

PILGRIMS, GOOD CHEER.

BOSTON PREPARING TO GREET THE KNIGHTS TEMPLARS.

Five Hundred Sleeping Cars Will be on the Asylum Grounds in Somerville—Other Preparations to Accommodate the Great Crowd of Visitors.

BOSTON, August 8.—When the mighty army of Knights Templar marches on Boston two weeks hence it will find a city ready to receive it, a place rich in historic interest, made brighter and more interesting in scores of ways never before thought of. The triennial convales will be the biggest event of the kind in the history of Boston as well as in the history of masonry, and everything now points to a week of gorgeousness and entertainment which will far outclass the last famous triennial of Washington.

The Knights Templar of Boston and the surrounding towns and cities have entered into the work of preparation with the true masonic spirit of liberality, originality and liveliness. The merchants are preparing to join with them, and the railroad companies running into Boston are out doing themselves in their determination to facilitate the transportation of the mighty hosts which will surely arrive.

The ranks of the Templars embrace most of the solid men of the country; they represent wealth and influence, and this fact is apparent in all that is being done to receive them. Every palace car available is being pressed into service for their special benefit and the splendid Knight Templar trains which will run into Boston this month will mark an epoch in railroading.

One of the unique features of the convales will be a city of sleeping cars, the like of which has probably never before been seen in this country. It will be made a feature of the triennial and some of the finest entertainments of visiting knights will be offered at the settlement which will hold forth in glory for a week.

The Boston & Maine road involved the idea when it gave an official announcement that track room for 500 sleeping cars would be provided on the old McLean asylum grounds, a park-like expanse used by one of the best known sanitariums for years, until it gave way to the encroachment of business and the managers sold out at a big price to the railroad corporation. Day by day the magnificent stretch of green dotted with fine old trees is giving way to lines of steel gridiron with sleepers, but the park is so large that even though the work goes rapidly on it will be many weeks before it is completed and the 25th of this month, when the first contingent of knights reaches Boston, will find plenty of pleasant room left for the accommodation of the "sleeper visitors."

The cars will be run into the great union station, of course, and then switched back to the asylum grounds and their occupants will look on a vista not unlike a scene from the historic old common. So pleasant is the place and so elaborate are the arrangements made by the railroad that the accommodation committee thought it wise to make further provisions to utilize this beautiful spot and when the visitors were approached they entered into the idea heartily. As the plans are now, therefore, the old grounds will see some of the best entertaining of the town during the convales week. Every special train will roll on, trimmed with magnificent decorations. These will be unattached, as would be the case if they were to run into some dusty storehouse, but will be allowed to remain on the cars, where they will add to the attractiveness of the unusual scene. The committees having the matter in charge will see to the erection of numerous tents on the rolling space of green and visitors will be expected to set up their ice-water tanks in them, where all who visit the city of cars can stop for a cooling draught. There will be a host of attendants, the committees providing guides and assistants and the railroads the porters, so the service will be fully equal to that of the best hotels.

Probably only breakfast will be regularly served in this car city, but booths will be arranged so that if any one is hungry or it sick ones find it necessary to remain there all day no one shall suffer from want of food.

Nowhere about the city can a cooler place be found than the asylum grounds, and it is not unlikely that in the steaming dog days not a few of the visitors, especially ladies, will find it very desirable to wander about the shaded park, rather than travel in the dusty and heated city. For that reason, if for no other, the committee of arrangements desire to make the place tully as attractive as the city breathing places.

Some of the visiting commanderies will invite the fraternal women they wish to entertain to that place and evenings there will be a scene rivaling the most famous of Parisian boulevards.

When Boston put in her claim for the convales of '95 its representatives declined to say anything about the amount of money that should be spent in entertaining. Some rival municipalities mentioned that \$75,000 or even \$100,000 could be raised, but the Boston men declared that it was not a question of money—if the convales came to Boston the knights and their ladies and friends would be well taken care of. Today in the city and suburbs alone it is estimated that \$150,000 has been raised and probably surrounding cities like Lowell, Worcester, Salem, etc., will offer at least \$40,000 more, so it can be easily seen that the convales here is bound to exceed

