can be cleaned in a single day in the wash-room. Every detail is perfect, and every luxury is perfectly systematized. There are thirty miles of wire running through all the various rooms, and a common cable of steam and gas pipes. There are four miles cover two and three quarters. The buildings are there are four acres of ground. A magnificent portrait of the late Commodore Stockton copied by Waugh appropriately ornaments the hall. But we cannot

is not to describe the building and will address our readers as the best way of obtaining a clear conception of it to visit it for themselves. The Hotel was thrown open to the public on Thursday of last week. A small party, guests invited by A. W. Markley, Esq., President of the Hotel Company, were present, among whom were Gen. Sewell, to whose splendid executive ability the house owes its bewildering rapid completion, and whose style of operation may be summed up in a remark made to a friend who some time since expressed a doubt as to whether the house would be ready in time to the effect that he had said it would be ready at the time specified, and it would be. W. H. Gatzmer, President of the Camden and Amboy Railroad; Hon. John P. Stockton, U. S. Senator from New Jersey; Samuel Welch, Asa Fish, John Dorrance, Chas. McAllister, Directors of Camden and Amboy Railroad; Chas. P. Stratton, Esq., J. F. Calk, of Congress Hall; Ex-Senator Ware, and Senator Rice of Cape May; Hon. W. B. Miller, Mayor of Cape May; J. H. Ferguson, of the West Jersey Pioneer; F. W. Potter the accomplished correspondent and Associate Editor of the Philadelphia Ledger; Geo. J. Richardson, Esq., of Philadelphia; G. Morris Dorrance, Esq., Jas. H. Stevens of the Camden Bank; D. Edmonds; Rev. Mr. Ballard and two or three others whose names we did not obtain. An elegant dinner was served by Mr. Gardner, the manager, in a style which argued well for the future comfort of the sojourners at the Hotel upon which the Divine blessing was invoked by Rev. Mr. Ballard.

At the close of the dinner Mr. Welch in a few appropriate remarks paid a merited tribute to the enterprising spirit of Mr. Markley, the President of the Hotel Company, who responded in a class of appropriate remarks in which he expressed his pleasure that he had been permitted to assist as President of the Company in bringing to its completion the most splendid Hotel in the United States. Mr. Welch then said that he was more of an acting than a talking man and would refer them to the Hotel itself as a fitting conclusion to his speech. Hon. John P. Stockton then spoke eloquently, acknowledging the compliment to his father's memory in the name given to the house and in a feeling and appropriate manner referring to the connection of Commodore Stockton with all the public advancement of New Jersey in which he felt so patriotic and large a part. Mr. Gatzmer then spoke in a style of clear and easy diction, referring to the improvements in New Jersey which had been accomplished by the instrumentality of the Camden and Amboy Railroad of which the Stockton House was a legitimate outgrowth. Rev. Mr. Ballard followed Mr. Gatzmer expressing the hope that the time would soon come when the parlor of our large Hotels should be dedicated to Divine worship on the early morning of each day. Judge York gave an interesting and clear statement of the facts involved in the history of the West Jersey Railroad and its connection with the Stockton House, and by whose connection the Stockton House had been made a possibility. An ornate and beautiful address was made by Mr. Asa Fish in which the progress of Cape May from the time it was first sought as a watering place by the Indians till the present hour when the cultivated aristocracy of the land seek it for recuperation. The remarks were listened to with marked attention. Messrs. McAllister, Dorrance and Welch, each made short speeches teeming with genial pleasantry. Mayor Miller responded for the city and Mr. Potter for the press, by stating that the Stockton House was the only one of the kind found in the printed account which he expected to publish, and we would say in passing that the pledge is grandly redeemed in last Saturday's issue of the *Newark Courier*. Some disappointment was felt that the time did not allow a speech from Gen. Sewell who was probably more fully acquainted with all the workings of the enterprise, from its inception to its completion, than any other person, but as the afternoon was passing, the memory of Commodore Stockton was given, and silently the guests arose and left the table which had been the scene of so high a degree of intellectual and genial enjoyment. We close our description, with the following beautiful extract from a letter of Mr. Potter in the *Newark Courier*:

"No where else on the coast of the sea and shore wedded in a union of such beauty and harmony. The sea loves Cape May, and there is every reason to believe that this feeling is reciprocated by the land of the Cape. Such attractions along our coast are rare. Atlantic City is a savage waste, and Long Branch, even though somewhat embellished by the ameliorating influences of art, is still only a half civilized. It is at Cape May that we meet with nature in its softest and gentlest aspects—no rocks, no cliffs, no barren wastes and shingles, but trees and grass and silver sands and shining sea blended in one harmonious whole. One might with some degree really fancy himself upon Italian shores, and the sea is so gentle and so inviting that it is a temptation to the Atlantic into the blue Mediterranean, and to invest the magnificent expanse of Delaware Bay with all the glories of the Adriatic. You look out from your quiet hotel or cottage nest at early morn and watch—

"The sun broken into scarlet shafts, as it creeps up the far horizon, and anon—

"The blue upon the waters to the east; The blue upon the island overhead; The blue upon the waves to the west."

