

REAL LIFE IN DIXIE.

VIRGINIANS ARE NOT SURPASSED AS FEARLESS RIDERS.

Where the Daring Cavalry Leaders of the Civil War Received Their Wonderful Skill as Successful Horsemen - Why Southern Women Are Graceful.

The bold and dashing horsemanship displayed by the Lees and Ashbys, by Jackson, Stewart, Mosby and others who were the leading spirits of the Confederate cavalry service during the late war, excited the wonder and admiration even of their enemies, and developed the fact that the Virginians are by nature the most accomplished and fearless riders on American soil.

Turner Ashby, the flower of the Virginia troops who was cut off in the prime of manhood, was perhaps the finest type of courage and manly grace in that branch of the Confederate service, and his name today is a synonym for chivalry in the south. As a people the Virginians are inclined to outdoor life, to whom the graces of physical culture come as easy and are as inherent in them as their own charming and warm-hearted hospitality.

The youth of the Old Dominion who can sit a saddle in a fox chase, catch a true lance in a tournament and take a five rail fence in a steeple race commands the respect of his fellows and holds a prior lien upon the heart of the fairest girl in his neighborhood.

Nowhere in the south today can be seen more splendid exhibitions of the bona fide fox hunt, the old time tournament and cross country riding than are given by the inhabitants of a little town called Warrenton, in Piedmont, Va. situated among the foothills of the Blue Ridge range of mountains in the midst of a beautiful pastoral region, which is chiefly devoted to stock raising and largely inhabited by the F. F. V.'s of the old regime and their descendants who have recovered from the financial and social distresses occasioned by the loss of their slaves, and are reviving many of those delightful customs and pastimes which formerly prevailed among them and rendered southern life so unique and enjoyable.

A HISTORIC SECTION. Here it was that Ashby and Mosby were reared and had their homes, and the latter made this romantic country of hill and dale, of stream and wood-land, the scene of those daring raids which so crippled the northern forces when operating in that section of the state, and gained for him the sobriquet of "guerrilla."

The battles of Manassas and Bull Run were fought only twenty miles away where the gallant boy soldier, Quincy Marr, was the first to lose his life on the Confederate side. McDowell's splendid army, 100,000 strong, camped within the limits of the pretty village and were so touched by the nobility of the women whose homes had been appropriated and turned into hospitals, that they left its quiet precincts unharmed and its inhabitants unmolested. It is not remarkable then that a people who before the war were fond of the chase and during the four years, and more of that bloody conflict literally lived in the saddle should be the riders and marksmen that they are today and have a penchant for the sports of the field.

The summer in that country is the season for tournaments, which are conducted with all the pomp and military mock of a joust in the days of "Merrie England," when chivalry had its seat in the hearts of men and inspired them to deeds of romantic valor.

Young unmarried men, only are qualified to enter the lists of these tournaments for the honor of crowning "the queen of love and beauty." They assume titles for the occasion which are suggestive of knighthood and are supposed to ride for the woman who reigns over their affections and might be regarded as a possible bride.

A PICTURESQUE SCENE. The picturesque costumes of the contestants, their gayly caparisoned steeds, the silver-tongued orator and his grandiloquent charge, to the knights, the inspiration of the fair spectators whose hearts palpitate with expectancy, the bearing off of the victorious ring and the old-fashioned coronation ball that follows at night, which opens with the address of the hero of the day and the crowning of the queen and her maids of honor, the dance of the royal set, and the grand finale in which the assembled company, young and old, unite in that jolly dance of the olden time—the Virginia reel—form a picture of social life that recalls the manners and amusements which were common to the south thirty years ago, but were wiped out and forgotten through the war as well as the men.

The women of Virginia are distinguished for their horsemanship, and many of them ride like centaurs before they get out of short dresses. In the fall of the year they can be seen riding across the country unmolested, and frequently participate with their husbands, brothers and beaux in the excitement of the chase. The Virginia girl is generally expected to be charming under any circumstances, but when she assumes her riding habit and mounts into the saddle she is an outdoor picture of grace and health that has no replica in the gallery of nature.—Chicago Tribune.

London as a Center. The city of London is put down by geographers as the center of the landed hemisphere. In other words, a radius of about 6,000 miles on the curved surface of the earth, with London as a center, would describe a circumference enclosing more land than any 6,000 mile circle that could be drawn from any other city in the world.—Exchange.

