

## Lake Como.

### Mrs. Percy Writes of Italian Scenes.

**"The Villas and the Old Convents and Churches, Crowning High Woodland Slopes, had Their Own Charm."**

[Correspondence of The Courier.]

I had thought since the summer in Switzerland was over, I would not write more of our wanderings. I wrote so much about my winter in Italy seven years ago, that it seemed any further mention would be mere repetition. But I have an idle evening and am tempted to include our beautiful days in Lake Como. It is in Italy, but the great hills around it wear still the charm of those we had left over the border, and the life is still given to the enjoyment of the world of nature, to the "strength of the hills." Perhaps their message rings with less earnest call, but it may be that its soothing repose and peace will bring us strength and courage, too.

We left Pontresina the last of August, walking over the Bernina pass, and sleeping in a quaint hotel on its highest point, more than eight thousand feet above the sea. Next morning we were off at six o'clock. The air was cool and bracing, the descent of about five thousand feet, made by the wonderful curving roads, so gradual, tempted us to very rapid walking. That onward walk is a delightful memory, but we were very tired and glad to take diligence and train to Como. All the conditions of our sojourn there were delightful. A fortnight of the first real summer days we had known. This heat was not oppressive, but a great contrast to the cool Swiss mornings. Summer clothing for the first time was really desirable. No more vigorous climbing but delightful rambles, and ever the gondola like boats calling us. One wooded hill, above the village of Bellagio, where we were located, will ever linger in our memory. It crowned a long point between two arms of the lake and commanded on every side, perfect views of the water and surrounding hills and mountains.

The land of "dolce far niente" — sweet do nothing, literally translated — welcomed and soothed us, into peaceful passive days. I could have wished for fewer villas and towns and the railroad along one shore, seemed an intrusion. But the villas and the old convents and churches, crowning high woodland slopes, had their own charm. Floating over the rippling water at the sunset or twilight hour, made me wish that every leaf or tinted leaf — I knew might hear those soft waves murmur before our boat, or gently caress the shore, while the vesper bells chimed softly for the evening. My window commanded a superb circle of mountains, beyond a broad expanse of water, and when we were not out upon the lake I enjoyed the sunset there. The glowing but fading light on the opposite hills, while the western peaks darkened against the crimson sky, their sharp points defined by the clear radiance behind them. The waves below caught all the varying hues from the burning red touched with blue, to the deepest note of shadow and completed the wonderful picture of color.

One night I watched from our boat the moon mounting over the wooded eastern hills. It was a perfect full moon and we saw the glowing promise above the solemn pines, long before the great disk became visible. Its sudden splendor lit up the distant hills and the wake, in keen contrast to the dark reflections around it, came in full force. The next morning about three o'clock I watched the sinking moon for awhile from my pillow, but finally drew near the window, as it slipped into a notch of the hills, the sea bed tenderly till the last moment of its curve had disappeared. Then in the sky above it came a glow so soft, so rich that it seemed more like the farewell of the sun than the moon. Then I leaned from my south window to see if the east was responding. A

faint dawn light was visible, not yet so warm in color, as that above the vanished moon. As the east flushed, the west faded, there was a moment, when they responded in almost the same rose tint; but the sun soon sent a stronger message of his power, though he did not rise above the hills for some time.

We were on the fifth, the top floor of our hotel, and sometimes went upon the roof, for the sunrise and the morning lights upon the hills I could not see from my windows. Some excursions to other towns and summer palaces, varied the days, but they needed no charm beyond the quiet peaceful loveliness of tranquil waves and sunlit or shadowed hills. Sometimes we read in the boat or woods. I gathered ferns and found forest nooks where great trees framed perfect pictures of shimmering waves and distant mountains. So the fortnight passed in ideal weather and an ever restful sense of charm. We were sorry to move onward, and sailing away, a rhymed farewell rose in my thought. Not so good I can see as those which come to me when I have no pencil to write them down, but as you can't run away I will send them. Some of you will understand my allusion to your helplessness, but will forgive me if I tell the story that explains it, for the others.

