## AS TO WEST POINT.

SOMETHING HISTORICAL REGARDING THE MILITARY ACADEMY.

Commencement Time Causes the Minds of Americans to Turn Toward This Beautiful Spot on the Hudson-Some Interest ing Old Relics Illustrated.



a new crop of usual examina

sprinkling of the practical thrown in, by which soldiers are made. Once a year some half a hundred of these young men some half a hundred of these young men are turned loose, some to go at once into civil life, some to spend a few years in sleepy forts and garrisons, and then make a break for activity, while others, after passing a lifetime in the military service, at 64 are retired with the rank of major or lieutenant colonel. If they are very fortunate they may reach to the command of a regiment, a position attained mand of a regiment, a position attained in war time by many a youngster of 23 or

in war time by many a youngster of 23 or 24 years of age.

Much interest attaches to West Point beyond that felt in the Military academy.

Every schoolboy lingers over the story of Arnold and Andre, "Gustavus" and "John Anderson," and the three Continentals who captured Andre, and their noble self secrifies in not selling their country for who captured Andre, and their noble self sacrifice in not selling their country for the yellow metal. Perhaps not one in twenty who have read the story of Ar-nold's treason, of the capture and execu-tion of an accomplished young British officer, really understands the strategic importance of West Point to both the British and the Americans during the revolutionary war. revolutionary war.

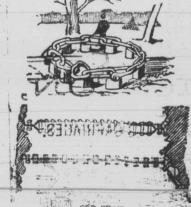
At the time of this struggle the Hud son's river, as it was then called, was the main ...tery of communication linking the southern, the middle and New England



MAP OF WEST POINT. [From an old drawing.] colonies, forming, with Lakes St. George and Champlain and the St. Lawrence, an almost continuous waterway to the grealakes. From the first both sides appropriated the importance of this line of contunication. The British were very desirous of getting ossession of it; for one having it they could not only prevent communication along its course, but their ships, patrolling the river, could even shu munication between New England and the west and south. In short, they could cut the colonies in two in the middle and their subjection would be inevitable. It became at once an object with the Americans to blockade the river to the enemy's ships. Exgineer officers reported that for this purpose the highlands about West Point furnished admirable ground. The hills on either side are very high the river much narrower than at any other point, and taking a sudden bend between Constitution Island and West Point This bend would force a deflection in the course of a ship, and was thus extremely favorable to the colonists' plan for obstruction, which was by means of a boom and a chain stretched across the river for in turning much of the headway of a ship

The first place, however, fortified by the Americans was at Fort Montgomery, several miles below; but one morning the eral miles below; but one morning the British walked up to the fort from their ships lying in the river below overpowered the garrison and destroyed works that had cost the Americans \$250,000. After this disaster Washington urged forward the work at West Fint. Fort Constitution had been built or Constitution had been built or Constitution. Constitution had been built on Constitu-tion Island opposite, and Fort Arnoid— afterward Fort Clinton—was built on West Point. Higher up beyond the plain other works were constructed the prin-cipal of which was Fort Putnam. A chain was laid and a boom placed just below it. Sections of the boom have been preserved and a portion of the chain, a cut of which is here given, is now preserved as a relic at West Point. The links average 114 pounds each in weight, and considering the size of the wooden ships of that period would doubtless have formed an effective

brought to bear on the obstructions would



obstacle, though the weight of a modern iron clad would probably cut the air were a thread. The chain and the boom were both comoved in the winter, when the tide carried the ice back and forth,

These obstructions held the river for Opposite Colbern Hotel, Goderich

the Americans, and West Point was during the whole period the key to the passage way between the northern and the southern states. There was always a considerable force kept there—at least for that time—and Washington was frequently there himself. At the time of the birth of the Dauphin of France, an order was issued to celebrate the day in honor of the allies who were supporting the

A meeting of the Executive Congwas issued to celebrate the day in honor
of the allies who were supporting the
states in their struggle against the king.
An evergreen areade was erected on "the
plain" and on the very spot where Grant.
Sherman, Sherdan, Meade and others have
since paraded about with a musket, Washington led off a dance with Mrs. Gen.

The academy was not born; it was
evolved. After the revolution the artillery was grouped into a regiment and
the engineers into a corps, and the head
quarters were at West Point. Cadets
were attached to each corps for instruction. In 1802 there were few to teach
and little to teach them with. Congress
paid no attention to the matter, and
Thomas Jefferson doubted whether the
government had a constitutional authority
to establish an academy, and the embryo
cradle of herees came very near being
snuffed out altogetzer.

