

## VACATION HABIT STRONG IN AMERICA.

Growth of the Summer Resorts in the Last Century—A Glance at a Period When Summer Trips Were Considered Unnecessary, and Review of Some of the Changes That Dotted the Land With Tourist and Health Centers—Small Beginnings of Some Famous Places.

BY CHARLES WINGATE.

WITHIN the past 30 years a marked change has taken place in American habits of living. Increased prosperity and the love of novelty have fostered the desire to travel, while the growth of taste has stimulated a love of the picturesque, and has led Americans to appreciate the beauty of their own scenery. The crowding of population in cities, with the struggle for existence, the loss of the old life, has forced people to take long vacations to recuperate. Lastly a large leisure class has developed consisting of those who have the means and the leisure to escape from summer's heat and winter's chill to more balmy climes. Hundreds of hotels have been erected by sea and lake-side, on mountains and in valleys, to accommodate tourists. Covered beaches and sandy settlements, barren with scrub pines, have suddenly become centers of fashion and wealth.

The whole Atlantic coast is lined with cottages and hotels. Every mineral spring, every trout stream, lake, and forest has its summer colony, while the Maine woods, Adirondacks, Granite Hill, Thousand Isles and Catskills, care for crowds of summer visitors.

Lakewood, Atlantic City, Asheville, and the Florida winter resorts are equally popular, while Colorado, Arizona, and California also draw throngs of visitors.

Transportation has been stimulated by the public desire to see new and attractive places, while in turn many new resorts have been developed by persistent advertising. Travel has become so safe, rapid, and inexpensive, that it is within the means of all. The aged and the feeble can visit the most distant points with almost no fatigue. The multi-millionaire tells in his private car, but the man of moderate means can tell the Yellowstone or Yosemite, Hot Sulphur Springs or St. Augustine, with small outlay.

WHEN VACATIONS WEREN'T NEEDED.

Up to 1850, when Central park was planned, nobody in New York felt the need of a vacation. In colonial days, merchants and lawyers lived over their countingrooms or offices.

In the summer they occupied suburban villas like the Hamilton Grange or the Morris-Jumel mansion, or the Lexington Heights, where James O'Connor, Bennett, Audubon, and Charles O'Connor afterwards resided. With the increase of wealth, and the strained stress of city life, together with the adoption of the narrow city lot and the building of houses in solid blocks, people began to feel the need of summer rest and recuperation.

They began by taking brief trips to Saratoga, Richfield Springs, or New Lebanon, to drink the waters. Wealthy southern planters came north during the heated term and filled the hotels at Cape May and Saratoga, making these places centers of fashion. Newport was less given to display. There was but one hotel, the cottagers were exclusive, and did not indulge in horse racing or gambling.

Sixty years ago there were few American summer resorts in the strict sense of the term. Travel was tedious. Few persons cared to take long journeys over dusty or muddy roads or to endure the rough fare at wayside inns. Travel by canal was comfortable, but slow. Niagara attracted many tourists, but their stay was brief. Washington Irving first revealed the beauties of the Hudson, but in Aaron Burr's time the trip by stage from New York to Albany sometimes consumed three weeks, as long as a European voyage.

But the invention of the steamboat, in 1807, gave a marked impetus to travel, despite the frequent catastrophes, like the burning of the Henderson, near New York, when Andrew Jackson Downing lost his life. It was not until railway lines were extended far and wide that the present summer resorts became accessible. The Long Island Railroad was built as far as Jamaica in 1836, and four years later it was extended to Hicksville and Greenpoint. In 1839 the Hudson River Railroad was constructed to Poughkeepsie, and continued to Albany a few years later.

MILLIONS IN RESORTS.

The capital invested in summer and winter resorts is vast and increasing—tens of millions in the Adirondacks, ten millions in the Catskills. The revenue has been proportionately large. The Mountains amount to \$25,000 yearly. Last summer 25,000 railway tickets, averaging \$2 each, were sold to the Catskills, while the railroad receipts to the Adirondacks were proportionately large.

