

Poland Spring x x x x x

REGISTERED TRADE MARK OF THE POLAND SPRING BOTTLING COMPANY, NEW YORK, N. Y.

RECEIVED
SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE
AUG 30 1890
638



SAPIENTIA DONUM DEI.



POLAND SPRING HOUSE.

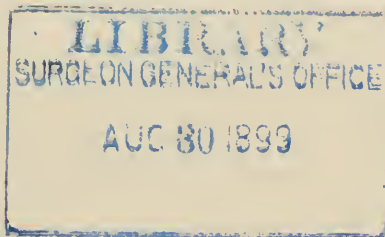
MAINE STATE BUILDING,
FROM THE COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION, 1893.

MANSION HOUSE.

POLAND SPRING

CENTENNIAL

A SOUVENIR





EDWARD PAYSON RICKER.

ALVAN BOLSTER RICKER.

HIRAM RICKER.

HIRAM WESTON RICKER.

Hiram Ricker & Sons,

Incorporated.

South Poland,

Maine, U.S.A.

1795.

————— . —————

1895.

THE PAST.



HIRAM RICKER.



JANETTE WHEELER BOLSTER RICKER.

THE FUTURE.



HIRAM II.

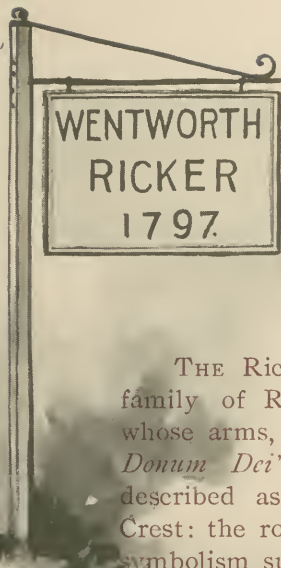
EDWARD PAYSON, JR.

GEORGE ALVAN.

ELDEST SONS OF HIRAM RICKER'S SONS.



"HERE HE FIRST HELPED HIM TO TAKE AN ATTITUDE IN WHICH HE COULD
APPEASE HIS BURNING THIRST."— COOPER.



ONE hundred years ago, on the slope of the lovely elevation embraced in the present expansive Poland Spring estate, then a hill-farm in the forest, Jabez Ricker and his sons laid the foundation of the first Ricker inn, which, from the swinging of its hospitable sign, to this time, has been maintained by the Ricker family, and from which has developed the great New England Spa of to-day.

I.

THE Rickers are of ancient lineage, descending from the feudal and knightly family of Riccar, in Saxony, in the fourteenth century, the well attested motto of whose arms, now in the possession of the Poland Spring descendants, was "*Sapientia Donum Dei*"—"Wisdom the gift of God." The family escutcheon is officially described as "Arms azure, a naturel rose argent, accompanied by three stars, or. Crest: the rose between two horns, coup, alternate azure and argent;" the beautiful symbolism suggesting, in the golden stars set in the azure of the sky, lofty aspirations as well as the Trinity, and, in the rose, beauty and grace. The horns are proof of knighthood, since the knights alone wore them afield to sustain the chief tinctures of the arms; and the rose naturel indicates, according to Burke's "Armory," "a period when arms were not subject to rigid and conventional rules, and it dates in all instances prior to the sixteenth century." The Saxon Riccars, drifting across the face of Europe, settled in later times on the island of Jersey, and thence came the first Riccars in this country—two brothers, George and Maturin Riccar, arriving about the middle of the seventeenth century, and settling at Cocheco (Dover), New Hampshire. From these brothers have sprung all the Rickers in the United States, a numerous, far-reaching family, the Rickers of Poland Spring being in the direct line from Maturin, the younger.

George, the elder, came over first, advised to come by Parson Reyner, who paid his passage. He arrived about the year 1650. After repaying the parson, his next earnings went to pay for bringing Maturin over, which was a few years later than his own arrival. The brothers married here, and George had nine children, Maturin at least four. They built garrison houses near by each other on Dover Point. Tradition tells us that they were very much attached to each other, and frequently declared that neither wanted to hear of the other's death, because the one left would be unhappy alone. The Indians, so the story runs, heard of this feeling, and planned to kill them both one morning. Accordingly, the savages lay in wait, an Indian at each garrison house. When one of the brothers appeared at his door in the morning, one Indian drew up and shot him. The other brother, hearing the report of the gun, came to his door, when another Indian sprang from his hiding-place and shot him also, so that they died within five minutes of each other. The "Journal of Rev. John Pike," the minister in Dover at that time, relates this incident somewhat differently, under date of June 4th, 1706, recording: "George Riccar and Maturin Riccar, of Cocheco, were slain by the Indians. George was killed while running up the lane near the garrison; Maturin was killed in his field, and his little son [Noah] carried away." But the first relation was as Hiram Ricker gave it, having had it from his grandfather, Jabez Ricker, the grandson of Maturin. The child made captive was taken into Canada, where he was educated to the priesthood. After the massacre of the brothers, their families left Dover Point, and went to Garrison House Hill, in Somersworth, N. H., where were seven garrison houses close together.

The family line down to the sons and daughters of Hiram Ricker starts with *Joseph*, the second son of Maturin, and continues through *Jabez*, the fifth son and seventh child of Joseph, *Wentworth*, the third son of Jabez, and *Hiram*, the second son of Wentworth. *Joseph Ricker*, yeoman, lived in Somersworth, and afterward in Berwick, Maine, and was

twice married, marrying first, in 1720, Elizabeth, daughter of Jabez and Dorcas Garland, and second, at Berwick, in 1761, Mary May. He had nine children, seven sons and two daughters: John, Sarah, Noah, Joseph (died young), Mchitable, Joshua, Jabez, Tristram and Joseph. The exact date of his death is not known, but it must have been after he had passed the Psalmist's limit of threescore years and ten. His will was dated January, 1771. He was a holder of a goodly estate, some hundreds of acres of lands, embracing a homestead farm, a mill, stock of cattle, and several negro slaves. His eldest son, John, married a cousin, Eleanor Ricker, daughter of Ephraim, third son of George Ricker, the first comer, and reared a family of eight children. His second son, Noah, married Margaret, a daughter of Simon Emery, of Kittery, and also had eight children, three of whom upon their marriage settled in Vermont. The third son, Joseph, died young; the fourth, Joshua, married, in Berwick, Betsy Drew.

JABEZ RICKER, the fifth son, second of the Poland Spring family line, was born on the Somersworth farm, about the year 1742. He married May 14, 1761, when but nineteen years old, Molly, daughter of Deacon Samuel and Joanna (Roberts) Wentworth (ancestors of the late "Long John" Wentworth, of Chicago), born in Berwick, and then a girl of eighteen. They settled first in Berwick, then lived in Sanford, that part which became Alfred, and, in 1794, moved to the Poland hill-farm, from which time the family have been identified with Poland, and with the sightly hill of the Poland Spring estate, which early came to be known by their name as Ricker Hill. Jabez and Molly Ricker had ten children: Timothy, Joanna, Samuel, Wentworth, Joseph, Molly, Anna, Sarah, Elizabeth, and Phœbe, all of whom lived to mature age, married and had numerous offspring, who in turn multiplied abundantly, and went forth into many fields of usefulness. Timothy, the eldest, born in 1761, had ten children, five sons and five daughters, the last twins. Joanna, the eldest daughter, born in 1764, married, in 1781, to Paul Stanton, of Berwick, had seven

and many descendants; Samuel, the second son, also had seven; Wentworth had five; Joseph had twelve; and the younger daughters each a number. Samuel, born in 1766, married, in 1790, Susanna, daughter of Benjamin and Mary (Dearborn) Jewett, born in Londonderry, N. H., and all but one of his children, the eldest, were born in Poland. In 1814 he moved to Ohio, and, making his home at Pleasant Hill, sixteen miles from Cincinnati, became prominent and prosperous there. His eldest son, Rufus, then married to Lydia Chapman, of Poland, followed him to Ohio three years later, but the next year moved to an Illinois town, where he became a justice of the peace and postmaster; and subsequently, in 1836, removing to Iowa, was a judge of probate for ten years, and clerk of circuit court twelve years. Samuel's second son, Jabez, was drowned in the Arkansas River when a young man of twenty-seven. His third son, Benjamin, married, in Kentucky, Mary Weed Wilson, in 1816: their son, Elbridge G. Ricker, served in the Civil War as Major of the Fifth Ohio Cavalry, and a son of the latter became a leading lawyer in Topeka, Kansas. Samuel's fourth son, Samuel, Jr., born in 1800, went to New Orleans soon after he had attained his majority, and there married, first, in 1831, Eliza, daughter of Thomas and Celeste (de Grandpre) Beale, and granddaughter of Don Carlos de Grandpre, governor of Baton Rouge under Spanish rule; and second, in 1840, Marie Sophia, daughter



MANSION HOUSE, 1797.



THE SPRING, 1795.

of Captain Martin Probst. He attained distinction in public affairs, serving in the Louisiana State Senate, and subsequently as United States Consul at Frankfort-on-the-Main. He lived long abroad, and there, at Marseilles, France, three of his six children were born. Ebenezer, fifth son of Samuel, married, in Maine, Harriet, daughter of John and Mary Pompilly, a native of the State, became a surveyor, and remained at Pleasant Hill Farm, succeeding his father. He had two daughters. Darius, the youngest son, married, in Cincinnati, Priscilla A. Ayers, and died there in 1855. Samuel's only daughter,

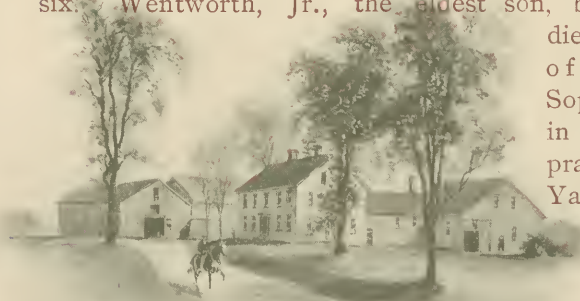
Susannah, born in 1802, married John Fitzpatriek, and had three children. Joseph, the fourth son of Jabez, born about 1771, married Betsey Marshall, and of their twelve children, seven sons and five daughters, all married save two, and into Maine families. Of the younger daughters of Jabez, Molly, born in 1778, married William Trickey, of Poland, and had several children; Anna, born in 1776, married William Pottle, and had eight children, her eldest daughter, Anna, marrying Jonathan Pulsifer, of Poland; Sarah, born in 1780, married Moses Pottle, and lived in Minot, Maine; Elizabeth, born in 1781, married Henry Byram, and lived in North Yarmouth, Maine; and Phœbe, born in 1790, married Robert Patten, and lived in China, Maine. Jabez died at Poland, in February, 1827, and Molly, his wife, in July, 1838, he eighty-six years old, and she at the venerable age of

ninety-six, but four years short of a century. They lie side by side in the family burying-ground on Ricker Hill, in the peaceful field south of the Mansion House, just off of the old county road, the modest headstones at their graves, with impressive simplicity, recording only their names and dates.

WENTWORTH RICKER, third son of Jabez, and third in the line of the Poland Spring family, born in August, 1768, married, about 1796, Mary Pottle, of Minot, Maine. Of their five children—Mary, Wentworth, Jr., Sophronia, Hiram and Albert G.—the eldest, Mary, remained single, and died in 1864, aged sixty-six. Wentworth, Jr., the eldest son, born in 1801, died at the age of twenty-five.

THE SPRING, 1860.

Sophronia, the second daughter, born in 1804, married, in 1822, Dr. Eleazer Burbank, at that time in practice in Poland, and in 1838, removing to North Yarmouth, prominent in affairs in both places. While living in Poland he was largely instrumental in the establishment of the old Congregational Church at Poland Corner, in 1825, upon the formation of which the venerated Rev. Dr. Edward Payson preached the sermon and was his guest. Sophronia had two children: Augustus



MANSION HOUSE, 1859.



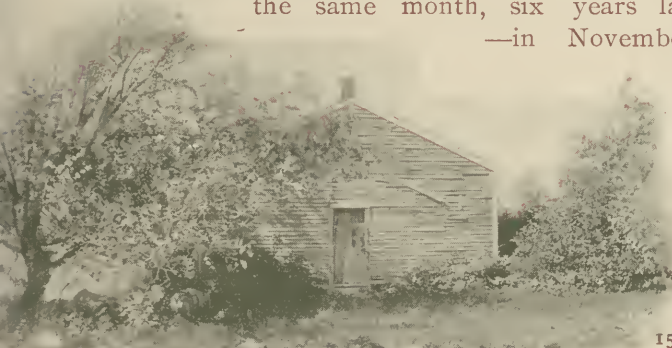
H., who followed in the footsteps of his father, also becoming a physician in Yarmouth (having graduated A.B. at Bowdoin and M.D. at Harvard), where he is in active practice now, and Esther, who became the second wife of the late Hon. S. P. Benson, of Brunswick, Maine. Albert G., the youngest son, born in 1812, married Charlotte Schillinger, of Poland, and had six children: Horace H., born in 1836; Wentworth P., born in 1839; Mary E., born in 1842; George K., born in 1845; George H., born in 1850, and Helen H., born 1859. He died December 26, 1885, aged seventy-three. Wentworth Ricker died in November, 1837, aged sixty-nine, and Mary, his wife, the same month, six years later

—in November, 1843 —aged seventy-nine years. Their graves in the family burying-ground are next in line to those of Jabez and Molly Ricker.

