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THE WOLLESTOCK GAZETTE,
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For the GAZETTE.

A PAPER HOUSE.

Many of your readers have seen the paper house constructed by the paper wasp, or hornet, as they are sometimes called; but probably few have ever seen the process of building them; or have ever carefully examined their interior. And, indeed, knowing the well-known temper of the insect, and their well-known "hot foot," few would care to get near enough to their nests when in course of construction, to watch their method of building. There are two varieties of wasps that build paper houses, one, a large wasp, with the abdominal rings colored light gray and black alternately, which builds its houses in low shrubs principally, sometimes in bush piles and under trees that have partly fallen. The house of this wasp, is of pyriform shape and is not an uncommon object in the pastures and clearings of this country. The other paper wasp is much smaller, and the abdominal rings are marked alternately black and bright yellow. This wasp usually builds its paper houses under an old tree stump, or under a mass of roots of shrubs that for some cause have been lifted from the soil sufficiently to give the requisite amount of room for the structure.

I have often observed the first mentioned wasps

building their houses, but (owing to the habits of the yellow wasp of concealing its nest,) never had an opportunity, until this year, of observing its methods of building or its domestic habits. In the house I reside in there is a door facing the east, with a recess of about ten inches. The door has a glass porch. This spring, I was agreeably surprised to find a yellow paper wasp had departed from its usual habits, and had commenced the construction of its house at the top of the recess of the door, at a few inches from one corner, and in full view through the glass panels of the door, giving me a chance, (which I have improved with a naturalist's ardor) to safely observe its methods of construction and also to some extent its home life.

Before giving the observed details of construction, a few words on the structure of the insect and its method of obtaining the material for paper, will assist the reader in understanding its methods of work. The general anatomy of this wasp is much like that of the common honey bee, with the exception of the head; this, in the wasp, is larger, more triangular in shape, and is provided with a larger pair of cutting forceps. The material it uses for paper is obtained from old wood, that has been exposed to the weather, so that the fibre is soft. These fibres it scrapes off with its mandibles with great care, to secure the finest and softest portions, and it is made into paper pulp by being moistened with a fluid the insect secretes.

The old mother wasp commenced her home by firmly cementing a portion of paper pulp in a circle, about three-eighths of an inch in diameter, to the wood of the recess. This was the foundation from which the future structure was to depend. Then commencing at the edge of the foundation, working backwards, round the circle, building less than a sixteenth of an inch in width at each round, she slowly supplying the pulp from the mandibles, and laying the material smooth and thin with her two first feet, constructed an almost perfect sphere of paper, an inch in diameter, leaving an entrance at the bottom just large enough to enable her to creep in. This was the first story of the house, and occupied nearly three days time of

the builder. Her next, and most important work, was to build cells in the interior, in which to deposit a few eggs, so, in time, to have assistance in her work. These cells, although the same in form as those of the honey bee, are made of paper, (the wasps not secreting wax.) Her method of building these, although difficult to observe, seemed to be by making her body the standard of measurement, working at the foundations in a horizontal position, and frequently applying her abdomen to the base of the cells, and as the work proceeded, frequently backing into the cells, as though trying their capacity by her body. Three cells thus built, the only ones I had an opportunity of observing, as the other stories of the house cut off the light from the interior so much, as to obscure the methods of work. The next step in house keeping was to deposit an egg in each shell. This cell building occupied one day. As the ambition of a mother wasp is to have a large family, she next commenced a second story to her house, by commencing at the base of the first story, near the wood, and after four days labor, formed another story of paper, enveloping the first story, at a distance of about three-sixteenths of an inch from it. Her next work was to cut away the paper of the first story, parallel with the top of the first tier of cells, leaving narrow connections of the paper walls, to hold the first story together. A second tier of cells was then built, fastened to the outer edges of the first tier for support. This second tier of cells was five in number, a small space being left between the first and second tiers of cells, for circulation of air, evidently. After this, the work of building a third story in the same manner as the others, was commenced, but proceeded slowly, as the eggs were by this time hatched into white footless grubs, whose appetites kept the mother a portion of her time foraging for honey and pollen, and the juice of ripe fruits, the food alike of adult and baby paper wasps. In about a month from the commencement of the house the three first laid eggs had passed through all the stages of egg, larva and pupa, and emerged full fledged worker wasps, smaller than their mother, and who at once proceeded to assist in the house-building, which by this time had advanced to the fourth story, each story with its tier of cells and different stages of egg, larva and pupa. At the present time the house has a diameter of about three inches, and as the tenants are always at home evenings, I jarred the house one evening, and counted twenty-three wasps, who sallied out to

