Richmond in War Times.

Every Tuesday night during the winter we had a meeting of what we called "The Starvation Club," our refreshments consisting of cold water; but as we had excellent music, high spirits and youthful buoyancy, we enjoyed these meetings greatly and danced away merrily with the young officers. I remember one of these who won a golden spur, of which he was so proud that he wore it to a meeting of our club, spreading havoc among the young girls, whose trains he ruthlessly tore. At other entertainments we had handsome and abundant suppers, even during the utmost stringency of the blockade, for the Richmond people could still command fowls, game and old Virginia hams, though imported wines and Java and Mocha coffee were scarcely more than traditions of the past. Our costumes, especially during the last and most brilliant season of the war, the winter of 1864-65 up to February, were "far from complete," but as nearly all of us (women at least) were in the same predicament we were seldom made to feel badly by seeing our neighbors dressed better than ourselves, a test as fatal to female friendship as the one Cowper lays down:

The nymph must lose her female friend,
If more admired than she.

One's envy was seldom excited by seeing our friends in "store clothes," as backwoods people express it, except in some rare instances where persons in Baltimore or other northern cities would contrive to smuggle a trunk or box of things through the blockade to friends or relatives in Richmond. There was a striking picturesquesness in street life in those days even the unconscious grouping of men, with their showy uniforms and eager faces. Almost hourly you would see something of interest on the streets, something partaking of the nature of a pageant, a drill, a dress parade, a procession, or something stirring and imposing. The beautiful Capitol square was used as a drilling and parade ground for some time, and every evening at four o'clock the band would strike up and hosts of young men who made the square their rendezvous would flock thither. "The Mocking Bird" and "Twinkling Stars" were especially popular airs, played almost every evening by the band. The old fair grounds at the west end of Franklin street (now Monroe Park) were used for drills during the winter of 1863-64. Sometimes whole regiments would pass through the city on their way to join one of our Generals, and the pageantry of military funerals was a very familiar thing to us. I remember being especially touched by the funeral of a young cavalry officer, a Captain Fairfax, I believe, whose death occurred in December, 1862. The coffin was borne through the streets wrapped in a Confederate flag, while the slain warrior's horse was led behind, and the air vibrated with the solemn, stirring strains of a funeral march. The largest and most imposing funeral I witnessed during the war was that of General Dimmock in October, 1863. Still greater honors were paid to the remains of Stonewall Jackson as they lay in state in the Capitol at Richmond.—[Mary W. Early in the Philadelphia Times.

A Comet that Puzzles Astronomers

It now seems that astronomers as well as doctors do not agree. Having made two or three diagnoses concerning the symptoms of the recent celestial visitor, it is found on comparison that there is serious disagreement among them as to the orbit, identity and situation of the new comet. The approximate orbit which has been given as the result of the figuring at the Cambridge observatory does not conform to the orbit calculated at the Washington observatory, based upon observations taken under somewhat more favorable circumstances. Professor Boss, of the Dudley observatory at Albany, was in Washington when the results of the observations there were reached, and, upon studying them, expressed the opinion that the comet is the comet of 1880, returned prematurely. Other astronomers express the opinion that it is the comet of 1843, which was calculated to have a period of thirty-seven years, which did return in 1880, and is visible again. In support of this Professor Boss advances the hypothesis that the comet has a much shorter period, and since 1843 and previous to 1880, it may have passed round the sun several times without being observed, making with each turn a shorter period till now it has become less than three years. This theory is not an anomalous one, for, as is well known, there are comets, Encke's for instance, that proceeded thus upon regularly shortening periods, but with a less rapid diminution of orbit. The most recent observation at Washington is said to go far to verify the theory of Professor Boss. The Cambridge observers are as yet skeptical concerning this theory, claiming that the mathematics are opposed to this hypothesis. They claim that by no theory known to astronomy can the hypothesis be verified and even find doubts as to the accuracy of the Washington observations. Altogether we are getting the basis of a very warm scientific controversy and it now looks as if the comet might pass beyond the reach of observers before the mooted questions will be definitely settled.—[Boston Traveler.