Not Alarmed. Romantic Miss (addressed to poetry)—Oh, I'm just in love with Edgar Allan Poe. Practical Adorer—Well, that's all very pretty, but...

WHY THE DINNER WAS LATE.

An Exhaustive Search Was Necessary to Discover Important Utensils.

An incident which occurred two or three years ago, on the occasion of the young German emperor's visit to Greece, illustrates anew the fact, which no one ever doubted, that the etiquette of a court may bring as much discomfort to the king as to the people who surround him.

The kaiser holds the honorary rank of admiral in the British navy. The commander of the British squadron in Greek waters tendered his majesty a dinner on board his ship. Of course the banquet was to be a most elaborate and magnificent affair.

The hour arrived, and the royal guest and his suite and officers, all in brilliant uniform, were assembled. Then it was discovered that an important implement was missing. Where was the emperor's knife and fork?

For the kaiser, having but one arm that he can use—his left arm is withered—can wield the scepter, the sword or the pen, but cannot use a knife and fork as other people use them. In their place he employs an ingenious contrivance which combines in one implement both knife and fork, and does very well with it.

Just at that moment it was discovered that the imperial knife and fork had not been placed by the imperial plate. It was sought for, but it could not be found. The emperor's attendants were inquired of; no one knew where it was.

Then the knife and fork might have been left ashore, perhaps. A picked crew were put into one of the ship's boats, and brawny backs bent over the oars, for the errand was one that called for dispatch. The emperor's quarters in the city were searched, but no knife and fork could be found.

All this time the dinner was spoiling. The search had been made with all possible energy, but it was now two hours since the table had lacked only the kaiser's knife and fork. But the dinner could not be eaten until the kaiser was ready to eat, and his eating implements must be found.

Perhaps before this time the happy thought had occurred to more than one person, "The emperor may know where it is." But up to this time no one had ventured to ask him. Would be, under the melancholy circumstances, take it amiss if he were questioned? Hunger rendered the host bold; with decorous delicacy the emperor was approached, and the momentous question was put. Could he tell where his knife and fork might be found?

"Why, yes, here it is," replied William II; and reaching inside his uniform he produced the much-sought implement from an inner pocket.

The host forthwith led the way to the table, not only greatly relieved in mind, but deeply impressed with the fact that the affairs of Germany were in safe hands.—Youth's Companion.

A Duel in the Dark.

Cornelius O'Dowd, in one of his inimitable essays, tells us that once upon a time in the County of Clare a quarrel occurred in the hunting field between two gentlemen whom we will call Captain Robbins and W. Jones, Esq. Very hot words passed between them. "Let us settle the business at once," cried the captain; "I have pistols in the house."

"Nothing better," said the squire; "I'm your man." It was at length decided that they should fight in the stable yard, at fifteen paces, each man to hold a lantern as a mark for his opponent.

"Where are you, you scoundrel?" cried the captain, when they came out into the yard. "I'm here, you shoeblack," replied the squire. "Stand out bold," said the captain. "It's what I'm doing," said the other. "Give the word and no more talking." "Get behind the pump, yer honor, get behind the pump before you fire," whispered the groom, pulling the captain by the coat. He did so, and when they blazed it was the squire who got it, and it was more than three months before he could get out again.—Leeds Mercury.

Effect of the Moon on Animals.

The health, growth and development of children and animals were years ago supposed to be influenced by the moon. If the sign was right at the time of birth they would be well formed and intellectual, but if it was wrong there was no telling what sort of creatures they would become. Every worthless fellow, every dog, rooting hog, fence jumping cow or kicking horse was believed to have been born under an unfavorable phase of the moon of night. Queer people, or those who were of hateful disposition, were children of the dark moon, with the sign below the heart.—Pittsburg Commercial-Gazette.

A Magnificent Vessel.

In 268 B. C. Archimedes devised a marvelous ship for Hiero of Syracuse.

Her three lofty masts had been brought from Britain, whereas our ships' masts are of iron, or obtained from New Zealand or from Vancouver island. Luxuriously fitted sleeping apartments abounded, and one of her banqueting halls was paved with agate and costly Sicilian stone. Other floors were cunningly inlaid with scenes from the Iliad. Stables for many horses, ponds stocked with live fish, gardens watered by artificial rivulets and hot baths were provided for use or amusement.—Chambers' Journal.