fight the disturber of their peace; and it was comical to see their efforts to reach me through the glass panels, behind which I have taken so much pleasure in observing the skill and intelligence of these little paper makers. And by the way some of your readers may not be aware that (like many other useful ideas man has copied from nature,) the art of paper making owes its origin to the observation of the methods of the paper wasp in obtaining his material, and the first paper was made by the same observer, by scraping old wood fibre, (in imitation of the wasps) and moistening it with water, afterwards smoothing and drying it. And at the present time, after many substances have been successfully experimented with in the manufacture of paper, yet, a large amount of the paper used for ordinary purposes is manufactured from wood. To all readers I would say, cultivate your habits of observation of natural objects. Aside from the pleasure it will confer, it may be the means of giving you some valuable hints that may produce practical results in the economy of the world, as several of man's most successful mechanical constructions have been applied principles copied from nature.

FOR THE GAZETTE.

1688—ALEXANDER POPE --1744.

BY A. ST. GEORGE RICHARDSON.

With regard to the question whether Pope was a poet or not, Dr. Johnson in his "Lives of the Poets," has firmly established the fact that Pope was a poet; and we ourselves can plainly see that a man, who wrote so much and so variously as he, and whose works are now read by everyone, must surely have possessed the qualities of a poet.

As such he came into popularity while quite young and I may say a mere boy, for he wrote his famous ode on Solitude while only twelve years of age; and when sixteen he wrote his Pastorals, which by their simplicity, softness, and smoothness of verse, gained for him considerable praise and fame. Though Pope received no College training, nor entered any University, yet still the knowledge, which he acquired and possessed by his careful study of books, histories and reading, fully enabled him to perform the duties of a Poet. He undertook the stupendous task of translating Homer's Iliad, by no means an easy one for any other than a poet. In the comparison between Pope and Dryden, we find that the latter wrote for the most part through necessity, whereas Pope

says that he wrote for his own amusement to pass away time as it were; and thus unlike Dryden he had no family to support or any cause that urged him to write, such as led Dryden to write hurriedly without taking time to examine his pieces after he had written them, so as to correct any errors. Pope on the other hand wrote carefully and not in haste, as he would stop and examine every line which he composed as he went along and then review afterwards. On one occasion he revised a piece "twice over a second time." He would always try to embellish his writings with refined words and expressions, and his lines all have a finish to them which renders them pleasant to read. Though the matter be not good, yet the form in which it is expressed and the smoothness of the numbers, and the versification in some cases, completely overbalance any fault which may be detected in the matter.

The "Rape of the Lock," which Addison calls a "delicious little thing," shows Pope's genius as a poet in a great degree. In this mock-heroic poem we find new and original beings that were unknown before; and the author here makes use of some of the simplest things in nature as the means of playing some important part in the poem, such as a pair of scissors or a pinch of snuff.

Pope's essay on Criticism is regarded as the noblest and best of his compositions. His Essay on Man is written in four epistles to Henry St. John, Lord Bolingbroke, on 'human life and manners,' abounding in such phrases and expressions as are now daily made use of in the home circle. It also contains many useful and instructive maxims and metaphors. We notice that Pope chose poetry and even rhyme rather than prose, and as he says for two reasons: the one will appear obvious, that principals, maxims, and precepts so written, both strike the reader more forcibly, and are more easily retained by him afterwards; the other may seem odd, but it is true; he found that he could express them more shortly that way than in prose itself.

"A wit's a feather, and a chief a rod,
An honest man's the noblest work of God."

Pope's Moral Essays seem to me to be an extension of or sequel as it were to the Essay on Man.

