

Virginia Free Press, June 4, 1835 SHANNONDALE SPRINGS.

It will be seen, by an advertisement in this day's paper, that the establishment at Shannondale Springs is open for the reception of visitors.

This watering place is situated in a very romantic spot, on the eastern side of the Shenandoah river, within a few rods of the stream, and overlooked by the towering cliffs of the Blue Ridge. It is within five miles of this place, by, by means of the great facilities for travelling, it can be reached in less than a day by travellers from Baltimore. They may start from that city at 5 in the morning, dine at Harpers-Ferry at 1, and be here by 3. They can then ride out, in one hour more, to the Springs, or, (which would be far preferable by-the-by,) they can defer riding out till the cool of the morning, and, in the meantime, rest themselves at some of our hotels, where they will be regaled with delicacies not surpassed by the rich tables of Hussey himself. On the other hand, the citizens of the District have ready access to this water place, by way of the Little River Turnpike, which crosses the river a few miles above, and by the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. From the west, too, there is ready access by means of stages, two lines of which run daily from Winchester to this place and Harpers-Ferry.

Virginia Free Press, May 17, 1838 SHANNONDALE SPRINGS.

This celebrated watering place has been purchased by a company, incorporated by the Legislature of Virginia, and will be ready for visitors by the 10th of June. Very expensive improvements have been made, with a view of affording to all persons, whether in pursuit of health or pleasure, the most comfortable accommodations. The facility of travelling to these Springs from almost every quarter, is now very great.--(persons leaving Baltimore or Washington on the rail-road in the morning, will arrive at Harpers-Ferry to dinner, and will continue on the rail-road from Harpers-Ferry to Charlestown, where coaches will always be in waiting to convey them to the Springs, (a distance of 5 miles,) where they will arrive, on the same day before sunset. Persons can also return to either of these cities in one day. Stages will run between Charlestown and the Springs regularly twice a day, each way--and always to suit the arrival and departure of the rail-road cars, morning and evening. From Alexandria, there is a turnpike road to Snickers' Ferry, on the Shenandoah river, seven miles distant from the Springs.

To those who have never seen these Springs, it may be necessary to say that they are situated in Jefferson County, justly called the garden spot of Virginia, on the eastern bank of the Shenandoah River, just where the stream turns a bend in the shape of a horse-shoe. Immediately behind it is the Blue Ridge mountain. In front is a beautiful sheet of clear smooth water, extending about a mile, where it is broken into a picturesque waterfall. The margin of the river is lined with umbrageous elms and sycamores, whilst on the opposite side are stupendous rocks exhibiting the most grotesque and fantastic shapes. In short, for a concentration of the grand and beautiful, the scenery is almost unrivaled.

The principal Spring, for its medicinal virtues, is not exceeded by any in the United States. The water is sent out and carried to New York, Charleston and other distant parts of the Union. The reputation of the water is so extensive and so well established, that it is deemed scarcely necessary to speak of its qualities. It has in many instances wrought cures that appeared almost miraculous, upon individuals suffering under a complication of diseases. In dyspepsia and all affections of the stomach, liver, and kidneys, it is invaluable. There is also a highly valuable Sulphur Spring.

The Shannondale Springs' Company have engaged Mr. I. N. Carter to take charge of the boarding house, which will insure to visitors every comfort. They have made every provision for guests who seek pleasure, including boats for fishing and rowing, &c. &c. The drawing room will be furnished with a good piano, and the dancing hall with a fine band of music.--There is at Charlestown a circulating library where books can be procured. The company are ~~~ erecting bath houses where persons can be provided with warm or cold baths, for which purpose they can use either the mineral waters, or the river water, as may be preferred. The following is extracted from an article by a distinguished physician, and relates to the water of the principal Spring. "When moderately used it is a most bland and gentle laxative, though in large quantities it is powerful in its operation. It is also diuretic, diaphoretic, and tonic. Perhaps the highest claim which it has on the public, is, that scarcely a dyspeptic patient has been known to use it, without deriving from it unequivocal advantage. Confirmed dropsy has been entirely removed. It has been found wonderfully beneficial in all bilious affections and derangement of the liver, calculous affections, chronic rheumatism, cutaneous diseases, and general debility, whether the consequence of sedentary habits, or long seated disease." May 17, 1838