HIRAM RICKER, second son of Wentworth, fourth from Maturin, in the Poland Spring family line, was born November 17, 1809, and married, May 28, 1846, Janette Wheeler, eldest



MANSION HOUSE, 1875.



THE OLD RICKER HILL SCHOOLHOUSE.

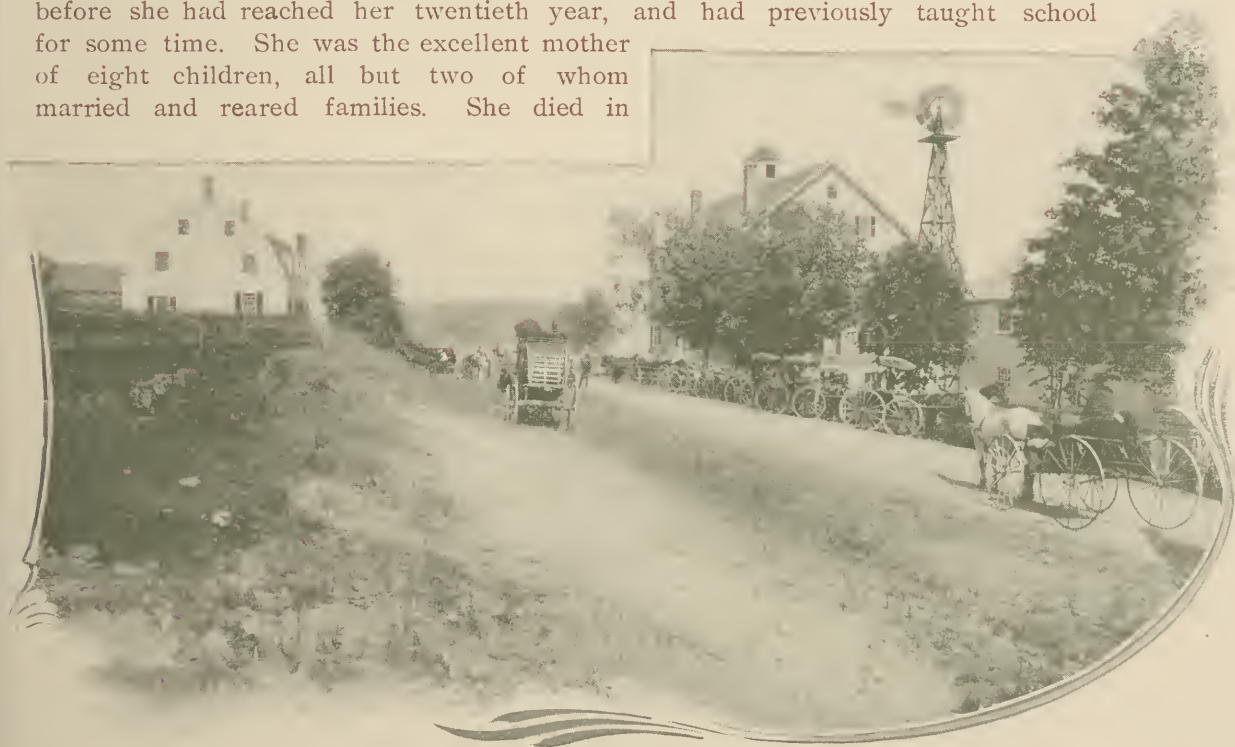
daughter of General Alvan Bolster, of Rumford, Maine, a leading man in the place, also at one time an innkeeper and farmer, and for many years engaged in trade. He held numerous public offices, was postmaster at East Rumford for over thirty years, served in both branches of the Maine Legislature, and was much interested in military affairs, holding various military positions. He was also an early temperance man and leading member of the "Sons of Temperance." His grandfather, Isaac Bolster, said to have come from England, was settled in Uxbridge, Mass., in 1732. His father, Isaac 2d, born in

Uxbridge, was an officer in the War of the Revolution, holding a lieutenant's commission, and afterward that of captain, and was one



VIEW OF MANSION HOUSE FROM POLAND SPRING HOUSE 1876.

of the minute men who marched to Concord, April 19, 1775. Upon his retirement from the army he became an early settler of Shepardsfield, which afterward became Hebron, Maine, and in 1784 moved to Paris, Maine, where he died. Janette (Bolster) Ricker's mother was Cynthia, daughter of Colonel William Wheeler, born in Concord, N. H., but came to Rumford when a child, with her parents. She was married before she had reached her twentieth year, and had previously taught school for some time. She was the excellent mother of eight children, all but two of whom married and reared families. She died in



SCENE AT SHAKER MEETING 1880.



SHAKER MEETING, 1880.

strength of character, and possessed of all those qualities which go to make the true woman. She was very popular with the guests of the Ricker inns, and idolized by her children. She died September 23, 1883, at the age of sixty-two, having lived to see the full fruition of the work of Poland Spring, in which she had unbounded faith from the beginning. Hiram and Janette Ricker had six children, three sons and three daughters—Edward P., Alvan B., Cynthia E., Hiram W., Sarah L., and Janette M.—all of whom are still living, the sons of the Hiram Ricker & Sons corporation of to-day. Hiram died January 4, 1893, full of years, having attained the ripe age of eighty-four.

Poland, September 26, 1879. Janette (Bolster) Ricker was born in Rumford, June 3, 1821. She received a good general education at Kent's Hill and in Bethel, at the same time teaching school, as her mother had done before her, winters and vacations, and subsequently studied art in Boston, in which she was deeply interested. She painted a number of meritorious canvases, several of which are in the possession of her children. She married Hiram Ricker at the age of twenty-five, and early displayed uncommon business as well as executive ability. She was of untiring perseverance and great

His grave, beside that of his wife, also in the foremost line in the family burying-ground, simply marked like the others, lies at the end of the line next beyond those of his sister Mary and his mother and father, his grandmother and grandfather, and his eldest brother, Wentworth, Jr. Back in line with the Ricker monument, are the graves of his younger brother, Albert G., and Charlotte, wife of Albert G., who died in 1893, and of their children, George K., who died at six years of age, Wentworth P., died in 1880, aged forty-one (he served in the Civil War), and Mary E., died March 4, 1895, at the age of fifty-two.

Such is the ancestry of the Rickers of Poland Spring, now world famed, who have upbuilt its great business interests from Lilliputian beginnings, and have crowned their noble ancestral hill, the forest farm of a century ago, with the magnificent structure which indeed becomes it, as another has so aptly said, "as a crown becometh a king's head." Sturdy, rugged New England stock, inbred in the soil, hard working, persistent, energetic, alert, enterprising. Of Hiram Ricker's sons, constituting the present corporation, Edward Payson Ricker, the eldest, chief architect of the fortunes of the Poland Spring of to-day, who assumed the leadership twenty-five years ago, and through whose genius, integrity and business skill its remarkable development is largely due, was born May 28, 1847. He married, March 25, 1890, Amelia Alesious Glancy, of Boston, born December 23, 1860, and has two children: Edward Payson, Jr., born October 31, 1893, and James Wesley, born February 1, 1895. Alvan Bolster



VIEW OF SPRING, FROM POLAND SPRING HOUSE, 1876.

Ricker, second son, whose part of the present great business is that of the charge of the farming, the stewarding of the houses, and the successful maintenance of the reputation for excellence of table which the Ricker inns have had from the earliest days, was born October 25, 1850. He married, December 16, 1884, Cora B. Sanders, of Waldoboro, Maine, born January 8, 1860, and has three children: Janette Bolster, born October 15, 1887, George Alvan, born April 30, 1890, and Marian Louisc, born April 4, 1894. Hiram Weston Ricker, third son, the natural mechanic of the family, who handles the bottling, shipping and supplies in connection with the Spring, and has charge of the livery and staging of the houses, was born September 5, 1857. He married, March 21, 1883, Vesta Pierce Folsom, of Lewiston, born July 29, 1856, and has three children: Marguerite Sophia, born February 12, 1886; Hiram Ricker, 2d, born March 24, 1889, and Charles Wentworth, born December 11, 1891. Of the three daughters, Cynthia Ella, the eldest, was born October 17, 1852; married, June 11, 1873, Oliver Marsh, of Springfield, Mass., where she now resides,



VIEW OF SPRING, 1890.



SPRING HOUSE, 1877.

with one chimney and no hearth, no roads crossing the place, and no very near neighbors. The hill had been an outlying Shaker farm, and he acquired it through an exchange of farms, giving his, then in Alfred, Maine, for this, having the year before visited the place and having been attracted by its situation. He was then what is called in New England a well-to-do farmer and miller. When he married thirty-three years before, his father gave him about fifty acres of land lying some two miles from Great Falls, and there he built his first homestead. After his father died he received by the latter's will another piece of land adjoining,

and has five children: Jane Catherine, Mary Janette, Allyn Ricker, Robert Penniman and Arthur Eastman. Sarah Little, the second daughter, was born February 20, 1860, and Jenette Maria, the youngest, July 30, 1865: both are unmarried, and make their home in the old homestead—the Mansion House.

II.

When Jabcz Ricker, the first of the Rickers of Poland Spring, came here in 1794 with his family to live, there was only one little frame house on the hill, with one chimney and no hearth, no roads crossing the place, and no very near neighbors.



SPRING HOUSE, 1885.



THE SPRING.

home in the little frame house on the hillside after dark one night, and, when they settled down in the lonely spot, the six girls became homesick, and "sat about the fire and cried." The next morning two men appeared at the door and asked for breakfast. There was nothing cooked in the house, but they could eat anything, they said, and they could get no food elsewhere, for the Shakers, then the only occupants of the sparsely settled neighborhood, would not feed the "world's people," nor would they even have speech with these hungry men. So the wayfarers were given as good a breakfast as could be prepared under the circumstances, and, the humble repast finished, went on their way rejoicing, back through the woods, to Paris, Maine, their destination. After this, everybody going either way stopped at the Ricker house, and none was turned away unrefreshed; "and that," Hiram Ricker relates in his Reminiscences, taken down in his old

making about one hundred and fifty-seven acres in all. He remained on the farm and worked it until a purchaser appeared, who gave him three thousand dollars for it. Meanwhile, he and a partner built the first saw and grist mill ever built at Great Falls. After selling out there he went to Alfred, about the year 1775, and bought quite a tract of land, including water power, where he built another saw and grist mill, which property was included in the farm exchanged for Ricker Hill, and is still owned by the Alfred Shakers.

Jabez's large family reached their new



VIEW OF SPRING, FROM POLAND SPRING HOUSE.

age, "is how my father [Jabez's son Wentworth] went to keeping public house. There was no other place for people to stop." Wentworth took the lead, and immediately began pushing improvements. He first took steps for building the county road from Portland to Paris, through Poland, passing by the house. He hauled the first load on wheels ever hauled over this road. He took a load of eleven hundred pounds, with two horses, from Poland to Norway, "which," says Hiram's Reminiscences, "was considered a great and wonderful load to haul in those days."

In 1794-95 the new house was begun, the first Mansion House, a considerable portion of which, with the original clapboards, is preserved in the Mansion House of to-day on its site, just north of the little frame house. All the nails used were made and forged by hand by Wentworth's younger brother, Joseph. The house was some time building, but was finally finished in 1797, and formally opened as a tavern by the hanging of a sign from the sign-post erected in front of it, bearing the single name of Wentworth Rieker. So was established the first Rieker inn, which has been steadfastly maintained these hundred years with varying fortunes, passing from father to son, and from son to his son, its fame increasing with the deepening years. This



SPRING AND BOTTLING HOUSE.

first Mansion House was finished into four large square rooms on the ground floor, and four above. It had two large stacks of chimneys, four feet at the top, two large fireplaces in each chimney on the lower floor, taking "four-foot" wood, and four smaller but good sized ones on the second floor. The bricks for these huge centre chimneys, at least twelve thousand in number, were made a mile off on the shore of the pond, near the present ice-house of the estate, and were laid up in clay mortar. A stable was built near by, thirty by thirty-two feet in dimensions, one side having five stalls, and the other side wide enough to drive a team in and tie up fourteen oxen.

III.

When the new house was finished, and Jabez Ricker had placed the management of the property in Wentworth's hands, he settled his son Joseph on a farm south of and adjoining the homestead farm, and his son Samuel on another on the southwest side. The other members of the family remained in the inn, which has since been the main homestead. Here were born all of Wentworth's children, Mary in 1798, Wentworth, Jr., in 1801, Sophronia in 1804, Hiram in 1809, and Albert in 1812; all of Hiram's, with the exception of Alvan B., who was born in Rumford;



DANVILLE JUNCTION, THE POLAND SPRING STATION.