The sandy shores of New Jersey are valued at over \$100,000,000. Fifty years ago Mount Washington sold for \$500. Recently four acres of the lake wood, which cost a dollar an acre, has brought \$25,000 for the same acre. Land at Lenox has risen from \$20 to \$200,000, and similar advances are reported at other places.

Since the Civil war the spirit of patriotism has increased. Americans now take pride in their native land, not only because it is beautiful, but because it is characteristic.

Lowell, Higginson, and Thoreau, Bryant, Donald G. Mitchell, and still more, those of John Burroughs, have stimulated their interest in what is native and peculiar.

Foreign visitors confirm our own conclusion that the Colorado canyons, Yellowstone park, and the Yosemite valley, like Niagara, are superb creations of nature.

Our native artists have contributed not a little to the popular recognition of the beauties of our mountains, lakes, and seashore. Cole and Durand exploited the Hudson River valley, Church painted Niagara; Bierstadt and Moran made known the wonders of the Yosemite; Innes painted the Catskills; and of New Jersey; Kennett painted Lake George and the New England coast.

In like manner, Emerson, extolled Monadnock and Katahdin; Bryant the Kaaterskill Falls and Delaware Water Gap; Theodore Winthrop wrote up the Adirondacks; and Lowell laid the scenery of his first novel in Quebec. American trees, and flowers, and birds were mentioned instead of European names. The pine superseded the oak; the thrush replaced the nightingale, while the mountain laurel and golden rod took the place of the English rose and ivy. We began to see that our natural objects were beautiful because they were different.

Our native writers added new light on the subject. Audubon traversed the whole region east of the Mississippi on foot, exploring southern savannahs and northern mountains. President Timothy Dwight's horseback journey through New England and New York, published in 1823, and William Cullen Bryant's "Letters of a Traveler," issued in 1847, were among the first accurate accounts of American scenery. President Dwight gave the first detailed description of the Catskills, while Bryant visited Passaic Falls, Delaware Water Gap, the Berkshires, and White Mountains.

On account of its nearness to New York, the Catskills attracted many visitors, especially literary men, including Bryant, Taylor, S. P. Willis, and Gaylord Clark, and George William Curtis. Their descriptions of the Old Mountain House in the Killbuckeek Magazine, Harper's, and other periodicals naturally drew special attention to this romantic region.

Washington Irving did not visit the scene of Rip Van Winkle's adventures until years after the story was written; Fenimore Cooper visited the scene of Leatherstocking's exploits in 1823. Thoreau made a pedestrian trip to the Catskills in 1841, and Audubon also visited this region.

THE "CRYSTAL HILLS."

The "White Mountains," or "Crystal Hills," were first mentioned in 1633. Somewhat later they were partly explored, but they did not become a popular resort until the middle of the past century. In 1642 Daryl Field and two Indians climbed the highest peak, and the first detailed description of the Granite Hills in print was not until 1672. A rude house for visitors was built upon the Granite cave in 1803. In 1809 Abel Crawford and his son cleared a path through the woods to the Rocky Ridge, and in 1840 Abel Crawford, at the age of 75, rode the first horse to the dome of Mount Washington. His son built the first house on that mountain in 1847, and from there the rest of the trip was made by stage. Even then, William Cullen Bryant complained that the hotels were poor and the guides rough.

Caring for summer boarders is now the chief industry of the Granite state. Over \$10,000,000 of capital are invested, and 174,280 persons are entertained every year who spend \$5,000,000 in board and \$230,000 in railway and steamship fares. Yet the main attractions of the region are included in a territory measuring but 20 miles square and may be seen in a day.

IN THE ADIRONDACKS.

The Adirondacks comprise 6,000 square miles, an area six times as large as Rhode Island, with 1,100,000 acres of primeval forest, untouched by the axe. It is one of the finest pleasure resorts in the world. Every year it attracts thousands of visitors, two-thirds of whom come from other states of the Union than New York.