It is from "The Forest Schoolmaster," a delightful German story. He loved to walk in the deep forests of which I wrote in my first letter, but was surprised to find that the deer, who were very shy of the peasants, did not mind his presence in the least. He half resented their boldness. "Am I not a man as well?" he said. He pointed his stick at them, but they knew it was no gun. Finally one day he said to a group lingering near him, "Now, I will recite to you some verses I made last night!" and the deer all ran away.

But if you can't run you can lay the Courier aside.

### Farewell to Como.

Farewell, farewell! Lake of the silver gleams,  
Of morning sunshine, and of evening glow,  
Whose endless beauty so fulfills our dreams,  
And where a sense of endless peace we know.

"Ah! Paradise itself needs no more charm,"  
Said one when floating on thy gentle breast,  
Far from that outer world of toil and harm,  
While here is endless loveliness and rest.

"Why is this perfect gift mine own?" I said  
"While others hunger for such joy in vain,  
"While struggling sternly for their daily bread,  
"Or fighting bravely with life's loss and pain!"

But years of longing bring a richer gift,  
May those find peace and know such joy at last,  
Nature's rich message, all their cares uplift,  
And lead them onward to a bliss more vast.

Once more farewell! Thy hills of curving sweep,  
Whose slopes grow radiant at the close of day,  
Upon whose summits gentle cloud wreaths sleep,  
"Till starlight comes and drives them all away.

Farewell thy rippling waves, thine olive trees,  
The golden green lights on thy sun-touched slopes,  
The shadows creeping upward by degrees.  
Farewell dear lake that answered all my hopes.

Thy churches on the summits of the hills,  
Send down a blessing in their evening chime,  
That brings consoling for all earthly ills,  
And lifts our grateful hearts to things sublime.

To that full life, more beautiful than  
Where weary bodies are not in the way,  
But float in rapture and in perfect bliss,  
Admire the splendor of that radiant day.

A. C. P.

### Kinderhook Chapter R. A. M.

The annual convocation of Kinderhook Chapter of Royal Arch Masons was held Wednesday evening of last week and officers as follows were chosen for the ensuing year:

King — Geo. W. Williams.  
High — Edward Risedorph.  
Scribe — William Hooley.  
Capt. of the Host — F. S. Hoag.  
Secretary — W. A. Roraback.  
Royal Arch Captain — G. B. Wilkins.  
M. of S. V. — T. E. Woodworth.  
M. of A. V. — W. Strlebeck.  
M. of 1st V. — Jas. M. McGee.  
Sectiael — J. A. Trimper.  
Treasurer — F. B. Van Alstyne.  
Meetings will hereafter be held every second Thursday.

### Austerlitz Grange Elects Officers.

The following are the newly elected officers of Austerlitz Grange No. 819:

Master — John Freshan.  
Overseer — Charles Usner.  
Lecturer — Mrs. H. F. B. Loomis.  
Steward — Edwin A. Johnson.  
Asst. Steward — Val Steuward.  
Chaplain — D. W. Lasber.  
Treasurer — W. S. Higgins.  
Secretary — O. H. Davoport.  
Gate Keeper — W. B. Stiches.  
Cleric — Mrs. Garner Stiches.  
Pomona — Mrs. Val Steuward.  
Flora — Mrs. Lottie Higgins.  
L. A. B. M. — Mrs. Allie Palmer.

## The Capital City.

### Congress Will Have Some Important Matters to Consider Soon.

**Among Them are Pure Food, Parcels Post and Postal Savings Banks and the Railroad Rate Control Matter.**

Now that the President's message has gone to Congress, the way is cleared for the great legislative fight that is sure to ensue. There have been something over 5,000 bills already introduced, but there are few of them that either stand any show of passing or that are of general interest to the country. The Panama Canal bill has already been taken up in the House by unanimous consent and will be in shape to go to the Senate in a week or a little more. After that the rate bill will be the most pressing business of the House. The President was wise enough not to raise an issue over this in his message.

