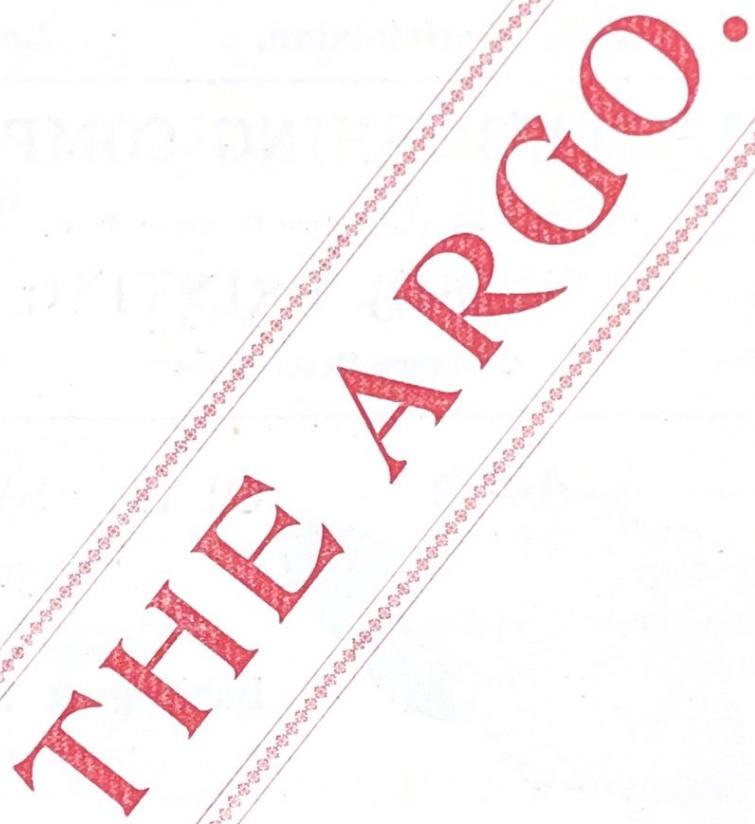


VOL. XV.—No. 2

NOV., 1903



THE ARGO.

Published Monthly

By the Students of Rutgers Preparatory School
New Brunswick, N. J.

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THE ARGO.

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NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., Nov., 1903.

No. 2

The Argo.

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Subscription price, per year, 75 cents
All communications should be addressed to the Editor-in-Chief, R. C. P. S., New Brunswick, N. J., and must be accompanied with the name of the author.
Correspondents will confer a great favor by writing on one side of the paper only.
Officers of the school, students, and alumni are most cordially invited to contribute.

TO THE ALUMNI.

In looking over our list of subscribers we noticed that very, very few of the *alumni* have sent in their subscriptions to *The Argo*. This should *not* be so. Although you have left your Alma Mater and are

"Safe now in the wide, wide world," nevertheless the school has a claim on you which you cannot rightfully forget. You may say "Nonsense." But the lessons of faithfulness and uprightness which are taught in school have a value which is greater than the tuition fees could secure.

Each and every alumnus should take an in-

terest in the school's life. The way in which you can be brought in touch with your former classmates and the school is by reading *The Argo*. Although we fully realize that *The Argo* is very far from perfection, yet it can be greatly improved if each alumnus will take to heart the fact that it is his duty to support the school paper. By support we mean the payment of your subscription, which amounts to only seventy-five cents a year, and the contributing to the Alumniana news and also to the other departments of *The Argo*.

If you wish to contribute, but do not desire your name to be known, it will not be published. The name is desired simply as an evidence of authenticity.

When at the first of the year we took up the management of *The Argo* we were advised to make the paper as interesting as possible for the alumni. This has been and will continue to be our endeavor. But it is not possible to make it interesting for the alumni unless they help us to make it so. We wish to have at least thirty alumni notes a month. If you have any suggestions to make concerning *The Argo* and the school we would be glad to receive them. And though we may not agree with the sentiments expressed, yet we will be thankful for the interest manifested.