ON THE ROAD FROM STATION.

inn; and Janette in the southwest corner room, or parlor chamber, so-called. The original house remained with slight changes for more than sixty years, or until about 1863, through Wentworth Ricker's day, and the most part of Hiram's, as landlord. Until the advent of the railroad it was the popular stopping place for farmers on the way to market at Portland, many coming from distant parts, some from as far back as Canada, and for travelers by the regular stages on the county road, which Wentworth Ricker had been so potent in pushing through. It was a tavern of the good old-fashioned sort where landlord was

several of Albert's; and in the house enlarged, all of the children of Hiram's sons, Edward P., Alvan B., and Hiram W., eight in number. Hiram senior was born in the northwest corner room on the second floor; his first born, Edward P., his eldest daughter, Cynthia E., also Hiram W. and Sarah L., in the room below on the first floor, now a part of the office of the



host. Hospitality was met at the threshold; Comfort and Good Cheer awaited the guest within. In its public room the first religious meetings in the neighborhood, outside of those of the Shakers, were held, Elder Jonathan Scott, first minister of Poland, preaching. Those were the sermons, and on elder's discourse congregation o'clock in the in the afternoon, without a break! opening, through liquors were dis-temperancetimes, in the partition ent office, with slide was perma-Wentworth the first of Maine the sale of all day not a cent is or indirectly, for Ricker inns. of the Poland



STAGES PASSING THE GATE ENTRANCE TO POLAND SPRING PARK,
ONE MILE FROM POLAND SPRING HOUSE.

late General Benjamin F. Butler felicitously remarked, in his speech at the notable complimentary banquet to Edward P. Ricker by Boston business men in 1888. Referring to the

days of stalwart one occasion the held his rural from eleven forenoon to four five mortal hours The old tap-room which hard is still retained back of the pres-closed slide. The nently closed by Ricker. He was landlords to stop liquors, and to-received, directly liquors in the Upon this feature Spring resorts the



THE SPRING HOUSE OF THE FUTURE (IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION).

common declaration that "it is impossible to keep a hotel successfully without selling liquor," he observed sententiously, "Our friend keeps two succcessfully without selling liquor. And he has demonstrated that hotels can be kept successfully up to the highest standard on the purest and best of cold water."

The first buildings added to the property were a woodshed and a cider house back of the inn. In 1813 the "big barn," still standing, an interesting landmark, in later years used as a cattle stable, was built, Samuel Ricker framing it. This was erected from profits in part made by Wentworth during the war of 1812 in teaming. "He was a pretty prominent man" in that business, we are told in Hiram

Ricker's Reminiscences. "He rigged up five four-horse teams, and took charge of them. He drove for some time between Portland and Boston. One day he was ordered to be in a certain place at a certain time. 'I cannot do it,' he said, 'unless you give me a pass to travel Sundays.'



VIEW OF GROUNDS AND HOTEL FROM SPRING.

In those days people were not allowed to travel Sundays. He got the pass. He went to Boston, and there loaded with goods for Albany. There he loaded again with goods, the principal part of his load for the twenty horses being composed of flints for the army. The quarter master being drunk, father was put in charge of everything. He went to Plattsburg, N. Y." With the close of the war in 1814 Wentworth gave up teaming, and returned homeward, driving across the country. In 1825 he added to the inn buildings a large stable, which when finished was pronounced the best hotel stable in the State. This stood until 1894 (much enlarged in 1887), when it was burned down with its contents, including twenty-seven horses, all the harnesses, robes, and coach



LOOKING TOWARD POLAND SPRING HOUSE FROM SPRING.

equipments, on the twenty-first of August, in the height of the season. Early the very next morning (the fire occurring between nine and ten o'clock Tuesday evening), Hiram Ricker's sons had their stage line running, and that day handled seventy people;



"WELCOME THE COMING, SPEED THE PARTING GUEST."



POLAND SPRING HOUSE.



ENTRANCE TO POLAND SPRING HOUSE AND PARK, FROM MANSION HOUSE.

and by Saturday night everything was running in regular order, with new horses, new harnesses, and new stage equipments. The work of rebuilding was immediately begun, and during the winter following (1894-95) over the ruins arose the present handsome structure—a double stable, in two wings, of steel roof and fire walls, with a frontage of two hundred and fifty-two feet, and carriage house with sleeping-rooms above—erected at a total expense of from ten thousand to twelve thousand dollars, and as much finer than the old stable as that was finer than the ancient barn.



ON THE ROAD FROM DANVILLE.



NEW LIVERY AND STAGE STABLE, AND EMPLOYEES' BOARDING-HOUSE.



POLAND SPRING HOUSE, 1876.

and Hiram continued to work the farm and conduct the hotel on the old lines. After the Grand Trunk Railway was built through the town in the early forties, the hotel business largely dropped off, as travel by the country road greatly diminished, and the house was distant from the railroad, and Hiram then branched out into the business of buying and selling sheep and dealing in wool and lumber. When the changes with the tariff of 1846 came, having a large lot of wool on hand for which there was no market, and the price falling from fifty cents to twenty cents, he, in order to make himself whole, engaged a woolen mill, known as the Mayall's

Wentworth Ricker retired from the active management of affairs, placing Hiram in charge, in 1834. Hiram was then twenty-five years of age. He had spent his boyhood and youth with his father on the farm and in the hotel, receiving at the village school such an education as the common country school of those days afforded; and had had a little experience at trade in Boston, going up to the city in 1833, and "hiring out" in a clothing shop of one John Frankson, on Clinton Street. He was thus engaged when his father, being somewhat broken in health, wrote, asking him to return and take the business. His homeward trip was made in February, "all the way by stage from Boston, being two and a half days on the road." Wentworth died three years later,



POLAND SPRING HOUSE OFFICE, FROM 1876 TO 1887.



POLAND SPRING HOUSE, 1884.

humor in the stomach, and, after treatment by the State without relief, his case had been pronounced incurable. One July day, in the year just mentioned, he was haying with some of the farm hands near the spring, and drank freely of the water. It was then the custom to take to the field a bottle of molasses and ginger, and make a drink of sweetened water (the sweetening destroying

Mills, in the town of Gray, for its manufacture. Six weeks were consumed in this work, the mill running at full capacity. Some eight or nine thousand yards of the manufactured goods were from wool of his own raising.

IV.

Meanwhile, in the summer of 1844, the discovery was made, purely by accident, that the crystal spring, flowing from a fissure of the tree-embowered ledge on the crest of the hill, which had been utilized for watering the cattle on the farm, had medicinal properties. At that time Hiram Ricker was a great sufferer from dyspepsia, aggravated by some of the most skillful physicians of



JAMES G. BLAINE AT THE POLAND SPRING HOUSE, CAMPAIGN, 1884.



OLD STABLE, BURNT AUGUST 21, 1894.

already finding his health improving, he continued to drink freely of it, with the result that within fourteen days the burning humor from which he had keenly suffered was driven from within to the surface, his food no longer distressed him, and soon he was a well man again.

After this, Mr. Ricker "talked" Poland Spring water to all his neighbors and friends who had any trouble whatever of the dyspeptic form; but he did not then realize its marvelous efficacy in other diseases which circumstances later developed. Quite as remarkable a cure of gravel had been effected seventeen years before in the case of his father, Wentworth Ricker, who had suffered serious and painful attacks of that disease. Mr. Ricker was cured by the free drinking of the water taken directly from the spring,

the medicinal properties of the spring water); but that day the molasses and ginger were not taken along. So the men drank as freely as he direct from the spring, and all were alike affected, the water acting powerfully as a cathartic. They commented considerably on the matter, but could not account for it. The same experience was had for four or five days, the molasses and ginger being left behind, and only the clear spring water being drunk. Their food was examined carefully, but nothing was discovered that would enlighten them. While thus speculating, it suddenly occurred to Mr. Ricker that it was the water only which so affected them, and,



GROVE.



MUSIC HALL, BUILT 1884.



STEAM LAUNCH POLAND.

if there was a spring in the neighborhood running north, and, replying that there was one up on the hill, was told to get a jugful, and let the patient have all he wanted, the doctor remarking "that he might as well have it as not, for he would be dead before morning." So the sick man was allowed to drink freely of the pure water

simply for refreshment, while at work with his men clearing the land around it; but that fact was not at this time recalled: and Mr. Ricker never knew what cured him. He lived for ten years longer, the trouble never once returning to him. The case of Wentworth's brother Joseph, who, as far back as the year 1800, was miraculously cured of a fever, is also recalled. Joseph was lying mortally ill, as his physician had declared, and, pleading for a drink of cold water before he died, his nurse was asked by the doctor



PORTE-COCHERE AND WEST PIAZZA.



POLAND SPRING BREAK STARTING FOR THE FAIR.

Poland Water to his afflicted friends, and of other surprising cures it had effected in the neighborhood, it soon acquired a local reputation. Then in the course of time calls began to come from more distant places, from those who had heard, through others whom it had benefited, of its wonderful virtues, and shortly thereafter it had become well known in steadily widening circles. Thus its introduction to the outside world was begun, on its merits, through its own benign work, and not from

through the night, and the next morning, instead of dead, was on the way to rapid recovery. He lived fifty-two years longer. That the spring was known also to the aborigines, and, doubtless, its curative properties, is clear from the evidence of their presence about it, disclosed by the uncovering by the plow and spade of long buried Indian implements.

As a result of Hiram Ricker's "talking"



POLAND TOWN FAIR.



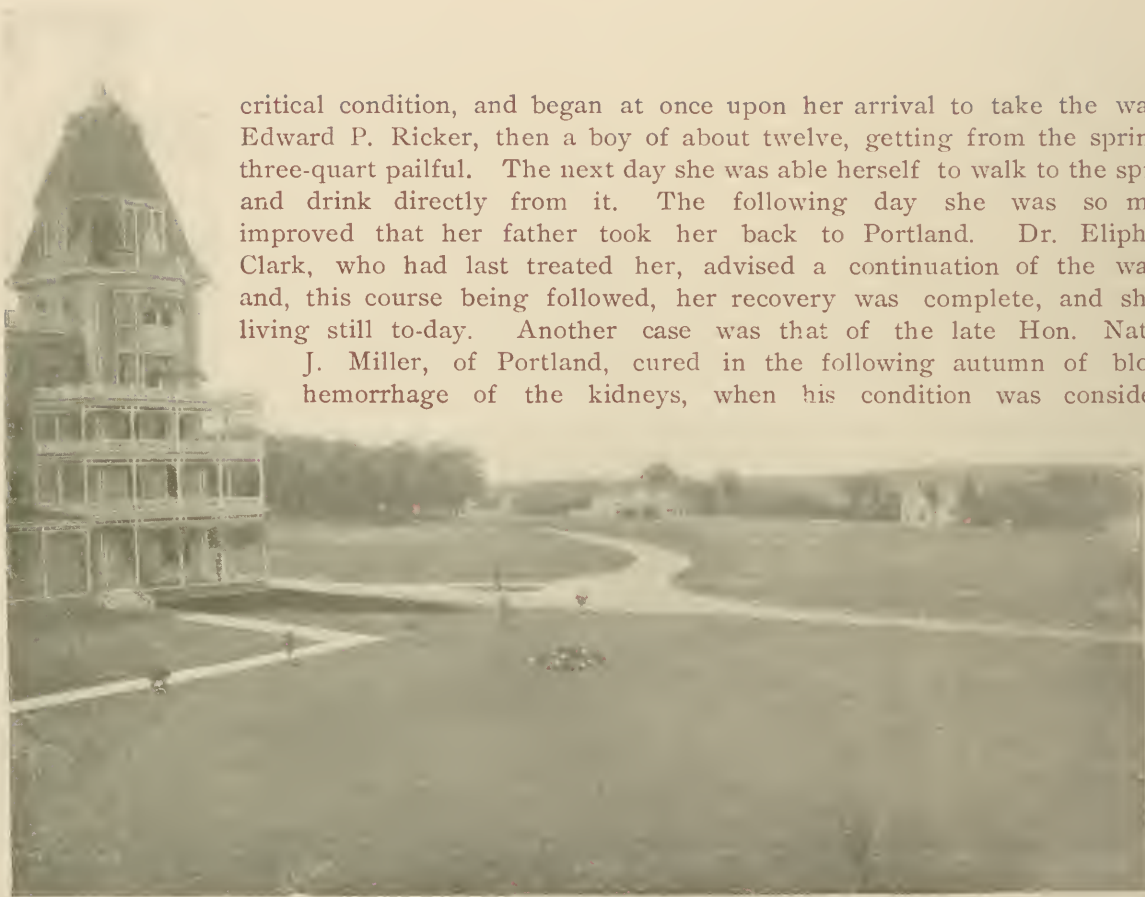
INTERIOR COURT, POLAND SPRING HOUSE AND STUDIO.

a commercial motive. The first sales were made in the autumn of 1859, and the first "shipment" was in a three-gallon demijohn, brought by Hiram Ricker from the spring to the stage to be taken to Portland, and for which he received fifteen cents. That year the water had been brought into greater prominence than before by a succession of cures more remarkable, in some respects, than any that had preceded, arresting the attention of physicians and others who had been skeptical as to its efficaciousness. One of these cures was that of a young woman suffering from constipation, and in such a delicate condition, threatening a rapid decline, that the best physicians in Portland at the time had pronounced her case incurable. She was brought to the Mansion House by her father, one day in June, in a