The Age of the Sun.

Sir William Thomson, the English lecturer, says: "We have proof that the sun has not existed for more than 20,000,000 years—no matter what might have been its origin—whether it came into existence from the crash of worlds which had pre-existed or from diffused nebulous matter."

Two Names of Dry Goods.

Calico is derived from Calicut, on the Malabar coast, and muslin from Mousoul, a city of Asiatic Turkey, giving evidence that though these goods are now sent to India and the east they were originally imported thence.—Boston Herald.

A Doctor's Narrow Escape.

Rev. Dr. C. W. Parker, a respectable preacher of Bremen, Ga., is authority for the following tale:

Dr. I. N. Chaney used to practice medicine in Carrollton. He went to Carrollton the other day in his buggy, and while there traded an old debt for a good horse, and started out for Boston in his new buggy, leading his new horse.

When he was nearing the Little Tallapoosa river bridge at Kingsberry's mill he suddenly heard a roaring among the trees, which he instantly supposed to be a storm. Looking up the hill he saw the forest in commotion and the trees falling and bending toward him, and in the midst of it a huge body, which proved to be a snake.

The doctor put whip to his horse and was quickly on the bridge. Feeling the buggy jerk he looked back and saw the snake swallow the horse he was leading and plunge into the river just above the bridge, and just as the snake poked his head out on the other bank of the stream his tail was still up on the side of the hill, his body reaching clear across the river.

The horse, having on new shoes, kicked through the stomach of the snake, and the snake stopped and the stream was dammed, and the water rose and floated the snake to a level with the bridge. The doctor jumped out of the buggy, took out a big knife and, cutting the hole larger where the horse's feet were sticking out of the snake's body, the horse leaped out and mounted the bridge. The doctor secured him to his buggy and drove on, but by this time the water had backed till the horse had to swim the low ground, but they made their escape.—Atlanta Constitution.

A Salted Undershirt for the Grip.

Five years ago I was suffering with a very severe throat trouble, so much so that I did not expect to live. An acquaintance told me that he could give me a remedy that would cure it, and, as I had tried all of the doctors in my town without receiving any benefit, I decided to try the remedy suggested. I tried it, and was permanently cured of my cough, and besides I discovered that I was not subject to colds.

I served a palace car company for two years in that time. I was conductor, running in the states of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee and Alabama. I was of course subjected to very hot cars in winter, and of necessity had constantly to get out in the cold at all hours of the night. In all that time I have never had a cold or the grip.

You will be astonished at the remedy. It is simply to wear a salted undershirt. Take a summer undershirt and soak it in brine made with, say, a half pint of ordinary salt to about a quart of water, and put out to dry. Wear this shirt next to the body. It is not unpleasant to wear and will, I am sure, keep off grip and bad colds, and, I firmly believe, consumption. If I were to live to be eighty years old, I have so much faith in the salted shirts that I would never cease to wear them. My reason for preferring the thin gauze shirt is because the salt makes a heavy shirt too stiff and hard. Wear the heavy shirt over the salted shirt.—Cor. New York Times.

Dr. Fridtjof to Lecture.

Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, the eminent arctic explorer, will, at the instance of the Lecture Agency, visit England during February and March and deliver a number of lectures. A special interest attaches to the lecture on the north pole, as the doctor will describe in detail his theories as to the currents which he believes to exist in the Arctic ocean, and by the help of which he hopes to pass near the center of the polar regions during the expedition he proposes to start in the spring of 1893, and for which the Norwegian government has voted him a large sum of money.

Dr. Nansen's previous visit to England on the occasion of the British association meeting at New Castle will be well remembered. What money Dr. Nansen is able to raise on this short lecture tour will go toward the outfitting of his expedition.—Pall Mall Gazette.

Olive in California.

It is said that olive growing will have a wonderful impetus throughout southern California during the next few months, because of the present very large crop of olives, the introduction of new methods and machinery for making olive oil, and especially because of the splendid prices the olive growers are getting for their crop this season. Olive growing has reached such a stage in Pomona valley that two olive mills are now being built for immediate use there. Prices for cured or pickled olives are as high as ever, and the demand for olive oil is far in excess of the supply.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Ladies Capture a Possum.