We bring this matter before you, trusting that you will give your thoughtful consideration thereto and your seventy-five cents to the business managers.

THE TEAM.

As we go to press the news of our magnificent victory over Barnard reaches us. The team this year is certainly making a name for

THE ARGO.

the school. Four victories in order (and not once scored on) is a record to be proud of. We hope the team will be as successful in the remaining games as during the first part of the season. In next month's issue we hope to present a complete record of the team.

As examinations come at the beginning of the month, *The Argo* may be delayed about a week, but the editors will do their best and try to have the December issue make its appearance on or about the sixteenth.

THE R. P.

While we would not in any way condemn the rules regarding the *R. P.*, yet we think it would be better and more creditable to the players themselves if that honor could be won in a certain game or games.

The rule which is suggested is one that is used by a number of schools of which we know, and we have been told that this rule works very well. We would also suggest that a suitable monogram or class numerals be awarded to those who play regularly on the "scrub," or play in one or more regular games on the first team. We would be pleased to print any opinion concerning the suggestions printed above.

ALUMNIANA.

Alexander Robert Fordyce, Jr., '92, was chosen as an Assemblyman from Middlesex County in the recent election. Mr. Fordyce made a remarkable run, being elected by three hundred and twenty-two majority. This was the second highest majority given any candidate in this city or county. Speaking of the new men brought into prominence by the recent election, the *Home News* on November fifth thus comments editorially on Mr. Fordyce:

"The most interesting personality is Mr. Alexander Fordyce, of Dayton. The effects of his campaign were felt in the city, but not nearly so much as in the country, where his

name was on every lip. He is a young man surely marked for advancement."

After leaving Rutgers Prep. Mr. Fordyce entered Princeton University, where he took a prominent part and was very popular. When he left Princeton in 1896 Mr. Fordyce entered the New York Law School, graduating from that institution in '98. Mr. Fordyce practices law in New York City, but his home is in Dayton, N. J.

William Nevinson Jennings, Jr., '95, was umpire of the Rutgers Prep. School-Poly. Prep. game at Brooklyn on October thirty-first. He is now in business in New York City. Mr. Jennings was married about a year ago.

J. H. Thayer Martin, a former student in Rutgers Prep., was elected an Assemblyman on the Republican ticket in the recent election in this county, having a majority of two hundred and sixty-eight. After leaving Rutgers Prep., Mr. Martin went to Harvard. Mr. Martin is a lawyer, with offices in Newark. His home is in Woodbridge, N. J.

Frank Eckerson, '96, visited *The Trap* on Tuesday, October sixth. It was nine years ago, to the very day, that he first set foot on *The Trap* grounds. Mr. Eckerson was a Sloan prize man, an inter-collegiate debater on two occasions, and delivered the Master's oration at the Rutgers College commencement in June, 1903. He is now on his way to China, where he intends to enter upon the work of a missionary.

Alonzo Ranson, '97, will complete his course this year at the New Brunswick Theological Seminary.

Morris M. Davidson, '98, was in town the last week of October. Mr. Davidson has accepted a position with a firm in upper New York State, and it is said that in the near future he may be made the superintendent of this firm's interests.

Howard Crosby Voorhees, '98, was in town on Election Day.

Robert Hude Neilson, '99, was in town on November third. Mr. Neilson is studying at the Harvard Law School this year.

Joseph Labaw, '99, made a call at *The Trap* in October. Mr. Labaw graduated in 1902 from the Michigan School of Mines, and has since held a responsible position as mining engineer in Utah.

S. Bradford Woodbridge, '99, was in town on November sixth. Mr. Woodbridge is a member of the Class of 1904 at Princeton University.

Lucius Porter Janeway, ex-'99, was in town on November sixth. Mr. Janeway is a member of the Senior Class at Princeton.

On Friday, November sixth, the New York *Evening Journal* printed an excellent picture of the Senior Class of Vassar. In the group are Misses Claire Halstead, Marion Voorhees and Jennie Voorhees, all members of the Class of 1900, Rutgers Prep.