SITE OF MAINE STATE BUILDING.

critical condition, and began at once upon her arrival to take the water, Edward P. Ricker, then a boy of about twelve, getting from the spring a three-quart pailful. The next day she was able herself to walk to the spring and drink directly from it. The following day she was so much improved that her father took her back to Portland. Dr. Eliphalet Clark, who had last treated her, advised a continuation of the water, and, this course being followed, her recovery was complete, and she is living still to-day. Another case was that of the late Hon. Nathan J. Miller, of Portland, cured in the following autumn of bloody hemorrhage of the kidneys, when his condition was considered



VIEW OF MANSION HOUSE, FROM POLAND SPRING HOUSE.

hopeless. He was also a patient of Dr. Clark, having previously been given up by other physicians. A few gallons of the water had just been sent by Mr. Ricker to Dr. Clark for examination and testing, and he advised his patient to

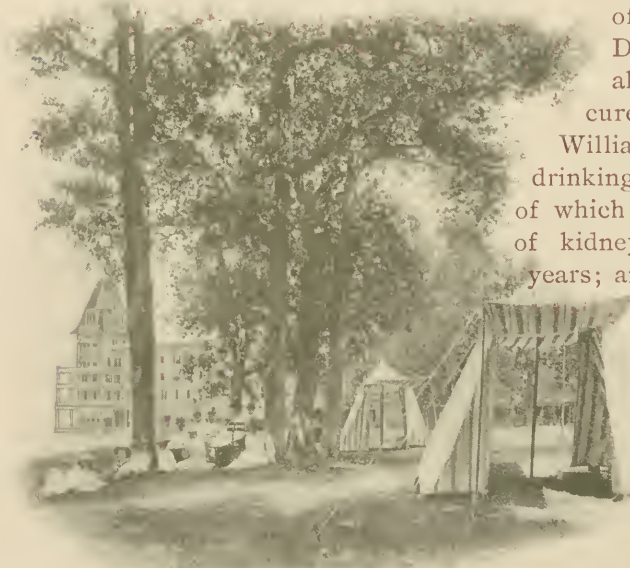
DR. ELIPHALET CLARK, OF PORTLAND,

THE FIRST PHYSICIAN TO PRESCRIBE POLAND WATER.

Dr. Clark was a foremost physician in Portland in his day, and a prominent man of affairs. He was born in the town of Strong, Maine, in 1801, and was of Puritan descent. He received his degree of M.D. from the Medical School of Bowdoin College in 1824. He married Miss Nancy Caldwell, a sister of Rev. Z. Caldwell, and of Prof. M. Caldwell, of Columbia College. He established himself in Portland in 1830, and speedily built up a large and lucrative practice, both as a physician and surgeon. It is said of him that his profession was to him a divine vocation. He was one of the first to embrace the Homœopathic system of medicine, and was a member of the committee who drafted the plan of the American Institute of Homœopathy. In 1863 he was offered the chair of Materia Medica in the New York Homœopathic College, also the deanship, but owing to ill health he declined these offices. He was active in the cause of temperance, religion and politics. He

was projector of the Portland horse railway, and the first president of the company. He was also for a long time director, and subsequently president, of the Boston and Portland Steam Packet Co. He was urged to accept nominations for Governor of the State and Mayor of the city, each of which he declined. He was an ardent Methodist, and a constant friend to Kent's Hill Seminary; also President of the Maine Wesleyan Board of Education for a period of thirty-two years, and was one of the trustees of the General Biblical Institute of the M. E. Church. He died on the 8th of June, 1883, aged 82 years.

try it, with the careful professional remark that it certainly could do no harm, and might do some good. The effect of its use was speedily apparent. Within a few days after beginning it Mr. Miller was on the high road to recovery, and shortly was pronounced cured. Subsequently, Dr. Clark, who from that time used Poland Water constantly in his practice—the first physician to prescribe it as a remedy for disease—was himself cured



of kidney disease by drinking it; and Dr. Moses Dodge, another prominent physician in Portland, also a sufferer from that disease, was similarly cured. At the same time, at Poland, a neighbor, William Schellinger, working near the spring and drinking freely of the water, in the medicinal properties of which he had no faith, was cured of a serious form of kidney trouble, with which he had been afflicted for years; and during the season his sick ox, “so emaciated and weak that he would frequently fall while walking,” and put out to pasture in the field by the spring to die, where he had only its water to drink, was made well, so that he “gained six inches in girth, and was pronounced good beef, and sold as such” in the autumn. “Examination of the internal organs,” as his owner has recorded in this twice-told tale,

now widely familiar, "showed that the liver had been terribly afflicted, and that from this cause he would soon have died but for this timely removal to the pasture and spring." These and other cures, among them cases of gravel and one of dropsy, within that single year, occasioned much talk in the country round about, increased the demand for the water from many directions far and near, and it began steadily to make its way into general use as a medicine.

The sale by barrel was begun that autumn, the delivery by jug being continued to places within wagon distance of the spring. In the following year, 1860, more remarkable cures by the wonderful water were effected, and the business of marketing it rapidly developed. Several of the most notable cures of this period were of aggravated cases of gravel, Hiram Ricker having demonstrated early that year that Poland Water would dissolve calculus in the bladder, thus being the discoverer of the first known remedy of this class. He had experimented with some good sized pieces of gravel from a large quantity, seven years previously crushed and removed with instruments, by the eminent Dr. Warren, of Boston, from Mr. Ezekiel Jackson, of Norway, Maine, without permanent relief; and again, with like result, with pieces which had been removed from a resident of Poland. These vials he then took to Dr. Clark, of Portland, who placed them in his study, each labeled with full data, stating



POLAND SPRING HOUSE, FROM GROVE.



OFFICE, FROM MAIN ENTRANCE.

at seventy-five years of age. This year, also, resident agents for the sale of the water were appointed in a few new places, among them Boston; orders were received from more distant parts, including the West, the South, and even California; many were drawn to the spring itself to drink of its pure water and be made well; and the first house was erected over the spring, which before had been protected by the ordinary country stone wall and rail fence.

particularly the time required by the water to operate on the pieces; and so its fame as a curative for such cases spread abroad. At the same time, Mr. Jackson, still a great sufferer, and determined not to undergo another painful operation by instruments, began the use of the water upon himself, and at the

end of four weeks his health was completely restored. He is yet living, hale and hearty,





OFFICE.

from Poland Spring than from all throughout the United States and Canada; to South America, Cuba, England, the continent of Europe, India, Egypt; thus fulfilling the second part of Hiram Ricker's prophecy made in the early days of the miraculous spring, his faith in it then as firm as the rock from which it gushes, that sooner or later there would be shipped from it all that runs, and that Poland Water would be known throughout the world. The first part of this prophecy will never be fulfilled, for the spring is inexhaustible.

At the close of the first two years the sales of the water had increased from the single three gallon demi-john, shipped by the Portland stage at the beginning, to a thousand barrels. After that, however, owing to inexperience in preparing for market, the business gradually declined until about 1868. Then, more wonderful cures having been made, and the barreling having being improved, it took a fresh start, and from 1870 to 1880 increased from three hundred to five thousand barrels. Thereafter the increase was in great strides, until, in 1890, more water was shipping the Saratoga Springs combined. To-day it is sent



OFFICE, FROM LADIES' PARLOR AND READING ROOM.

Like Tennyson's brook, it goes on forever. Now, agencies are established in the leading cities of the country, the principal depot being the New York office, first opened in May, 1883. Then, the yearly gross sales there were about three thousand dollars; now, this branch alone is doing a business of one hundred thousand dollars a year. In the place of the one horse and wagon sufficient for the work of teaming at the spring from 1859-60 up to 1875, to-day twelve horses are worked on the regular teams hauling to the railroad at Lewiston Junction, with many extras.

In the bottling and barreling house, the oldest part erected in 1876, before which time the work was done in temporary quarters and by a few hands, a force of about thirty men is now employed, and for the greater part of the year work is carried on day and night.

In the first days of the business, the water was dipped from the opening or basin in the crevice of the ledge, originally made by the settlers who discovered the spring in 1785, with a two-quart dipper. It then held about ten gallons, having been enlarged from its original size, of



THE LARGE WINDOW OF DINING ROOM.





MAIN DINING HALL.

a capacity of five or six quarts only, first by Wentworth and Hiram Ricker when clearing the neighboring land in 1827. As the business increased, it was further enlarged to hold about thirty gallons, and the pail was substituted for the two-quart dipper. This was the method pursued in filling all barrels and packages until the autumn of 1876, when the first bottling house, a structure thirty by sixty feet, was built below the spring, and a stone bowl set, through which the water was run direct into the barrels. By 1885 bottling had largely taken the place of barreling, although the latter was still continued, and the business had so expanded that it was found necessary to put in a large stone tank, four feet deep, four feet wide and fourteen feet long, and

the front one solid piece of highly polished granite, holding upwards of two thousand gallons. Meanwhile the bottling house had been enlarged into a main building of one hundred feet, with a large centre wing for the packing department, and improved machinery introduced for facilitating and perfecting the bottling work. At about this time machinery was also added for aërating the water, to which improvements have from time to time since been made. Every known device for preserving the purity and sweetness of the water



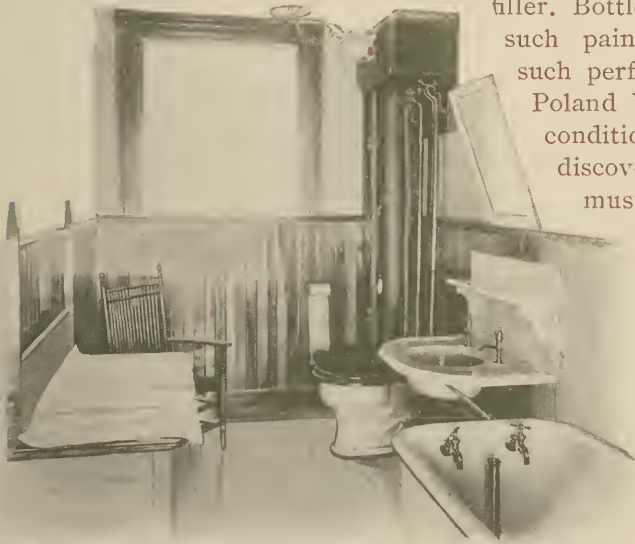
PARLOR.



PARLOR.

has also been supplied as the business has developed, and the greatest care exercised in the bottling process to prevent the absorption of impure matters. Every material now entering into the work is most carefully selected. The corkwood especially is obtained only from the purest stock, and the corks are cut in Spain. The best of cleansing methods have been adopted, and all the bottles used are scalded and sterilized. Each bottle after being sterilized is kept bottom upward until the moment it is placed under the filler. Bottled with such pains and such perfection,

Poland Water to-day leaves the spring in the best possible condition, and, if any sediment or any impurities are discovered in any package in the consumer's hands, these must be charged to some impurity in the cork, or in the receptacle in which the water is placed and which it has absorbed; for its absorbent quality, unknown in other mineral waters, is as distinguishing a feature of this water as its purity. If, for example, a bowl of it is placed beside a bowl of milk in a refrigerator with meats and vegetables, the

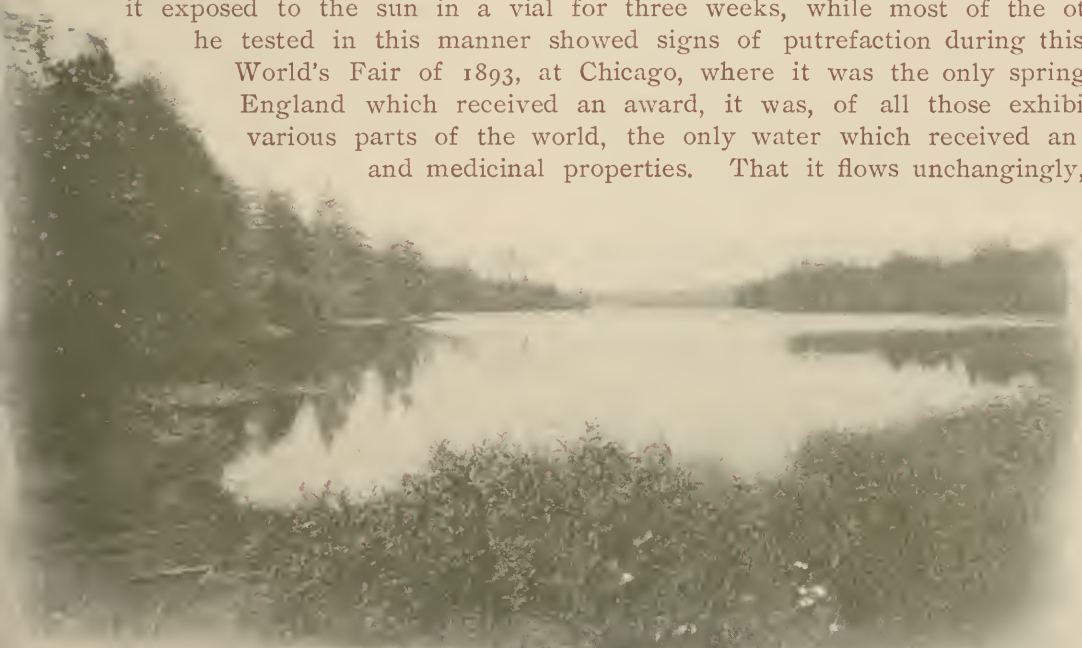


water will absorb every odor of its surroundings, and leave the milk absolutely untainted.

