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Communicated.

Editor Sheridan Road NEWS LETTER: The readers of a newspaper are generally supposed to look to it for information and instruction as regards public affairs.

That Picnic.

Tuesday, August 28th, A. D. 1900, will long be remembered by a score of our enterprising society people, summer residents and others.

The morning looked a little threatening to the practical eye, but still it was pretty fair. After not a little hurrying to and fro, meeting at the drug store, with plenty of edibles, chops, boiled eggs, ground coffee, canned goods, peanut candy, ice, etc., stowed away in the lockers and under the seats, the company climbed aloft and inside the drags.

"Dick" Hawkins, who was to show them the way was in the big Moraine drag which having four horses, outdistanced the other section after leaving Halfday. For some reason,

one of the horses of the McLaughlin drag showed signs of serious illness about midway between Halfday and the lake and though the men aboard that coach, Messrs. Robert Hall, Holmes Forsythe, Boulton, and the coachman, did all they could, the sick animal, a pretty valuable one, died there by the roadside in a very short time.

Then as everything was going on well again, in spite of the disaster, a sudden shower came up, when quicker than we can tell it they picked up their supplies, the coffee, chops, etc., from the fire, and hastened to the nearest house, Miss Bartlett, who treated them in the most kind and hospitable manner, as though they were her nearest of kin, and all the party are lavish in her praise.

Of course, the sudden death of that horse and the vicissitudes of the company in getting to the lake, cast a damper over the whole thing, but the novelty of the whole thing, the scare of the tower that did not come, the untold kindness of the Bartlett household, the afternoon in the woods and on the lake, the eventual journey home, all safe and sound, made it a day not soon to be forgotten.

The first thing the owner of that valuable horse did after he learned of his death, was to go over and tell Coachman Collins he was not to blame for it, and thank him for doing so well as he did.

That Smithy.

There is hidden in some back lot, under the protecting shade of some old first growth oak trees in one of the towns on our North Shore, the most unique little blacksmith shop in all the Commonwealth.

We have been trying all our arts to so win the confidence of those fair artificers, as to secure an invitation to visit that shop pro bono publico, for the especial benefit of our anxious and admiring readers.

One of our society men, a poet, of 18 k. quality, has promised to adapt Longfellow's well known poem to this shop and his lonely artists for some future issue of the NEWS-LETTER, so that we must our readers will not be wholly disappointed.

This is the latest society fad to strike our shores. It was introduced at a New England summer resort this season. An Eastern paper describes its introduction as follows, to-wit:

"Mrs. A. C. Barney, who has introduced the Parisian custom of receiving on evenings, gave the second of her at home a few nights since. It was as distinctly Spanish as the first was French. The Spanish colors ruled everywhere about the grounds and house. Mrs. Charles Whelen arranged the program of the affair for Mrs. Barney. It was again a combination of a musical and theatrical, which seems to have taken hold of the popular fancy. Sixteen

society girls, dressed as Spanish doña and donnas, came dancing down the broad stairway after the guests had assembled, and performed a most graceful bolero on the lawn under the moonlight." Our latest and most accurate dictionary, the Student's Standard, defines bolero as "a Spanish dance expressing love, usually accompanied by castanets and singing."

Mushrooms.

Dr. L. W. Watson, a Chicago physician of over thirty years practice, came out to the Moraine for two weeks rest and the study of mushrooms. He has been there nearly six weeks, and says he can't get away his tramps through the woods and fields so remunerative in his pet line.

Tuesday, he and Mr. Schuyler M. Coe, whom the doctor has enthused brought in a big laundry basket nearly full for the tables, so that every diner had a dish served. Nor was that all. He had collected choice specimens of over thirty varieties from this immediate vicinity, and arranged them on plates as at a horticultural show, all properly labeled, in one of the rooms at the Moraine, so they could be seen and studied by its guests.

Unfortunately, the collection had been destroyed before we reached the hotel Wednesday morning, but the genial doctor kindly took us over into Mr. Montgomery's pasture where they grow in great profusion, and of many varieties and gave us half an hour's charming discourse, with living specimens on his favorite theme. From earliest boyhood we have known toadstools, but the Doctor told us more in that half hour than all we ever knew or dreamed of before of those esculents.