Carroll, Badeau, '01, attended the Pingry game on October twenty-fourth.

Leslie M. Hay attended the Pingry game on October twenty-fourth. At present Mr. Hay is a student in the University of Pennsylvania and is rowing on the Freshman eight-oared crew.

Harold Edward Green, '02, had his nose broken while playing on the Rutgers College football team against Manhattan on October fourteenth. Mr. Green was recently elected captain of his class eleven.

Norbury Murray, '02, is playing a fine game at end on the Rutgers College Varsity this season.

By an oversight F. Granger Lang's name was not in the list of 1903 men who have entered Rutgers College this Fall. He is playing quarterback on the scrub at that institution.

John H. Bergen, '03, recently distinguished himself by winning the "two twenty" yard run and by securing second place in the hundred yards run in the Sophomore-Freshmen games. He also ran on his class relay team.

Royal A. Stout, '03, won third place in the half-mile run in the Rutgers Inter-Class Meet.

William Harris Benedict, '02, was second place in the hammer throw contest at the Rutgers Inter-class games.

Miss Ruth A. Williamson, '03, with her brother, Charles, a former student in Rutgers Prep., and her mother sailed for Germany on October twenty-second. After arriving there they will stay a short time in Dresden, Saxony. Miss Williamson visited the school on October fifteenth.

Schuyler H. Rust, ex-'03, has been elected secretary of the Class of 1904 at Williston Seminary. His class numbers seventy.

William Smythe, ex-'05, was one of the Rutgers Prep. "rooters" at the Poly. Prep. game on October thirty-first. Mr. Smythe is attending Pratt Institute this year.

News.

STEVENS CANCELS GAME.

An interesting game of football was slated to take place between the Stevens and Rutgers Preparatory School teams at Neilson Field on Saturday afternoon, October tenth, but the arrangements for same could not be completed on account of the severe storm just prior to this date, which kept many of the Stevens players, who are commuters, from school and, as the management of the Stevens team did not think that they could collect a team, they sent word that they would be compelled to cancel the game.

COLUMBIA GRAMMAR CANCELS GAME.

The football game that was to have taken place between Rutgers Preparatory School and the Columbia Grammar School on Saturday, October seventeenth, was cancelled because there was a mistake made on the part of the Columbia Grammar School management.

They had arranged it so that two games were to take place on the same day. The other one being with the Morristown School. Columbia cancelled the game with Rutgers Preparatory School and played the Morristown School and were beaten, the score being twelve to five.

RUTGERS PREP., 6;

PINGRY SCHOOL, 0.

On Saturday afternoon, October twenty-fourth, the Rutgers Preparatory School football team went to Elizabeth and there defeated the Pingry School team, 6 to 0. It was a clean hard fought, and stirring contest and our men deserve great credit for the game they "put up" and, though slightly outweighed, yet out-played their opponents by six points. Both teams were rather weak in defense, but strong in offense, the Prep. School backs, Fisher, Miller and C. Nicholas, being very effective. But no doubt this effectiveness was brought about in a large measure by the fine work of the line which time and time again, when the runner had been tackled, would drag him along for a good gain. In fact every man on the Prep. School team played a good game. One of the features of the game was the punting, both Wilson, of Pingry, and Fisher, of our own team, getting off some good punts, but Fisher had the better of the argument.

Captain Davis, of Pingry, having won the toss, decided to defend the south goal and at 3:30 P. M. Verdi kicked off to Pingry and the ball was downed on Pingry's fifteen yard line. Then inch by inch she advanced the ball to her forty yard line where Rutgers Prep. braced and Wilson punted for Pingry. But Prep. School could not gain and was forced to punt. Then Pingry by short rushes carried the ball to Rutgers Prep's fifty yard line only to have our men take the ball and march on the double quick to the thirty-five yard line where Cary Nicholas made one of his sensational hurdle plays and then a touchdown was only fifteen yards away. Slowly the ball was carried to the five yard line where it was first down. But in two attempts Prep. School could only advance two yards. On the next play C. Nicholas was called upon to carry the ball through right tackle, but when he struck Pingry's line it was solid as a rock and it seemed as if he would be downed with a loss. But the sight faded away, like the bad dream that never comes true, as Nicho-

las was dragged across the line for a touchdown. It was certainly a magnificent play. Verdi kicked an easy goal and the score read: Rutgers Prep., 6; Pingry School, 0.