V.

While this great business has been developing through the wonders that the water performs, the secret of its extraordinary influence has been unrevealed by science. As has most truly been said, "It eludes chemistry, and returns from the laboratory as it enters—a mystery." Analysis has shown its mineral constituents and its unique purity, but no laboratorist has yet been able to account for its marvelous curative properties. It rises

from a great depth, as is shown by its uniform temperature at all seasons of the year, and gushes, as the geologist tells us, from a bed of gneiss, the oldest of the sedimentary rocks, through a fissure filled with an intrusion of porphyritic rock of the old red sandstone era, from which it derives its freedom from organic matter. So its rare purity is accounted for, but whence come its manifold virtues constituting it a perpetual fountain of health baffles all investigators. It stands alone among mineral waters. It has been demonstrated that there is but one Poland Spring; that its excellence is peculiarly its own. In the thousands of analyses of water made by Professor F. L. Bartlett, when State Assayer of Maine, he could "always tell Poland Water." He had "many times selected it from amongst other samples by simply evaporating some of it to dryness," for it always



gives a pure residue of pearl-white scales, which is unlike any he ever saw. "I have found samples," he adds, "which gave almost the identical analysis of the Poland, but the residue left on evaporation was never like it." From the relatively large amount of silica contained in it, Professor Bartlett had called it an alkaline silicated water. Testimony in the same direction is given by Dr. William P. Wesselhoeft, the well known Boston physician, who writes, under date of January, 1893, that Poland Water seems entirely free from vegetable matter, and he has not been able to get the slightest sediment after leaving it exposed to the sun in a vial for three weeks, while most of the other waters which he tested in this manner showed signs of putrefaction during this period. At the World's Fair of 1893, at Chicago, where it was the only spring water from New England which received an award, it was, of all those exhibited, coming from various parts of the world, the only water which received an award for purity and medicinal properties. That it flows unchangingly, retaining stead-

fastly its physical characteristics, is shown by the results of analyses taken at different periods between the time of the discovery of its medicinal



EXHIBIT OF POLAND WATER
AT THE WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXHIBITION.

This exhibit occupied a conspicuous position in the Gallery (Section one, second floor, Division B, six) of the Agricultural Building. The uniquely designed and artistically decorated structure in which the exhibit was displayed was so planned that the visitor was enabled comfortably to examine it in detail, and it was one of the chief attractions of the group in which it stood.

The Only Water Awarded a Medal and Diploma at World's Columbian Exposition for
Great Purity and as a Natural Medicinal Water.

World's Columbian Commission

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON AWARDS

JOHN BOYD TRACHER, Chairman, Albany, N. Y.

W. A. BEWELL, New Jersey, A. T. BRITTON, District Columbia

H. B. ANDREWS, North Carolina

G. B. SHALLEY, Ex-Officio Member, Burlington, Vt.

BUREAU
PACIFIC BUILDING,
227 1/2 St., Washington, D. C.

UNITED STATES.

Department A.—Agriculture.

190

Exhibitor— Hiram Ricker & Sons..... Address South Poland, Me.
Group 10..... Class 64.....
Exhibit— Natural Mineral Spring Water (Poland Water)

Washington, D. C., *Jan 30*, 1894.

Messrs Hiram Ricker & Sons

Dear Sirs:

I herewith inclose you an official copy of your

Award which, in due time, will be inscribed in the

Diploma and forwarded to your present address, unless

otherwise indicated by you.

Yours,

John Boyd Tracher
JBT

Chairman Executive Committee on Awards.

(Signed) A. A. Breneman,
Individual Judge.

Approved: A. A. Breneman,
President Departmental Committee.

John Boyd Tracher
JBT
Approved
Chairman Executive Committee on Awards



MAINE STATE BUILDING AT WORLD'S FAIR, 1893.

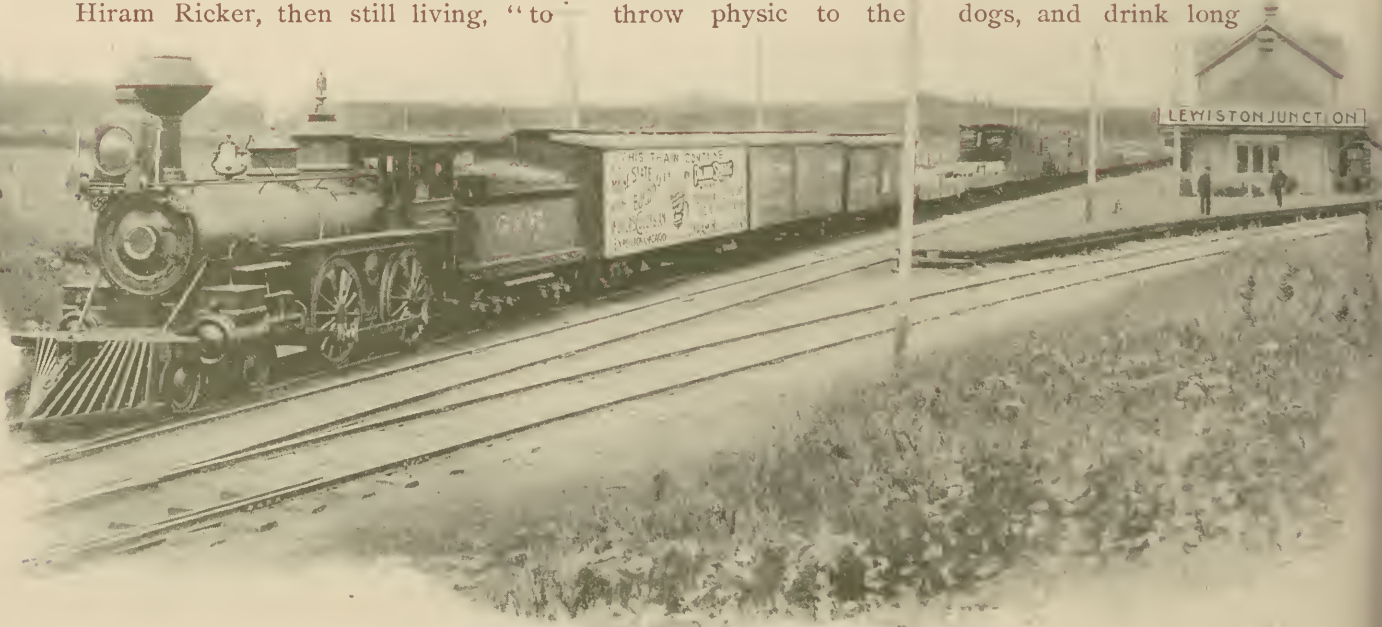
properties and now. Professor C. F. Chandler, of Columbia College, New York, for example, reports, in 1893, the same constituents that he found eighteen years previously, adding: "It is evident, therefore, that this water still preserves the chemical character which has commended it so greatly both to physicians and to consumers." And Professor A. A. Brennan, late Professor of Industrial Chemistry in Cornell University, reports the results of analysis made in 1894 "closely in accord with the analysis made by Professor C. F. Chandler in 1875," these results indicating "not only the great purity of Poland Water, but its consistency of composition during long periods."

But stronger than professional opinion of the lasting virtues of this incomparable spring, valuable as such opinion is, is the testimony of the water itself in what it is accomplishing, from year to year and from day to day, in the repeated and wonderful cures effected by its use, those of recent years as miraculous as those of its earlier days. Evidence of this nature which has come to the proprietors is voluminous, and its mere cataloguing would fill a thick volume. It comes from practitioners as well as from patients, and includes great numbers of cases pronounced by physicians of high repute as unreachable by drugs or ordinary medicines. Notable among many of the latter class



SPECIAL TRAIN OF 16 CARS, CONTAINING MAINE STATE BUILDING, LEAVING WORLD'S FAIR GROUNDS.

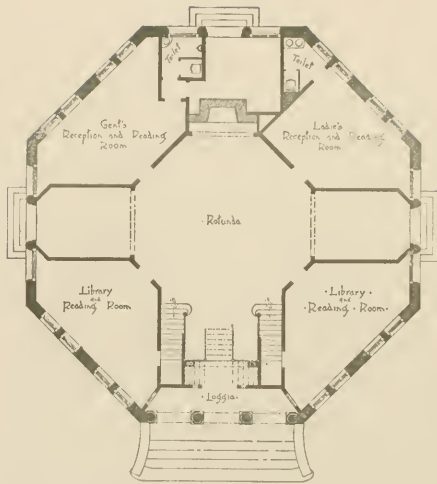
which may be mentioned is that of T. S. Quinn, of New York City, cured of pyelitis in 1888, after leading specialists here and abroad had declared his case to be incurable, and to-day in the enjoyment of good health, with no touch of his old disease. While abroad in search of relief he was ten days in London under the care of the celebrated Sir Henry Thompson, who gave him no encouragement of hope of recovery; and when he came to Poland Spring, after treatment by an American specialist who confirmed the diagnosis of Sir Henry, he was, as he writes, "but a shadow of my former self, weak and tottering, scarcely able to put one foot before the other." Taking the advice of Hiram Ricker, then still living, "to throw physic to the dogs, and drink long



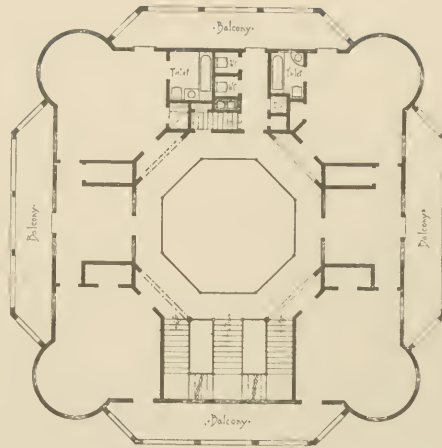
ARRIVAL OF SPECIAL TRAIN, MAINE STATE BUILDING, AT LEWISTON JUNCTION.



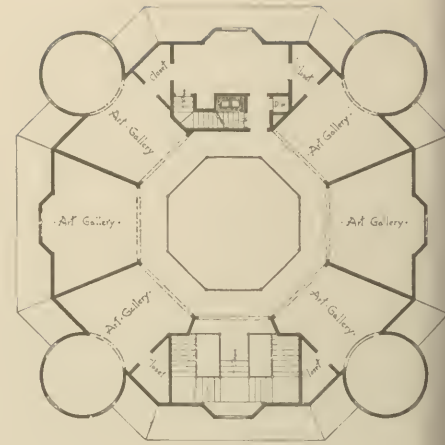
MAINE STATE BUILDING ERECTED AT POLAND SPRING.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN
 or
 MAINE STATE BUILDING
 Poland Spring, Me.



SECOND FLOOR PLAN
 or
 MAINE STATE BUILDING
 Poland Spring, Me.



THIRD FLOOR PLAN
 or
 MAINE STATE BUILDING
 Poland Spring, Me.

and deep of Poland Water," he allowed the drugs, medicines, and prescriptions, of which he had brought an abundant supply, to be put aside, and, thereafter quaffing the water as his only remedy, he soon began to improve, and in three months returned to his home in better health than he had enjoyed for years.

That the cures by the water are permanent cures is shown by the indisputable testimony of absolute freedom from the disease to which it is applied, through years of life following. The case of the Hon. John C. Haines, ex-Mayor of Chicago,



THE LARGE STEPS OF MAINE STATE BUILDING
 ARRIVING AT POLAND SPRING.



MAIN ENTRANCE, MAINE STATE BUILDING.

the spring about five years in barrels. The case of the Rev. Dr. A. J. Patterson, of Roxbury, Boston, is another most significant one. In 1872 he was attacked with inflammation of the kidneys, and, after some months of suffering, he consulted Dr. Bowditch, at that time at the head of the medical profession in Boston, who told him plainly that he would never be able to resume the duties of his profession. Then he came to Poland Spring, making the journey with great difficulty. A few hours after drinking the first pitcherful of the water he experienced relief, and, continuing to drink

in the enjoyment of good health thirty-two years after being cured of a serious disease of the kidneys, is much to this point. He was prostrated in 1863, and, his physician having failed to afford him relief, he came to Poland Spring as a last resort. After drinking the water for about four weeks he was as well as ever again. This was his voluntary testimony in a letter written fifteen years afterward, and in 1895 his son, Professor W. S. Haines, of the Rush Medical College, reported his health still excellent. Another case is that of a lady cured thirty years ago of kidney complaint and dropsy, after physicians had declared her case hopeless, and still in good health, having neither seen nor felt any symptoms of the disease since the cure. This lady took the water in California after it had been out of



LARGE MANTEL AND FIREPLACE IN ROTUNDA
OF MAINE STATE BUILDING.

it, gaining strength and comfort day by day, was in a few weeks able to preach. Within two months he was back again in his own pulpit in Boston, fully recovered. In 1883, in a letter giving a history of his case, he wrote that "from that time till now I have not lost a day from derangement of the kidneys." And in January, 1895, twenty-two years after his recovery, he wrote the Messrs. Ricker: "You are at liberty to use my testimonial in any way you please. One having enjoyed twenty years of comfortable life after passing through what I endured in 1873, and would hesitate to tell the world of his restoration, must be a very heartless man." A case which excited much attention at the time, as a wonderful cure, by the water, of what was pronounced by several Boston physicians to be Bright's

disease and incurable, was that of ex-Mayor Jonathan Dearborn, of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in 1872.

