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Sunday, Aug. 7, '04

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ART AND -- ARTISTS

ESTHER
GRIFFIN
WHITE

As announced elsewhere in The Palladium this week, Miss Idelle B. Watson, formerly of this city, now of Dresden, Germany, will arrive shortly for a brief visit to her brother, Mr. Howard Watson, who lives near Richmond, and various friends in town. Miss Watson is in this country for the first time in ten years and returns home the last of this month.

Miss Watson is Art Lecturer in the Dresden Gallery, in Dresden, and, in addition, conducts short tours to different countries on the continent with small parties of a half dozen or so. Her Spring tour to Spain and Italy, in instance, covered a period of three weeks in Spain, and to Italy from Gibraltar to Naples with the original party, or from Dresden to Naples arriving in the latter place the first of May and there joining Miss Watson with the rest of those making up the party. There were but six in the latter. In Spain they visited Burgos, the birthplace of the Cid; Madrid with its wonderful Art Galleries; Toledo, ancient capital of the kings of Castile; Cordova, Seville, Granada and Gibralter. In Italy from Naples they journeyed to Rome, Assisi, Perugia, Florence, Pisa, Venice, Padua, Verona, and Milan, and from Milan through Switzerland by St. Gotthard Pass, to Lucerne. This makes a charming trip and with such a companion as Miss Watson, proved without doubt delightful. Miss Watson is a graduate of Earlham College. As stated before while in the city Miss Watson will be the guest of Mrs. Adah L. Bernhardt.

To quote from Miss Watson's announcement:

"Miss Watson's experience in traveling and thorough acquaintance through study and travel with the history, Art, Language and customs of the country, enable her to make these tours both pleasant and profitable to those who accompany her. In addition to the general information given while sightseeing, evening lectures are given from time to time, on the History, Art and Civilization of the countries visited.

Miss Ada Robinson has been making a number of portrait sketches this summer, among others the heads of three Africans, mother and two children, which are not only faithful bits of portraiture, but strong pieces of color. Miss Robinson's remarkable brush work showing to great advantage in these studies. The work of both Miss Robinson and Miss Kaufman, about the latter of whom extended mention was made last week here, is unusually meritorious, and evidences a high order of talent. With such a company of landscapists and such promising figure painters as Miss Newman, Miss Kaufman and Miss Robinson, Richmond has good cause to felicitate herself.

The local artists expect to entertain several of the Cincinnati painters in their country studio south of town near Test's Mill in a week or so. They have been painting and sketching in the vicinity of Comer's Springs for the past few weeks and show some successful work.

The other day the papers gave some account of a party of women who were walking from Baltimore to St. Louis, "working their way," stating that the same women, or some of them, walked in this fashion to the World's Fair at Chicago, or to some other Exposition before this. Altho' this is not a form of pedestrianism that appeals to the writer of this column, it is yet an evidence of what can be done by a use of natural powers of locomotion. Too many people ride when they should walk. The writer knew of one of Richmond's former business men who always rode from the corner of thirteenth street, or thereabouts, to eighth street, whenever he wished to get to his place of business. Naturally his health was not of the best. You hear of people learning to play golf "for exercise," when they had much better be walking. A walk from town out to the Country Club and back, one which the writer frequently takes, is far better exercise and results more beneficially of a few years Richmond's greatest beauty, and indeed her greatest asset. Golf is a great game—for men. It is with rage and humiliatin that any mere woman must acknowledge that things for lack of intelligent attention and as a victim to the greed on the one hand, and ignorance and carelessness on the other of those who have assumed control of the destinies of these the greatest exponents of the beauty of Nature. This column called

This is the exact position taken by this column for the past four or five years in the local papers of this city, and one for which she has been denounced and sneered at by some of the alleged "improvers" of this town. A walk around town only needs to prove assertions made by the writer over and over again that in the course of a few years Richmond's greatest beauty, and indeed her greatest asset, will rapidly go the way of many good mere woman, however well she play, can ever reach the place where the average man nonchalantly tees off. This is not because she may not want and try to play just an average game—altho' playing the average of any

attention a few weeks ago to the annihilation of one of the largest, oldest and most beautiful trees in Richmond, on South Eleventh street in front of the old Coffin homestead, a tree which was in good condition but which had to make way for "improvements." It was asserted by a man connected with the construction of cement walks in this town that it was merely a question of keeping our trees or having cement sidewalks. That one or the other would have to be given up. A certain town in this state at one time famed for the beauty of its trees, not long since was compelled, by a local official order to raze its entire system of shade trees to the ground to make way for cement "improvements."

