

LITERARY WASHINGTON.

WILL THE CAPITAL BECOME THE NATIONAL CENTER OF LETTERS?

Walter Wellman Thinks It Will and Gives His Reasons—"The Neighbors" Club—Librarian Spofford—Mrs. Springer and Her Poetry—Her Love of the Sea.

WASHINGTON, May 23.—As a literary center the national capital is rapidly becoming noted throughout the world. It has no large publishing interest, other than that maintained by the government, but a large number of writers live and work here. There is in Washington a little club known as "The Neighbors," which is distinctively literary and musical.

LIBRARIAN SPOFFORD. The fortnightly meetings during the winter months bring together many of the brightest men and women of the capital. Here may be seen such famous persons as Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett, who lives in a charming house on Massachusetts avenue, with the families of the chief justice, Attorney General Miller and any number of senators on either side of her; George Komnan, the Russian specialist, much of whose mail from Russia and Siberia comes to Washington disgusted under bogus superscriptions; George Bancroft, the historian; Joaquin Miller, who used to have a log cabin on the hills overlooking the city, and Mrs. E. D. E. N. Southworth, the novelist, who lives in a quaint old house in quaint old Georgetown.

At one of these "Neighbors" meetings recently met four persons who are engaged in writing the lives of a trio of great men of the war era—John Hay and John E. Nicolay, authors of "The Century 'Life of Lincoln.'" George Gorham, who is engaged upon a "Life of War Secretary Edwin M. Stanton," and Mrs. Katherine Chase, who is writing the life of her father, the great abolitionist. Many newspaper men may be seen in these gatherings, among the more conspicuous of them being Charles Nordhoff, of the New York Herald, who, to his \$10,000 a year salary from Mr. Bennett, adds many thousands from his pen. A lucky man, Mr. Nordhoff, for his newspaper work takes but a mere fragment of his time. Weeks often go by without a line from him appearing in print; but if there are diplomatic disturbances or international complications, Mr. Nordhoff is expected to be heard from, and this is an expectation which is rarely disappointed. The field of diplomacy is peculiarly his own.

George Alfred Townsend is often seen with "The Neighbors." He is the greatest newspaper correspondent which this country has produced, so great that when his work is mediocre or inferior, as it sometimes is, of course, it sells as readily as ever and is read with almost as much avidity. Townsend is one of those correspondents who learn little but think much; a single fact passing through his mind is chopped up into fifty parts, and each one is blown up with the imagination to be as large as its parent. "I am more than a telephone between talkers and readers," Townsend said at one of "The Neighbors" meetings; "I am a phonograph, into which ten thousand men have talked, and their recorded conversations are a storehouse, on which I draw at will by simply turning the crank."

The government incidentally encourages authorship. Some of the best writers of the day, most earnest and best equipped specialists, are government employes. There is Librarian Spofford, of the great national literary museum. He does not write much, because he has not the time. He is one of the busiest, one of the most remarkable men in Washington. From morning till night he stands at his desk in the big library, giving personal attention to the details of work. One would think the responsible head of a great institution like this would content himself with mere management; but not so with Spofford. He will take your application for a book and either get it for you himself or send one of his assistants. Lucky for you sometimes that Spofford is there,

UNDER THE SEA WALL. for all the hundreds of thousands of books and pamphlets in the library there is not one which he does not know as well as he knows the thoroughbred horse which he rides every fair day. He knows the range so well that he can tell you the books of their contents, the names of authors, date of publication, and the comparative value of works on a given subject. Spofford is such a complete and infallible index to the entire library that senators and representatives have a habit of going to him and saying: "Mr. Spofford, I am looking up this or that subject—where shall I find it?" And without a moment's hesitation the librarian calls out the names of a half dozen or dozen books, and sends for them. The whole library is before him like the pieces on a chess board, and, of course, this is much better for the senator or representative than consulting indexes.

"Look in the index!" exclaimed Senator Edmunds the other day, in the library; "oh, no; not while Spofford is here. He is the only index I want. There are no typographical mistakes or cloudy references in him, and, besides, he is brought down to date."

When Spofford dies, as he must some day die—and that soon, I fear, unless he gets away from his desk—the library will suffer a loss beside which the destruction of a hundred thousand volumes would be a mere trifle. The hundred thousand volumes could be replaced; Spofford could not be.

Just now Washington is circling

ABOUT THE ECONOMITES.

GRAPHIC SKETCH OF A PECULIAR PEOPLE AND THEIR HOMES.

Harmony is the Basic Principle of the Organization—Early Experiences—Two Reminiscences—The Present Contrasted with the Past.