It is a picture which the eye never tires of looking upon, and to which neither pen nor pencil can approach in the justness of its delineation.

SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.—Secretary Bore has resigned the department of the U. S. Navy, and Attorney General Robeson, of our State, been appointed in his stead. Both the resignation and appointment have taken the people by surprise, but there appears to be a general concession from the press of all parties, that Robeson was well qualified for the position, and that he will discharge the duties of the office in a manner creditable to the State of New Jersey. The *New York Tribune*, *Times* and *Herald*, acknowledged expressions of public opinion, all speak favorably of the appointment, and the *Trenton True American* pays him a handsome compliment. Mr. Robeson is a man of acknowledged ability, and will, we doubt not, infuse into the navy a spirit of greater energy than has characterized it in the years past. We are pleased with the recognition of New Jersey in the cabinet, and equally pleased that the choice has fallen upon a gentleman so well calculated to reflect credit upon her name, by his effective administration of the affairs of the navy.

A few days since, Mr. Barker, of New York, a gentleman well known at Cape May, where a large part of his summers were usually spent, was at that place making arrangements for spending a few days at that place, and returned to New York, we believe, on Friday of last week, and on Saturday morning suddenly deceased from disease of the heart. The death of Mr. Barker has cast a gloom over the large circle of friends with whom he has for years been intimate at Cape May.

We call attention again to the laying of the corner-stone of the new Methodist Episcopal Church at "Woodruff's" (Saturday) afternoon at two o'clock. The members of the church have thought it possible that many of them would like to be present and so repeat the notice.

Improvements on the W. J. R. R. Lines.

The track from Millville to Cape Island runs in a generally straight line through a region of country heretofore but sparsely inhabited. Small villages few and far between lay in irregular locations, and very much the largest part of the territory was entirely unoccupied. Very little dependence was placed upon the local travel as a means of support when the road was contemplated, at least for a long period of time. But their anticipations were agreeably disappointed. The opening up of facilities for travel has induced a large amount of immigration, and already along the stations established on the line the marks of a vigorous and healthy growth of population is already apparent.

Port Elizabeth, the first station below Millville, was years ago a flourishing village chiefly supported by extensive glass works; for some reason or other the works were suspended, and for years past they have lain idle, while both the works and the town of the town were falling into decay. But the incursions, whatever it was has been removed and the works are being put into active operation again—the houses repaired and all the signs of vigorous life are becoming apparent. In connection with this excellent bridge has been constructed over the Maurice river, connecting Maurice town and Port Elizabeth, so that the line of travel is far more easily reached by the people of the former place than heretofore. Mr. Frank Lee, of Port Elizabeth, has been largely instrumental in this improvement, and is entitled to great credit for the persistent effort necessary to its success.

Below Plain, the next station, has not as yet accomplished very largely its promise of success, but the property has now got into hands which command confidence and there is no doubt that it will speedily be completed. Woodlawn is a centre for the stage lines connecting with Tucker, Delaware, and other places. A good stage has been started at the place, and population begins to direct its attention that way. A few enterprising men would soon make it a place of considerable importance.

Mr. Pleasant is a small station where the stages take the passengers for several small villages between it and the shore, but as yet has not started on the march of its sister stations on the route. It cannot be long, however, before the valuable lands in the vicinity together with the facilities of a market for the bringing of the rest of the United States into its midst.

Seaville is taking its steps rapidly now in the formation of a village. Many new houses of an excellent kind are already erected and a number more projected. Several camp meetings have been held at this spot, and the false impression that Cape May county was located in sand, covered with whortleberries, bushes, and inhabited by misquitos, is quite generally corrected by the people who came from other places to the cape. It is already a place of importance, and every building bids fair to ensure it a career of success.

Mr. York, the railroad agent at this place, deserves the credit of having been actively instrumental in advancing its success.

Swains station has not as yet taken a very forward start, but the property contiguous is being sold to actual settlers; and its position is only a question of time.