There have already been no less than six rate bills introduced and there will be more. The President has declared for none of them. He has pointed out what "rate control" ought to accomplish and his influence will be thrown to the measures that come nearest to his standard. In all probability this would have been the bill already sent by request to the Senate by the Interstate Commerce Commission. But the Senate Commission has amended this bill in several important particulars and it is a question whether the Commission would have recognized its own creation had not the Senate been kind enough to have it printed with its amendments put in black type. As it is the President may favor the Townsend bill which is the successor of the Esch-Townsend bill or some of the other numerous measures. He has not yet said which it will be.

### Pure Food Legislation.

One of the very important bills which has had very little attention paid to it is the Heyburn Pure Food Bill. Five or six of the individual states have passed pure food laws and they have proved valuable so far as those particular states were concerned, but they have failed to reach many of the big corporations and manufacturers engaged in interstate commerce. For several years Congress has been asked for a federal measure of this sort and it looks now as though it would be passed. The enforcement of the bill will lay between the Department of Justice and the Agricultural Department but the Department of Commerce and Labor and the Treasury Department will also be represented in the federal board thus created and will deal particularly with pure food and interstate transactions and with the importation of foodstuffs from abroad. The measure is one that the Department of Agriculture has been anxious to see in force for a long time and one that will make for the health of every community and will assure the average citizen of getting what he pays for when he puts his money in the market or the grocery store.

### Postal Savings Banks.

One of the bills that is of great interest all over the country is for the establishment of a postal savings bank. This measure of course meets the antagonism of all the banking interests of the country from the start. It is somewhat in line nevertheless with a recommendation in Secretary Shaw's annual message for the creation of a departmental Savings Bank especially for the benefit of government clerks all over the country. This matter of caring for the old clerks or those disabled while in the service has been growing greatly of late. It has been the subject of a chapter in every report of the Civil Service Commission for ten years past and there is now a national Civil Service retirement association whose object is the creation of a civil pension that Secretary Shaw's idea is not to burden the govern-

ment with a pension list of this sort but to create a bank with an assistant secretary from each department on the board of directors and have the savings of the clerks entirely voluntary. He thinks some such provision is necessary as government clerks of whom there are 25,000 in Washington alone are not a very provident lot and the time is rapidly approaching when the government must make provision to care for them or have them care for themselves in their old age.

### Parcels Post.

The bill for the creation of a parcels post will also come up strongly at the present session. It is pointed out that this country alone of all the great powers has no parcels post system and that this leaves the private citizen practically at the mercy of the express companies, postage rates being prohibitive on parcels over a very small weight. The big department stores are of course in favor of the measure because it will immensely aid their mail order business, but the small retailers are solidly against it as they declare it will drive many of them out of business. The express companies naturally will fight it and there is a strong lobby already at the capitol hoping to either kill the bill in committee or on the floor.

The proposal for a change of date in the inauguration ceremonies has come up again. Identical resolutions have been introduced in both the House and the Senate providing for the postponement of the inauguration to the last Thursday in April. These measures are on the line of the late Senator Hoar's resolution which twice passed the Senate. The change has been urged by the Inaugural Committee, backed by letters for the governors of 45 states. The measure also has the approval of the judiciary committees of both houses.

This has been a week of regulation bill and resolutions. Another of the old regulars has been introduced by Representative Littauer providing for the use of the metric system in all government transactions. This is a measure that has been demanded for a long time by all the scientific men of the country and were it once generally enforced, the public would soon find it as convenient as the decimal system of currency. The system is already in use in the government Bureau of Standards and in several other of the scientific departments. But it is highly probable that the public will need a generation more of education before they will realize the need of it. CAPITOLENE.

### Death of Zachariah Foland.

Zachariah Foland, a well known Livingston farmer, is dead at his home near Manorton. He was about 70 years of age and was taken sick two weeks ago Saturday after acting as bearer at the funeral of Mrs. John Decker.