PRITSBURG, May 22.—On a bluff overlooking the beautiful valley of the Ohio, eighteen miles below Pittsburgh, is a peculiar village, inhabited by a peculiar people. Although possessed of many millions of dollars, the people and their town are precisely where they were forty years ago. Economy is the name of this town and its people are called the "Economites," although they, themselves, prefer to be known as the Harmony community.

The Harmony community was founded by George Rapp and his band of followers, numbering nearly 1,000, on Feb. 15, 1805, at a point in Butler county, Pa., near what is now Zionsville. Driven from Germany by religious persecution they decided on binding themselves in perfect harmony and living only for themselves. All their possessions were to be held in common; the proceeds of their labor to go into one common treasury. For ten years they were a prosperous and happy people, but began to realize that the selection of the site of their town had been ill advised, as it was twelve miles from the Allegheny river. After mature deliberation it was decided to go west, so the 6,000 acres of land and their little town were sold in the spring of 1815 for \$100,000, and the colony moved toward the setting sun, finally purchasing 30,000 acres of land on the Wabash river in what is now Posey county, Ind. A new town of Harmony was started. Ten years was spent there, but the country being new was unhealthy, and another move was decided upon.

Strangely enough, the Indiana land was sold to another colony possessed of peculiar views. Just about the time the Economites had fully made up their minds to make a change an Englishman named Richard Flower, who represented Robert Owen's community, of New Lanark, Scotland, appeared on the scene and purchased Harmony and 20,000 acres for \$150,000 cash. It was a great sacrifice. A steambot was built and the greater portion of the band, now numbering about 700, started for the Keystone state. Several points were examined, but finally the location of the new colony was decided upon. This was in 1825. Some 2,500 acres of land was purchased, and on a commanding plateau, fifty or more feet above the highest waters of the river, the town was laid out.

The question of a name was a serious one. Harmony was getting to be too common, and although the suggestion of the community favored the name for the third town, the name Economy was decided upon, it being very suggestive of the one great cardinal principle, to the practice of which they largely owed their prosperity.

From the very first, the third and last settlement of the Harmonists was a success. Their cultivation of the soil brought forth an hundred fold and the health of all improved. Thousands of grape vines were planted, and many acres were set out with fruit bearing trees. As time rolled on a woolen mill was erected. It was followed by a cotton mill and a flour mill. The flour of the Economites was always the choicest, the cotton the purest, and the blankets and handkerchiefs were not equalled. It was here that the first silk ever made in the United States was produced. The silk worms were imported and a factory built and filled with all the necessary machinery, but it was not a success on account of the difficulty in producing the cocoons. However, the silk was of such an excellent quality that garments made nearly half a century ago are still to be seen in the quaint old town. Fifty years ago all was activity. Today everything is as exactly the opposite as can be imagined.

A hotel, commodious and well kept, was one of the attractions, and half a century ago its corridors and piazzas resounded with the merry laughter of summer boarders, who for an extremely small sum obtained the best of the market afforded, and at night found perfect rest in large, airy rooms. In winter sleighing parties made the Economy hotel a favorite rendezvous, and many old people of the Ohio and Beaver valleys remember with pleasure the winter suppers before the big, old fashioned fireplaces. But time changes all things, even the young folks. With no more summer boarders or winter sleighing parties, the hotel was often for weeks without guests, although always ready for them. To the Economites "the stranger within thy gates" was a charge entitled to the best, but he was invariably entertained at the hotel and not at a private house. As time rolled on the tramp took advantage of these unsuspecting people, and one winter the hotel was maintained solely for the entertainment of a dozen of these rascals, who lived on the fat of the land, "without money and without price."

Tramps are not now entertained, the innocent old people having discovered that they were being imposed upon. For a number of years one of the attractions to Economy was the museum. In the great public hall, a three story building on the main street, was a magnificent collection of old paintings, and a museum of rare minerals, birds, shells, insects, etc., besides a large number of Indian relics and several treasures brought from Germany by the older members. When the museum became a burden instead of a pleasure it was sold to the Western university in Allegheny. On the outskirts of the village there was maintained for years a deer park, and near by a curiously constructed labyrinth of closely trimmed hedge, in the center of which was a summer house. All are of the past.

The thousands of grape vines soon bore beautifully, and enormous vaults were constructed in which to keep the wine. These are of the present, and so also is Elder Ernest Walk, sixty-seven years of age, and still hale and hearty. He died Dec. 29 last, aged 81 years. In 1867 there was a religious revival in the community, and soon after it was decided that the married state was incompatible with the purity of the soul which they desired to attain. They finally decided that those who had wives should be as

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those who had none, and that coonty should be the sine qua non of membership.