He came to the spring, after he had been told by physicians that he had not long to live. At the end of two weeks he considered himself, as he expresses it, "fifty per cent. better." Five years after his cure he wrote that since his visit to the spring he had "not lost a day's work, a night's sleep, or a meal of victuals." He lived until 1883, when his death occurred, as his physician wrote, not of Bright's



HIRAM W. RICKER'S COTTAGE.

disease, but of apoplexy of the heart. So the constantly increasing record runs of cures complete and lasting by the sparkling water of this miraculous spring, where drugs fail and medical skill is powerless to save. In the words of Dr. Wm. Argyle Watson, a leading New York physician, it "seems, in its long journey through guttered rocks and congregated sands and pebbles, to become craftily endowed with occult, detergent, solvent and absorbent powers, which, when freely drunk, enables it to take up, in its searching course through the brain, liver, stomach, kidneys and other organs, all offending stale secretions, waste matter, and the wreckage of devitalized breaking down tissue, and, through its positive diuretic action, to flush the whole system, thus ridding it of all soluble impurities, paving the way to a renewal of functional activity, and to the repair of damaged organs."



VI.

In the year 1869, Hiram Ricker turned the property and the direction of affairs into the hands of Edward P., his eldest son, as his father, Wentworth Ricker, had turned the management over to him thirty-five years before. Edward P. was then twenty-two years of age, three years younger than his father when the latter took the management. Like his father, too, he had first gone up to Boston to engage in general business. But here the parallel ends, for he did not make an engagement there nor tarry any length of time. On the trip up and while in the city looking about for an opening, his thoughts dwelt upon home affairs, and he was not slow in reaching the conclusion that the real place for him, the place where he

could accomplish the most for the family and its interests, was back on Ricker Hill and at Poland Spring. So he straightway returned, and as a member of the firm of Hiram Ricker & Son energetically applied himself to the development of the properties, with his father at his right hand. That year and the year following the first addition was made to the Mansion House by building on another

story, giving nine small rooms, and increasing its capacity to about fifteen rooms. A year or two later another addition was made by removing the old woodshed and cider house, and building back where they had stood, thus gaining seven rooms. Meanwhile, as we have seen, new impulse was given to the business of the spring, and the sales of Poland Water began to show steady increase. These were busy years, full of hard work, with some hardships, some



ALBERT RICKER HOMESTEAD, NOW PART OF POLAND SPRING PROPERTY.



THE LANE COTTAGE.



BROWN PLACE.



COTTAGES 1 AND 2, SOUTH OF MANSION HOUSE.



OLD JACKSON INN, BUILT ABOUT 1800.

anxious days, litigation having arisen involving the property's interests—ultimately decided in favor of the family through the justice of their cause—but years marked by progress, steady and sure. In 1875, Alvan B., the second son, was admitted to the partnership, the firm name then becoming Hiram Ricker & Sons, and in 1880 Hiram W., the third son, was admitted.

In 1876, the centennial year, the first Poland Spring House rose on the summit of the hill, which was then in appearance like an old New England farm, and opened with the summer, the firm taking a partner in this enterprise—Albert Young, of Auburn. With its frontage of two hundred feet and its one hundred rooms, the new house was considered an affair of considerable magnitude, and some of the wisecracks predicted “breakers ahead” for the venturesome proprietors; but it was only the beginning of the development soon to follow. The opening was auspicious, while the old house lost none of its patronage or popularity. Five years later, during which period the new house remained in its original shape, the Rickers bought out Mr. Young's interest (which was confined to this house), and at once began making improvements, in both the exterior and the interior, laying out some twenty thousand dollars without adding a single room. Within three years they doubled the receipts of the business over the largest year under the Ricker & Young administration. In these three years, also, much improvement was made in the grounds, the work at the spring was advanced, the sales of Poland Water increasing at the rate of a thousand barrels each year, and the bottling industry steadily developed. In 1883-84, the capacity of the new house was increased by building the addition which now contains the Music Hall, a wing forty by one hundred

and twenty-five feet, adding sixty-four rooms to the original one hundred. At the same time, the old Mansion House, which had long been overcrowded, was enlarged to its present size, embracing in all about sixty-six rooms, and increasing its capacity to accommodations for one hundred guests. In 1887, the Annex to the new house, where the billiard hall now is, was built, adding about twenty-four rooms; also, an addition to the helps' department; and buildings elsewhere on the grounds were enlarged or improved. In 1889 the great house was extensively remodeled, its architectural features much enhanced, and the attractive interior rendered more attractive. In these processes fifty thousand dollars' worth of the older parts was cut out and cast aside. Also, in 1889, an addition, fifty by one hundred and sixteen feet, was built on, giving about fifty rooms. The same season, the grounds were further beautified. In these improvements and additions, fully seventy thousand dollars were expended. In 1893, the southwest wing was extended forty-five by one hundred feet, and twenty bathroom suites thus added. In 1894, further improvements were made on the grounds and in various parts of the expanding house, among them the construction of the studio building, with fully equipped rooms for amateur photographers who are guests of the Ricker inns, and the club house, both in the southeast wing.

The same year was marked by the enterprise and forethought of the Rickers in the purchase of the Maine State Building of the World's Columbian Exhibition, and its removal from Chicago to Poland Spring for preservation as a memorial of the national fair and Maine's representation in it. The beautiful and costly structure, of Maine



grown and manufactured materials, originally erected at a cost to the State of thirty thousand dollars, was carefully taken apart under the personal supervision of Hiram W. Ricker, loaded on a special train of sixteen cars, and transported to Maine, at a cost of loading and transportation of over three thousand dollars, and its substantial rebuilding begun in front of the stately oak grove beside the superb hotel—the only State or other official World's Fair building taken down, removed, and re-erected in permanent form. During the winter and spring following, this structure was completed as library and art gallery, artistically and uniquely furnished and decorated, to become the crowning feature of the opening of the season of 1895, and the second century of the Ricker inns. Further improvements were made in and about both houses, in various other buildings on the grounds, and in the grounds themselves; additional buildings were erected and notable additions made to the steadily expanding estate.

So, in the short space of less than twenty years, the picturesque hill farm, eight hundred feet above the level of the sea, with the ancient inn on its slope, and its wondrous spring, has been transformed into the great inland watering place of to-day, with its two hotels, the smaller the embodiment of comfort, the larger, of magnificent proportions, most beautiful in design and perfect in appointments among modern summer houses, its historic stone library and art gallery, its expansive grounds, with great, sloping lawns dotted with flower beds and fountains, its groves of oak and maple and pine, its chain of lovely lakes—a veritable paradise, the Mecca of the fashion, the wealth and culture of the country. Where, in 1880-81, when the first enlargement of the new hotel on the hill top was made, were a few fair buildings, mostly clustered about the ancient hostelry and by the spring-side, is to-day a colony of shapely structures, well distributed over the grounds so as not to obstruct the view in any direction—cottages; stables, the one connected with the great house fitted as a boarding stable for teams of guests, with accommodations for fifty horses, and over the

carriage house rooms for private coachmen; large boarding houses for the army of help employed on the place; a great refrigerator and cold storage building; a pumping station for pumping water from the lakes for general purposes in the hotels and for freshening the lawns; a cooperage and blacksmith shop, and numerous other outbuildings. From a total of one hundred and sixty rooms in both hotels in 1880-81 the capacity of the houses has been increased by the repeated enlargements to four hundred and fifty rooms to-day, of which about fifty are bathroom suites, each with a pleasant look-out, accommodating about five hundred guests. Each enlargement has been demanded by the increasing patronage of the spa, and each has been followed by a larger influx of guests, coming from all parts of our own country, from Canada and abroad. Within these twenty years, too, the original estate of three hundred acres has expanded by the acquisition of adjoining and other lands to a princely domain of a thousand acres; and it has been so improved, with rare skill and taste, every natural beauty piously preserved and fostered, that it has become one of the most enchanting spots in all picturesque New England. We have thus traced the evolution of Poland Spring and the Ricker inns from the uprising of the first tavern, and the discovery of the marvels of the blessed fountain in the rock, to the present famous establishment. Let us view the perfect work of to-day, as the tourist views it upon his first approach.

VII.

Arriving at Danville Junction, twenty-five miles north of Portland, by the Maine Central or Grand Trunk Railroad, here parallel, and passing on either side of the picturesque station, we leave the cars, and take a Poland Spring coach for the five-mile cross country

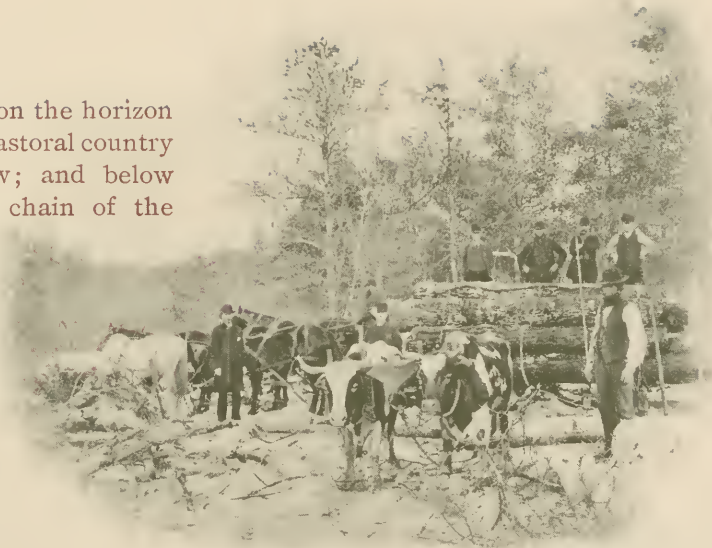


drive to Ricker Hill. The coaches, we find, are not of the ordinary sort, but handsome English-like drags or breaks, with spirited teams of four and six horses. They are of American make, however, designed and built in New England shops especially for the Rickers for their staging business. Sweeping along the steep hillside from the station, through the thrifty little village, we shortly turn sharply to the right, and strike the narrow, winding road which leads on and up to the Ricker domain. Thence it is an exhilarating ride over a picturesquely undulating country, past broad fields and rocky pastures, through pleasant woods, and open spaces with fair views of distant hills and mountain tops. As we near the end of the drive we catch the first glimpse of the towers of the great hotel over a forest on distant heights at the left, rising like castle turrets above the trees. Further along the view broadens, revealing more of the outlines, but suggesting rather than disclosing its grandeur. The main road ends at the entrance gate to the Poland Spring grounds, on the edge of a little forest. This we enter, the keeper at the lodge swinging open the gate as we approach, and begin the ascent of the woody avenue. We have yet a mile to traverse before we reach the great house on the heights above. The curving way lies through the deep woods close up to the famous spring, and skirts the grove in which the spring buildings are set. Reaching the Spring House, we halt for a moment, while an attendant brings out glasses of the sparkling water for our refreshment, and off again, we emerge at once into the open. Now the mammoth hotel, heretofore hidden from view, suddenly appears imposingly before us, at the left, far across the expansive lawn sweeping up to and over the plateau; and vast stretches of rich landscape, extending unbroken to the horizon, delight the eye at every turn. In the distant northwest the White Hills rear their majestic heads, the Franconia peaks and the Presidential range disclosed in exquisite outline. To the westward rise Black Cat, Rattlesnake Mountains, and lesser local heights; southward, the more distant Ossipee Hills of New Hampshire, with the bolder outlines of Mt. Pleasant and Mt. Kearsarge

beyond. In the clear atmosphere objects upon the horizon fifty miles away are plainly visible. Lovely pastoral country fills the foreground of the encircling view; and below us, at the foot of the hill, the long silvery chain of the Range lakes glistens through the winding valley.