To return to walking, as an exercise, however, this is exercise in its most delightful, because unconscious form. Five miles a day should be averaged by the person of usual sedentary habits, if possible, and two or three miles without fail. A good many people's idea of "a walk" is a dawdling up and down the paved streets of the town, but this is walking in the most boring and tiresome form. The real pedestrian only enjoys himself—or herself—walking down country roads or cutting cross country. There are more charming walks about Richmond to the mile than would be dreamed of. In instance one of the most enticing is that down the river road, crossing the little foot bridge just below the Starr Piano Works. This to Test's bridge, and either going West to the Abington pike and back to town, or farther South; or East across Test's bridge, up the Liberty pike home, or up the East side of the river along the old cart road which very few people other than pedestrians, know about. This is a road along the top of the East cliff and early in summer, and in autumn, is simply enchanting.

Another alluring walk is through the river bottom from Happy Hollow North, over Thistleton's Falls, through the meadows and woods to Reed's Springs. There are many cross country walks all about town, especially to the South East and the average person who languishes in a phaeton or languidly paces along cement streets has lost half the joy of living by not stiffening up his muscles by a good country tramp at least once a week. If people would indulge in some of the simple, healthy pastimes that are within reach of the dweller in a small town the size of Richmond, and get a lot of pure, fresh air in their lungs, get a good glance at a wide expanse of blue sky once in a while, they would not have so much time, or take the time, to sit around retailing nasty lies about their best friends, and wallowing in atrocious scandal.

This column takes the greatest pleasure in life in quoting the following editorial from "The News," of August 3rd, under the heading, "Improver Spare That Tree." "The Civic Improvement Association has made a vigorous protest against the destruction of trees to make way for "improvements." We think there is merit in the protest. Of course, now and then the destruction of a tree is a necessity, and diseased and deformed trees are best disposed of; but where a community has for years been planting and protecting trees it is an outrage to have them destroyed in a day to make way for "improvements" that will not last as long as the trees would last. It is generally possible and not unreasonable to modify the lines of improvement so that valuable trees can be spared. It takes a long time for a tree to grow into a size that makes it ornamental and useful for shade. The lives of most of the trees, indigenous to this State are long. Trees, like birds and men, have a right to live. They should only be destroyed for cause. The other day the dispatches gave an account of the destruction of the Washington elm in Morristown, N. J., to make way, the dispatches told, for "some improvement." We think there must have been universal indignation over that announcement, and the wonder of it is that there was not somebody in Morristown with public spirit enough to protest that tree, even if he had to go into court."

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Do you know that the C. C. & L. is quoting a rate of \$14.05 to Mountain Lake Park, Maryland and return on account Mountain Chautauqua? Selling dates, August 1st to 29th inclusive.

Low Fares to Louisville via Pennsylvania Lines.
Excursion tickets to Louisville, Ky., account K. of P. Biennial Encampment, will be sold over Pennsylvania Lines August 13th to 16th, inclusive. Information regarding fares and time of trains may be ascertained from Pennsylvania lines ticket agents.

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It is difficult to understand, too, why, putting aside such agencies of destruction as the wire and pole people, and the inestimable harm done by ignorant "trimming" and "topping," there should be such an epidemic of the cutting out of lower branches. The last case of this noticed by the writer is in the Earlham Cemetery, whose appearance in places has been sadly changed by the ruthless hand of the terrible "trimmer."

The August number of "Arboriculture," the interesting little magazine devoted to trees and put out by Mr. John P. Brown, the well known "tree man," has a varied table of contents, the lengthiest being "Transportation Influenced by Forests," which is given the leading place in this month's issue. There are a number of excellent illustrations, among them a picture of the "Catalpa Scrubiosa." Everyone interested in trees, or caring about them, should subscribe for this valuable little publication. Mr. Brown's address is Connerville, altho' he is traveling about over the United States most of the time.

Mr. John A. Seaford leaves for Boston on the 10th for a stay of some time. He is at present visiting his mother in Henry County altho' he spent a great deal of the time in the late Spring and early summer in Richmond sketching the quaint old houses and "bits" which are to be found in an abundance in this town by the observer. Mr. Seaford's pictures in black and white, and color, of "old Richmond," are beautiful examples of the artist's pencil and brush and will create a great deal of comment when exhibited. Mr. Seaford has been exhibiting within the past few years with the "Newspaper Artists' Association," in all the largest cities in this country, with notably long showings in New York and Boston. He has not exhibited in Richmond for several years past altho' he has been urged to do so. He expects to exhibit in Boston shortly where his pictures of "old Richmond" will certainly attract astonished attention for their seeming antiqueness, as the average inhabitant of "The Hub" thinks things, all things, in Indiana, must necessarily be painfully new. There are a lot of new things in Indiana, and incidentally in Richmond, but Richmond is an "old town," and picturesque in parts.

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