More About China.

The best map of China is Bacon's of London, folded for pocket use. It is about 26x36 inches, price 50 cents. Beresford's Break Up in China, has a fine map; all the railroads, existing, in process of construction and projected, are indicated; the provinces are not colored. Beresford's book is packed full of information, all up to date, and English naval officer that he is, he does not want any break-up in China. For the real facts and the opinions of the ruling commercial classes of the Chinese and the feelings of the foreign trades, there is no better authority.

"The Crisis in China" is a new book; price \$1.00; made up of papers written by a dozen specialists, and so far as read, it is first class. It is wholly unlike Beresford's, but one you can't afford to skip if you intend to be up-to-date at all on the China question. Two editions were sold in the first fortnight. We make our purchases at 177 Wabash avenue.

New Route to Union Loop.

The C. & M. Electric Railway Company now sells round trip excursion tickets to Wilson avenue in Chicago (the north terminus of the Northwestern Elevated Railway.)

At the Evanston platform of the electric railway passengers take the C. & M. & St. P. trains which run at short intervals and high speed between Evanston and Wilson avenue and connect with the elevated trains. The tickets are good to return on date stamped, and are sold by local agents at the following rates:

Highland Park, 40c; Wilmette, 25c; Kenilworth, 25c; Winnetka, 35c; Glencoe, 35c; Highwood, 50c; Ft. Sheridan, 50c; Lake Forest, 55c.

The 10-ride bearer ticket sold by the C. & M. & St. P. Co. at Evanston for \$1.00, good between Evanston and Wilson avenue, are also convenient for holders of C. & M. Electric commutation tickets reading to Evanston.

The fare on the elevated railway is 5 cents in either direction between Wilson avenue and any point on the Union loop in the heart of Chicago. Go to the Chicago parks and stores at small cost in time and money, without the noise and danger on crowded streets.

Highland Park Loop. Our friend and section boss, Michael Duggan, has fixed up the crossing on Central avenue, much as we asked him to do. The Mike has of doing things

Mrs. Fred Noerenberg, nee Miss Mabel Brand, as an act of neighborly kindness, took Cashier's place in the bank while he was away. Jack is such a good fellow that everyone likes to account

Cashier John C. Duff, of the Erskine bank, took a few days off this week at the "Happy-go-lucky" hotel of T. J. Forrest, just above South Haven. He says it's simply immense over there. More enjoyment to the square yard than can be found anywhere else so far as he knows.

Miss Jennie Floyd, our bustling real estate manager, has lots of new sidewalk built in front of property in her charge. We have noticed two excellent jobs, one a plank walk by the Zimmers on the east side of the Dr. Babcock place, and the other a strip of cement walk by Mr. Lindblom in front of a vacant lot just above the O'Brien place on the Sheridan Road north.

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Our neighbor, ex Postmaster William Dooley, would have been nominated for the legislature at the recent democratic convention in Harvard, had it not been for the folly and treachery of the McHenry county delegates. But we think just as highly of "Will," as though we had got it.

Ex-city Marshal S. P. Leesch, who is now the police officer at Fort Sheridan Park, won the prize in the rifle contest there the 26th inst. The judges were Mr. Plow, manager of the park, Sergeant Burns of battery "D," and Station Agent Conrad of Fort Sheridan. The award was made the 27th.

Thomas J. Forrest, who until recently has been connected with the News-Letter office from its first issue, was in this city Wednesday afternoon and evening. He is keeping a summer resort on the Black river, four miles above South Haven, and all are glad to know that the "Happy-go-lucky," his house, is prospering.

SERVICEABLE SHOES ALWAYS SATISFY. When Style, Fit and Finish are present, as is always the case with my Shoes, I Have... SHOES FOR ALL THE FAMILY... PRICES ARE ALWAYS RIGHT... Our Repair Department is just as busy as it can be, but we have the facilities to do your work quickly and with consideration. A. BLONDAHL, BAYSE'S BLOCK, HIGHLAND PARK.

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