Of his translation of the Iliad of which I have already made mention, I venture not to say too much; the task of translating so great a masterpiece is in itself praiseworthy; and more, Pope has translated it in poetry and with rhyme, to which there is such a finish and smoothness that it is a

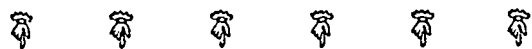
source of pleasure to read some parts of it, which pleasure you may fail to get from the original. And besides this, the valuable notes which accompany it are carefully prepared and show the great knowledge which he acquired from various sources. Can there be any reason for his not calling his life 'one long disease,' while doing so noble and grand a work as this! Pope was by no means impotent as a satirist, as may be seen from his satire on Addison which shows his power is such to a great extent, wherein he calls him a timorous foe, and a suspicious friend.

Pope's imitations of the poems of Horace, which he published between 1730 and 1740, seem to have been his favourite amusement, for he carried this kind of composition further than any other poet. On May 13th, 1744, Pope ended his life so placidly that the attendants did not know the exact time of his expiration. He was buried at Twickenham, near his father and mother, where a monument has been erected to him by his commentator, the Bishop of Gloucester.

BICYCLING.

One night, not long ago, tempted by the beauty of the evening, and thinking to combine business with pleasure, I started out for a short ride on the bicycle. I had not proceeded far before I met about eight bicyclists on their way to the Mahogany Road. They very kindly extended to me an invitation to accompany them on their journey, but, as my business would not allow of my going their way, I had to tender them my regrets. I was sorry the next day I did not go with them, for perhaps it would have saved me one mishap. This was the way of it. After finishing my errand, I started for home. Although it was dark, still I thought I was sufficiently acquainted with the road to keep out of all danger. But alas! I did not take into consideration the deal end some teamster had dropped by the way. Sitting well forward, and going at full speed, I struck the stick and without looking to see where I was going, suddenly sprung forward and found myself kissing mother earth. But I did not stay there long. Clinging to the handle like a drowning man clings to a straw, I was carried over the second time. This time I saw stars. As I lay there thinking, I heard three girls giggling, and, being of a bashful nature, I started for home as fast as a game leg, bleeding nose, and broken bicycle, would permit me.

F. S. S.



ALL subscribers to the WOLLESTOCK GAZETTE, who have not paid the amount of their subscriptions, are requested to do so immediately and thereby avoid the necessity of a personal call. The money should be sent to the Editors of the GAZETTE, P. O. Box 578, St. John, N. B.

For the GAZETTE.

JOHN DRYDEN, 1631-1700.

This illustrious poet may be considered as a satirist, lyric poet, dramatist and translator, and a prose writer. As a satirist he is best known, especially by his memorable poem Absalom and Achitophel, which was written against the Whig party or the faction then opposed to King Charles II, whose side Dryden himself, being a Tory would naturally favour. In this satire Dryden has united history with politics, so that a good knowledge, as the name shows, would be required of Bible history also to thoroughly understand it. It was no more than natural that D. should turn satirist by reason of the contentions among the different sects of church parties, state and society. This poem was first printed without his name, yet it was received with enthusiasm on account of being related to political matters. The principal characters are those of the Earl of Shaftesbury, Duke of Buckingham, Sir Titus Oates, Elkanah Settle and Shadwell, who are satirized under the respective names of Achitophel, Timri, Corah, Doeg and Og. "Of these the false Achitophel's first, a name to all succeeding ages curst; in friendship false, implacable in hate, resolved to rule or ruin the state."

The portraits of these men as drawn by D., are severe and sharp; and as Ach. was the leader or chief of the Whig party, so here D. has favoured him with the first place among these portraits. With regard to the character of Absalom, some think it is too favourably drawn, and such is my opinion when I reflect on that of Ach., and some of the following, among whom in first rank did Timri stand, a man (says he) so various that he seemed to be, "Not *one* but *all* mankind's epitome."