Virginia Free Press, May 31, 1838

The Shannondale Company are pushing for preparations for an opening by the 10th of June. As an evidence of the attractions of the spot, we may mention that several families from a distance are already in town, waiting the completion of the arrangements to receive them. Never did a better spirit prevail in reference to any object of public utility, then in regard to this. The enthusiasm is general--and the prospect exhilarating. A few weeks will exhibit the busy, bustling crowd--the invalid with brightened hopes, and the healthy with cheerful aspect and happy mien.

Virginia Free Press, June 21, 1838

For the Free Press. SHANNONDALE SPRINGS

I have been surprised, in these days of enlightened philosophy, when the efforts of the human mind are not only invited to, but pant for, treatises to illustrate the great truth of Natural Religion--and especially to prove by the various operations and objects in the natural world, that there is a benevolent Being who designs the good of his creatures--that the argument has not been deduced oftener from the existence and the qualities of Medicinal Springs.

I am not much of a philosopher in that or any other way, but I have often been struck with the obviously benevolent purposes of Providence in sending out from the bowels of the earth, as if from a laboratory, these salutary and wonderful Springs--suited to the very ailments of the countries adjacent to them--worth more than all the physic of all the doctors; because, while they restore you to health, and renovate your constitution, you are spared the nausea of drugs--and the consequences of depletion--and the bills of the doctors,--for while the vitiated secretions of your morbid frame are removed, you are by the same process stimulated to the enjoyment of food, of exercise, and of happy hilarity, which these waters bestow upon you. We can in a word only afford to "throw these to the dogs" when we choose to go to SHANNONDALE, or Bedford, or the White Sulphur Springs. It was a delightful trip from Charlestown to the first named watering place that has suggested these reflections. I was a sojourner for a few days at Carter's hospitable hotel, when I was invited to take a jaunt for the Springs. In an hour from my setting off in a fine stage, driven by a careful driver, passing in that time through a beautiful and cultivated country--through fine wheat fields bending to the breeze, the hopes of the farmer--thro' noble primeval forests that overshadowed the road, we arrived at the River which sweeps around this most beautiful spot, and early as the season is, we found our same host, Carter, in proper person, to administer to our wants. He tendered to us all manner of tempting beverages, besides the valuable water of the fountain; but it is that and not of his wines that I would speak. Attractive as all the comforts and luxuries of a well kept house may be, it is the water--that is the charm of Shannondale. Are you bilious--or dyspeptic--or splenic, or hepatic--or gravelled, or bedeviled with any other like "ills our flesh is heir to"--let me recommend to you, my afflicted brother, to go to Shannondale--drink two glasses of water when you are about to go to bed--rise with the birds that are caroling their matins around your windows, and at reasonable intervals drink from four to six tumblers from the old maid of the fountain; follow this up for ten days or two weeks, and if you are not, at the end of that time, a healthier, happier, weightier man than you were at first, send to me and I'll pay your doctor's bill for the current year. TESTE MEIPSUM.

Virginia Free Press, August 9, 1838

THE VIRGINIA SPRINGS. To the Editor of the Baltimore Patriot. Shannondale, 30th July, 1838

Dear Sir:--This is my first visit to this truly delightful spot, for nature has, in addition to one of the most valuable and pleasant waters I have met with, made it a most lovely picture, and I have to regret my inability to give that true and animated sketch of it, which its beauties so much entitle it to.

