

# OUR SUMMER RESORTS.

## SARATOGA SPRINGS.

**Summer Tourists Arriving in Force—The Male Butterflies at Hand—Distinguished Persons—Commodore Vanderbilt and His Trotters—Large Numbers of Cubans and Israelites—Improvements—The Hotels—The Mineral Waters—Natural Scenery.**

SARATOGA SPRINGS, July 9, 1869.

After waiting anxiously some time for the usual summer flight of pleasure and health seekers hitherward the hotel proprietors and boarding house keepers at Saratoga begin to be happy. For several days past, and particularly yesterday and to-day, the cars have come heavily freighted with guests. In fact, Saratoga is already gay. Bands of music are playing daily and nightly at the large hotels, and every night all have the hop. Most of those who have arrived up to this time belong, however, to the more quiet class, substantial and respectable citizens and their families, and there is not yet such a display of fashion as is usual a little later, and as there will be doubtless a week or so hence. Still many elegantly dressed and handsome ladies may be seen in the parlors and at the hops of the hotels. The *crème de la crème* of fashion, which is seen in our stylish New York belles, will soon come, and then the ball season will be inaugurated. Many of the regular dancing young men are on hand and are prospecting around for acquaintances, flirtations, or something more serious, among the richest and handsomest ladies. These beaux generally carry everything before them during the gay season at Saratoga, as well as at other fashionable places of summer resort. They are the gorgeous and happy butterflies that bask in the sunshine of woman's favor at such times. To say the least they are a very useful class for the purpose nature designed them. The old fogies have to stand aside and content themselves with looking on, smoking cigars or playing at cards in the snug basement rooms of the hotels appropriated to that use.

Among the distinguished persons already at Saratoga may be mentioned ex-President Fillmore and Mrs. Fillmore, Commodore Vanderbilt, Thurlow Weed, George Opdyke, Colonel Provost of Washington, and Colonels Radcliffe and Middleton, of the Royal Artillery. Commodore Vanderbilt has, of course, his famous trotters with him. He has the gallantry and buoyancy of a young man, and in driving or walking does not fail to have some lady friend or other for his companion. There are a number of Cubans here this year, the greater part of whom are at the Union Hotel. Probably many are refugees from Spanish tyranny in Cuba. But a feature of the society at Saratoga, as at Long Branch and some other summer resorts, is the large Jewish element. This class of our citizens are becoming very rich, and they delight to spend their wealth in taking pleasure and in display. Being absorbed in making money from childhood to old age or death, and, as a general thing, not seeking distinction in public life or intellectual pursuits, they endeavor to make a position through their riches. Rothschild, and not Disraeli, is their representative man, though it must be confessed some Jews have reached the highest distinction in science and art. But while I mention the number of Jews and Cubans at Saratoga it must not be supposed that they are all, or the greater part of the society here, for there are other people from all parts of the United States. Indeed, society here is a sort of *olla podrida* of humanity and more varied and mixed than probably in the cosmopolitan city of New York itself.

But I imagine I hear the readers of the HERALD say, What is there new at Saratoga? Well, there are some improvements made and some going on, and there have been discoveries of new mineral springs. Not that Saratoga wanted attractions. The hotel keepers are rivalling each other and trying to keep up with the demands for accommodation. Improvements have been made in Congress Hall since last year, when the present new and fine building was first opened. Among these is a handsome elevator for taking guests to the upper floors. This mammoth hotel can accommodate twelve to fourteen hundred people. The Clarendon, which assumes something of an aristocratic character, is much the same as before and has a good share of business. The Union Hotel, which has for proprietors the enterprising Leland Brothers, and which this year is under the able management of Mr. Warren Leland, is well patronized. From the large number of guests already here and the prospect before them these gentlemen have been induced to make great and expensive improvements. The opera house belonging to the hotel is now undergoing the process of transformation into a magnificent ballroom, which will be 125 feet in depth, 65 feet in width and 35 feet high. The ceiling is beautifully frescoed, and there are three domes through it for ventilation and light. At each end are five windows of plate glass, thirty feet high and six wide. This ballroom will be illuminated by 250 gas burners. The floor is of yellow pine. Beneath is a billiard room, where twenty billiard tables can be placed. Here also is an extensive bar. Besides there are fifty-two capacious and handsome apartments for guests on the first and second floors, and a number of card rooms below on each side. The whole building, which borders on Federal street, covers an area of 145 feet by 165 feet. Then they have put up four detached cottages on Washington street, 50 by 25 feet, with capacious parlors and bedrooms for private families. The splendid dining room of this hotel will seat comfortably 1,000 people. The hotel itself has a front of 650 feet on Broadway, and the grounds are 1,000 feet deep. These grounds are the most spacious, beautiful and delightfully shaded by large trees of any at the Saratoga hotels, and have been hotel grounds for sixty-seven years. The whole covers seven acres of land, and there is about the building fully half a mile of piazzas.

With regard to the mineral waters, who wants to be told of the famous Congress spring, which flows as fresh and bountiful as ever; or of the Columbian spring, in the same enclosure, which is celebrated for the peculiar properties of iron it contains and for its tonic effects? Of the Empire spring, which belongs to the same company; the High Rock Congress spring, the Excelsior spring, and many other springs? These have a world-wide fame, and deservedly so. Of the new springs there is the White Sulphur, on Lake avenue, about a mile from Broadway, Saratoga. This was discovered last year. People both drink and bathe in the water. There are fifty bathrooms, where the water is heated to suit the condition of rheumatic or other patients. There is the Hathorn spring, lately discovered, just north of Congress Hall, which is strongly impregnated with iron, and has a fine flow of water. Then there is another new spring, similar to the Columbian, one block south of the Union Hotel, which Mr. Brown, the proprietor, is now tubing for use. I might mention others, but the truth is there seems to be underneath the whole village and immediately surrounding country a deposit of mineral waters ready to flow up when tapped at the proper depth. Sufficient importance has not been given yet, I think, to the Columbian, Washington and other springs containing iron, for their waters undoubtedly produce the happiest effects in restoring and strengthening the debilitated and feeble. But there are other attractions and things that conduce to health. The charming park of the Congress spring, with its delightful walks and shady groves of magnificent forest trees, is a beautiful spot. Walking here in the cool, fresh morning air one inhales with delight the aroma from the pines, cedars and other trees and shrubs, and feels a newness of life. There are few spots where the air is purer or fresher than at Saratoga, for it is situated on elevated ground, some 400 feet above the level of Albany, between the Catskill and Green Mountains, and forms a water shed, which is drained on three sides by the Hudson river and two of its main tributaries. In every point of view I conclude that whatever may be the varying fortunes of other localities of summer resort, Saratoga has advantages and attractions that will never fail to make it both a fashionable and popular place.