

neglect to contribute to the poor as they ought."

He deprecated the practice of some Sabbath school superintendents and many of the teachers as well as the older scholars in absenting themselves from the sacrament meetings in the afternoon in this city as well as the ward meetings in the country they, feeling that their duty was fully done when Sabbath school adjourned. He reminded the Bishops that every avenue possible would shortly be opened and allurements on every hand would present themselves, especially to the youth to indulge in Sabbath breaking, and now was an opportune time to use a proper influence to prevent such desecration.

The necessity of ordaining the young to some of the offices in the lesser Priesthood he strongly urged, in order that they might prove themselves worthy of the higher Priesthood when they arrived at an age to warrant their ordination thereto. He remarked that many a young man among us had been ordained to the higher Priesthood when he was totally unprepared to assume the duties of the office. He reminded the brethren of the counsel given of late by President George Q. Cannon in regard to not allowing funeral meetings to interfere with our Sabbath schools and also the counsel given by our late President John Taylor, and by President A. M. Cannon to not allow them to interfere with our sacrament meetings. This counsel was not observed as strictly as it should be.

He stated that there were twelve High Counselors in this Stake of Zion and six alternates, forty-four Bishops and eighty-eight Counselors, making a total of one hundred and fifty men who were actively engaged in the Priesthood, besides a large number of others who were members of the High Priests' Quorum of this Stake, and yet how few were in attendance at the regular quorum meeting which convened only once a month.

Adjourned until the first Saturday in July on account of the Young Men's Conference, which will be held the first Saturday and Sunday in June.

RAMBLES IN VIRGINIA.

Rockbridge County is in the northwest part of the State, lying between the Blue Ridge Mountains on the east and the Alleghany Mountains on the west. It derives its name from the famous "Natural Bridge of Virginia." It is a rolling country in the valleys and is farmed quite extensively, the principal crops being wheat, corn and tobacco.

The crops are looking well at this time. I noticed wheat heading out yesterday. Virginia had a very mild winter—too mild in fact, for in January all the peach trees blossomed out and then came a frost and nipped them. Therefore peaches will be very scarce this season.

The real estate men are working up a boom in this county which seems to be creating quite a stir amongst the natives. At Green

Forest, a small village of fifty people, one year ago, a new town was laid out and building has so rapidly progressed that now the place numbers 1000 inhabitants. It was called Buena Vista, and two railroads run through it, viz., the Shenandoah Valley road and the Richmond & Alleghany, a branch of the Chesapeake & Ohio; so that the town has splendid facilities in this respect. It was formerly a fertile plain, devoted to agricultural pursuits, but is now the scene of much activity in the matter of street grading, the laying of waterpipes, and building of business houses and residences. The hotel Buena Vista is a new and attractive structure. Its location on a hill affords a charming view of the new town and the North River. Along the river numerous industries are being established, such as iron works and paper manufactories. Industrial enterprises have been already started by the Buena Vista Iron Co., Wilbourn Saddle Co., Wise Wagon Works and Buena Vista Fence Co. (which turns out combination fence something like the Burton-Gardner at home), and the Buena Vista Paper Manufacturing Co. There is also a large tannery here, employing a great many hands. A newspaper is likewise published, the *Buena Vista Advocate*.

I recently visited the famous Natural Bridge which Washington, when surveying under Lord Fairfax, climbed and upon which he engraved his name. This can yet be seen quite plainly in the solid rock.

Taking the Shenandoah valley route from this place, it is a run of thirty-five minutes to the Natural Bridge station; we then had a pleasant walk of two and a half miles to the bridge, passing through a lovely country along the banks of the James river and up a country covered with green pines and evergreens. Four grand hotels stand near the bridge, and these are surrounded with lawns and promenades—a delightful spot at which to spend a portion of the heated season. The bridge is the principal object of interest, however, to all visitors. It is a solid limestone structure, over which runs a wagon road, and a person unacquainted with the locality can pass over it without knowing it is a bridge, as trees and shrubs grow thereon. On approaching the edge of the bridge the scene is grand indeed. Standing upon Pulpit Rock one can look down the giddy abyss a distance of 215 feet. A man standing at the bottom looks like a child, while the trees appear like small bushes; but to see the place in its true grandeur the visitor must descend to the glen. A stream of water flows under the bridge, called Cedar Creek, and this is crossed by rustic bridges. The waterfalls up the glen, with ferns, flowers, evergreens and trees, contribute to make the place fascinating in the extreme.

Lexington is the county seat of Rockbridge County, and is a sleepy town of about 3000 inhabitants, with a good representation of the colored race. Here are situated the Virginia Military Institute and Washington

and Lee University. Generals Robert E. Lee and "Stonewall" Thomas J. Jackson, the Confederate generals, have their final resting-places here. The military institute was erected in 1839, and many of the Confederate generals were educated at that institution. It is an imposing structure, built of brick, with octagonal towers, and surrounded by extensive grounds.

We applied for admission and were politely shown through the building by one of the cadets. We saw the Stonewall class room, where Jackson occupied the chair for ten years as professor, and the cadets' quarters, where each cadet has a regulation room, the furniture consisting of a folding bed, chairs, a table covered with books, uniform, firearms, etc. They have a fine library, although it has been collected since the war. The institute was burned on July 11th, 1864, by Federals under General Morgan, and the library was completely destroyed. Hanging upon the walls are numerous paintings of Confederate generals, among the most notable being those of Lee and Jackson. I also observed a fine statuette of General Lee on horseback, by Volk. In front of the institute is a bronze statue of General George Washington, on a square granite base. On either side is a large ancient brass gun, wrested from the French by the British. They bear date 1600. There are also other French guns used by the French when fighting for the American cause during the revolution. The university is a fine building and immediately in front of the same is a chapel erected by General Lee for the religious training of the students. Just behind the pulpit is the monument erected to Lee's memory. It is a fine work of art, being a full length facsimile of Lee at rest. It is of pure white Vermont marble and was executed by Mr. Ed. Valentine, of Richmond, Va., at a cost of \$15,000. The entire section in which the tomb and monument are situated is fire proof, not a piece of wood being used in its construction.

At the Lexington cemetery lies the body of Stonewall Jackson, with a neat marble scroll at his head, surrounded by a neat iron fence. I understand that during this season a monument will be erected in his honor there by Mr. Valentine.

To a student of the great civil war, which cost so much blood and treasure these places cannot fail to arouse deep interest, and will well repay a visit. E. J. E.

BUENA VISTA, Rockbridge Co., Virginia, April 30, 1890.

THE FRANCHISE JOBBERY.

It is not often that we are in accord with the anti-"Mormon" organ, but when it does get into a legitimate channel we are not afraid to say so. It strikes a well deserved blow when it speaks as it does in the annexed article, which it publishes under the significant title of "The Game Works."

A few weeks since the *Tribune* no-