### When Father Rode the Goat.

The house is full of arnica  
And mystery profound;  
We do not dare to run about  
Or make the slightest sound;  
We leave the big piano shut,  
And do not strike a note.  
The doctor's been here seven times  
Since father rode the goat.

He joined the lodge a week ago—  
Got in at 4 A. M.  
And sixteen brethren brought him home,

Though he says he brought them.  
His wrist was sprained, and one big rib  
Had rent his Sunday coat—  
There must have been a lively time  
When father rode the goat.

He's resting on the couch to-day,  
And practicing his sign—  
The halting signal, working grip,  
And other monkeyshines;  
He mutters pass words 'neath his breath,  
And other things he'll quote—  
They surely had an evening's work  
When father rode the goat.

He has a gorgeous uniform,  
All gold and red and blue,  
A hat with plumes and yellow braids,  
And golden badges, too.  
But somehow when we mention it,  
He wears a look so grim  
We wonder if he rode the goat  
Or if the goat rode him.

Mount Vernon (Ill.) News.

## AN OLD "IRONSIDES" ACCIDENT ON A. & H. STORY.

### An Interesting Sketch About Old Time Residents of Columbia County.

[Correspondence of The Courier.]  
It may interest some of our readers to know that the timber of which the ship Constitution, — Old Ironsides — was built, grew on the farm of Marcv Wilson's father. Marcy Wilson was the wife of my uncle, Jonathan Rider, sr. of Riders Mills, N. Y. The Riders came from New Bedford, Mass., to Chatham. My father, Joseph Hicks Rider, was the first one to come. He learned the blacksmith trade of Elikum Mosher and later had a blacksmith shop at Riders Mills, also a sawmill, when uncle Jonathan, who had been a sailor, left the sea he came to Chatham with his young wife and boarded with my father. They owned the mill together, hence the name Riders Mills. Some years after Uncle Jonathan had a large gristmill just above the bridge at Riders Mills. The saw mill was on a small stream half way between Riders Mills and the present Rayville Depot. Both mills were destroyed by floods. Father had a sister who married a man by the name of Mosher, I think his first name was Edwin. She died very suddenly at New Lebanon. She had just moved to that town. As she was arranging her household goods she fell to the floor dead. All of the old stock, a family saying, died in a similar manner.

Father's first wife was Deborah Buson by whom he had nine children, Benjamin, who at one time was chaplain at Auburn Prison, and went from there to Huron, Isaac died in infancy, (at that time father owned a farm in Dutchess county.) One day in haying time as the men came in to dinner one of them had a spear of timothy grass in his hand; he gave it to the baby (who was sitting on the floor), to play with, the child put it in its mouth, tried to swallow it and choked to death; William was a ship carpenter, lived and died in Hudson, N. Y.; Eliza Ann married Ebenezer Ives, they lived in New Britain, N. Y., moved from there to Wisconsin; Hiram was killed in Dutchess county I think he was drawing logs and had one rolled on him as he was in the woods alone, he was only fourteen when he died; Phebe died young, Daniel died at Syracuse, John Warren, a counsellor and attorney practiced law in Old Chatham, N. Y., and died there at the Locust Tree Inn. He was an honorable and brilliant young man, a power in his profession, whose untimely death was a loss alike to his family and the public at large. At that time Old Chatham was a town of importance. Ira, a respected resident of Old Chatham, also died in that town.

Father's second wife (my mother) was Mrs. Maria Calhoun Knapp of East Nassau, N. Y. Her paternal grandfather came with his family from New Milford, Conn., when her father was twelve years old, his mother's maiden name was Comfort Peet, being of English descent. The Calhouns rose of Scotch descent from Cian Calhoun, of the Lenox district on Loch Lomond, in Scotland. Mother's mother was Mary Thompson, daughter of Daniel Thompson, a Revolutionary soldier. He came from Dover to East Nassau. Father had five children by his last marriage.  
O. E. R. S.