As we bowl over the broad driveway toward the great house, its splendid proportions, the beauty of its design, and the magnificence of its location unfold, a spectacle of steadily increasing charm. With its finely fashioned central tower, its great, spreading wings of upward of six hundred feet, their surface broken by numerous bays, verandas of varying sizes,

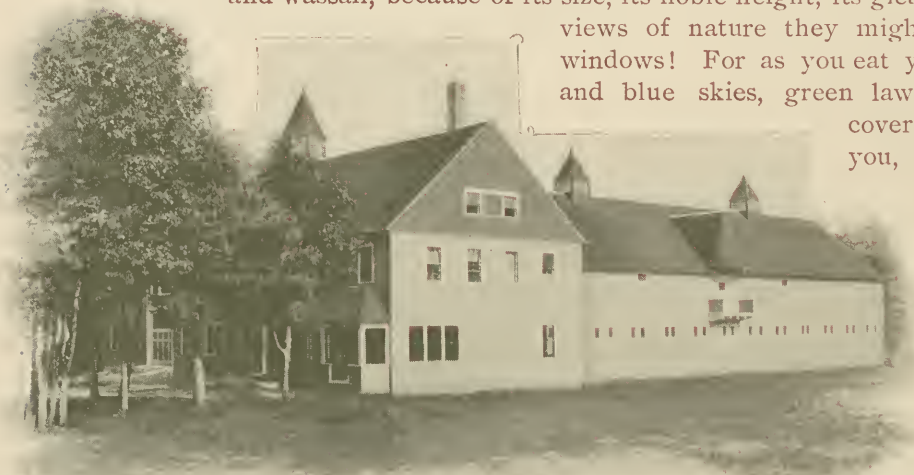
shapes and finish, its tasteful exterior ornamentations, its turrets at intervals along the sky line, its multitude of broad windows, its deep double piazzas, over thirteen hundred feet in length, upon which hundreds of guests "can stroll and promenade and not be crowded," its forest background and unsurpassed outlook, it stands a noble structure, nobly placed. The coach swings under the *porte-cochère*, and, alighting, we are met on the hospitable piazza by one of the Ricker brothers, and by manner, if not in words, made welcome, with something of the flavor, if not the exuberance, of the old time reception by landlord of guest. Entering the house, we are struck at once by the vastness and richness of the interior, and the absence of the chilliness of the conventional great hotel. Here is a great office hall, with long, broad corridors, apparently unending, and deep passages, but all so modeled and arranged,



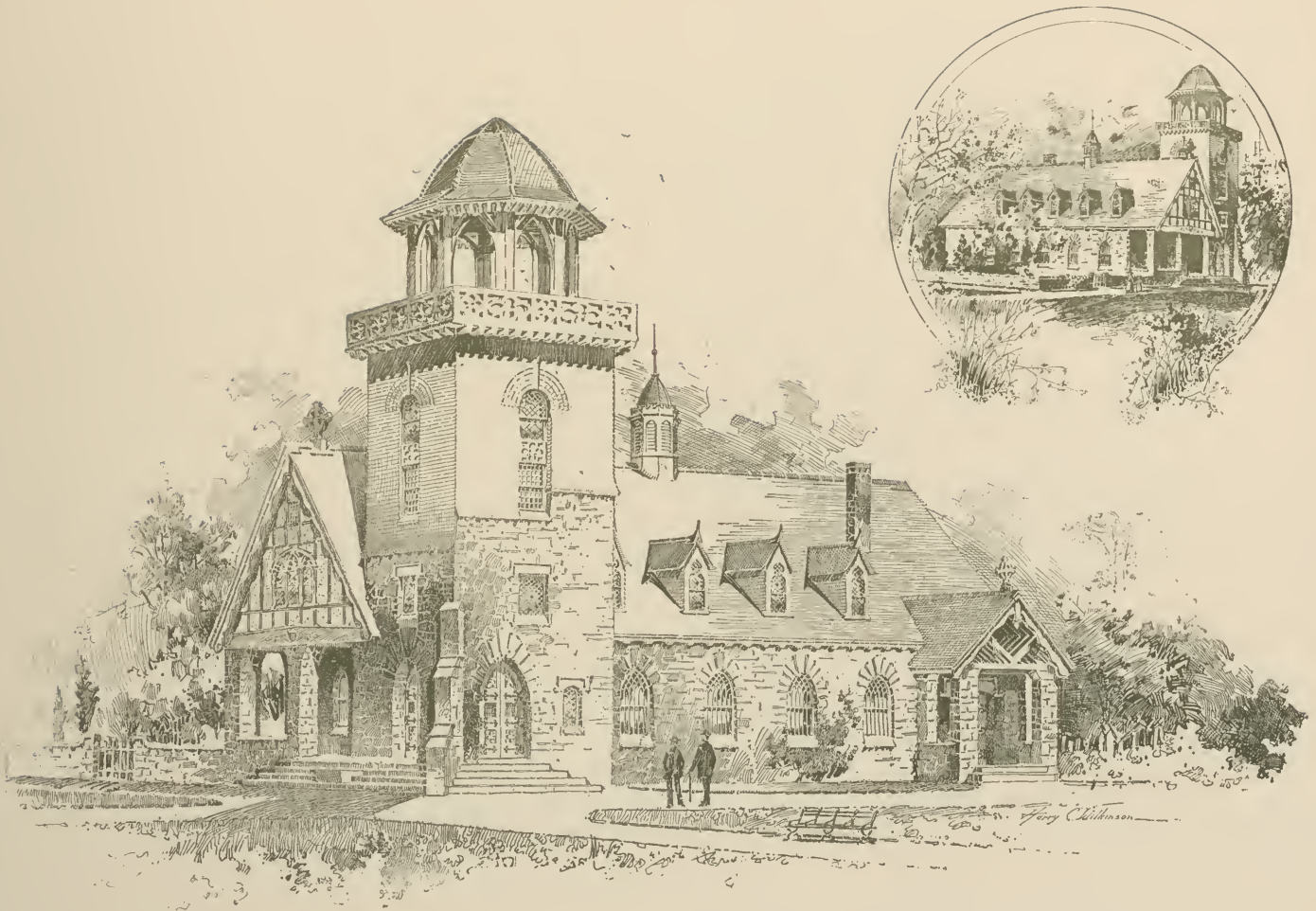
so comfortably furnished and finished, with open parlors, sitting, reading and lounging rooms, and cozy corners, that it has a homelike air with all its largeness. In the huge domed fireplace of the entrance hall, six feet in the clear, of oaken frame and terra cotta finish, a big log fire flames with ruddy glow, if the weather without is chilly, as is not infrequently the case in this high altitude, even in midsummer, when the day is young or after nightfall. Through the broad corridor, at the left from the hall, is the way to the great dining-room, of splendid proportions and glorious outlook, whose praises have been sounded by countless guests. "I have eaten food with pagan and Christian, savage and civilized, poverty and wealth, and in many of the hotels in the land where tourists congregate," writes the gifted W. H. H. Murray, "but never have I seen so fine a room for bright, cultivated people to take their meals in as the great dining hall at Poland Spring. Nearly two hundred feet in length and amply wide, it is a marvel of space and roominess. How the old Norse kings would have loved it when they met for feast and wassail, because of its size, its noble height, its gleaming floors, and the magnificent

views of nature they might behold from its multitude of windows! For as you eat you look out upon shining lakes and blue skies, green lawns acres in extent, and forest-covered hills, still valleys far below you, and more silent peaks, which

penetrate the stillness of remoter skies." And another has written: "What a sense of expanse the room has! Even the windows seem to open to the earth. One of them, filling the entire end



BOARDING STABLE.



PERSPECTIVE VIEW OF PROPOSED CHAPEL.

of the central panel of the hall, makes a picture of forest and field so beautiful that one cannot help but gaze upon it." Furnishings and service are in full keeping with the superb setting. Tasteful ware garnish the daintily spread tables, the air is filled with the fragrance of sweet flowers, and the food served the guests is so selected and prepared that, to quote again from Murray, "it honors them as people of refinement and civilized tastes, and exalts the noble art of entertainment."

At the further end of the main corridor, at the right of the entrance hall, is the great Music Room, as large as a theatre, and artistically decorated, where the house symphony orchestra—a celebrated band, made up of members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, under the leadership of Daniel Kuntz—gives regular concerts, and which is frequently transformed into a brilliant ball-room; and adjoining is the smaller and cozier entertainment room, with broad connecting doors, so fashioned that the two halls may on occasion be thrown into one. In the Annex beyond are the large billiard room and bowling alleys, fully equipped with the most modern furniture, the club house, and the studios for professional and for amateur photographing. Elsewhere are snug card rooms by the score. On the stories above the entrance floor, which are reached by elevator or broad staircases, the same spaciousness of corridor and passage as below is observable. Light and air are everywhere abundant. The hundreds of rooms are spacious, tasteful in finish, inviting and comfortable in furniture and appointments. Many are *en suite*, arranged for families, with ample closets, private baths and other conveniences. From every suite are beautiful views through the broad windows. A number have cozy, private verandas where restful hours may be spent, the eye enchanted by the spreading landscape. Open fireplaces abound. Such is the plan of the house, with its extensive frontage, southwest and northwest, and open court between the wings, that there are no poor rooms, none without something of a view. In the topmost part of the main tower is a glass-inclosed outlook. At night, the great house is lighted by a thousand incandescent lamps, and two great electric globes shine from the tower, the light

from which is visible for miles around. All the accessories of the great modern hotel of to-day are here: electric annunciators, the telegraph, automatic fire alarms, together with perfect plumbing and perfect drainage.

The Maine State Building of the World's Fair of 1893, this season first opened to the guests of Poland Spring as a permanent feature of the resort, next engages attention. The beautiful octagonal structure of Maine granite and woods, with its balconies, round bay windows projecting over the stone, and panel finish, its deep slanting roof, central tower and corner turrets, is here reproduced exactly as it stood in Jackson Park, a lasting monument of Maine's exhibit at the memorable Exposition, and of the Exposition itself. And here as there it occupies a "commanding and desirable position," overlooking as fair and as grand a picture as that spread out about it in the "White City," and with harmonious surroundings. We have a choice of

four entrances, but it would be well for the first visit to take the granite arched main one, and so get the full effect of the interior. Here are set on either side of the entrance black tablets in slate, each three feet long, with golden letters, suitably inscribed: that at the right announcing that this is the "Original State Building, erected and occupied by the State of Maine at the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893; removed here and rebuilt by Hiram Ricker & Sons, 1895;" and that on the left, stating that the building is here preserved as a "valuable State relic



FISHING FOR BASS ON UPPER LAKE.

and dedicated for a Library and Art Building, and as a Centennial Memorial of the original settlement of Poland Spring farm by the Ricker family." Passing through the three arcades, between the polished columns of red and black granite, we enter the octagonal rotunda, opening up to the roof line and the heavy ornamented skylight. Here we find the same general outlines and finish which characterized the building at Chicago, but greater beauty in adornment and artistic decoration. On the wall spaces of the rotunda, under the first gallery rail, marking the upper line of the entrance story, is now a panorama of the World's Fair buildings, exterior and interior, presented in a series of large photographs, finely executed and tastefully framed. And in rooms opening from the rotunda here, this interesting panorama is extended by smaller views occupying the friezes, in one place pictures of all the State buildings massed; the whole telling in full pictorial detail the story of the Exposition, which will increase in interest as time goes on and the great Fair becomes more remote. In the rotunda also, on this story, Scott Leighton's famous painting of "A Morning Ride at Poland Spring" hangs in the same position it adorned during the Fair, by the side of the beautiful carved oak mantel above the fireplace. The rooms on the first floor, opening from the rotunda, which were, at Chicago, the ladies' parlor, gentlemen's reception and smoking rooms, the library and offices of the State commissioners and other officers, are here arranged as reading and writing rooms, one for ladies and another for gentlemen, and as library, the latter supplied with a collection of books, including numerous publications on the World's Fair. In place of the decorations in these rooms during the Fair at Chicago (which consisted of portraits of distinguished Maine women in the ladies' parlor, portraits of Maine authors and bust of Hannibal Hamlin in the library, and the Moose in the gentlemen's reception room), there are, besides the frieze of World's Fair pictures, other pictures and various adornments; while the furnishings and fittings are eminently appropriate and in good taste.



LOADING POLAND WATER AT LEWISTON JUNCTION, WINTER OF 1895.

The rooms of the second story, opening from the gallery, which is reached by the Colonial staircase from the entrance hall, are virtually as at Chicago, but transformed from reception and retiring rooms into suites for guests. These open on to the pleasant balconies which, at Chicago, were frequent resorts for visitors because of the views they afforded, as they must be here for Poland Spring guests, for each has its particular charm. The entire third story, which at Chicago was unfinished, is now finished as the art gallery, admirably lighted and designed, to be hung with representative work of representative American painters. It is proposed to give regular summer exhibitions here, each season, of new work by our artists in different sections of the country and abroad, and to make this gallery an institution of high standard and merit. A number of well known New York and Boston artists contribute to the initial exhibition notable work from their studios. From this story the cupola of the central tower, eighty-six feet above the entrance floor, commanding lovely views on either side, is reached by a stairway winding above the great skylight, with its thousand feet of glass. While the views here unfolded are not so imposing, perhaps, as the wider sweeps from the vantage afforded by the loftier tower of the mammoth hotel, there is a quiet beauty in them, notably those of the foreground, which has a peculiar fascination to the beholder.