Feb. 15, the eighty-fifth anniversary of the formation of the society, was celebrated with the usual ceremonies that have marked the passage of the years. There were services in the church, big dinners in the large public hall, where everybody was urged and expected to eat all he possibly could, and music all day long by an excellent brass band. The great feature of the day was the admission of sixteen new members. All of them had been employees and fully understood the step they were taking. Some were married, but henceforth they must live apart.

George Rapp, the founder, was laid to rest "neath the apple trees in 1847, and all his followers are laid with him except twenty-seven, four having passed away during the past year. When all of the original members shall have joined the silent majority is but the question of an exceedingly short space of time, and the perpetuation of the society and the one hundred millions of dollars in cash, stocks, bonds and manufactories requires deep and mature deliberations. The heirs of members who joined after raising families outside of the society, threaten to sue the society for a share of the millions, and it is more than probable that the present generation will witness some interesting lawsuits.

When George Rapp died the community decided there should be two heads instead of one, and they selected R. L. Baker and Jacob F. Howrlick, who, during the latter years of Rapp's life, had been his trusted advisers and agents in business transactions. Baker died in 1868, and Mr. Howrlick, by right of succession, took his place as supreme head of the society, Jonathan Lenz being elected as his assistant. Both are men of over 80 years, of medium height and as sharp and shrewd in a business transaction as it is possible for men to be. Their dress is as old in style as they are in age, but on their holidays these old, white haired men appear resplendent in blue silk suits, such as were worn by the old burg masters in their native country when their founder was a boy. The dress of the women is of a uniform style, but they, too, appear in silk on state occasions.

To the credit of this curious people let it be said that scandal among them is a thing unknown, and while they have amassed great wealth it has all been gotten honestly, and none can say that the Harmonists have been in any way a detriment to the Ohio or Beaver valleys.

THE DAMROSCH-BLAINE WEDDING. It was the Fortunate Climax to a Romantic Courtship. To be youthful, vigorous and beloved ought to fill the measure of human desire, and, possessing all these requisites for happiness, the young lady who, the other day, was Miss Margaret Blaine and is now Mrs. Walter Damrosch would seem to have nothing to ask from fate save the continuance of her present fortunate condition. With the hearty approval of her family and the good wishes of her friends she has married the man of her choice after a courtship during which the course of true love always ran smooth.

MRS. WALTER DAMROSCH. Miss Blaine and Mr. Damrosch began their acquaintance in Scotland. Both were guests of Mr. Andrew Carnegie on a coaching trip modeled after the famous journey described in one of William Joyce's novels. The pleasant companionship then initiated ripened, later on, into friendship and love, and the announcement of the engagement a few months ago elicited nothing but congratulations. Both husband and wife have lived so much within the public view that their careers are generally known. Miss Blaine was to her mother the helpful assistant her lately deceased brother, Walker, had been to his father, the Secretary of State. Mr. Damrosch, on the other hand, is rapidly establishing a reputation in the musical world second only to that of his honored parent, Dr. Damrosch. The portrait herewith given of the bride shows her in a fancy costume worn at a young people's ball some months ago. Since then being photographed she has had no picture taken.

A BRAVE MAN AND FAIR WOMAN. Explorer Stanley and Miss Dorothy Tennant to Wed. When the announcement was made the other day that Stanley, the famous African explorer, was to marry, general incredulity greeted the report. But now it is known not only that he will wed

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The most noted, of course, was that of Preston Brooks, of South Carolina, who made a savage assault on Senator Charles Sumner, inflicting injuries from which that statesman did not recover for many years. It is indeed a very fully recovered. No other incident in congress raised such a furor as did this assault. Both men were noted, the era was one of furious sectional controversy, and the date (May 22, 1856) was at the beginning of the first presidential campaign in which the issues were purely sectional. The committee appointed by the Republican speakers of the house (Hon. N. P. Banks) reported a resolution for expelling Mr. Brooks, but it failed of the required two-thirds majority, and there was but a mild censure instead. The local court imposed a fine of \$300 upon Mr. Brooks, who thereupon resigned, appealed to his constituents and was triumphantly re-elected. Eight months after the assault he died quite suddenly of an acute inflammation of the brain.

Seven years passed before the house had another very serious case to deal with, and it was again shown that there was practically no mandatory law upon the subject save the will of the majority at the time. The case was that of Hon. Alexander Long, of Ohio, and Mr. Harris, of Maryland. The former boldly introduced a resolution pronouncing the war for the Union a failure, and demanding a recall of the troops and recognition of the independence of the Confederate states. The debate thus precipitated was extremely bitter, and Mr. Long outdid all others in denouncing President Lincoln and the Federal generals. The debate on a resolution to expel Mr. Long extended over five days, but the resolution lacked the two-thirds majority. A vote of censure against him "an unworthy member of the house" was adopted by a vote of 80 to 70. Mr. Harris was censured somewhat more harshly by a vote of 92 to 18.