### Died Suddenly in Philmont.

Mrs. R. H. Green, of Philmont, died suddenly Monday evening while on her way to attend a Christmas tree celebration at the Methodist church with her husband and daughter. As she approached the church she suddenly complained of being ill and the party brought her home, where she died a short time after her arrival in an unconscious condition. Valvular heart trouble was the cause of death.

### Pomona Grange.

The Pomona grange will meet in Woodmen Hall, Chatham, next week Saturday, Jan. 2, at 8:30 a. m. Election of officers will occur and the Fifth Degree will be conferred in full form. Refreshments will be furnished at noon by Chatham grange.

### HILLSDALE.

The date of the Masonic dance has not been changed; it will be held Thursday evening, December 28th. The notice in the Harbinger of last week was an error.

## NIVERVILLE HOTEL BURNED.

### Origin a Mystery--Loss \$9,000, Insurance \$8,000--To be Rebuilt.

The Van Hoesen House at Niverville, was totally destroyed by fire at 2:30 o'clock Tuesday morning and the loss is estimated at \$9,000 with an insurance of \$8,000 divided between the Kinderhook and Stuyvesant Mutual company and the agencies of Wilson Miller at Valatie and James A. Reynolds at Kinderhook. The origin of the fire is not known although it is by some attributed either to the electric light wires in the cellar or to rats or mice having ignited matches in the grocery store portion of the building. The fire was discovered by Charles Kline and Frank Van Hoesen, the latter being the owner of the building. The flames had gained such headway that they could not be subdued. There are no fire fighting facilities in Niverville and a well equipped fire department would have been powerless to save the building. The hotel, bar-room and grocery store were all under one roof and practically nothing was saved. The villagers turned out nearly en masse and did valiant work in saving surrounding buildings from destruction, many of which were in danger several times.

Henry R. Van Hoesen had about \$600 worth of furniture and other belongings in the building and carried no insurance.

It was announced yesterday afternoon that as soon as the insurance is adjusted, the debris will be cleared away and the construction of a new hotel and store commenced.

### AUSTERLITZ.

Mrs. David Drumm visited relatives in this place a few days last week.

The Misses Minnie and Hattie Hanor spent Christmas with their sister in Martindale.

James Alnstead, of Mellenville, has been spending a few days with relatives in this place.

Mrs. and Mr. Fletcher Williams and family spent Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Williams of Chatham Centre.

Leo G. Varney has a position in Pittsfield, Mass., and Mrs. Varney and son are living in Chatham.

The school gave a Christmas entertainment last Friday. A week's vacation followed.

Delbert Vincent is ill.

Charles Kinne, of New York city, spent Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey G. Kinne.

Charles Kellogg, of Lenox, Mass., spent Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Kellogg.

William Henderson, of Brooklyn, spent Christmas with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Henderson.

Married at the home of the bride's parents, Thursday December 21, Lloyd Warfield, of New York city, and Miss Minnie Haner of Austerlitz. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Geo. D. Shear.

### WEST LEBANON.

The most severe wind storm in several years occurred here on Thursday although no serious damage resulted.

Mrs. Geo. Marshall and Maud Sackett spent Christmas at Prof. Meyer's in Pittsfield.

Leroy Cummings, of Kingston, is visiting friends in this vicinity.

Fred Baldwin is spending his Christmas vacation in Connecticut. Two weeks vacation in the district school.

Receipts of the Christmas sale \$50.60. On account of the storm the Thursday evening sale was postponed until Friday. The attendance was rather small but the fine variety of articles were all disposed of.

On Friday evening, Dec. 23 the pupils of our village school gave an entertainment consisting of a play and Christmas recitations. The pupils rendered their part admirably and much credit is due Miss Early for her careful training. After the exercises gifts were taken from a tree. The school room was very prettily decorated, the work of both pupils and teachers. Miss Early is gaining the esteem of parents and the love of her scholars and we are very glad to see so much interest in the school.

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