However, the cradle kept a-rocking
though, during the first fifteen years of
its history, there were but few infant
prodigies of war to be rocked. After that
the academy took a start, and under the
management of its first superintendent,

cademy took a start, and under the gement of its first superintendent,

institution. Little is left of the buildings in which the cadets, who were there between 1302 and 1850, slept and ate and rested. The old South barracks and North barracks and mess hall have passed away, and in their stead have risen buildings of a more modern appearance and more durable. Books, philosophical instruments, relies, portraits of West Point's great generals, are now collected in these buildings, while without more than one monument has been erected to point to her past. A soldier's life is made up of long periods of quiet, broken by intervals of intense activity. His peace is more peaceful, his activity is more active than that of other men. It is these brief periods of activity when the eyes of all have been turned upon the sons of West Point, that have suddenly lifted them to tower over those educated by other methods and for other paths. Most of the regular officers who participated in the Mexican war were young and held low rank. It was only when the civil war came on that names of those who had been entered on the then the civil war came on that names if those who had been entered on the rademy books as boys suddenly shone at with dazzling brilliancy and passed erectly into history. It is this that has even West Point, though but a youth in the property of the receivers university that has been described by the property of the

mparison to many American universi-es, a niche in history so much larger, or least filled with figures so much more

tiest filled with figures so much more at least filled with figures so much more brilliant, than her rival institutions of learning.

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For many years during the month of June there has been a gathering of strangers at West Point. It began by a congregation of the relatives of the cade with young girls and their mammas who attend them to this paradise for women under 20. Those who are attracted by the Military academy go to the West Point hotel, built very near the spot where stood Fort Clinton. There on the piazza the young girl dreams away the summer afternoons with some youngster who, with a shingled head and a wasp waist, has been given ashort leave of absence for the purpose. There they listen to such sounds as float over the plain—the handling of muskets, the rolling over the ground of artillery, or the ded chain and boom of Fort Constitution, the site of which is in view directly across the river, and fancy they can see the the river, and fancy they can see the antique looking Continental sentinel pacing back and forth; of Fort Putnam up on the hill, with its magazines once full



All these things they may dream of; ut they don't. Not one in a hundred is All those things they may dream of; but they don't. Not one in a hundred is thinking about Fort Constitution or Fort Clinton, or Washington or Kosciusko, who engineered it all, or of the chain or the boom, or Benedict Arnold. What they do dream of no one knows, but a shrewd guess would be very likely to strike a picture of army life in wedded bliss in some fort; not a fort about which there are half breeds and Indians, cowboys and cutthroats, but a fort where all the guns shine and martial music always sounds as delightfully as the strains coming from the shine and martial music always sounds as delightfully as the strains coming from the West Point band across the "plain," a fort around which there are beautiful walks like "flirtation," where they will stroll and pick wild flowers. Here they fancy a life with all the pleasures of peace and all the fascinating accessories of war. But at last the season is over; the cadet goes back to barracks or alone to his post on the frontier. And the girl! Alas, it is a practical age. Most often she goes back to her home, marries a broker or pork packer, and settles in a "stone front," though sometimes she realizes enough of the dream to go with the cadet to his fort.

The Homes of the Hindoos.

The Hindoos are not without taste in their dwellings. They build the front very light and airy, and with some ornamentation, and this part is for the husband; the wife has her apartments in the rear of the house, and the windows are only holes placed high up near the ceiling, just like many of the little ventilators we see in this country. There the wife has to remain in seemi-darkness. Some may speak of the modern improvements made in the houses, the introduction of gas and water, but these improvements are only a cause of more trouble for the women prisoners. Formerly the wife could go to the well to draw water and have, for a half hour, a little gossip with her friends, but she is deprived of all this now, also when she wanted a light she could go to satisfactors. The Homes of the Hindoos when she wanted a light she could go to meighbor for a red coal, but has now lost those sole little gleams of happiness in the 1162. She is not allowed to read, because of saon with a book or paper or permit sacred triangular than the happiness of the light same will what happiness to the light same will what happiness to be the same will be acred to the light widow.—Home lowers.

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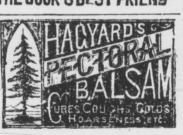
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about three acres of pasture for her som-mer support. One acre on the toding-system will styport her aif the year Jones (who catches his paster out fishing): Good morning, Doctor! Are you studying theology?' Minister: Yesichthyology."

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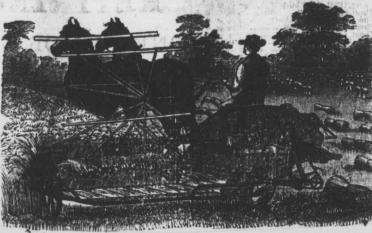
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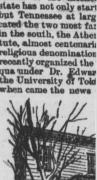
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still stands the mode and out six miles grand old farm w passed the world in mansion is burne church is in exister built for their own their guests. In la records it is found th was directed by th more liquor on Sur sary. It also recor Benton, a local pract for swearing in open to transcribe the eve the United States se in one out corner lonely hill, a simple last remains of Me head of the Lewis an pedition.

Local tradition s protege and intima Jefferson, and on acc ancholy the preside two years exploratio

The trip had no st made governor of quarters at St. Loui down the Mississip where it now stan Washington on the friend accompanied be in a suicidal fram while stopping at the while stopping at the der, a pistol shot wether Lewis was fallet through his brait trail runs near Columbia trail runs ne by the government is the secretary of w Pensacola to thras was also used by went to see Jackson The new arsenal Columbia on accoun natural supply cen Fort Meisner was lo Mt. Parnassus, in the but neither force for it alternately to see the fort is gone, a been hollowed out reservoir of the city bia has demonstrate manufactured at the

red an annual div