Prep. School kicked off to Glasbrook, who was quickly downed by Fisher's splendid tackle. On several plays Pingry gained about forty yards but at last was forced to kick and soon after time was called with the ball in Rutgers Prep's possession in midfield.

After the ten minutes rest Verdi opened the second period by kicking off to Pingry and the ball was brought back about ten yards. Pingry could not gain and was forced to kick. The ball was then kept going up and down the field until Miller broke through Pingry's line and ran forty yards for a touchdown, but the score did not count, as an R. P. S player tripped one of his opponents. Our team was penalized twenty yards and as we could not make up the distance Pingry secured the ball on downs. But they were forced to punt and it was Prep. School's ball on her own twenty yard line. We also could not gain so Fisher fell back to punt, but his attempt was blocked, yet he managed to fall on it and after two more plays the game ended with the ball in our possession on the twenty yard line.

The line was as follows:

<i>Rutgers Prep.</i>	<i>Pingry School.</i>
Verdi	Banker Left End.
Allen	Earle Left Tackle.
Case	Gorman Centre.
C. Corbin	Parmley Right Guard.
Watson	Vanhorne Right Tackle.
Garthwaite	Davis Right End.
Taverner	West Quarterback
Lang	Glasbrook

Left Halfback.

C. Nicholas Wilson

Right Halfback.

Miller (Woodbridge) Mertains
Fullback.

Fisher, (Capt.) Miller

Summary—Score: Rutgers Prep., 6; Pingry, 0. Touchdown, C. Nicholas. Goal from touchdown, Verdi. Time of halves, twenty minutes. Referee, Mr. Livingston, of Pingry; umpire, Mr. Reidell, of Cornell University. Timers, Mr. Norton and Mr. Ferguson. Linesmen, Turner, of Pingry, and S. Nicholas, of R. P. S.

RUTGERS PREP., 17;

POLY PREP., 0.

On Saturday afternoon, October thirty-first, the Rutgers Preparatory School football team added another victory to its list by completely overwhelming the Brooklyn Poly Preps. to the tune of 17-0, at Washington Park, Brooklyn. The most hopeful Prep. School men hardly dared to believe that their young football giants would roll up a score exceeding six points. Many, indeed, thought that the Poly Prep. team would win—but they did not and, with the exception of the kicking, Rutgers Prep. outplayed its rival in every department of the game. Although Poly Prep. outweighed us considerably, nevertheless the team work of our players more than offset that deficiency. For Rutgers Prep. Watson and Fisher aided very largely in the victory—Watson, especially, breaking through nearly every time and whenever the play was anywhere near him would down the runner for a loss. Miller's twenty-five yard run for a touchdown was very fine, while Fisher's two touchdowns were brilliant. But our backs could not return Brooklyn's fine punts and on one occasion fumbling nearly cost us a score. The ends were also weak in getting down the field under punts and the manner in which Poly Prep. ran back punts was a caution. But for all that Rutgers Prep. won easily.

At 3:45 P. M. Poly Prep. kicked off to Verdi

who returned the ball about fifteen yards. In two plays Rutgers Prep. gained the required distance. But as the Brooklyn fellows braced Fisher was forced to punt and the ball was run back about thirty yards. Poly Prep. quickly gained first down but Prep. School braced and her rival was compelled to kick. After an exchange of punts Rutgers Prep. slowly worked the ball to her own fifty yard line where Watson went through Brooklyn's left wing in cyclonic fashion and ran fifty-five yards before being downed. It was a great run and aided materially in securing our first score. On the next two plays Prep. School lost two yards and it looked as if Poly Prep. would secure the ball on downs. But on the next play Fisher went around right end in magnificent style and scored Rutgers Prep. School's first touchdown, after five minutes of play. Verdi kicked a rather easy goal. Score: Rutgers Prep., 6; Poly Prep., 0.