The Spring, the magnet to the old and the young, and at whose shrine votaries are hourly bending, is situated on the right bank of the Shenandoah river, and at about two hundred paces, on a flat of the same width, and near the base of a hill, on whose side is built the Hotel, a spacious well arranged and well kept establishment; contiguous to which, and in tasteful arrangement, are dispersed rows of white cottages from which the visiter has an interesting view of the scenes around. The Shenandoah, with its broad deep, blue waters, forming a magnificent curve, and belted on its shore by deep and rich intermixture of the oak, the elm, the sycamore, the stately sugar maple, the broad spreading beach,

cum multis aliis, through which the road winds its way, presents to the eye, and afford to the visiter, a cool and inviting retreat from the crowd, and the effects of the sunbeams, which even here, have caused us to fly its unusually scorching power.--The angler and the bather have each too his opportunity for indulgence in their respective fancies, and the "trim built wherry" may be seen gliding over the smooth surface, accompanied by the laughter and the glee, and perhaps wind up with a few catches. But in order to groupe the whole picture, it is desirable to take a position near the crown of the hill, when river and valley--the surrounding country (now studded over with the fruits of an unusually abundant harvest)--the mountains in the distance, all combined--present to the view one of the most enchanting scenes that nature has, in her happiest mood, ever thrown together.--But come and see and taste for yourself, when you will see at the same time how poor a painter I shall have proven myself. One thing is however essential,--nay indispensable to its full enjoyment, and that is, an agreeable party. This, we have been particularly fortunate in possessing. In truth there might be detected here,--bright eyes and syren notes, that put all else in the shade--mountain, river and valley, all--all dispelled before them like the morning mist before the rising sun.--But excuse the digression, for although the first in our hearts, it does not properly belong to my subject.

Now allow me, in conclusion, to say a word about the waters. The proportions by analysis are--Sulphate Lime, 63-109, Carb.do.10.05, Sulphate Magnesia 23.05, Muriate do. 1.09, Carb. Soda 1.00, Sulphate Iron 30, Carb. do. 70, Carb. Rescolum, Sulphured Hydrogen.

The effects upon the liver are strikingly beneficial, as many can testify; and the healthfulness of the place, I am informed from the most disinterested source, is not inferior to any part of this notoriously healthy region. The few bilious cases that occurred here in the summer of 1822,--a season well remembered of general bilious sickness throughout the country,--has unfortunately but unfairly been remembered to have occurred here, when forgotten as having happened at other places. The delightful luxury of the river bathing really deserves some further notice. A convenient floating house has been erected for gentlemen, from which the bather descends by a flight of -steps into the water, where he finds, besides an agreeable temperature of the water, a firm sandy bottom, and of different depths to accommodate his wishes.--The proprietors are about to erect a similar establishment for ladies, which will be hailed by them with great satisfaction. Yours, very truly, W

Virginia Free Press, July 18, 1839 SHANNONDALE BALL

A ball will be held at Shannondale, on Wednesday evening next, 24th instant. No invitations will be issued. Visitors at the Springs, and ladies and gentlemen who go there on that occasion, will find much enjoyment, as a first rate Band of Music (excelled perhaps by none in the country) has been provided by the Company, for the season. Charges moderate.
July 18.

Virginia Free Press, June 17, 1841

>From the Martinsburg Gazette SHANNONDALE SPRINGS.

This romantic and beautiful watering place, is to be opened for the re- ception of the invalid, as well as the gay and fasionable world, this day, the 10th of June. The Springs are situated in Jefferson county, five miles south of Charlestown, on the banks of the Shenandoah river, in sight and within a very short distance of the Blue Ridge. Its Boarding House and neat white-painted Cabins, built on the declivity of a gentle sloping hill, afford a fine view of the river, mountain and surrounding scenery; the former, rustling over a ledge of rocks, exciting all the associations consequent upon vicinity to a waterfall, in the warm season, and the luxuriant green meadow offering a delightful promenade for lovers, In the starry light Of a summer's night, On the banks of the blue "Shenandoah."

The commencement of the season for visiting the Springs, brings to mind a thousand incidents, connected with these assemblages from all quarters, of all descriptions of persons, from the grave seeker of health, that blessing without which we live in vain, to the gay, gossiping, sprightly belles and beaus, who go husband or wife-hunting, of the good things that are said, and the better things that are eaten, and the numberless Turkeys who on corn are fed, Chickens who in June are bled, to say nothing of the "fiddlin and dancin," that make the round of life pass quite merrily, at least till the weather and close of the season disperse the throng.