Cape May Court House is the county seat and one of the oldest towns in lower New Jersey. It is not large but the buildings are tasteful and convenient, and maintains a steady and healthy growth. There is both a handsome Methodist and Baptist Church in the place, and about a mile below at Mayville Mr. Burroughs Miller has constructed a large and commodious building, which has been occupied at different times both for a school of high grade and a summer boarding house. A large cannery factory has been located close by, near the shore, which is said to do a large and increasing business.

"Rio Grande," the next point, is yet comparatively unimproved but cannot resist the manifest destiny of Cape May, which is to become one of the most highly cultivated counties in the State.

Bennetts station comes next, and has a good Presbyterian church, one of the oldest in this part of the State, and also a Methodist one, which the community are seriously talking of rebuilding in accordance with both improved and unimproved land in the hands of Mr. Bennett for sale and will doubt soon be taken up by purchasers. A number of buildings are going up and more are contemplated.

The soil of the county is of the very best character. It is a moderately strong rich loam, susceptible of the highest improvement as the strongest bottom lands of Essex or Warren, and grows in fertility from the application of manure with astonishing rapidity. The people who have held the titles to its possessions have found more remuneration from the occupancy of the waters, and consequently the land has received comparative little attention. But the wonderful increase of Cape Island has created a market whose demands cannot be ignored, and practical farmers are taking hold of the question of a new and better means of work, and in twenty years or less we have no doubt but that its surface will be covered with a thriving and multitudinous population.

CORNER STONE LAYING.

The corner stone of the new church now in process of erection at Beasley's Point, was laid on Friday afternoon last, by Rev. A. E. Ballard, P. E., assisted by the pastor, Rev. Mr. Malsbury, with Rev. Messrs. Lippincott and Eastlack. Able addresses were made by these latter gentlemen on the occasion, in which the value of Church institutions to any community were fully brought out, and the subject of living in the world of others eloquently portrayed. At the close of the addresses a sum was named to the congregation as a proper one to be offered on the occasion, which was promptly exceeded in a very brief period of time.

The church is to be modern in style, crowned eventually with steeple and bell, and capable of yet further enlargement when the necessities of increased population shall demand it. Pastor and people are working together in the fullest harmony in the enterprise, and it is expected that the time the cold weather sets in it will be ready for occupancy. Besides the regular Church periodicals, our *Pioneer* and *Pioneer Monthly* were honored with a place in the box which was deposited in the corner stone.

HOMEOPATHY.—At the recent Homeopathic national convention, in Boston, the constitution of the society was so amended as hereafter to admit "women" as practitioners of medicine. We believe that this large body of physicians are the first who, by a final vote, have opened the doors to females in this department, and if this is correct they deserve the nation's gratitude, for in some departments of medicine the commonest surface thinking will show that women must, in the nature of things, be better qualified than the opposite sex.

SINCE the meeting of the Grand Lodge of the Order of the "Knights of Pythias," in December last, thirty-eight new lodges have been organized, making the total of the Order in the State of Pennsylvania 244, of which 85 are located in Philadelphia. The present membership is estimated at 40,000, being an increase of 12,000 during the past six months.

DR. MCCLINTOCK.

This deservedly celebrated anatomist and physician, whose advent as a popular lecturer we noticed a few weeks since, has been delivering public addresses upon the subject of Philadelphia and elsewhere, with a success which is unprecedented in the history of lecturing for the season of the year in which they were given. On Monday morning of this week, by invitation of the preachers, he gave one to the preachers' meeting in Philadelphia, on the subject of education in the pulpit, as connected with the habits of daily life, which surpassed anything of the kind to which we have been privileged to listen. There have been plenty of public expositions of this subject from Gough down to all the various teachers of pulpits for public speaking; but while these gentlemen have said many good things upon the subject, they have lacked the practical knowledge of physical anatomy, which is essential to the use of any information which the Doctor eminently possessed. His first idea of education was that a man must be simply natural and natural to himself. Artistic rules, while giving valuable hints, could not by any possibility group success fully the pupil, but each clergyman must of necessity learn very much of his own education for himself and work it in accordance with himself. To be a good pulpit speaker, a man must be moderate in all things, especially in eating. No man, the speaker thought, was truly called to preach who could not eat properly and in accordance with the laws of digestion. Gymnastic exercise was also extremely valuable, especially taken with a new house. The inspiration of a full volume of air before beginning to speak, and with the subject well studied, so well as not to need any notes, a man need not fear about successful preaching. The Doctor spoke for ten hours without the least sign of weariness, in demonstration of his habit of a man in manner which kept his audience alternating between the logic and the keenest humor for the entire time. There are very few men who combine exactitude of language with felicitous delivery like Dr. McClintock, and we earnestly hope that he may favor Bridgeton with a visit soon.

LAY DELEGATION.