Yet up to the middle of the last century the Adirondack region, like the great American West, was a blank on the map. For long years afterwards it was known simply as the North Woods, or "John Brown's tract." In a guide-book issued in 1828, Hamilton and Herkimer counties are described as "wild and unsettled country." Darby's "View of the United States" (1828) omits all reference to the Adirondacks. The Guide for 1844 does not mention them either, but speaks of Mount Marcy "lying west of Lake Champlain." In 1843, Noble described the Adirondacks as more difficult of access than any place east of the Mississippi, an "interminable and pathless wilderness," nearly houseless and savage. The lakes were said to be oppressively lonely, the woods full of moose, bear, wolves, and panthers.

Strange to say, the first person who undertook to develop the Adirondacks as a pleasure resort was Joseph Bonaparte, ex-king of Naples, who, after the downfall of the Napoleonic dynasty, in 1815, bought 150,000 acres in Lewis county, and laid out a hunting estate in much the same fashion as the multi-millionaires of today.

Many persons associate "John Brown's Tract" with old Oswatimie Brown, of Kansas fame, the original John Brown was a wealthy merchant from Providence, R. I., who, about 1810, bought a tract of land, mostly in Herkimer county, some 20 miles square, for clearing and roads, and built a forge and an immense workshop with numerous dwellings for employees, intending to form a permanent settlement. But the climate was unfavorable; the works were flooded, and the product of the forge could not be sold at a profit. After sinking a large amount of capital, the enterprise was abandoned; the houses were deserted and went to ruin, and Brown's son-in-law, the prospective heir to what was expected to become a princely estate, blew out his brains in despair.

The second John Brown's tract at North Elba, comprising 350 acres, was deeded to the hero of Harper's Ferry by Gerrit Smith, the abolitionist, in 1849, and here Brown was buried in 1859. Since 1870 the Adirondacks have steadily increased in popularity. "Camps" costing \$20,000 and estates of \$500 and 10,000 acres are not uncommon. One man has acquired 90,000 acres, including a lake and vast stretches of wood and mountain. So long as these preserves are utilized, no one can complain, but if they belong to absentee owners, little benefit is derived from them. In the words of an old hunter, referring to a rich man who owned a mountain, he could not climb himself and objected to others doing so, "It's like buying up all the orchestra seats in Paradise."

THE FOREST HEALTH RESORTS.

The first American health resorts were the mineral springs at Berkeley Springs, George Washington occupied a cottage, and White Sulphur Springs was a favorite resort of Thomas Jefferson, who died at the Springs, New Lebanon, and Balston Spa attracted many visitors in the north.

The virtues of Saratoga's mineral waters were long known to the Indians. In 1770, Sir William Johnson, the first white visitor, was carried there by the Indians in a litter to drink the waters. In 1790, Elkannah Watson visited Saratoga where he contracted a "disagreeable" people sojourning at a wretched tavern "enveloped in rudeness and seclusion." He states that the springs had been accidentally discovered in 1770, while following a deer's tracks. Vessels were let down through a narrow fissure formed by petrification to procure water for drinking. Watson bathed in a rough wooden trough like those used to feed swine. It was in an open log hut, and received the overflow of a spring. Into this you rolled off from a bench. The waters were considered a specific for scrofulic cases, gout, and rheumatism. He predicted that the place would ultimately become the "Bath of America."

At Balston Spa only a dozen visitors could be accommodated. An old barrel stuck in a muddy quagmire was the "fountain" near which men washed their loathsome sores, while a shower bath stood at the foot of the hill. Yet the place grew to be a fashionable resort, and is mentioned in "Salmagundi."

