

A two hour's ride from Washington on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad will take one to Harper's Ferry. This village of 2,000 inhabitants is situated like a nest among branches—the branches being the lofty mountains surrounding it. To the north are the Maryland Heights, which rise in successive plateaus to an altitude of 1,300 feet above the surrounding country, and 2,000 feet above the level of the sea. To the east are the Loudoun Heights. They are not so high as the Maryland Heights, but the sides are more precipitous and, being out of the way of travel, are densely wooded and difficult of ascent. To the south are Bolivar Heights, on the extreme slope of which is situated Harper's Ferry. Between Maryland Heights and Loudoun Heights is a magnificent gorge where unite the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers. The Potomac has brought its water from the Alleghenies, while the Shenandoah has many a tributary from the Blue Ridge. A striking contrast is noticed between the waters of the two rivers. That of the Shenandoah is clear, sparkling and transparent, while that of the Potomac is muddy and turbid.

In the town on "Cemetery Hill," behind the Catholic church is situated "Jefferson's Rock." On this rock Thomas Jefferson is said to have written a fine description of the grand scene which lies outstretched before one as he sits there. Until recently it was composed of several huge masses of stone piled on one another, the upper one resting on a ticklish foundation. To prevent the overthrow of the top stone, it has been supported on pillars. This stone is rather of a soft character and has been chiseled and cut by persons anxious to have their names go down to posterity. The wonderful beauties of the gorge above mentioned can be seen from this rock and Jefferson declared "the passage of the Potomac through the Blue Ridge one of the most stupendous scenes in nature, and well worth a voyage across the Atlantic to see." At the base of Maryland Heights runs the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and by its side is the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. At the union of the rivers the railroad crosses by a remarkable bridge to Harper's Ferry. A visitor should never fail to notice from Jefferson's Rock the sparkling of the Shenandoah by moonlight as it ripples over its pebbly bed at the base of Loudoun Heights.

This place was named after Robert Harper. He was born in Oxford, England, about 1703. In 1747, in his travels from Frederick, Md., to Antietam, he was induced to go by a German named Hoffman, a shorter cut by way of "The Hole." He bought out the only squatter named Peter Stevens for fifty British guineas, and then obtained a patent from Lord Fairfax, on whose estate Stevens had squatted. The name was changed from "The Hole" to Harper's Ferry. Mr. Harper lived until 1775 in the Stevens cabin situated on Shenandoah street. In 1784 this place was chosen as the site of a National Armory. For this purpose Congress bought 125 acres from the heirs of Mr. Harper. This tract is contained in a triangle formed by the two rivers, and a line running from the Potomac to the Shenandoah along Union street. Another purchase was made of 310 acres, which tract is what is now known as the village of Bolivar. The Government commenced the erection of shops, and in 1796 a Mr. Perkins, an English Moravian was appointed to superintend the works.

The capacity of the Harper's Ferry Armory was from 1,500 to 2,000 guns a month. At that time the guns manufactured there were considered the best in the world. Until just before the civil war the history and life of this town was the manufacture of arms at the armory. April 17, 1861, it is said that Lieutenant Jones, "acting on orders from Washington city, or under directions from Captain Kingsbury, who had been sent from the Capital the day before to take charge of the armory, had set fire to the Government buildings and with his men, retreated toward the North. The citizens extinguished the fire in the shops and saved them and the machinery. The arsenal, however, was totally consumed with about 15,000 stands of arms there stored." The Confederates, June 14, 1861, burned

the main armory buildings. June 28, 1861, some Baltimoreans and a part of the Second Mississippi Regiment destroyed with fire the rifle factory. Thus nothing was left of all the armory works but the engine house and the building near the railroad track, known as John Brown's Fort.

It is now a weird-looking locality, ruins, weeds and debris being in abundance. "During the winter, 1868-9, a bill was introduced into Congress and passed, providing for the sale of the Government property at Harper's Ferry. On the 30th of November and the 1st of December, 1869, therefore, it was put up at public auction, and the armory grounds and the site of the rifle factory were purchased by F. C. Adams, of Washington, D. C. for the sum of \$206,000, with one and two years time for payment. It turned out, later on, that this purchase was made for speculation, but nothing ever came from it. With the destruction of the armory and its accessories departed the life and bustle from Harper's Ferry. The town has diminished in population. Many of its inhabitants have gone where work can be found, a large number have followed the Government works to Springfield, Mass.

On September 30 and October 1, 1870, occurred a most disastrous and devastating flood at Harper's Ferry. There had been a severe drought previous to this date, and on September 30, the Shenandoah began to rise very rapidly. At one time it is said that the river rose at the rate of six feet in four minutes. It destroyed the most flourishing part of the town. Virginus island, situated in the middle of the Shenandoah river, was swept bare, and many of its inhabitants were carried down the river. Every house, except one on the south side of the island of Virginia was either destroyed or injured. Some seventy houses in all were either totally destroyed or rendered uninhabitable. Forty-two lives were lost.

October 17, 1859, occurred an event which has given her notoriety, however—the John Brown raid. Its object was the freedom of the slaves. The leader was John Brown a native of Connecticut. He had taken a very prominent part in the struggle in Kansas for the admission of the state as a non-slavery State; he was fanatical in the extreme. He was assisted by his sons and some twenty others, four of whom were negroes.