The vote on Bridgeton District is pretty generally taken in the Methodist Episcopal Churches on the subject of Lay Delegation. The returns are not all quite in yet, but judging from those that are reported there will be a small majority in favor of the measure. Many of our churches have received from the different parts of the United States the majority has been decided in favor of the plan and there is little or no doubt of its being adopted as a part of the programme of the next General Conference. The general principle of the charge may be summed up in the idea that heretofore the government of the church has been after a military order and under the Lay Delegation movement it will be modeled after a civil jurisdiction with a representative government. The friends of the plan hope for large results to the church from its introduction, a number of which they have our heartiest good wishes for their success.

THE STORM ON SUNDAY.—On Sunday last, the city of Philadelphia and vicinity was visited by three successive thunder showers, which occasioned a large amount of damage. Many trees were uprooted, buildings unroofed, glass shattered, and in the country round about crops destroyed. The depot of the Fifth and Sixth St. passenger railway company was entirely destroyed, scarce a timber of which was left standing. Many roofs of houses among which was that of the Greenview Hotel, were carried considerable distances, and dashed into kindling wood. Chimneys lay strewn in all directions; hosts of telegraph poles were prostrated, with their wires twisted and broken; miles of fencing was demolished; large numbers of fowls were killed, and an amount of general damage which will involve at least a hundred thousand dollars. No lives, however, are reported as being lost.

TEMPERANCE.—A delegation of the Sons of Temperance waited recently on the President and received the most cordial assurances of sympathy with their cause. A number of gentlemen in high quarters of great value and we are glad that the "Sons" had a sufficient degree of confidence in the President to call upon him and elicit the expression. If by any means the representatives of the nation at Washington could be step toward an honest legislation which has been taken for years past would be taken, for it is a conceded fact that more corrupt legislation is evolved in the capital by the use of liquor than by all other parties combined.

THE MORMONS are arranging to send a missionary to Australia. As there is not a superabundance of women in that British island, the missionaries will be a little puzzled to know why they send a missionary there, for a Mormon establishment without its harems is a matter not worth the talking about. If they were to send him to Massachusetts where there are so many of the "sex" who cannot get husbands simply because there are not enough men to give one to each woman; there would be at least an appearance of sense, but to send him to Australia where they are short of women now seems to us the quintessence of nonsense. We do not suppose it possible however, that the ardent missionaries of the Pacific Ocean would make such a mistake. The screens of the Pacific Ocean are not so numerous as the harems of the Pacific Ocean, and it is not so easy to find a woman who will marry a Mormon.

SPAIN.—The Republicans of this country do not seem to be disheartened by the vote of the cortes, by which Spain was made a monarchy, but, on the contrary, still continue to hold meetings and have speeches of the most radical type in favor of their ideas. If the policy of speech upon this subject can be secured, it is about certain that the agitation will not stop until the object is secured, for no form of Government can resist the intelligent determination of the people. At a recent meeting of delegates at Cordova, there were 50,000 persons present, and the Spanish flag was entwined with that of the United States, and the whole multitude cheered for the United States, and again for General Grant.

PRESBYTERIAN.—The two large bodies of Presbyterians in Scotland who have been separated for so long a time have now been united in a single body, and it is thought will be generally acceptable and if so, of course adopted. Everywhere, both in church and state the modern sentiment favors aggregation in place of division, and we have no doubt but the different churches will be more powerful because of the practice.

EDITORIAL EXCURSION.—The annual excursion of the journalistic "Knights of the Quill" in New Jersey, came off last week according to the programme. The large company richly enjoyed the trip through the wild mountain scenery of Pennsylvania; all the more from the fact that the chances of escape from the routine duty of the office are so few and far between.

A DAY DREAM.—One sultry afternoon, upon the office table where editors are not long asleep, we "fell into a doze" and dreamed that we were in a beautiful city in a Southern clime, fanned with delightful breezes from the adjacent waters; a city surrounded with undulating hills, rich agricultural district, and prosperous beautiful villages, shaded with noble trees, which lined the sidewalks and in some sections of the city formed splendid archways over the houses almost invariably had an air of neatness and beauty, with front and side yards and gardens filled with shrubbery and flowers, where the birds sang sweetly, and everything bespoke prosperity and peace—a city of churches, schools, and good society where law and order prevailed, and which was noted for its morality; but there seemed to be one thing wanting, and that was caused by the ice dealers of the city failing to secure a supply of the cooling article the season almost invariably had an air of neatness and beauty, with front and side yards and gardens filled with shrubbery and flowers, where the birds sang sweetly, and everything bespoke prosperity and peace—a city of churches, schools, and good society where law and order prevailed, and which was noted for its morality; 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