Speaking of medical waters, what an abundance of them are to be found in Virginia. In our neighboring county of Morgan, there are several Warm Springs, well attended in their season, which invite the dyspeptic and rheumatic patient, to come and "trouble their waters," and find relief. Then we have the truly celebrated and far-famed White Sulphur Springs in Greenbrier county, and the Red and Blue Sulphur and Sweet Springs, all within a healthful ride of each other, which number among their annual votaries, invalids and exquisites from all parts of America, and we might add, from beyond the "vast Atlantic tide" itself.

Virginia Free Press, June 17, 1847 Shannondale Springs.

This beautiful, delightful and highly valuable resort for those who desire the bracing air of the mountain, the invigorating breeze of the river, or the medicinal value of the water, is now open for the reception of visitors.

The establishment is under the charge of Mr. Jno. James Abell, who is well qualified to render the time of visitors agreeable, and who has supplied himself with all those articles which are indispensable to a Fashionable Watering Place. Under his guidance, with scenery as agreeable, beautiful and interesting, we cannot but believe that vast crowds will be attracted to Shannondale. A gentleman describing them says:

These springs are situated in Jefferson county, Virginia, five miles from Charlestown, the County seat, and thirteen from Harpers-Ferry. They are situated on -> a tract of land, of 200 acres, worked into the figure of an oxbow, or a horse-shoe, by that beautiful stream, the Shenandoah river. A rim of land, of alluvial formation, in some places twenty rods in width, and in others, less than a single rod--productive as the banks of the Nile--encompasses the whale(whole?) bow except the open part. Back of this border, over which the river, beyond question, anciently flowed, the grounds rise gradually on the North, to an elevation of four or five hundred feet--affording the looker-abroad a splendid observatory--and then descend precipitously to the opposite water. The substratum of the hill, or mountain, is a species of blue transition lime- stone, on the South side, jutting out here and there, in ragged irregular crags of enormous magnitude. This stone is, with comparatively little expense, convertible into lime of the best quality.

How can invalids of the Monumental City get to these Springs? Nothing in the world is easier. Step into an elegant car on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, early in the morning, and you will be transported to Harpers-Ferry before 1 o'clock, 82 miles. Here you will have leisure to breathe and to take a bird's eye view of those beauties and sublimities of nature, so graphically described by the pen of the philo- sophic Jefferson. By this time, you will be summoned into the dining-room, where you will find as sumptuous a repast, and as good attendance, as you will meet with at Harnam's in Baltimore, or Jones' in Philadelphia. After dinner, you get into the cars of the Winchester and Potomac Railroad Company, and in three quarters of an hour will reach Charlestown, ten miles. Here, a good Stage will be found in waiting, with a most obliging and careful driver. In this vehicle you proceed to the Ferry, by which you cross the Shenandoah, and are brought on to the broadest part of the horse-shoe. Moving along the margin of the winding river, your ears are now greeted, for the first time, by its never ceasing murmurs, occasioned by the passage of the flood over the numberless rocks which oppose its progress. A few yards from the path you see the health giving fountain, whose waters incessantly bubble up from the earth beneath, and are surrounded by a circular block of sandstone. In three minutes more you light at your lodgings. The whole journey is performed in a single day, and with very little fatigue.

As you descend towards the Ferry, you are on the Northern side of the hill, and near its base, a long three story brick edifice, made snow white by lime, and back of it, farther up the hill, a dozen or more small dwellings, mostly of wood, and now in good repair. Back of these, and withdrawn a few rods from them, stand two one story brick lodgments, separated each into four small convenient apartments. These are the —best private rooms belonging to the concern, and are preferred by those who love and seek retirement. The upper stories of the long edifice are divided into twenty five lodging rooms. The dining room, in the first story, is 80 feet long and 30 wide. In this spacious apartment, the light-footed nymphs and joy-seeking swains often mingle

Virginia Free Press, August 3, 1848

SHANNONDALE SPRINGS.