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TWO GREAT RACES.

The Kentucky Derby and the Brooklyn Handicap.

RILEY'S WELL WON VICTORY. The Other Five Entries Could Not Touch Him—How Castaway II Carried Off the Big Eastern Prize to the Diemay of the Talent—A Rank Outsider Got There.

The Kentucky Derby and the Brooklyn Handicap are two of the most popular and important events of the spring racing. In these are brought together the cream of blooded stock. Last year the Kentucky Derby was won by Spotted Sash, who defeated Proctor Knott, the idol of the Kentuckians. This year it was captured by Riley, not by a fluke, but because he was the best horse started. None of the other five could touch him, and it is doubtful if Bill Letcher, who alone proved to be in the same class, could have pushed this great son of Longfellow even on a dry track. Isaac Murphy's mastery riding was a great factor in the victory.

Riley started twelve times last year and won six races, his last appearance being at Latonia, where he captured the Halloway stakes from a field of six starters. The track was in miserable condition, and he carried 123 pounds, ten pounds more than any horse in the race, and ran the mile in 1:47 1/2.

The victory of Riley in the Derby was a popular one, and was received gratefully even by those who had pinned their faith to other horses.

How utterly different was the result of the Brooklyn Handicap, and over 15,000 people left the track disgruntled and impoverished. That Castaway II, the despised, neglected outsider, a selling plate, should defeat such flyers as Sir Dixon, Hodge, Los Angeles, and thereby usurp the title of king of the turf, was too unexpected a talent to bear. It will long be remembered as the most disappointing surprise the race course of this country has ever known.

The time, 2:10, was very good considering the condition of the track, and it is doubtful if there is another horse in the country who could equal the performance under similar circumstances. And this was the despised outsider!

CASTAWAY II. Castaway II was foaled April 26, 1886, the property of Rufus Laile, on his place one mile from Lexington, Ky. He first ran for the Dixian stakes at the Lexington spring meeting, May 7, 1888, but was unplaced, and he ran in all twenty-seven times that year, under the colors of the Jacobson stable, winning a purse of \$500 on four and a half furlongs at Latonia on June 1. His next was a purse of \$500 at Washington park, Chicago, at five furlongs, late in the same month. He did not win again until the Louisville autumn meeting, where he won at half a mile, which he followed up by winning a five furlong dash at Lexington, and again at the same distance at Nashville. As a 3-year old in 1890 Castaway II began by winning the Pickwick stakes at New Orleans for the Devereux stable, distance seven furlongs, carrying 115 pounds, easily by half a length in 1:30 1/2. He also won the Cottrell stakes, at a mile, at the same meeting, carrying 115 pounds, in 1:47 1/2. He subsequently ran in thirty-eight other races, of which he won seven.

A Rapid Little Mare. Lillian Wilkes, the little mare that outran such a torrent of enthusiasm by trotting away from Sunol in the season of 1884 and making a record of 2:17 1/2, has a peculiar history. When Flora Langford was carrying her Mr. Corbit, the owner, frequently priced her at \$100, but no one wanted her, as she was little better than a wreck, and had to be lifted with a block and tackle during the last five months of her life. She gave her life to the bay filly, and was buried at San Mateo, her offspring being brought up by hand and allowed to run at will over the alfalfa meadows. After a time she was harnessed and broken and her active preparation begun. The records obtained at Napa and Petaluma show the results.

A LEFT HANDED TWIRLER. Daniel M. Casey, Philadelphia's (N. L. Venable) Pitcher. Daniel M. Casey, the famous south paw pitcher of the Philadelphia club, National league, was born in Binghamton, N. Y., in 1854. He entered the profession at the age of 18, when he signed with the Wilmington club. At the recent games of the Manhattan Athletic club Frank L. Lambrecht, the scratch man in putting the 30 pound shot, made a new record. The distance he covered was 36 feet 3/4 inch. There are records made that better time can be made on a cinder track. Some of the latter records, however, have lately been beaten on grass, and many claim that there should be no distinction for any purpose between cinder and grass tracks, being measured three feet from the pole, cause different distances to be covered by athletes who make records on tracks measured eighteen inches from the pole.

The records committee of the English Amateur Athletic association are having considerable difficulty in determining the relative merits of performances done on grass and cinder. They have similar track made recently, and it is generally conceded that better time can be made on a cinder track. Some of the latter records, however, have lately been beaten on grass, and many claim that there should be no distinction for any purpose between cinder and grass tracks, being measured three feet from the pole, cause different distances to be covered by athletes who make records on tracks measured eighteen inches from the pole.