In 1804, Daniel Webster rode in a carriage from Springfield, Mass., to Saratoga, and reported that it was crowded with the well-to-do as well as the sick. In 1832, when the first railroad was built, the village had a population of 2,000 to 3,000. Joseph Bonaparte, ex-king of Naples, was the lion of the season, and the first crowned head to visit the place. In 1833, Philip Hone wrote of the rapidity and comfort of the journey from New York which formerly consumed a week to reach Albany, and a day's hard stages thence now he could reach Saratoga and be in the metropolis the next morning.

SARATOGA AND POLITICS.

Saratoga early became a gathering place for politicians. Countless dinners and party councils were held on the piazzas of the great hotels, and many state and national conventions were held there to nominate candidates. In "The Honorable Peter Stirling," a graphic description of such a gathering is given. Philip Hone writes (July, 1839) that the United States hotel is nearly full. President Van Buren, Henry Clay, and Gov. Seward were the chief lions, and politics vied with fashion as an attraction. He complains that the "balls" were more dressy than the "hops," but to make amends champagne, ice cream, and blanchmange were served at the former. In 1847 he complained that the journey by boat was pleasant, but tedious.

He officiated as floor manager with a Col. McAllister, precursor of the famous "Ward." There were 2,000 guests, and every hotel and boarding house was doing "all the world is here, including the Presidential candidates, Martin Van Buren, Henry Clay, and Gen. Winfield Scott, while Gov. Buchanan came later. He gives a lively sketch of Chancellor Kent's informal method of holding court, and of the lawyers present, including Charles O'Connor, who was in Saratoga in 1847.

Saratoga is frequented not only by the votaries of fashion, and the patrons of the race track and gaming table, who make the big hotels, but it has drawn many cultured persons in impaired health who fill the smaller hotels and boarding houses.

The chief attractions, besides the variety of medicinal waters are the fine drives, the wide boulevard, the noble elms, the beautiful, though small park, and the dry atmosphere, tempered and invigorated by breezes from the Adirondacks. The annual floral festivals attract throngs of visitors, while during the races or at the time of political conventions the hotels are packed.

In 1870, Saratoga had a population of 7,518, and contained 46 large and 25 small hotels; 45 boarding houses, and a water cure. Up to 1875, the summer visitors ranged from 20,000 to 45,000.

Newport has always been famed for its delicious climate, its yachting, and bathing advantages, while its social teas have been refined and fashionable.

It formerly ranked as pre-eminent. Its watering place, and Saratoga was its sole rival. One of its eulogists, writing in 1854, called it a "resort, not a hotel." From 1815 to 1840 it was the resort of many of the southern families. About the latter year the Ocean and Atlantic houses were built, and Newport became more fashionable, though it never was strictly a popular resort. As a center of wealth it has no rival in America.

Newport claimed to have more natural advantages than any of the European health resorts, which it said lacked breadth and variety, and were too shut in. Besides its revolutionary associations, when the French army officers were quartered there, it enjoyed traditions of Bishop Berkeley, William Ellery Channing, Ezra Elletts, and Mary Anne, the miniature painter. The Jewish colony included representatives of the Lopez, Rivera, Levi, Hart and Selas families. In later years, George Bancroft, Helen Hunt Jackson, George E. Waring, and Col. T. W. Higginson, resided at Newport, while Fanny Fern and her husband, James Parton, summered there.

ALONG THE COAST.

On account of their greater accessibility and also because of the universal fondness for bathing and sailing, sea-side resorts multiplied faster than inland or mountain places.

Ocean Grove was founded about 1860; Asbury Park in 1870, and Chautauque is about the same age. Cape Cod, in 30 years old and Martha's Vineyard Camp Meeting was started in the thirties. Oak Bluff, now a Cottage City, at Cape Cod, eight miles off Martha's Vineyard, was the earliest camp-meeting settlements in the Union, was established in 1835. There was considerable hardship about the life. Family parties in sailboats anchored near the shore. Passengers were brought through the surf on rafts or carried ashore on men's backs, rarely escaping a ducking. A few ox teams constituted the sole means of transportation. Every one lived in tents, arranged in a circle around the auditorium, the only firm structure in the place. Here the minister lodged. Grace Chapel in Trinity Park stands on the site of Father Taylor's "Beth-el."