Every one who has visited Shannondale will concur in the following description of this romantic and healthful spot, and cordially unite in the encomiums bestowed upon the Proprietor and Capt. Thompson, who are unremitting in their efforts to give satisfaction to their guests:

Correspondence of the Baltimore American. Shannondale Springs, July 28, 1848

GENTLEMEN: I arrived at this charming place on Wednesday evening last, and intended to leave the next morning, but found it so agreeable that I could not tear myself away. The company numbers at least one hundred,--comprising chiefly Baltimoreans and old Virginians. A few of them came valetudinarians, but are entirely recuperated or improving rapidly and all join in the various amusements of dancing, fishing, riding on horse back and in barges,--strolling along the banks of the beautiful Shenandoah, or scaling the tall pinnacles of the Blue Ridge mountain.

A just description of this place it were impossible to give--it must be seen to be appreciated and understood. It is a sweet vale, walled in on the South and East, by the eternal rocks that stretch away towards Heaven, and on the North and West is embraced by the most beautiful River in the world, beyond which lies an extended champaign, filling the vision with its vast extent and varied loveliness. The fresh mountain air is strong and bracing, and brings the sweets from many millions of wild flowers, and is vocal with the voice of feathered songsters and the murmurs of the waters which break in falls just in front of the hotel.

The Springs are of the saline chalybeate class of mineral waters--the most valuable that are known. You may search the wide world over and you cannot find a place more healthy or more beautiful. The accommodations are delightful. The buildings are a large hotel and a number of neat brick cottages, scattered picturesquely along the hillside. Families generally prefer the latter.

The fare is the best I have ever seen at any watering place. We have the greatest quantity of delicate meats, fowls, vegetables--indeed everything that the most fastidious could desire--and in the greatest abundance.

My host, too, Mr. John J. Abell, is a gentleman of the most urbane manners, and assisted by that old Virginia gentleman, Capt. Thompson, gives an additional attraction to the place. Indeed every thing at this place bespeaks comfort, health and happiness, and I wonder that the world don't throng here to enjoy the manifold advantages which it possesses.

Last night and the night before we had brilliant dances. The votaries of Terpsicore thronged the spacious ball room, while the more aged and sedate sat in the adjoining halls and parlours admiring the scenes. I do not know when I have seen more beauty congregated in one room than I saw last night; and by the way some of the most beautiful are from our State.--It would seem invidious to particularize or I could give you some names that would be familiar in connection with beauty and accomplishments.

Virginia Free Press (August 10, 1854) SHANNONDALE SPRINGS. For the first time during the season, we had the opportunity of spending Wednesday and Thursday of last week at Shannondale. The Proprietor has made every arrangement possible, to accommodate all who may favor him with their custom, and we have never seen Shannondale presenting more attractions to the votary of pleasure, or the invalid seeking health. His estimable lady and her assistants, spare no pains or exertions to provide every delicacy that can be furnished, which insures a table that no Watering place of the country can excel.--The Bar is still under the management of Mr. John W. - Gallaher, who can't be beat, and if you don't get your moneys' worth, he will make it up in a good song or a rich anecdote.

The company on the days of which we speak, was not only among the largest, but there was in attendance more beautiful Ladies than we have ever seen assembled there on any similar occasion. The Ball on Wednesday night, and the magnificent display of Fire-Works on Thursday night, passed off to the great satisfaction of those in attendance, and reflected credit upon those who participated in its arrangement.

Virginia Free Press, March 25, 1858 FIRE AT SHANNONDALE SPRINGS.