CLEARING A SHOW TENT.—A tent was pitched near Hot Springs, Ark., and the announcement of a show brought a crowd. When all the money obtainable for admission had been received, a stalwart negro wrestled with a monster bear. The combat was fierce, and passed from play to work as the beast warmed up. The spectators screamed with excitement, and it seemed to be a question of life and death with the negro. Bleeding and exhausted, he finally got the bear off the stage, amid overwhelming applause. The assembly insisted upon an encore. When the tumult had reached its height, the negro appeared carrying a bag. After acknowledging the kindness of the spectators, he stooped down, and drawing a knife from his pocket commenced to fumble with the bag. The people supposing this to be some new trick, preserved a breathless silence. Then he cut the bag open, and there issued from it a swarm of bees. As the insects buzzed forth, there was a movement of the crowd, then a panic, and finally a wild rush for the exit. Some got out by cutting slits in the canvas of the tent with their knives.

NOTICE.

To the Farmers and Mechanics of Oregon, Washington Territory and Idaho:

We wish to call your attention to the fact that our annual Catalogue and price list for 1882-83 is now ready for distribution. It will be found very valuable and instructive reading, and will be furnished gratuitously. Send your name and postoffice address to FARMERS and MECHANICS' STORE, 184 First street, Portland, Oregon.

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"I believe you're a fool, John," testily exclaimed Mrs. Miggs, as her husband unwittingly presented her the hot end of a potato dish, which she promptly dropped and broke. "Yes," he added, resignedly, "that's what the clerk told me when I went to take out my marriage license."

Slaven's Yosemite Cherry Tooth Paste

An aromatic combination for the preservation of the teeth and gums. It is far superior to any preparation of its kind in the market. In large, handsome opal pots, price fifty cents. For sale by all druggists. Hodge, Davis & Co., wholesale agents, Portland, Oregon.

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BOOK AND MUSIC BUYERS:—Send to Wiley B. Allen, 153 Third street, Portland, for any book or music published. Orders by mail filled promptly. The "Musical Pastime," a monthly journal of music, 50 cts. a year. Send stamp for big catalogue of music.

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The best liver regulator known, a sure cure for Dyspepsia and indigestion is Dr. Henley's California I. X. L. Bitters.

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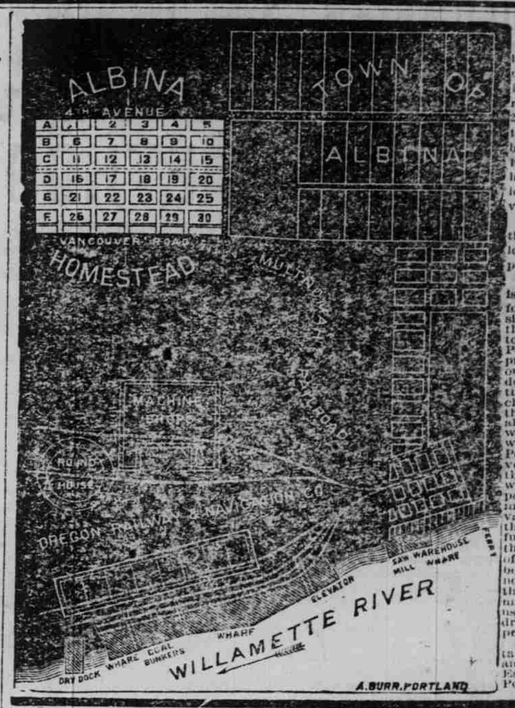

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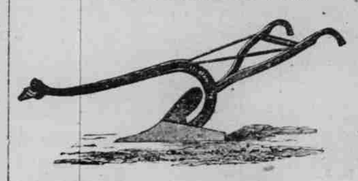

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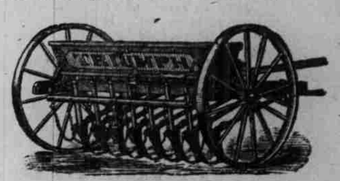

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