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THE SPORTS of CHIVALRY in Virginia TOURNAMENT IN PRINCE WILLIAM

A large party of ladies and gentlemen participated in the picnic and witnessed the tournament which came off at Brentsville on Thursday. It is needless to say that the affair was pleasant throughout – the dancing was good, the music excellent, and the riding “at the ring,” in many instances, very fine. A place had been prepared in the green for dancing, and before 12 o’clock, a number availed themselves of the opportunity to “trip it on the light fantastic toe.” This was continued until the dinner hour, when the large company did full justice to the excellent provisions provided for the occasion. After which the dancing was recommenced, and continued until the “Sir Knights” were called upon to display their horsemanship in contending for the honor of crowning the Queen of Love and Beauty.

Very soon the gallant knights were mounted and on their way to the scene, if not of knightly valor, at least of generous knightly rivalry. Here all had been prepared for the tournament. The judges, who had been previously selected, took their positions opposite the ring. The knights were then marched in a body, under the direction and command of the Herald, Mr. J. T. Leachman, and the Marshal, Dr. L. A. Jennings to a position in front of the Judges when they were briefly and appropriately addressed by Mr. Aralland Marsteller. Then after returning to the proper place, the riding commenced – each knight riding when his knightly name was called – in the following order:

Knight of Alexandria, J. E. Williams; Knight of Montmorency, Richard I. Reid; Ivanhoe, J. Taylor Williams; Knight of Lochinvar, Lucien A. Davis; Knight of Brentsville, James B. Pridmore; Knight of Marmion, John W. Fewell; Knight of the Chase, James r. Purcell; Knight of the Wild Horse, Richard T. Meredith; Knight of Greenville, E. Meredith; The Black Knight, P. D. Williams; Knight of the Woods, S. R. Rudd; the Unknown Knight, Edgar Wair.

Some of the riding was excellent, and elicited the applause of the “faire ladyes” who witnessed it. The result of it was the success of the Knight of the Chase, who won the honor of crowning the Queen. Ivanhoe had the honor of designating the First Maid of Honor, Marmion the Second, and the Knight of Brentsville the Third.

The coronation ceremony, which took place at Light, was very interesting. Although, as may be supposed, the selection of the Queen was difficult from the number present who would have graced the dignity, the successful knight manifested an appreciative taste when he crowned Miss M. C. _____, of Prince William, as the Queen of Love and Beauty. The First Maid of Honor was the accomplished Miss T____, of Caroline; the second, the young and amiable Miss W____, of Prince William; and the Third, the beautiful Miss C____, of Georgetown. The merry throng afterwards joined in the dance, which was continued to a late hour.