We regret to record the destruction of the large and commodious Hotel buildings at Shannondale Springs which occurred on Saturday morning last. The fire originated from a burning chimney, and so rapid was its progress, that all efforts to stay its course were unavailing. The entire buildings, the spot consecrated in the hearts of many of our citizens, by the remembrance of joyous hours and the recollection of friendships formed--the haunts "where 'erst the song and should resounded," all now lie a mass of smouldering ruins. The loss to the company by the fire, may be estimated at from four to five thousand dollars, yet the depreciation of the property by the accident would place it at a higher figure. We sincerely hope, that the Springs and lands attached, in all about one hundred and ninety-six acres, may fall into the hands of capitalists, who will erect spacious accommodations, and the gayety of former years be again inaugurated. DR. MOORMAN in his work upon Virginia Springs classes the Shannondale water in its nature and effects with the celebrated Bedford water. It is specially recommended in dyspepsia, nervous diseases, organic derangements, chronic diseases, and to that class of female diseases requiring mineral tonics. It is described as situated in a peninsula of the Shenandoah river known as the "Horse Shoe," environed by scenery unsurpassed for its varied beauty and grandeur, and eliciting the admiration of all who behold it. We believe that if properly kept, in a very few years it would rank among the first in point of attraction, with the summer resorts of the world.

Nov. 3-9 '62

History of Field and Staff Officers of the 78th NY # Nov.-Dec. 1862 -

Stationed near Fairfax Station, VA. # Nov. 3-9 '62 - The regt. went on reconaissance to Shannondale Springs, 10 miles from Harper's Ferry. Stayed there until Nov. 9, in which time captured several prisoners and 2 horses with equipments. Info courtesy of: Supplement-Records of events-volume 45-NY Troops, Infantry. <http://ny78.tripod.com/officers.html>

Virginia Free Press, June 11, 1870 Shannondale.

Before us we have a letter dated at New Orleans requesting a copy of the published analysis of the Shannondale Springs waters. Not, being able to lay our hands on our files containing it, or to find a pamphlet copy, we will be pleased if any of our readers can supply us, that we may meet the calls upon us.

We have occasionally, for some time, referred to the great natural attractions and advantages of Shannondale; and, recently, attention has been directed to it through the Press by the successful riding at the Tournament at Prospect Park, Brooklyn, of the Knight of Shannondale, and we are in hopes that some person or company representing capital and capacity will take hold of this beautiful spot, add modern hotel improvements and make it what it should be--one of the most popular and delightful summer resorts in the country.

Independent of the superior medicinal qualities of the waters which flow, in wet or dry seasons, with unchangeable plenteousness; its delightful location in the horse-shoe bend of the Shenandoah River, enjoying the freshness of the Blue Ridge breezes; its accessibility, only five miles from Charlestown,--from which point to within 3/4 of a mile of the Springs a Turnpike is in course of construction; its surroundings--a country picturesque, and rich in fruits, vegetables, &c.; the river abounding in fish and forests in game;--the Shannondale Farm, rich and productive land, every inch of which can be cultivated, is worth more than the price fixed upon the whole.

Spirit of Jefferson, June 18, 1872

SHANNONDALE.--As the summer season advances, picnics and excursion parties are becoming the order of the day. During the past week two parties from Charlestown visited that beautiful and health giving resort, Shannondale Springs--a fishing party of young gentlemen and ladies on Wednesday, and a party composed of the votaries of the terpsichorean art on Friday--both of which, we understand, spent a day of unalloyed pleasure and enjoyment.

Spirit of Jefferson, August 5, 1873 SHANNONDALE SPRINGS.--This once fashionable summer resort is being visited more this summer than at any season since the war, and notwithstanding the absence of the former

conveniences, caused by the destruction of the mansion house, trips to Shannondale are becoming the order of the day. Several parties have visited there within the past week, and spent a day of enjoyment amid the rural attractions of the Springs grounds. The Shannondale Springs Company, we understand, have decided to sell this valuable property, if a reasonable price can be had; and it is hoped that ere another summer shall have waned these fine springs will be in full operation, under the proprietorship of some clever, energetic landlord, who will enable them not only to regain, but even to transcend their former popularity as a delightful summer resort.

Spirit of Jefferson, July 31, 1875 Shannondale.

