

The Fourth.

On Sunday night a heavy rain set in that lasted until about 1 a. m., July 4th and it looked as though it was going to be a wet Fourth, but the day opened up bright and warm, and under old Sol's genial rays the moisture soon disappeared and by noon the roads and the picnic grounds were dry. The first thing that intimated to the townspeople that it was the Fourth of July was the unearthly racket created by some fellows who had the band drums and went around town about 3 a. m., making all the noise possible. About 7 a. m., people commenced to get around to their business houses and soon had them decorated with the stars and stripes and in a very short time the town presented a regular Fourth of July appearance. Teams soon commenced to pour in from the country on their way to the Odd Fellows picnic at the river and by 2 o'clock in the afternoon over 1,000 persons had assembled in the beautiful grove to enjoy themselves. At 2:30 a game of ball was called between Cooperstown and a picked nine, first prize, \$40; second prize, \$10. The Cooperstown club was handicapped. The score at the end of the game was 13 to 1 in favor of Cooperstown. The crowd then returned to the grove for the purpose of listening to the speakers, but were disappointed as the speakers failed to put in an appearance. Miss Ava McDonald, dressed as Columbia, was introduced and read the declaration of independence. A wheelbarrow race was next on the program and Andrew Sinclair captured first prize. This was followed by a sack race, first prize falling to Andrew Bothwell. A tub race then furnished considerable amusement for the crowd and Billy VanDyke succeeded in reaching shore first. A foot race followed this event and W. H. Percy came in under the wire first. The bowery dance entertained the people at intervals, and the Cooperstown Cornet Band, which by the way, don't have to take a back seat for any band in this neck 'o woods, added greatly to the enjoyment of the affair, by its excellent selections during the day. For such a large crowd, it was a very orderly picnic, and the thanks for this is due to Sheriff Greenland and his corps of deputies. While much credit is also due to the general committee for their untiring work in fixing up the grounds and looking after the many little things necessary in an affair of this kind. Barring the disappointment occasioned by the non-appearance of the speakers Cooperstown Lodge No. 37, I. O. O. F. can be congratulated on the success of their picnic.