Verdi then kicked off to Poly Prep. and the ball was brought back about twenty yards. Poly Prep. then slowly advanced the ball to her forty-five yard line and there was forced to kick. But Rutgers Prep. was soon compelled to punt and Brooklyn ran back the kick thirty yards. Then by a sensational run Poly Prep. brought the ball to Rutgers Prep.'s four yard line. But Prep. School took a glorious brace and secured the ball on downs on her own fifteen yard line. Then one of the most sensational plays of the game took place. Fisher with scarcely any interference raced around Brooklyn's left end ninety-five yards for a touchdown. The way in which he dodged the Brooklyn players was beautiful. Verdi kicked an easy goal. Score: Rutgers Prep., 12; Poly Prep., 0.

On the kickoff the ball was brought back about twenty yards and Rutgers Prep. began to gain but at last was forced to punt. As the defence of the Prep. School team was like a wall Poly Prep. had to kick. A long dispute followed over an offside play and at length the ball was put in play on our fifty yard line, but after a couple of plays time was called with

THE ARGO.

15

the score reading: Rutgers Prep., 12; Poly Prep., 0.

On the kickoff, at the beginning of the second half, the ball was carried back twelve yards. But as neither side could gain each was forced to punt. At length Prep. School began to gain and inch by inch the ball was carried toward the goal until Poly Prep. braced and made it appear as if the New Jersey players would be stopped. But after two downs Miller by a beautiful trick play dashed around right end for twenty five yards and a touchdown. Verdi missed a difficult goal by a very narrow margin. This ended the scoring.

Score: Rutgers Prep., 17; Poly Prep., 0.

Only three minutes of play was now left and the ball was kept in Poly Prep's territory the whole time. The game ended with the ball in Poly Prep's possession on her own twenty yard line. The lineup and summary follows:

<i>Rutgers Prep.</i>	<i>Poly Prep.</i>
Left End.	Young
Verdi	Left Tackle.
Allen (Hall)	Davidson
	Left Guard.
Case	Holmes
	Centre.
C. Corbin	Froeh
	Right Guard.
Watson	Evans
	Right Tackle.
Garthwaite (F. Corbin)	Sturgis
	Right End.
Taverner	Gill
	Quarterback.
Lang	Schierenbear
	Left Halfback.
Miller	Woods
	Right Halfback.
C. Nicholas	Schmelager
	Fullback.
Fisher (Capt.)	Thayer, (Capt.)

Summary—Score: Rutgers Prep., 17; Poly Prep., 0. Touchdowns, Fisher, (2) and Miller. Goals from touchdowns, Verdi (2). Re-

feree, Mr. White. Umpire, Mr. Jennings, '95. Timers, Mr. Koehler and Mr. Mills. Linesmen, Mr. Miller, of Poly Prep., and Mr. Ferguson, of Rutgers Prep. Time of halves, twenty and fifteen minutes.

EXCHANGES.

L

The following exchanges have been gratefully received: The Iris, The Campus, Vail Deane Budget, The Targum, The Mirror, The Review, The Pingry Record, The Lealonian, The Amulet (State Normal School, West Chester, Pa.), The Breeze (Blair Hall, Blairstown, N. J.), The Spectator (Paterson High School, Paterson, N. J.), The Fortnightly (Cutler School, New York City), The Spectator (Trenton High School, Trenton, N. J.), The Triangle (New York University, New York City), Pennington Seminary Review, (Pennington, N. J.), The Latin and High School Review (Cambridge, Mass.), The Walking Leaf (Cook Academy, Montour Falls N. Y.).

THE FALL EXAMINATIONS.