Shannondale seems to be growing in favor as a resort for picnic and family parties. The Cottages, two or three of which remain as reminders of the glorious past of this charming place, have been occupied during the present season, whilst the rich foliage of the grand old trees have afforded shelter from sunshine and rain for others who have bivouacked there to enjoy the breezes, fine water, fishing and bathing. A party of a dozen or more gentlemen from Loudoun, supplied with the necessaries and luxuries essential to a jolly time, pitched their tents there a few days ago.--Among their equipments noticable was a half-barrel--bung hole and spile complete--and we presume they have faith in the reputed efficacy of the fine chalybeate waters, and expect to take a supply home with them.

The members of the Mechanics' Band from this place are also recreating there, and like most fishing parties took their horns with them.

Virginia Free Press, September 25, 1875 Shannondale Springs.

Messrs. Editors:--A few days ago, after an absence of many years, I visited Shannondale Springs. My surprise and regret were great, to witness the change since my former visit.--At this time (the Springs' season,) a company had gathered there from far and near for health and pleasure. Then sounds of music were to be heard there, and gay parties of dancers filled the halls, and other lively sports were the order of the day, at this then fashionable resort.--All was life and activity. Now the scene is changed. Herds of cattle, roaming at will, are the only living creatures to be seen, and the voice of the ploughman, and the old familiar voice of the passing river, dashing over the rugged rocks, are the only sounds that greet the ear. I was gratified, however, to find that Nature has not, like inappreciative man, deserted this charming spot. There still was the invaluable spring, the pure fountain of health, in all its former strength and freshness--there was the beautiful river, wending its way around the spring, as if Nature had designedly shaped its course to avoid hiding beneath its waves so valuable a treasure--there were the high and romantic cliffs of rock facing the Spring and bordering the river on the north--and at a greater distance stood, as of yore, the grand old Blue Ridge mountain, the back-bone of the State of Virginia, towering above and overlooking the grand scenery below--all forming a combination of the romantic and the beautiful rarely, if ever, found at any "watering place." In view of all this, the question naturally forced itself upon me: Why has such a place been deserted--why permitted to "go down"--a place possessing so many advantages, merits and attractions? The failure to appreciate the value and beauty of such a place, I am tempted to say, is a damaging reflection upon the good taste of somebody and shows a blindness to common sense pecuniarily. A stranger whom I met, loitering like myself around Tara's halls, gave the only answer I have yet received of my inquiry. The people about here, he said, are too independent and proud to go to Spring-keeping business--the property belongs to a company, the members of which differ in reference to improvements and the work of renovation--and capitalists from abroad have not had their attention duly called to the subject. If a Stewart of New York, he added, or some other rich man of the North with the enterprise and love of money possessed by the yankee nation, was to take hold of this property, it would soon be a Saratoga and equal if not eclipse the great White Sulphur, Cape May and Long Branch, with their thousands of visitors every summer, bear no comparison to Shannondale, as charming summer resorts, and for water advantages, splendid scenery and all the requisites for interest and pleasure.

This assertion is made without any design of reflecting upon the refined taste of the President of the United States, whose beau ideal of a summer resort is Long Branch, a hot sandy beach of New Jersey, where, it has been said, the present seat of the Gen. Government is located. There is no accounting for taste; but I think Shannondale a more appropriate place for the seat of government.--Here you have pure mountain air, excellent mineral waters, rich scenery, and as good bathing as at Long Branch--even salt water, if such should be called for. Many persons, like myself, express surprise, at the neglect of Shannondale; but, as my informant observed, the people of this section, since the war,

have been busy in fixing up their own farms and waste places, and are unable to turn their attention to outside enterprises requiring some capital; however flattering may be the promise of success.