Here D. throws out a dart that cannot otherwise than strike the mark. Titus Oates is here duly satirized by D. when he says of him: "Yet Corah thou shalt from oblivion pass, erect thyself thou monument of brass." And again, "Whoever asked the witnesses high grace, whose oath with mar-

tyrdom did Stephen grace." These portraits are drawn by D. in his first part of Ab. and Ach. but in the second part, which was written by Tait, with the exception of a few hundred lines wherein D. himself satirizes his enemies to a greater degree than in the first part. Here he rails at Settle and Shadwell, and at the portrait of Settle under the pseudonym of Doeg. D. thinks that he had done his best when he thus speaks of him: "Doeg, without knowing how or why, made a blundering kind of melody, free from all meaning, whether good or bad, and in one word heroically mad," which is very "stingy" to one who is a poet himself. Again, "Shall he be hanged who never could rebel?" Though D. had satirized many, and in various ways, still he was fresh and vigorous for more that might come in his way, and it seems to me that the further on he goes the better adapted he gets for producing the desired effect, viz., poignancy. In his portrait of Shadwell he paints it with all the colors that the picture necessarily required, as when he says of him, "Every inch that is not fool is rogue." And "The midwife laid her hand on his thick skull, with this prophetic blessing, be thou Dull." Thus we see the poem comprises, as Dr. Johnson says, acrimony of censure and artful delineation of character. As the chief feature of Milton's writings was sublimity, so in Dryden's that of vigor is most common. It was not till Dryden was fifty years of age that he discovered wherein his strength lay, viz.: in criticism and this satire Abs. and Ach. He has been called the father of English Criticism. Another of D.'s peculiar powers was to reason in verse. Although many lines of this poem are inelegant and improper, yet still the licentiousness with which they are written must not be attributed to the man himself, but the age in which he lived.

For the GAZETTE.

MATHEMATICS.

Different studies have different uses; some, as mathematics, strengthen the reasoning powers; some, as classics, cultivate the taste; while others, as science, strengthen the observing powers. This may be seen to be the case from the following fact, that those who study mathematics must use their reasoning powers to the utmost, while those who study science, on the other hand, must not so much use their reasoning powers as their observing ones.

Mathematics is therefore among those studies which strengthen the reasoning powers. For who can work out one of the problems in the higher mathematics without bringing all their thoughts to bear on that one subject? Or what man would sit down and expect, with any degree of success, to work out a difficult example while his thoughts were on something else? This subject also prepares the mind to reason on practical matters, as it gives you a clear insight into such studies as Natural Philosophy. One who studies this subject is careful not to accept as facts those things which cannot be proved, and is therefore careful also about accepting new theories till he finds what proof can be brought forward in their favor. It also modifies an impulsive nature and makes one less apt to give way to violent passions, as it teaches the person to think before he acts or makes a statement. This study is of practical use in all sciences as Astronomy, Chemistry and Engineering; it may even be safely said that the study of these sciences could not be carried on without a previous knowledge of Mathematics. It assists us also to argue clearly, for what argument is stronger or more clear than that which after running up the points, gives a clear result as two and two make four. This is not the only way in which this study helps us in carrying on our argument, for in its pursuit our reasoning powers are all the time active and it may even be said that the study of mathematics consists largely of a science of arguments. A Mathematician is therefore careful not to argue unless he can bring strong proofs forward in favor of his subject. In conclusion it might be said that mathematics is the most satisfactory of all subjects, for not only is it of practical and almost daily use, but the conclusions drawn from mathematical proofs admit of no difference of opinion. It has therefore been said that mathematics is an exact science. J. H. W.

PERSONALS.

Lee B. Read, lately a Grammar School student, is in the office of Messrs. R. A. & J. Stewart.

George Troop, formerly of the Grammar School, is studying Chemistry with W. F. Best, Esq.

William Barbour, a former Grammar School student, is in Mr. R. P. McGivern's coal office.

Lucius Haley, late of the Grammar School, is in the office of Wm. Davidson, Esq., Water Street.

Harry Lordly, a former Grammar School student, is in the office of Messrs. Dun, Wiman & Co., in this city.

Fred. Dearborn, a former student of our School, is in the establishment of Dearborn & Co., Prince Wm. Street.

W. H. Steeves, a Grammar School student, spent a portion of the summer's vacation with friends in Fredericton, N. B.

Fred. Cruikshank, formerly of the Grammar School, is in the Drug store of R. D. McArthur, Esq., Charlotte St.