The annual fall examinations of the entire school will be held on Monday, November the thirtieth, and on Tuesday, December the first. Examinations of the whole school are held three times a year—usually about the first of December, March and June. Sixty per cent. will be required to pass. The schedule of the examinations, which may be subject to some slight changes as the faculty may deem needful, will be as follows:

Monday, November thirtieth—

8.30 A. M.—First Period.

11.00 A. M.—Second Period.

2.30 P. M.—Sixth Period.

Tuesday, December first—

8.30 A. M.—Third Period.

11.00 A. M.—Fourth Period.

2.30 P. M.—Fifth Period.

DECLAMATION.

On Tuesday, October 8, 1903, the first decla-

mations of the year were delivered. As is the custom they will be continued until some time in the early part of 1904, when those who have secured the highest general averages for their speaking during the year contest for the Lane Prize of twenty-five dollars. This is divided into two prizes of fifteen and ten dollars respectively.

The first day of speaking proved rather a failure, for only two of the speakers were present. It is to be hoped that this will not often happen, for it not only lessens the number of speeches, and therefore the interest in them, for that day, but also crowds a great many into the next day of speaking.

As is his usual custom, Dr. Payson spoke briefly on the most interesting and most important topic of the day, also he expressed his wish that the students would report their speeches at the appointed time, and be on hand to deliver them.

THE CADETS.

The Rutgers Prep. Cadets number this year about the same as usual. Mr. George W. Nuttman again has charge and judging from his work in past years the company should show the same excellent ability as in former years. Mr. H. S. Lang is captain; Mr. Andrew Kirkpatrick is first lieutenant; Mr. Frank T. Corbin is second lieutenant; Mr. C. Corbin is first sergeant. The other sergeants are Messrs. Taverner, Watson and Allen. The foregoing were appointed but the following students passed the best examinations for corporalships: Opdyke (first), Lebaw (second), Hancock (third) and Elmendorf (fourth).

Literature.

NOVEMBER.

Yet one smile more, departing, distant sun,
One mellow smile through the soft, vaporizing
air,
Ere o'er the frozen earth the loud winds run,
Or snows are sifted o'er the meadows

bare;

One smile on the brown hills and naked trees;
And the dark rocks whose summer
wreaths are cast.

And the blue gentian flower that in the breeze
Nods lonely, of her beauteous race the last.
Yet a few sunny days, in which the bee
Shall murmur by the hedge that skirts the
way,

The cricket chirp upon the russet lea,
And man delight to linger in the ray.

Yet one rich smile and we will try to bear.
The piercing winter frost and winds and
darkened air.

BRYANT.

A NIGHT AMONG THE PINES.

It was late in the afternoon of November the twenty-fourth, seventeen seventy-nine. Throughout the whole dreary day, a terrible storm of wind and rain had been raging over the rebellious province of New Jersey. Already gloomy night was falling; deep dusk had settled; black clouds covered the sky.

Norman Rosse, a colonel in the American army, was journeying through the dismal Pine Forest, now made doubly cheerless by the bitter storm. He was mounted on a strong grey horse, whose usually well groomed coat was wet and splashed with mud. Rosse's attire was that of an ordinary citizen, but beneath his great coat were strapped two huge pistols—needful things for every Jerseyman during those perilous times.

As he pursued his course in the scarcely traceable path, he doubtless longed for the end of his weary ride. He was bound for the village of Wellton, some hours distant from where he now was. There he would be once more in the midst of his regiment, amongst the men he loved, whose cause was his and that of every true Yankee.

Suddenly, as he was journeying through the storm, he came upon a large clearing, in the midst of which loomed up before him a huge and apparently deserted house. In the dim light of the departing day, he saw that though

THE ARGO.

17

the building was fast going to pieces, through age and long neglect, yet here he could find shelter for himself and for his steed through the night.

The front door was but one step above the ground, so he led his horse right in and tethered him to the banister. With some difficulty, Rosse succeeded in igniting with his clumsy flint and steel, the wick of a small lantern which he carried. On his right as he stood in the broad hall were a number of small rooms; before him was the great staircase. On his left was a long and once magnificent dining room. All around were signs of ruin and decay, showing that the lonely mansion had not been occupied for many years.