The tent floors had a heavy covering of straw, with partition through the center. Men slept on one side and women on the other. The water was liable to become a meeting place at any hour.

The camp meeting, vastly changed in methods and appliances, still exists as a principal feature of the summer life at Cottage City. Large sums have been spent on public and private improvements, and in providing means of recreation; music festivals, boat races, and swimming tournaments. The place is a haven for yachts, and thousands of sailing craft pass every year. There are 1,200 cottages, with 15,000 summer visitors.

In 1838 Long Beach had but one hotel. Not until the palmy days after the war when Collector F. M. Murphy and Gen. Grant summered there, did the place begin to boom.

In 1844 Schooley's Mountain Springs, a popular New Jersey resort, had three hotels and several boarding houses. At Lake Mohonk, in Ulster county, N. Y., the Indian conference grounds have attracted distinguished speakers, including ex-president Hayes, Bishop Whipple, Gen. Armstrong, the founder of Hampton, Gen. Johnston P. Risk, Senator Dawes, and the Rev. Lyman Abbott, while the Arbitration conferences, begun in 1896, have attracted prominent men and women from all parts of the world. Charles F. Wingate in the New York Evening Post.

The Golf Caddy.

"The golf caddy," said a southern journalist, as he chewed a sprig of mint, "is a new type. This lad is independent, witty, altogether without reverence. 'On John D. Rockefeller's visit to Bon Air, he tried a little golf one afternoon in the neighborhood of Augusta, Nevada. On a rather difficult shot Mr. Rockefeller struck too low with his iron, and as the dirt flew up he said to his caddy: 'What have I hit?' 'The boy answered with a harsh laugh: 'Georgia, bos.'"

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Positively cured by these Little Pills.

They also relieve Distress from Dyspepsia, Indigestion and Too Hearty Eating. A perfect remedy for Dizziness, Nausea, Drowsiness, Bad Taste in the Mouth, Coated Tongue, Pain in the Side, TORPID LIVER. They regulate the Bowels. Purely Vegetable.

## Big Summer Sale of the HOUSE OF FREED!

SUMMER PRICES FOR SUMMER BUYERS.

Many shrewd buyers make it a practice to wait for the coming of summer months and the "dull season" before looking for furniture bargains, knowing full well that the real bargains will come then. The furniture bargain season is here now—arrived with the warm weather. Our buyers are now in the east—and to make way for the many cars of goods that are now coming, we are having a big summer sale for one week with tremendous cuts on all goods. Here are a few of our offerings—bargains, every one of them. But there are many more just as good opportunities to be had by inspecting our stock.

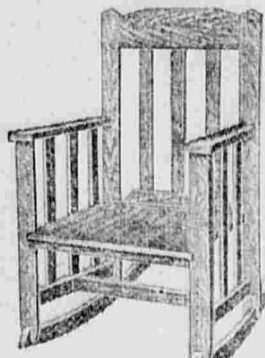
This Sale will begin Monday morning and continue all week



## Picture Sale

\$1.25

Here is a special that should not be overlooked. We have them in either round or square styles, sizes about 22x26 inches, glass covered, gold or black and silver frames. Regular value \$3.00 to \$5.00; on sale all week.

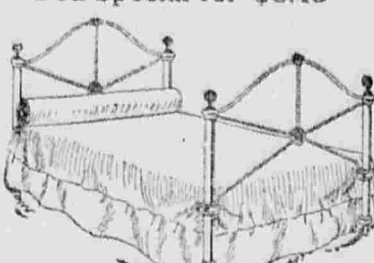


## Weathered

Oak Rocker the same as cut on sale this week—

\$4.10

## Bed Special for \$8.45



This includes Iron Bed, spring, and 30-lb. wool mattress. Don't overlook this special.



