

THE SCHOOL OF THE ARMY.

Where Ambitious Youths Study the Art of War. THE LIFE OF A WEST POINTER. It is by No Means the Holiday Affair that His Dreams Have Pictured—The Tyranny of Upper Classmen.

West Point as It Is. (Copyright.) Have you ever visited West Point? If so, the beautiful scenery of the Highlands, and the trim, natty figures of the officers and cadets are already familiar to you.

But do not imagine that these young fellows were born soldiers. Far from it, for the average candidate for military honors is a youth and decidedly half-heddy in appearance; and the graceful bearing, the square shoulders and the girlish waist are only the results of a hard and severe system of training.

When a youth of the requisite age, from seventeen to twenty-one, receives an appointment to West Point he is immediately filled with a great sense of his own importance. Admiring friends imagine him the future Grant—yes, even a Washington. He himself thinks what a glorious thing it is to be a soldier, a gay, uniformed gallant, brave in war, and irresistibly popular with the fair sex.

So he dreams, and when he arrives at West Point he awakes with a sense of feeling that he is indeed one of the nation's chosen few. But his bright dreams have a rude awakening, and any future mental aberrations in which he may indulge will probably be the result of his disappointment.

Each year candidates for cadetship to the number of 150 to 200 are ordered to report at the military academy. They are appointed from all parts of the country by congressmen and on arrival at the military academy are required to pass a series of physical examinations. Some idea of the severity of these examinations may be had from the fact that about fifty per cent of each year's candidates fail to pass successful examinations.

The candidate arrives at West Point by way of a Hudson river day-boat, because he has been told of the beauties of this trip. When the boat reaches the dock the soldier in embryo glances around him in wonder and amazement until he sees a stage coach on whose sides is painted, "West Point Hotel." The candidate jumps into this because he knows nothing else to do, the stage coach being the only thing at the landing to suggest West Point.

Up a long hill drives the coach, and the candidate glancing timidly about him sees nothing but immense rocks along the hilly way, and deeply cut in these rocks the names of prominent generals of the history of the country—Monterey, Mexico, and Resaca de la Palma. But as the coach gains the top of the hill a most beautiful scene bursts forth upon his startled eyes.

entirely in the charge of the older cadets. These older cadets are simply young fellows whose sources of amusement are very limited, and who seize upon the candidate as legitimate entertainment. The candidates are "strangers in a strange land." The older cadets are detailed by government officials to take complete charge of the candidates. The older cadets can and do make it very warm for any candidate who disputes their authority.

The room of cadet barracks is set aside as the office at which candidates are to report, and hither the candidate is sent after undergoing a successful examination at the hospital. This office is easy to find, as at its door are a number of other candidates waiting to report.

The lightest matters are treated as affairs of great importance in this office. On the door is a placard reading as follows: 1. Knock before entering. 2. Leave all canes, umbrellas, hats and ideas of personal ability outside.

While the candidate is reading these notices wild yells are heard from within, the door of the office opens, and a brother candidate darts out. "I forgot to say 'sir,'" says he with a dismal smile.

Another plucks up sufficient courage to knock. "Come in," shouts a number of voices. "Get out!" shouts the same voices, "and button up that coat!" He gets out. "Ain't he a knock and is told to enter. "Get your heels together and stand like a soldier!" command three or four voices.

After several similar commands have been given, and the candidate in attempting to obey has assumed the general appearance of a country scarecrow, he is asked his name. "Henry Johnson, sir," he naturally replies. "SIR!" thunder the cadets in charge.

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It is a point of military etiquette for a candidate to apply to the Major by his name when speaking to a superior. So the force goes on, its one good point being that when once corrected in this emphatic manner the candidate is not likely to repeat his mistake.

COULDN'T BEAT BEN BUTLER.

This Man Tried It But Found It Would't Work. SHE KISSED GENERAL SHERMAN.

"Old Tempter" Wouldn't Take a Dime—Senator Pettigrew's Little Joke—Signor Tamagno's Sensitiveness. Current Anecdotes. The little circle of poker players in the senate, made up of the senators from Nevada and Cameron, Plumb and one or two others, will find a genial addition to its ranks in the person of the senator from South Dakota, Mr. Pettigrew, says the New York Sun.

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A woman recently approached General Sherman in a railroad car, says the Chicago Herald, and pulling at his coat asked: "Is this General Sherman?" "Yes, madam." "General Sherman, I felt that I must say to you that I had three brothers in your army, in the Fifteenth corps. Two of them will never come back again."

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effect must have been if every one of the performers had been musically tumbling down stairs. The unhappy maestro rushed wildly from his place, kicked to pieces the first double bass that happened to be within his reach.

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says the Boston Gazette. She immediately telegraphed for her sister at Lynn (Mrs. Owen Dame), and the frantic mother, without thought of preparation for the journey, took her young child and rushed on to the college. She was absolutely as tight as a drum.

Senator Colquitt of Georgia delights in telling in story of his efforts at missionary work among the Afro-Americans in the vicinity of his home, says a Washington letter to the New York Tribune.

On Christmas night at Scranton, Me., Rhea played Josephine in "Josephine, Empress of the French," and was at her best. She not only won the large applause present, but her company as well.

There are an endless number of stories hinging upon the peculiarities of the late Horace Greeley, most of them having to do with his penmanship, says the New York Herald. But we know next to nothing of his home life and what Mrs. Greeley and their great journalist.

Signor Tamagno is noted even among singers for his sensitive ear, says the Chicago Tribune. His feverish sufferings from a grip have only made this peculiarity the more extreme.

When Maria Mitchell was professor at Vassar her niece, who was a student there, was suddenly taken violently ill.

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