in magnificence and brilliancy anything heretofore held in the way of triennial gatherings. But beyond the question of money is the feeling manifested by the people generally. There is a universal desire to see the knights, to help them have a good time and for them to go away with the best of impressions of the New England metropolis. In every way, those things are to be done which will make visitors feel that they are welcome, and no stone will be left unturned to insure a sojourn which shall be not only pleasurable but profitable. This feeling is marked particularly by the arrangements for decorations that have already been announced. Every business house in the city will display the stars and stripes, and bunting, and Masonic as well as Templar emblems in profusion. All the big hotels will practically be covered from doorstep to coping with bunting, and the visiting commanders will tack up enough emblems and Templar emblems to lend variety to the lines of red, white and blue. The electric decorations in all colors on some of the business buildings, on Masonic temple, on Horticultural hall, the headquarters of Boston commandery, and the Vendome, where the grand encampment

IS OVER A CENTURY OLD.

WONDERFUL MRS. BLIZZARD AS SHE APPEARS TO-DAY.

She is About to Celebrate Her One Hundred and Fourth Birthday—Ten of Her Sons and Daughters Rejoice to Find Their Mother hale and hearty.

Many of the readers of PROGRESS have heard of the remarkable age attained by Mrs. Thos. Blizzard of McDonald's Point Queens County, who is now on the verge of her one hundred and fourth birthday. Her birthday will be next Friday the 16th of August. A representative of PROGRESS recently found Mrs. Blizzard in her daughter's home at McDonald's Point. The old lady said she was feeling well, although she found it a little more difficult to get around than on her last birthday, owing to an attack of la grippe which she had last fall.

"I rise about seven o'clock in the morning and arrange my own dress," she said. "Occasionally I lie down during the day, but on bright days I seldom rest. I was

read my handwriting," said Jefferson. "Besides, my fountain pen won't work today, you know how it is with these fountain pens—some days ink will shoot out of them like water out of a garden hose, and other times you can't get it out with a cork screw."

"Why didn't Charles Carroll of Carrollton tell Jefferson that fountain pens weren't invented either?" asked Tommy.

"I don't think he knew it. A great many people then thought that fountain pens were invented. And then they talked a long time, and Thomas Jefferson tried to get Benjamin Franklin to set it up in type and print it, but he said he had to go fishing with his kite that afternoon for electricity and so couldn't; and then the others sided in with Charles Carroll of Carrollton, and Jefferson had to write it after all, with a quill pen, and with sand to dry the ink with instead of blotting paper, because the paper had just promised to invent blotting paper and to join the army and go off to fight the British. So, you see, Tommy, the man that wrote and signed the declaration of independence had their troubles.



MRS. BLIZZARD AND HER TEN CHILDREN.

and several other visiting organizations will be quartered here to see the finest and most elaborate ever seen in this country and probably in the world, say the electricians.

On the morning of Wednesday, Aug. 28, there will be a drill of different commanderies on the Boston base ball grounds at the South end, and companies of Knights will contest for the reward of merit in that branch which is presented at every convales. The "little commandery" which is composed of boys from the Masonic Widows and Orphans home of Louisville, Ky., will appear on that date and try to put the elder brothers to blush by their proficiency in manœuvres and the handling of the sword. These boys will be under the leadership of Sir H. B. Grant, the author of Grant's Tactics. They are said to be very skilled in the peculiar style of marching and manoeuvres affected by the Knights Templar.

R. G. LARSEN.

His Death Due to Football.

Halifax has a sad death from football to chronicle. Watson Vincent, assistant clerk on H. M. S. Crescent, died last week through injuries received by a kick from a shipmate. The poor fellow suffered for nearly two weeks and then died. There has always been an outcry against football on account of the danger attendant on the game, but notwithstanding this sad fatality it is doubtful if there is much more danger to life and limb in football than in many other of our sports. Look at the boating accidents, the deaths from drowning while skating, the accidents while driving, and the injuries from the cricket ball, etc. A game with no element of danger is apt to be considered tame. It is strange that the football league series in Halifax should come and go, year after year, without serious mishap, and that now in the off season, when some naval officers got up a little practice game in the dockyard, that the angel of death should visit the scene and snatch away one of the principal players. Had this calamity occurred in the height of the football season the effect on the game would have been very serious but as it is there will probably be no diminution in the interest with which the league games will be watched this fall. There is general sympathy for poor Watson Vincent and his friends, and for the unfortunate man who inflicted the fatal kick. The British and French naval officers and navy military officers attended the funeral in a body.

Living Stones in Falkland.