Samuel Hawker, a former student of the Grammar School, is in the Drug store of Messrs. Hawker, Prince Wm. Street.

James Keator, formerly of the Grammar School, is collecting clerk in the Bank of New Brunswick, Prince William St.

William Watters, formerly of the Grammar School, is in the office of the Standard Oil Company, Prince William St.

Frank V. Watters, a former student of the Grammar School, is in the Hardware store of W. H. Thorne & Co. Prince Wm. Street.

J. Hunter White, late of the Grammar School, spent the summer vacation in visiting various points of interest on the St. John River.

Fred Hartley, lately a Grammar School student, is at present attending the Baptist Academy in this city. We understand that Mr. Hartley purposes entering the Ministry, and wish him much success in his calling.

George Berryman, lately a scholar of the Grammar School, intends, we believe, to start for Germany in a few weeks, where he will continue his studies. He will be accompanied by brother, Lawrence Berryman.

EXCHANGES.

Our usual number of exchanges have come duly to hand. We regret to learn that the publication of the *Philomathean Review* is to be discontinued. This paper has always been one of our most interesting exchanges, and will be greatly missed from the editorial sanctum.

CRICKET MATCH.

A game of cricket was played a short time ago, between the Grammar School Club and a picked eleven, which resulted in a victory for the former. The following is the score:—

GRAMMAR SCHOOL ELEVEN.

First Inning.

J. Henry, b Lindsay.....	0
H. Cross, do.....	0
H. Hamilton, do.....	2
F. Jones, b Hall.....	6
C. Skinner, b Lindsay.....	0
S. Skinner, do.....	0
O. Watson, c Troop, b Lindsay.....	0
E. Johnson, c Seely, do.....	1
J. Pattison, c Cruikshank, do.....	0
Sherwood Skinner, not out.....	4
J. Milligan, c Troop, b Hall.....	4

Extras.....	17
Total.....	9
<hr/>	
Total.....	26

Second Inning.

F. Jones, s Seely, b DeVeber.....	28
Sherwood Skinner, run out.....	9
H. Hamilton, run out.....	26
C. Skinner, b Lindsay.....	3
S. Skinner, not out.....	10
O. Watson, not out.....	3

Extras.....	79
Total.....	13

Grand Total.....	92
	26
	118

PICKED ELEVEN.

First Inning.

A. Lindsay, c Milligan, b Watson.....	0
A. DeVeber, do.....	0
F. Campbell, b C. Skinner.....	0
O. Sharp, c Pattison, b C. Skinner.....	4
W. Watters, c Johnson, b Watson.....	2
F. Hall, c Skinner, do.....	2
R. Cruikshank, c Johnson, do.....	0
O. Troop, b Watson.....	0
W. Barbour, c Cross, b Skinner.....	0
O. Seely, b Skinner.....	0
R. Watson, not out.....	0

Extras.....	8
Total.....	1

Total.....	9
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Second Inning.

F. Campbell, c S. Skinner, b Watson.....	1
A. DeVeber, c Watson, b C. Skinner.....	14
R. Cruikshank, run out.....	22
A. Lindsay, b C. Skinner.....	0
O. Seely, b H. Hamilton.....	0
O. Troop, do.....	0
W. Watters, run out.....	1
O. Sharp, c Sherwood Skinner, b C. Skinner.....	2
F. Hall, c Jones, b H. Hamilton.....	0
W. Barbour, c Sherwood Skinner, b C. Skinner.....	2
R. Watson, not out.....	2

Extras.....	45
Total.....	1

Total.....	46
	9

Grand total.....	55
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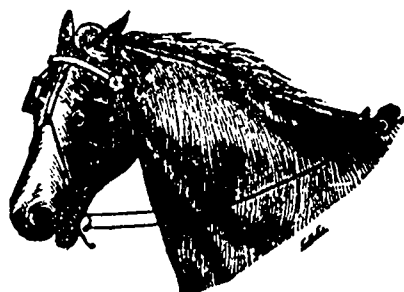
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