## 25% DISCOUNT

on all Karpin's Upholstered Furniture.

Solid oak center table 24 inch top, value \$2.50. Special this week—

\$1.65



## DRESSERS

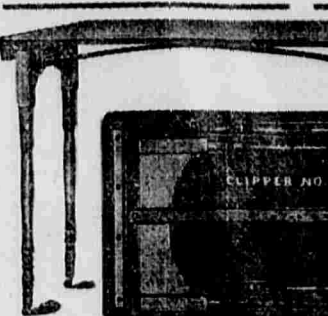
Our line of Dressers is complete and many styles to select from. One like cut, value \$15.00. Sale price this week—

\$9.55

## 25% Discount

on all Refrigerators

Now is your chance to get a fine refrigerator at little cost. Come in and examine our stock.



## FOLDING SEWING TABLES

We will place on sale Sewing Table like above cut, made of hard wood, highly polished, and well made; 25 inches high, 36 long and 18 inches wide, and has a measure marked on top.

90 cents.

## 33 1/3% Discount

On All Go-Carts and Baby Carriages.

Special sale this week on Dinner Sets. A 42-piece set like cut; sale price this week—

\$4.50

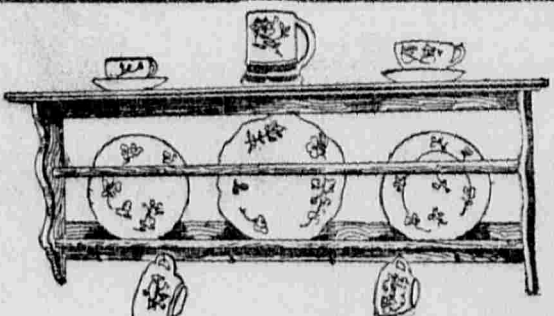


Plate Rack, like above cut in Golden or Weathered Oak, sale price ..... 50c

## BATH RUGS

Beautiful designs. Value \$2.25 at ..... \$1.75. Value \$2.75 at ..... \$2.25.

## CARPETS

Our new stock is now in and never before has there been shown such a large stock of goods. Freed's will place on sale their entire stock, and this is a great money-saving event for you. Rugs, Linoleums, and Lace curtains have also been reduced for this sale, below you will find the lowest price on carpets that has even been advertised in this city:

Cotton ingrain, regular price 55 cents per yard. Sale price per yard ..	35c	Brussels standard grade, regular price \$1.10 per yard. Sale price ..	90c	Wilton carpet, regular price \$1.90 per yard. Sale price, per yard ..	\$1.06
Union ingrain, heavy goods, regular price 65 cents per yard. Sale ..	45c	Brussels high grade, regular price \$1.35 per yard. Sale price ..	\$1.10	Axminster A-grade, regular price \$1.50 per yard. Sale price, per yard ..	\$1.20
All wool Filling ingrain, regular price 85 cents per yard. Sale price ..	70c	Velvet carpet, regular price per yard \$1.25. Sale price, per yard ..	\$1.00	Axminster AA-grade, regular price \$2.00 per yard. Sale price ..	\$1.50
All wool Ingrain, regular price 95 cents per yard. Sale price ..	80c	W. Velvet carpet, regular price \$1.45 per yard. Sale price per yard ..	\$1.20	Axminster Biglow, regular price \$2.25 per yard. Sale price ..	\$1.75

ALL CARPETS MADE, LAID AND LINED FREE OF CHARGE.

THE ENTIRE STOCK REDUCED IN PRICE FOR THE SALE.

## Specials

Smyrna Rugs, size 30x60 inches. Value \$2.00. Sale price this week—

\$1.35

Pedestals and Tabourettes in weathered oak, mahogany and golden oak.

## A handsome Rocker

in Oak, or Mahog. any. Value \$4.50.

Sale price this week,

\$2.90

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