The most curious specimens of vegetable or plant life in existence are the so-called "living stones" of the Falkland Islands. These islands are among the most cheerless spots in the world, being constantly subjected to a strong polar wind. In such a climate it is impossible for trees to grow erect, as they do in other countries, but nature has made amends by furnishing a supply of wood in the most curious shape imaginable. The visitor to the Falklands sees scattered here and there singular-shaped blocks of wood that appear to be weather-beaten and moss-covered boulders in various sizes. At first sight they are very much like "boulders" over and over again, but a closer inspection reveals the fact that they are actually anchored by roots of great strength, in fact, you will find that you are footing with one of the native trees. No other country in the world has such a peculiar "forest" growth and it is said to be next to impossible to work the odd shaped blocks into fuel, because it is perfectly devoid of grain and appears to be nothing but a twisted mass of woody fibres.

born in 1792 at the parish of Gagetown Queens County. My father was Albert Akery of New York, and my mother was Lucy Ward, of Cumberland. I was married in 1811, to Thos. Blizzard, of Cambridge Queens Co. My husband died in St. John 57 years this fall, and was buried at Upper Hampstead. He was 77 years old and I am from November to August older than he was. I have had sixteen children—eight sons and eight daughters—have raised fifteen, and ten are now living, three sons and seven daughters. I will tell you about those living.

"My eldest son, Oliver Blizzard, was born Feb. 25th, 1815, and was married in Upper Canada. He is now living at the Narrows, Washademoak lake.

"John, was born Sept. 17, 1817, and is now living at Indiantown, St. John.

"Thomas was born May 21, 1834, and is now living at Indiantown, St. John.

"Sarah was born Jan. 11, 1819. She is now the widow Scribner, living at Houlton, Maine.

"Fannie E. was born May 12, 1823, and is now Mrs. James Hamm, Narrows, Washademoak lake.

"Mary was born Oct. 18, 1814, is now the widow Mead, Indiantown, St. John.

"Margaret Jane, born April 7, 1827, is now Mrs. Geo. Black, Indiantown, St. John.

"Isabella, born Dec. 30, 1830, is now Mrs. Wm. B. Smith, widow, McDonald's Point.

"Phoebe Ann, born July 17, 1832, is now Mrs. Thos. Watson, widow, St. John.

"Lucy M., born Nov. 1, 1838, is now Mrs. Samuel Hamm, Indiantown, St. John.

"On my last birthday my sons and daughters were all here, and they figured up that I had sixty seven grandchildren and one hundred and three great grandchildren.

"It I live until the 16th of this month, I will see my 104th birthday. I have received word from my children that they intend having a larger party than they had last year."

The engraving shows Mrs. Blizzard surrounded by her ten living children, and it would be difficult for a stranger to believe that she was old enough to be the mother of them all. It would be a difficult task, to find another such group in America, and probably it is without its equal in the world.

Mrs. Blizzard has the congratulations of PROGRESS on the near approach of her 104th birthday. May she live to enjoy many more of them in the same good health which she now enjoys.

NEW LIGHT ON HISTORY.

Later Particulars as to the Signing of the Declaration of Independence.

"Did you ever hear about the dispute Thomas Jefferson and Charles Carroll of Carrollton had when they came to write and sign the declaration of independence?"

"No," said Tommy, wondering what his aunt would say next.

"They had quite a little tiff Jefferson, you see, wanted to have it written on a typewriter, and—"

"But, aunt, the typewriter wasn't invented then."

"That's just what Charles Carroll of Carrollton told him. But Jefferson insisted on calling in the janitor, and having it invented while they waited. 'Posterity can never

But you ought to be thankful that they did it in July instead of January."

Tommy thought a moment, and then said:

"Yes, I am, but if they'd done it about six weeks earlier it would have given us a holiday while there was school, and I think that's a pretty good time for holidays."

—Harper's Round Table.

Statistics of Suicide.

Suicide is not common in Russia, the rate being 30 to 1,000,000 inhabitants, while in Saxony it is 311, in France 210, in Prussia 133, in Austria 130, in Bavaria 90, in England 66; and while the rate has increased by 30 or forty per cent in other European countries during the last thirty years, in Russia it has remained stationary. Professor Sikorski, of the University at Kiev, thinks the low rate is due in part to the patience and long suffering of the Russian under even the worst treatment, but also to an indolence of character, which leads to do anything from which it cannot retreat.

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