In the reconstruction of this historic building the work has been most thoroughly done. The interior has been made fireproof, and in completing the unfinished parts, the best of material, harmonizing perfectly with the general design, has been used. So it stands a permanent and enduring structure, justifying the conclusion of the committee of the commissioners having its disposal in charge after the fair, that its "relocation at this celebrated summer resort" was best for the interests of the State.

Our steps now turn naturally toward the veteran Mansion House, lying picturesquely at the base of the hill, its white walls and artistically irregular lines in marked and pleasing contrast with the great yellow pile of striking architecture on the summit above. It is a pleasant stroll down the



long stretch of broad plank walk which connects the two inns. The house across the lawn at the left, east of the Mansion House, with effective background of thick grove, is the private residence of Hiram W. Ricker. Between this and the Maine State Building, the Chapel, the next Poland Spring building to be erected, will be placed, and near by extensive hothouses are to be constructed.

We find the Mansion House still an ideal country inn. The changes and enlargements which have from time to time been made have not destroyed its quaintness. While with increasing years it has broadened and become more comfortable, it has lost none of its mellow charm. The spreading low studded office, the pleasant sitting-rooms, the cozy dining-room, with its cheerful outlook, the homelike rooms above stairs, the piazzas shaded by stately elms of Hiram Ricker's planting, and, withal, the conveniences which modern hotel methods afford, combine to make it a veritable house of contentment. It is quite as popular with long staying guests in the winter and spring months, when the great house on the hill top is closed, as in the gay summer season; and as a winter resort, in connection with the ever flowing Spring, its reputation is widespread. Through all the seasons of the year it is maintained at even standard. The same comforts, the same excellences of table, the same hospitable atmosphere, characterize this rare old tavern out of "the season" as well as at its height, while all the features of the great spa, save only the summer gayeties, which come with the throngs of fashionable, pleasure seeking, summer guests, are fully sustained. It is not infrequently the case that the old inn is as crowded with guests, drawn by the wonderful virtues of Poland Spring and the charms of the place, in midwinter as in midsummer.

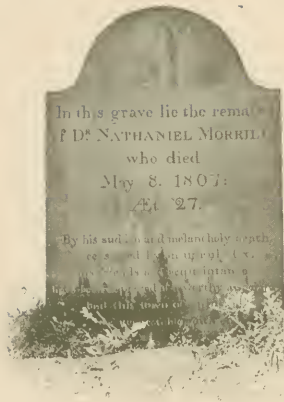
Let us now stroll along the old county road, here passing through the Ricker domain, northward toward the lakes. On our left, back from the road, we observe the big barn, built in 1813, in Wentworth Ricker's day, its plain weather-stained frame serving well as a foil to the finely proportioned and embellished great modern stable on the knoll just beyond. At our right, the beautiful wide-spreading lawn sweeps up to the great house, crowning the distant crest, and the surrounding groves. It is difficult to realize that once this smooth expanse of vivid green was a rocky field, fringed with tangled bushes. But such is the fact, and in its clearing a vast amount of hard labor and much money were expended. Soon we reach the pleasant Albert Ricker homestead, on the right, with the Lane and other cottages adjoining, all now a part of the Poland Spring estate; and farther on the old Jackson Inn and farm, also now within the domain, being one of the recent purchases for its enlargement. This inn was the second public house in the neighborhood, built about the year 1800. Daniel Jackson, its builder, was originally of Cape Ann, Massachusetts, and came to Poland in or about 1777. Previous to the building of the inn he lived in a log house, which he set up when he first settled in the place. His daughter Polly married a son of Captain John Waterhouse, who became another early settler of Poland, coming about the year 1792. The Jacksons kept tavern here till the early thirties, when the place was closed as a public house. The venerable house now standing with end to the road, under the shadow of great trees, and string of outbuildings, is a good example of early nineteenth century New England buildings, and it is to be retained, though freshened with new fittings and remodeled interior, as an unique feature of this many-featured resort. The Brown place, so called, with its old farm buildings, lying along the shore of the lake and west of the Mansion House, is another addition to the estate, at present occupied by employés of the hotels or at the spring buildings, as are the other cottages along the way.

Extending our walk to the lakeside by the winding rural road, and at a fork some distance beyond bearing to the right, we come upon an ancient graveyard, in the heart of a delight-

POLAND MINERAL WATER.

**Cures Dyspepsia. Cures Liver
Complaint of long standing. Cures
Kidney Complaint. Cures Gravel. Drives out all Hu-
mors and Purifies the blood. For proof of the above,
parties may visit the Spring and use the water, or they
may buy of Dr. HALEY, the only authorized agent for
Brunswick and vicinity.**

**P. S. Board at the Spring can be obtained from \$2,-
50 to \$3,50 per week. Address
HIRAM RICKER, Poland.**



some grove by the roadside. Here, in a little clearing, the first meeting house in Poland was placed a hundred years ago. The exact date of its erection is not known, but it was probably not long after Jabez Ricker came with his family to the hill farm. It was a country raising, and it is a family tradition that Wentworth Ricker's wife entertained the raisers, doing all the cooking herself, using up seven bags of flour, with other things in like proportion. The little meeting house was used as a union church, and stood for many years, known as the church on the plains. The oldest gravestone here, or that showing the oldest date, is a tall slate-stone slab, embellished with Masonic emblems, and bearing this inscription:

IN THIS GRAVE LIE THE REMAINS
OF DR. NATHANIEL MORRILL,
WHO DIED
MAY 8, 1807,
AET. 27.

By his sudden and melancholy death,
Occasioned by an unruly ox,
His friends and acquaintances
Have been deprived of a worthy associate,
And the town of an useful
And respectable citizen.

The young physician was stopping at the Jackson Inn, and was out for a morning walk, when the animal came along the road, driven by Alvan Bolster, the father of Janette Bolster Ricker, then a youth. In attempting to head off the infuriated creature, he was pinned by its horns and thrown, and his back broken by the fall. He was carried back to the inn, where he died.



THE FIRST CHURCH AND OLDEST CEMETERY.

This grove, with the old graveyard and first church site, is also part of the Ricker estate. Through the vista of the trees the great house on the hill appears in the distance, presenting from this point a most charming picture.

VIII.

Life at Poland Spring is found to be never dull. The guest finds much and in great variety, besides the beautiful location, the rich scenery of which the eye never tires, agreeable accommodations and congenial surroundings, provided for his entertainment and delectation. There is sailing on the lakes by steam launch or sail boat, row boat or canoe. If he enjoys walking, there are lovely walks through miles of well cleared wood paths in the thick groves and woods of the great domain, or over to and about the lakes, or along the county road in either direction. If he would ride, there are drives over a country as picturesque as any in New England, along roads hedged with vines and wild flowers, by great groves, through pleasant glades, over steep hills with widespread views, and down cool dales, by prosperous farms, through serene villages. If he would see others ride, he may, on any bright morning in the season, enjoy from the great hotel piazza a brilliant spectacle on the roadways in front of the house—of gay equipages, victorias, four-in-hands, landaus, buckboards, drags, with prancing horses, some with liveried coachmen and footmen—private teams of guests, of which many are brought each season. If he would fish, there are bass fishing in the lakes, and trout brooks in the neighborhood, as well as salmon trout and bass fishing waters within a radius of twenty miles. If he, or she, would play at out-door games, there are the tennis courts on the wide lawn, the croquet grounds, and the baseball field. Within doors of the great house there is a concert by the regular orchestra every forenoon and every evening. After supper the place becomes gayest. The hundreds of guests in evening toilet gather in the hotel

parlors and the entrance hall in groups and circles, making a scene of great brilliancy. There is dancing in the music room, unless an entertainment or concert is going on, which occurs two or three times a week; and a full-dress hop every Saturday night. The whist parties are full. Every Friday evening a euchre party is given in the Music Room, with valuable prizes for the winner. And there are other special gayeties at other times. There is none of the rush and fever of the resorts where fashion is uppermost. "Society is here," as Jenny June once wrote, "taking a vacation." Pleasure is found here hand in hand with rest and health. No one hurries. After breakfast every one takes a "constitutional," making a morning call to the spring, and many linger long about the spring-house or in the cool grove, sipping the health-giving and restoring water. There are blissful hours spent on the great piazza with the matchless views. After dinner, which is the Old New England hotel hour of half-past one, the piazza is again sought, and is the favorite place for the refreshing siesta. Others find comfort in the hammocks swung in the pine grove or under the lawn awnings. On rainy days the cozy corners indoors, with their full outlook, are most inviting; the billiard room and the bowling alleys become popular, and an



added charm is now to be found in the beautiful library and art galleries of the Maine State Building. Then there are the studios, artistic and photographic (Notman, of Boston, occupying the latter), with the interesting exhibition of mounted plants, illustrating the flora of Poland Spring and the neighboring region, open to all guests for study and entertainment. Nearly seven hundred plants, found within a circuit of three miles of the Poland Spring House, have already been catalogued by the well-known botanist, Miss Kate Furbish, of Brunswick, Me., who is engaged on this work for the Messrs. Ricker. The list of rare plants which have been collected in this region includes: (1) *Prunus nigra*, not in the Manual of the Northern United States; (2) *Picris echioides*, also not in the Manual; (3) *Solidago Canadensis*, L., var. *glabrata*, not yet described in the Manual; (4) *Potamogeton heterophyllus*, Schub., var. *myriophyllus*, Robbins, very rare; (5) *Habenaria Hookeri*, Torr., var. *oblongifolia*, Paine; (6) *Pogonia verticillata*, rather rare Eastward; (7) *Salix myricoides*, a new species; (8) *Salix nigra*, not common in Maine; (9) *Salix longifolia*, Muhl., the first typical plant of this species which was ever reported at Harvard University Herbarium from Maine; (10) *Eleocharis palustris*, R. Br., var. *vogens*, L. H. B., not given for the New England States. Every opportunity is thus afforded for the pursuit of the fascinating study of botany.

To many the restfulness of Poland Spring is its chiefest charm. "The motto over the door of this house ought to be Restfulness," one of the regular summer visitors, a busy New Yorker, has said, and this sentiment has been echoed by countless others. "I predict for Poland Spring," General Butler, who was another frequent guest, once said, "great good to the world, as the resort of men and women who need rest, comfort and renewed strength." But the rest found here is not the rest of inactivity. It is that which comes with "change of mental life, of perfect opportunity to respect our own moods," and to indulge them.

The creation of this great establishment, the transformation of the modest resort by the miraculous spring of a quarter of a century ago to the renowned spa of to-day, has, as



we have seen, been the work of less than twenty years. In this fifth part of the century of the Rickers on Ricker Hill, the undertaking has grown from a business which in 1874-75 employed only the members of the family, with a few helpers, to an industry of great magnitude, with a little army of employés. Then, about one thousand dollars covered the annual expenses ; to-day, for labor alone in connection with the spring business, the sum of about sixty thousand dollars is annually expended. In 1893 there was paid out in Maine alone, in wages, and for materials and provisions, fully one hundred and twenty thousand dollars. In place of the family and a few helpers, sufficient to handle the business twenty years ago, there are now employed during the busy season from three hundred to four hundred persons. Then, the total amount of taxes paid was about one hundred dollars per year. To-day, Hiram Ricker's sons pay one-quarter of the tax of the town of Poland. From an annual output of a few hundred barrels—when

Hiram Ricker issued his first Poland Mineral Spring circular, in the early sixties, with its postscript announcement of rates of board at the Spring, "from \$2.50 to \$3.50 per week"—the sales have increased to thousands of barrels and millions of bottles, so that now more is annually sold from Poland Spring than from any other spring in America. These are eloquent figures, and they tell more graphically than words the remarkable story of this great development. It is a testimonial, more effective than the written word, to the enduring virtues of the incomparable water of Poland Spring; for upon these virtues it has directly been wrought. This marvelous growth, unparalleled in the history of mineral springs, these imposing buildings, this beautiful hotel of magnificent proportions on the hill crest, this expanding estate—these substantial results, testify to the priceless worth and the unchanging influence of this water, with even greater emphasis than the emphatic testimonials from the multitude who have found in it health, strength, and cure for ills beyond the power of drugs and ordinary medicines to cure, can testify. They constitute a testimonial undeniable and convincing, which impresses the mind and eye with the greatest force. But further development is to follow. Complete as the work of to-day appears to be, it is yet far short of the full point of perfection at which its upbuilders aim. Further enlargements and additional buildings are already planned, further embellishment of the great domain. In the immediate future, for example, a beautiful edifice will rise by the spring, architecturally fine, scientifically constructed, and with equipment superior to any similar structure in the land. And a third inn is contemplated as a winter hotel, in the nature of a sanitarium, to be placed on the hill slope, south of the Maine State Building, a near neighbor of the ancient Mansion House, and, like that, to be open throughout the year. So the expansion of Poland Spring will go steadily on, while the water continues its beneficial work; and when, in the fullness of time, the control falls into the hands of the sons of Hiram Ricker's sons, it will have become indeed a noble inheritance, a monument of sturdy enterprise and sagacity.



MANSSION HOUSE, 1895.

PRESS OF ANDREW H. KELLOGG,
409-415 PEARL ST., NEW YORK, N. Y.