Three ladies of Rockingham county, Va., on their way home from church, treed a possum. One of them ascended the tree and shook the animal to the ground, and the other two, who were married, caught him. One of the latter, on reaching home, let the animal run loose in her husband's room, and he was nearly scared to death on finding him there when he awoke.—Spirit of the Valley.

A Movable Sidewalk.

An experimental sidewalk is now in operation in Chicago. It consists of two movable platforms, 800 feet long, moving side by side in the same direction, one at a speed of three, the other at six miles per hour. It has carried 500 persons at one time, and seems to be a success. It will be used at the World's fair.—New York Times.

Never Chastise in Anger.

First Boy—What did yer mother do to yer fer goin skatin on thin ice an gettin in? Second Boy—She boxed me ears. "Did it hurt?" "Nope. She was so mad she didn't wait fer me to git me ear muffs off."—Good News.

Hard for a Foreigner to Understand.

The construction of the English language must appear most formidable to a foreigner. One of them, looking at a picture of a number of vessels, said, "See what a flock of ships!" He was told that a flock of ships was called a fleet, and that a fleet of sheep was called a flock.

And it was added for his guidance in mastering the intricacies of our language that "a flock of girls is called a bevy, that a bevy of wolves is called a pack, and a pack of thieves is called a gang, and a gang of angels is called a host, and a host of porpoises is called a shoal, and a shoal of buffaloes is called a herd, and a herd of children is called a troop, and a troop of partridges is called a covey, and a covey of beauties is called a galaxy, and a galaxy of ruffians is called a horde, and a horde of rubbish is called a heap, and a heap of oxen is called a drove, and a drove of blackbirds is called a mob, and a mob of whales is called a school, and a school of worshippers is called a congregation, and a congregation of engineers is called a corps, and a corps of robbers is called a band, and a band of locusts is called a swarm, and a swarm of people is called a crowd.—Boston Commercial.

Diogenes' Tart Irony.

Diogenes indulged in a "tart irony" when, observing over the door of a schoolroom this inscription, "Let no deceiver enter here," he quietly asked, "How does the teacher go in?"—New York Home Journal.

The whitebait, the sprat, the sardine and the anchovy are the smallest of the finny tribe, and yet the collection and sale of these form important and very profitable industries.

CONSTIPATION.

Afflicts half the American people yet there is only one preparation of Sarsaparilla that acts on the bowels and reaches this important trouble, and that is Joy's Vegetable Sarsaparilla. It relieves it in 24 hours, and an occasional dose prevents return. Refer by permission to C. E. Elkington, 125 Locust Avenue, San Francisco; J. H. Brown, Petaluma; H. S. Winn, Geary Court, San Francisco, and hundreds of others who have used it in constipation. One letter is a sample of hundreds. Elkington writes: "I have been for years subject to bilious headaches and constipation. Have been so bad for a year back have had to take a physic every other night or else I would have a headache. After taking one bottle of J. V. S., I am in splendid shape. It has done wonderful things for me. People similarly troubled should try it and be convinced."

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A Severe Law.

The English people look more closely to the genuineness of these staples than we do. In fact, they have a law under which they make signatures and destroy adulterated products that are not what they are represented to be. Under this statute thousands of pounds of tea have been burned because of their wholesale adulteration. Tea, by the way, is one of the most notoriously adulterated articles of commerce. Not alone are the bright, shiny green teas artificially colored, but thousands of pounds of substitutes for tea leaves are used to swell the bulk of cheap tea; such, also, and willow leaves being those most commonly used. Again, sweepings from tea warehouses are colored and sold as tea. Even exhausted tea leaves gathered from the tea-houses are kept, dried, and made over and find their way into the cheap teas.

The English government attempts to stamp this out by confiscating; but no tea is too poor for it, and the result is, that probably the poorest tea used by any nation are those consumed in America. Beech's Tea is presented with the guaranty that it is uncolored and unadulterated; in fact, the sun-cured tea leaf pure and simple, its purity insures superior strength, about one third less of it being required for an infusion than of the artificial teas, and its fragrance and exquisite flavor is at once apparent. It will be a revelation to you. In order that its purity and quality may be guaranteed, it is sold only in pound packages bearing this trade-mark:

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