The only one of the party now living is Owen Brown. Only six of the party escaped alive. The party went into Harper's Ferry at midnight of the 16th of October, captured the town and took possession of the armory with a view of arming the slaves. By morning the inhabitants armed themselves, having been warned of the raid and its object. Gradually Brown's men were driven into the armory and from there into the engine house, the prisoners being taken with them. This was held all day.

The next day early a body of marines under the command of Col. Robert E. Lee and Lieutenant J. E. B. Stuart stormed the fort with heavy sledge hammers. A battering ram was made of a long ladder and an entrance thus forced. Soon Brown and his survivors were brought forth. He was tried before a Virginia court, convicted and was hanged at Charleston, W. Va., December 2, 1859.

In the upper portion of the town, situated on Camp Hill, is Stover College, with its academic and normal departments. This is an institution for the education of the colored youth. John Stover, of Sanford, Me., in 1867 gave \$10,000 to found such an institution, provided that the friends of the colored people in the Free Baptist denomination would raise an equal amount previous to January, 1868. It was done. The normal School was opened in 1867. Stover College was chartered by the Legislature of West Virginia March 3, 1868. There are now three buildings connected with it. Myrtle Hall, Lincoln Hall and Anthony Memorial Hall. The last named building contains a library, chapel, lecture-room, printing-office recitation-rooms, etc. During the absence of the pupils in the summer these buildings are occupied by boarders, many going from Washington.

The town experienced many vicissitudes during the war, being the first

in the hands of the Confederates, then the Federals took possession only to be driven out by the enemy, and then a new turn of the wheel brought another change.

It is a singular fact that the first man killed by John Brown's party was a negro, and that the first who lost his life at Harper's Ferry, at the hands of the Union Army, was a warm friend of the Government. An idea may be formed of the war experiences of Harper's Ferry from the fact that the railroad bridge at the place was destroyed and rebuilt nine times from June, 1861, to the surrender of General Lee at Appomattox.—Philadelphia Call.

FARM AND FRESIDE.

Everybody knows that soap suds are an excellent fertilizer.

Plants do better when not watered often, but copiously.

The fresher the eggs when set to the hen, the more vigorous will be the chicks.

A writer in the Prairie Farmer says, any land giving a good yield of corn is suitable for potatoes.

The following is a true assertion: Early hatched chickens are more valuable than late ones, as they will produce eggs during the coming winter.

It is an easy matter to have a garden so arranged as to cultivate it with a horse hoe, but on small plots, well manured, work by hand succeeds better.

Bees do not injure grapes which are perfectly sound. If the skin of the grape is broken or burst from over-ripeness, the bees will suck out all the juices.

A good seed-bed for starting tomato plants is made of three inches of rotten compost in the bottom of the box, and half an inch of sand or loam on top.

It very rarely happens that clover is injured by frost, though the growing is extremely tender. Clover is one of the best plants on the farm considering all in all.

It is recommended that carbolic acid be put in all mixtures of whitewash used on stables or hen houses. The effect of cleaning the latter of insects is salutary.

The best food for inducing hens to lay is a mixed mess of ground grain early in the mornings, for the reason that, in using such food, one can give a variety at a single feeding.

When to water house plants. If dust can be worked up with the finger then the plant needs water. Tap the pot with the knuckles. If it has a sharp, hollow sound or ring, the earth is dry. The weight of the pot also shows whether the plant requires water, wet soil, of course, being much heavier than dry.

How to make a good omelet: Beat the yolks and the whites of the eggs separately; melt a tablespoonful of butter in a cup of warm milk, to which add gradually a tablespoonful of flour, a little salt and pepper; add the yolks of the eggs, and then add the whites. Bake immediately in a flat pan greased with butter.

In furnishing houses, pictures for adorning walls should not be forgotten. There is such a variety of beautiful engravings and etching that are within the reach of all, and the framing of them costs such a trifle, and it is crying shame that the walls of so many of our homes are decorated with the pictures of the chromo variety or not at all.

Milk bread: It is now recommended that milk shall be used in making bread. A pint of it in the ordinary loaf, instead of water, adds some solid nutriment to the meal, and is a great improvement. Milk bread does not keep fresh as long as water bread, but it is delicious when fresh, and perhaps all the more wholesome for drying quickly.

Granulated wheat gems: Stir two and one-half cups of fine granulated wheat slowly into a liquid formed of one cup of water and one cup of milk seasoned with a saltspoonful of salt; then beat rapidly until the arm is weary, any fill very hot iron gem pans well buttered, giving the batter a beating while filling, and bake immediately in a hot oven.

Carried eggs: Boil three eggs twenty minutes then remove the shells and cut into slices. Fry a bit of onion in a little butter and add a table-spoonful of curry powder; pour on slowly three quarters of a cup of milk

seasoning with salt and butter to taste, and simmer until the onion is soft. Add the eggs, and serve when they are thoroughly heated.

Corn starch cake: One cup of butter worked to a cream with two cups of sugar; one cup of milk in which is dissolved one teaspoonful of soda; two cups of flour in which is sifted two tablespoonfuls of cream of tartar; the whites only, of six eggs, beaten to a stiff froth. Mix all these ingredients well, then add one cup of corn starch. Beat well. Bake in a moderate oven. Will make one large loaf.

Corn gems: Take a quart of coarse corn meal, scald half of it at night with boiling water and let it cool to blood heat; then add the other half of the meal, and with it a handful of coarse graham; then mix with tepid water, forming a batter that will drop easily from the spoon. Let it stand in a warm place till morning then dip into greased gem pans, well heated, and bake in a quick oven thirty minutes.

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