Our traveller was not long in folding his great coat about him and laying himself down in a corner of the long room. Soon he was sound asleep, forgetful alike of the storm without and the eeriness within.

As the night wore on, the storm rose higher and higher around the solitary eves. The wind howled a wild accompaniment to the dreary tune played by the descending torrents against the weather-beaten walls.

Norman Rosse was sleeping on, too tired to dream, when he was suddenly awakened by the snorting of his horse, and the sound of hoofs violently kicking the floor in the hall without. Startled and alarmed he rushed, pistol in hand, toward the sound, stumbling over something, he knew not what. Striking a spark from his flint, he saw by the flash of the blazing tow, his horse dash through the open doorway and disappear in the darkness of the storm. In an instant the light was gone. Groping his way to the door, he stared out into the dense blackness. Nothing could he see; and no sound could he hear save the roar of the tempest and the steady fall of the rain.

Stunned and bewildered, he turned toward the room he had just left. He again endeavored to strike a light, but—strange and unnatural thing—the flint melted into water and dripped through his fingers upon the floor. Then, in the space of a second, the huge dining room

seemed strangely lit up, showing every detail. Not in ruinous decay as he had seen it before, but arrayed in gorgeous splendor. Beautiful tapestries covered the walls, and over the floor lay exquisitely wrought rugs. Instead of a heap of rubbish in the middle of the room, was a long table, draped in snowy linen and weighted down with shining silver and glittering gold plate. Chairs of elaborate carving surrounded it. And yet all seemed unreal, for through it all the awe stricken beholder could see the dim outline of the decaying walls. A fierce fire was blazing on the broad hearth, sending a glow of red light into the farthest corners of the long room, yet it seemed false and unnatural because there came no hearty sound of crackling from the burning logs.

Norman Rosse stood spell-bound. As he looked he beheld the shadowy and transparent forms of graceful women and stalwart men, clad in the fashions of fifty years before, troop down the broad staircase, past him through the doorway, and seat themselves around the table. They seemed unable to see him. And there was ever a deathly stillness, broken only by the doleful sounds of the tempest without.

On went the ghostly banquet, until, brave as he was, the young soldier felt a creeping chill of awful fear upon him as with starting eyes he gazed upon the fantastical scene. Phantom servants, gliding to and fro, tended the weird banquet. The feasters seemed to drink and to eat. The pallid hostess, with a sickly smile, seemed to chat with her wan guests, and their ghastly lips moved as in reply. But still there came no sound.

At the head of the table sat the transparent form of an elderly gentleman, evidently the host, who seemed seldom to address any of his companions. Constantly he preserved an air of thoughtful silence. As Norman looked he beheld another figure that, crouching, crept, crept, crept up stealthily back of the old man's chair. The figure was that of a man of thirty, his face marred by evil passions. On he crept unnoticed by all but the eager watcher in the doorway. He was close to the head of the

table. The lurid light from the fire in the grate gleamed on the broad blade of a knife in his hand. Now he raised his arm to strike, when Norman Rosse, forgetting everything save that a murder was about to be committed, sprang with a ringing cry into the room. In an instant some invisible and supernatural power seemed to hold him motionless. Then a deafening peal like as of thunder burst upon his ears. The room flashed up in a great red blaze. This was succeeded by utter darkness. Now he felt himself lifted up higher, higher, higher; then dashed down with terrific force.

* * * * *

The darkness seemed lighting. He thrust out his hand to break his fall and touched—damp grass. He was under the open sky, and there, a few yards distant, stood his horse untethered, peacefully grazing in the early morning sunlight. He looked about him for the old house. Here was the clearing among the pines; but no building, only a few crumbling logs among the tall weeds and the underbrush.

Thoughtfully Norman Rosse mounted his horse and rode away from the scene of his night's horrors. The weather had cleared during the night, and the air was clear and balmy. And the sun, rising over the trees, tinged the darkly azure sky with pink, and sent a ray of golden light into the pale face of the traveller.

