

The Weekly Directory.

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The Unexpected Seven at Banquet Board.

The "Unexpected Seven" returned last night from a very pleasant and successful hunting and fishing trip in the eastern section of North Carolina and Virginia. They caught an abundance of fish, and killed about ten quarts.

"Well, boys," says Bonus Pater, "I guess we'll have to get busy and prepare a little 'blow out' for them. I guess the first thing to be done is to decorate our rooms properly. We'll use the water lilies and magnolias that we brought along with us, for flowers, and our colors interspersed with those of 'Old Glory.' will be sufficient for the bunting."

All hands were at work immediately and they soon had the bunting and the flowers artistically arranged. The club rooms were a source of real delight to the "Happy Seven."

The next, and greatest thing to consider was the preparing of the dinner. "Peter Pythagoras," being a mathematician, was asked to figure out a menu in seven courses, which will remind our visitors of the number in our distinguished order. The menu that follows was suggested:

MENU.

Peanuts on the Half-Shell
Pickled Elephant's Feet
Crocodile Soup Presidential Crackers
Lion Liver on Toast
Roast Giraffe with Cabbage
Steak, American Mule
Steak, African Zebra
The Pope's Onions Sarbonne Speech
Cafe et Noir Fruits et Desert
\$2.00 Sumatra Cigars Wine Claret

The fellows congratulated Mr. Pythagoras heartily for the arrangement of a menu so appropriate.

But the "Seven," for once, were marked for disappointment. The mighty "Nimrod," for some unaccountable reason, failed to come. Despite the disappointment, the boys were soon in good spirits again, and were enjoying the usual weekly program. "Bill Shakespeare" got a good one off on one the "Bone Head Department," then the meeting began in earnest. Bill said that one day last week one of the bunch said to him, "Bill, I have a good mind to inarry," and Bill says, "No, you haven't. If you had any mind you wouldn't think of such a thing."

After the fellows had tired of cracking jokes, they asked for the speech of "Peter

Pythagoras" upon the subject, "The Girls I Have Liked."

Mr. Pythagoras began: "You can see the comet only once in seventy-five years. One can go to see a girl at 'West Dormitory' at about the same rate. The moon can be seen nearly every night in the month. It reminds me of the girls I have liked. Ah! they were joyous days and rapturous evenings when youth smiled upon me. How gladsome the time when I used to share the joys of the Marys, the Mauds, the Kates, the Sadies, the Virgies, the Mabels, et cetera." "Gosh! Pythagoras," broke in "Julius Cæsar." "You are getting too sentimental. You remind me of a girl I can't forget."

"Well, Cæsar!" continued Pythagoras, "all of us have had our troubles. I remember too well some of the girls that I have liked. I remember how I became engaged to them. I think of the smiles, the laughing eyes, the lips which looked as if they would say, 'Peter, dear, you are a trump.' Then I can see them as they would come and sit by me upon the sofa. I feel the slender arm about me; the kisses still burn upon my wrinkled cheek, and I feel the little head with the raven locks upon my shoulder, and a multitude of other little courtesies which your erstwhile lady's-man enjoyed."

"But those days are gone. Why should I pine for them now?"

"The girls that I have liked were not always 'good lookers,' nor did they wear pink shoes with blue strings, etc. But they were a jolly, light-hearted kind, which are well worth swimming the Atlantic Ocean for. They were girls who would tell their mothers to go into the parlor and play the piano for me while they washed up the dishes. Fellows, if I should find a girl like this now, 'dog-gone my buttons' if I didn't leave the 'Unexpected Seven' this very night, and start a home sweet home of my own. The girls then dressed themselves in a common sense way. They knew nothing about sleeveless clothing, peek-a-boo waists, headless hats, drop-stitch articles and pink shoes. They wore clothes for protection, and not because of the mere necessity for having something on."

"The girls about here look good, I'll have to admit. Why shouldn't they? It's their redeeming feature."

"Now it may be that I have been too rough in criticising our would-be girls, because a fellow up a tree cannot always see so well what's on the ground, i. e., it appears farther down than up. I guess I do not understand their disposition, and I'm sure that they do not know mine."

"And now as the school year draws to close the 'Unexpected Seven' must depart also. Our joys have exceeded by far our sorrows. The 'Unexpected Seven' may never meet you again, (audible sobs) but in our reminiscences, which will woo us in the years to come back to these good days, will repay us richly for our meeting. And now to each of you dear brothers, and to those fair creatures of 'West Dormitory' who have so often moved our meditations, I give you a kiss, my brothers, and reserve one for the girls."

"The Sketch Book" Relates a Bit of Experience.

Though now, I am about worn out and my memory is not so good as it once

was, yet I will endeavor to write a sketch of my life. I am proud to say that my author was one of America's greatest writers, and he has a wide reputation on both sides of the Atlantic.

When I was first presented in manuscript to the publisher, he refused to publish me; but through the influence of Sir Walter Scott, who was enthusiastic in his admiration for my father, I received a neat publishing house dress, and made my appearance to the world in the year 1820, and was put on the shelf with other great books, for sale.

I was very unlucky, as I was scarcely noticed. Other books by my side, already had a wide reputation, and sold very readily, while I, in my infancy, was overlooked. Finally one day a nice looking gentleman entered the room, and began chatting with my owner about various things, when at last, before I realized where I was, that man had me in his pocket and was on his way home. When he had gone a little way, he took me out of his pocket and examined me to see what I knew. He became deeply interested in "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow," "Rip Van Winkle" and other stories which I give, and the next day he carried me to school with him and left me lying on his desk. A boy came along and picked me up and carried me home with him. He had a beautiful home out in the country. His sister became deeply interested in me, and I spent many pleasant evenings down on the lake, telling her my stories. I was read and re-read by the family, and then put away in the book case, where I remained a long time. At last this family moved to another home, and in moving they lost me. A few months later I was found by a boy, who carried me to his home. By this time I was getting old and tender, and one day when my new owner had me out in the yard reading my stories, he was called away and left me lying there in a helpless condition over night. This did not do me any good, but helped to shorten my life. In all my life I have passed through the hands of many, and have been read by many. I have created in my readers a desire for good literature. I have been

a refined gentleman, poetical and cheerful, sometimes humorous. And I think that I have been of some benefit to the world, and now I am placed back on the shelf, where I may rest a spell. I am torn up very badly and am disfigured.
H. C. PARKS.

JUST PUBLISHED

Webster's NEW INTERNATIONAL Dictionary, (G. & C. Merriam Co., Springfield, Mass.) surpasses the old International as much as that book exceeded its predecessor. Editor in Chief, Dr. W. T. Harris, former U. S. Com. of Education. The definitions have been rearranged and amplified. The number of terms defined has been more than doubled. The Etymology, synonyms, pronunciation, have received unsparing scholarly labor. The language of English literature for over seven centuries, the terminology of the arts and sciences, and the every-day speech of street, shop, and household, are presented with fullness and clearness. In size of vocabulary, in richness of general information, and in convenience of consultation, the book sets a new mark in lexicography.

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