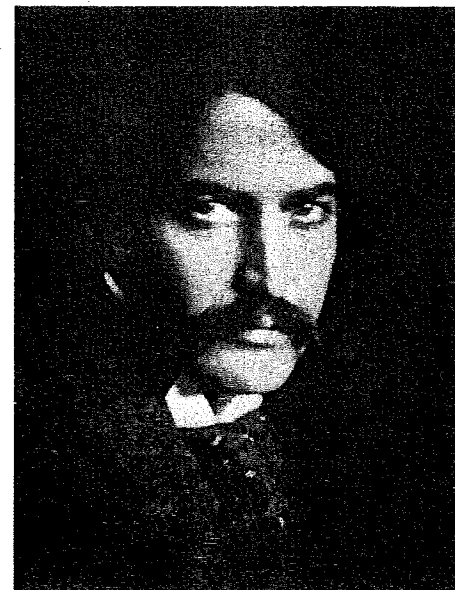


Stephen Crane Studies

Volume 9, Number 2
Fall 2000



Stephen Crane Society

Stephen Crane Studies

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Stephen Crane Studies is a journal of notes, queries, and reviews pertaining to the study of Stephen Crane; it is published semiannually in the Spring and Fall by the Department of English, Virginia Tech. Manuscripts should follow the *MLA Style Manual*. Annual subscriptions are \$10 for individuals and \$20 for institutions; foreign subscriptions are \$12 and \$22. Checks should be made payable to the "Stephen Crane Society." Address all correspondence regarding subscriptions and manuscript submission to

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ISSN 1061-6136

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An Ironist at the Seashore:
Possible Additions to the Crane Canon

Michael Robertson, David Holmes, and Roxanna Paez
The College of New Jersey

This essay presents seventeen previously unknown articles that we believe to be by Stephen Crane, published in the *New York Tribune* between 1889 and 1892. The articles, printed without byline in what was at the time New York City's most prestigious newspaper, report on activities in a string of summer resort towns on New Jersey's northern shore. Scholars had previously identified fourteen shore reports as Crane's; these newly identified articles more than double that corpus. The articles, witty and often hilarious, confirm how remarkably early Stephen Crane set his distinctive writing style and artistic agenda; more than a century after their publication in the *Tribune* they remain delightful reading. In addition, the sheer quantity of articles from the summer of 1892 reveals how vigorously the twenty-year-old Crane sought to establish himself in the role of professional writer. Finally, Crane's articles about the New Jersey National Guard's summer encampment reveal another way in which he immersed himself in nineteenth-century military culture and help to explain how a youth who had never seen a battle could write so convincingly of war in his soon-to-come masterpiece, *The Red Badge of Courage*.

In Part I of what follows, Michael Robertson explains how he identified the articles and examines their significance in Crane's career. Part II reprints excerpts from all seventeen articles. In Part III David Holmes and Roxanna Paez explain the statistical analysis that reinforces the attribution of the articles to Stephen Crane.

I.

Stephen Crane began his career as a professional writer in the summer of 1888, when he was sixteen (Wertheim and Sorrentino, *Correspondence* 167). His assignment was to assist his brother J. Townley Crane, Jr., almost twenty years older than Stephen, who had established Crane's New Jersey Coast News Bureau in 1880 when he arranged to serve as correspondent for the Associated Press and the *New York Tribune* (Wertheim and Sorrentino, *Log* 23). For three-quarters of the year, Townley Crane's duties must have been light, as he ferreted out news in the sparsely populated shore towns of Monmouth County.

Contributors' Notes

David Holmes worked for 22 years at the University of the West of England, where he was Principal Lecturer in Statistics and Head of the Bristol Stylometry Research Unit. In 1997, he moved to The College of New Jersey, where he is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Stylistics.

Roxanna Paez graduated as a Statistics major from The College of New Jersey in May 1999.

Michael Robertson, Associate Professor of English at The College of New Jersey, is author of *Stephen Crane, Journalism, and the Making of Modern American Literature*.

However, during the summer months the news bureau's duties exploded. New York City newspapers of the 1880s devoted remarkable amounts of space to chronicling the summer vacations of the city's upper and upper-middle classes. Every Sunday edition of most New York newspapers and, during July and August, most daily editions as well carried news articles from the summer resorts popular with the more affluent citizens of Gilded Age New York: Saratoga Springs, Newport, the Adirondacks, Cape May, and the northern New Jersey shore. The format of these articles was standardized: a lead proclaimed the resort's unique beauties and the unprecedented success of the current summer season; a few brief paragraphs recounted recent events, such as a fund-raising carnival or the opening of a new hotel; and the article concluded with a lengthy list of names of recent arrivals and where they were staying.