SHAUN AND L. R. N.

Annex Notes.

OYSTERING.

The largest natural oyster beds are in the States of Virginia and Maryland. These are the public lands, where any one with a license

may gather oysters by means of tongs. In some parts dredges may be used. Outside of these limits the bottoms are rented to people at one dollar an acre for twenty years. Two hundred and fifty acres is the largest amount rented to one person.

Like any other crop, oysters are planted, cultivated and harvested. The reaping machines are either tongs, hand or steam dredges. The seed of the oyster varies in size from a dime to a silver dollar. The seed is shoveled overboard as the vessel sails back and forth over the field to be planted. Four to five hundred bushels are planted on an acre.

Oysters are ready for market when about two years old. Some are not gathered until three or four years old. After the oysters of the farm have been gathered, the ground is allowed to rest for a year.

The oyster season is during the months having "r" in their names. In this season the waters are covered with oyster boats. The owners of small boats use huge pinchers. At the lower end of the pinchers are strong iron teeth, that hold the oysters in their grasp.

On the larger boats dredges are used, one on each side. These are dragged over the bottom at the end of a rope. The other end is fastened to a drum that is turned by a crank on deck.

The most powerful steam dredge is able to gather about six hundred bushels in three or four hours. With a hand dredge from fifty to four hundred bushels can be taken in a day. Tongers can catch from fifteen to seventy-five bushels in the same time.

The largest steam dredge in Hampton Roads is owned by Mr. Frank W. Darling, of Hampton. It has a crew of twelve men, and is able to carry a load of one thousand three hundred bushels.

The steamer moves slowly over the bed that

THE ARGO.

is being worked. The dredges are lowered, first on one side, then on the other. The dredges are then brought to the surface and dumped. After the boat is loaded they head for the packers' wharf.

The oysters are shoveled into wheelbarrows and are carried to the shucking room. In the shucking room are long rows of negro men standing before stalls. The oysters are dumped into the stalls and the men open them with strong knives.

Good shuckers can open from twelve to twenty gallons a day. They are paid nineteen cents a gallon and earn from eight to fifteen dollars a week. The largest in Hampton, Mr. Darling's, opens from one hundred to

two hundred thousand bushels in a year. In this house as the men open the oysters they drop the shells on an inclined plane. The shells slide into a trough and are carried along by means of a chain to a pile in the yard.

When a shucker fills his gallon measure he carries it to the strainer. Here the oysters are strained and measured. They are then emptied into large casks kept full of fresh water. Any loose shell or grit is washed out. They are then dipped into a second strainer, which separates them from the water. They are measured again, then packed into twenty-five-gallon packing barrels and are shipped to Baltimore and Northern markets.

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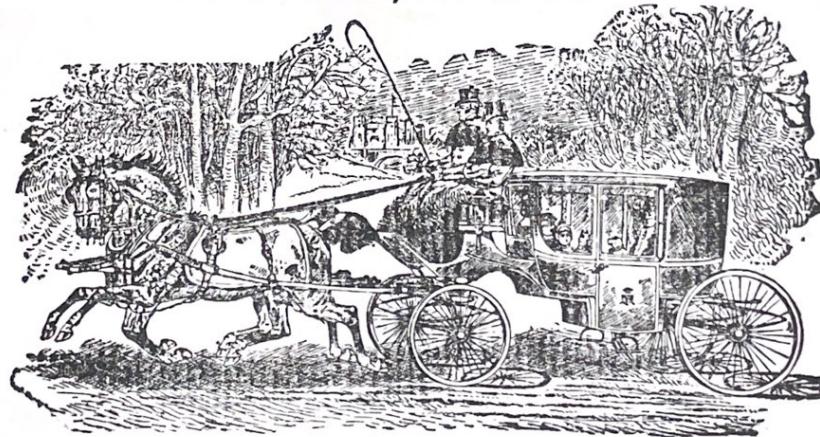
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