The Spring grounds embrace, I am informed, about two hundred acres of fertile land, worth, apart from the water and remaining improvements, at least fifteen thousand dollars--a sum nearly or quite amounting to the price demanded for it. As a farm alone, it would be a safe and good investment--while the owner would have the chance of making from the Spring advantages, in a three months' season, more money than he could by twelve months hard labor on the largest and best farm in the county of Jefferson. He would, of course, be required to make some improvements, the cost of which would depend upon their magnitude and the taste of the proprietor. He should be sole proprietor, and an active, enterprising man, of good judgment and taste. A company too often creates confusion and clogs enterprise. There is no small amount of material now at the Spring and to be obtained off the farm to aid in constructing new buildings.--These too, should, according to my eye, be more eligibly situated and more tastefully arranged than were the old buildings. The old buildings appear to have been thrown there promiscuously as if by some convulsion of nature. Amongst the improvements to be made allow me to suggest one: On the beautiful and deep water of the river near the Springs a small and fancy steamboat would be desirable for the use of visitors, for fishing parties, and for ladies and children particularly to take airings. The river now affords abundantly various kinds of fish, amongst them the delicious bass, which are famous for taking a bold and vigorous hold on the hook and line. Amongst former improvements which have passed away, is the old bowling saloon, to which ladies as well as gentlemen were in the habit of resorting for agreeable exercise, in the edge of the forest on the top of the hill. Here the writer, on a former visit, had the pleasure of rolling with the distinguished authoress, Mrs. Southworth, who was then on a visit to Shannondale, and where, surrounded by so much of the romantic and beautiful, she no doubt received no little inspiration for her interesting novels. Nothing remains now to mark the place, where so many bright eyes glanced and pretty feet danced over the smooth boards, but the cold stones of the foundation--and some barbarous sinner, having no veneration for cherished relics, has run through the centre of this almost sacred spot, a worm fence! As to the steamboat proposed: Farmers are now purchasing steam-power to run their threshing machines. Surely the same power could at a little expense, be obtained to run a light and capacious passenger boat on the Shenandoah. No extravagant expense in improvements need to be incurred at Shannondale, for nature has done the chief work there. I will only add, on this subject, that a better road (there is now a rough one) should be made from the Springs to the summit of the Blue Ridge Mountain, a distance of about two miles, to afford strangers a view of the surrounding country. At this altitude, not only portions of several counties in East and West Virginia can be seen, but portions of three or four States, and one of the most fertile and beautiful countries on the face of the globe. Jefferson said a view of Harper's Ferry was worth a trip across the Atlantic. A view of Harper's Ferry, I think, is hardly as interesting as a view from the point indicated. Such a fine panoramic view cannot fail to inspire the beholder with admiration and reverence for the Creator of such a grand and magnificent work. It is a sermon on the Mount. No other testimony is needed to convince the beholder of the power and greatness of the author and architect. It is a sermon though silent, more eloquent than any ever delivered by man--not excepting the gifted Beecher, (I ask pardon). And here another useful lesson can be taught: Man, big man, as he fancies, filled with conceits of his own greatness, can see, by comparison his littleness--see that he is but an atom, so small that were it not for the Creator's promise to the sparrows, he would not have a hope for recognition by the great Creator of the great universe.

In conclusion, I must repeat my surprise that such a desirable place as Shannondale for a Summer resort, and so inviting for pecuniary enterprise, is not properly appreciated. The water, as a medicinal agent, is equal to that of any in Virginia, as proved by analysis--and the surroundings equal in interest and beauty to any place. It is situated in a county (Jefferson) noted for its fertility, wealth, and the intelligence and refinement of its people. Here is a land flowing with milk and honey, and every inducement offered for the invalid and seeker of pleasure. I am informed that every Summer, visitors come to this county, on account of its healthfulness and superior attractions, and locate in towns and farm houses, because there is no other resort for them.--Shannondale is now within three or four hours' ride of Baltimore. The business men of that city could send their families here and visit them the greater portion of a day and return the evening of the same day. At the prices usually charged at Summer resorts, any person can figure for themselves the profits of fifty or a hundred boarders weekly for three months. Farmers net about four per cent on their capital. Shannondale could and would, in enterprising hands, net in three months as much as ten of the best farms in the county. Under all the circumstances, Shannondale ought to be revived and firmly established--and the writer (who has, as the Editors know, no interest whatever on the subject) would be gratified at such a consummation. AN ADMIRER OF SHANNONDALE.

(We understand from the organizer of the Shannondale Company (now the only survivor) that it was intended to construct a wooden bridge over the river at the Ripples, opposite the Springs, and continue the road to the Loudoun Mountain.-- EDITORS FREE PRESS.