Working within the boundaries of this restrictive format, Stephen Crane developed a highly original, distinctive style. His shore reports are as ruthlessly ironic as *Maggie*, the novel he was writing during the same period. However, instead of directing his irony towards the inhabitants of the Bowery, he aimed it at the hotel proprietors and summer visitors of the New Jersey shore. Crane's best-known New Jersey shore article begins with a report on a parade of the Junior Order of United American Mechanics, a working-class nativist organization that came annually to Asbury Park for a patriotic fest known as "American Day." Other newspapers, mindful of the group's political power, covered the parade with a few flattering sentences. Crane saw it as an opportunity for satire. He began by observing that the spectacle of an Asbury Park crowd confronting the working-class marchers was "an interesting sight," then proceeded to juxtapose ironically the three groups brought together by the scene: the marchers, "bronzed, slope-shouldered, uncouth and begrimed with dust"; the spectators, "composed of summer gowns, lace parasols, tennis trousers, straw hats and indifferent smiles"; and the native Asbury Parker, "a man to whom a dollar, when held close to his eye, often shuts out any impression he may have had that other people possess rights" (Bowers 521-22). Crane, who always reserved his sharpest barbs for his own class, admired the "sun-beaten honesty" in the faces of the marchers; however, it was the United American Mechanics who wrote a letter of complaint to the *Tribune*, which led the newspaper to fire both Stephen and Townley Crane (Wertheim and Sorrentino, *Log* 78-79).

During the 1940s and 1950s, scholars familiar with Crane's style and interests were able to identify several other unsigned articles in

the *Tribune* as his. By coincidence, all of these articles originated in three adjoining towns on the New Jersey shore: Asbury Park, where Stephen's mother had settled in 1883 following her husband's death; Ocean Grove, a resort wholly owned by the Methodist Camp Meeting Association; and Avon-by-the-Sea, a small resort featuring a Chautauqua-like summer school. When Fredson Bowers began editing his massive volume of Crane's *Tales, Sketches, and Reports* (1973), part of the University of Virginia edition of *The Works of Stephen Crane*, he evidently decided to limit his search for additional unsigned *Tribune* articles by Crane to reports with datelines from those three resorts. Combing the *Tribune* during the summer months from 1888 to 1892, Bowers identified as Crane's three articles overlooked by previous scholars, bringing the total of New Jersey shore reports to fourteen. In addition, Bowers reprinted twenty-eight other articles from Asbury Park, Ocean Grove, and Avon-by-the-Sea as "possible attributions" on the basis of their style and content. Thomas Gullason reprinted two other highly conjectural attributions from Asbury Park and Ocean Grove in 1986, but no one questioned Bowers' decision to focus on the three adjoining shore communities.

However, while researching my recent book on Stephen Crane's journalism, I came across an item in the Melvin H. Schoberlin collection at the Syracuse University Library that highlighted limitations of Bowers' procedure. In a folder labeled "Crane—1891," part of the materials that Schoberlin had assembled for his never-published biography, was a one-page prospectus for Crane's New Jersey Coast News Bureau, evidence of an attempt by Townley Crane to expand his business. The prospectus, which lists J. Townley Crane as "Manager" and Stephen Crane as "Secretary," boasts of the bureau's "unsurpassed facilities for securing the news for this section of the coast."¹ However, what most interested me was the document's subheading, printed just below the news bureau's name: "Sandy Hook to Barnegat Bay." The body of the prospectus lists the shore towns bounded by those two prominent geographical features, ranging from Atlantic Highlands in the north to Seaside Park in the south. The list includes some of the most prominent resorts on the Jersey shore, notably Long Branch, which was visited by every U.S. President from Grant to Harrison and vied with Cape May for the distinction of being New Jersey's most fashionable summer destination, and Spring Lake, a small but elegant resort.²

With this evidence of the Crane news bureau's wide geographical range, I began to question why all of the shore articles attributed to Stephen originated from Asbury Park and the two towns just south of

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it. Would it not make sense for Townley to send his teenaged brother to cover news in the resorts a few miles distant from their home base of Asbury Park and save himself the trouble? Wouldn't he need Stephen to help him cover the news at Long Branch, which was even larger and livelier than Asbury Park?

Shortly after finding the prospectus, I came across an article from Spring Lake in the *New York Tribune* of June 26, 1892. It began:

This town has taken on its usual garb of lurid summer hue. The beach, the hotel verandas and the lakeside are now all alive with the red and white and gold of the town's summer revellers, who make merry in a nice, mild sort of way. The hotel proprietors have removed the sackcloth and ashes which is said to be their dress during the dreary winter months, and have appeared in gentle, expansible smiles and new clothes, for everything points to a most prosperous season.³

Surely this was by the same author who wrote a week later from Asbury Park:

Pleasure seekers arrive by the avalanche. Hotel-proprietors are pelted with hailstorms of trunks and show-ers of valises. To protect themselves they do not put up umbrellas, nor even prices. They merely smile copiously. The lot of the baggageman, however, is not an easy one. He manipulates these various storms and directs them. He is beginning to swear with a greater enthusiasm. It will be a fine season. (Bowers 509)

The second article was identified as Stephen Crane's in 1948. I had little doubt that the first was his also. Both passages are marked throughout by Crane's distinctive ironic tone; both contain witty hyperbole; and both employ striking lexical juxtapositions, such as the hotel proprietors who wear "expansible smiles and new clothes" in the first passage and who refrain in the second from putting up either umbrellas or prices.

It seemed likely that the *Tribune* contained additional Stephen Crane articles from Spring Lake, Long Branch, and other locations not examined by Bowers and other scholars. The tools of traditional authorship attribution—the external evidence of Townley Crane's prospectus and the internal evidence of content and style—would be sufficient to enable me to identify articles that were most likely by Stephen Crane. However, I wanted to supplement these inevitably subjective identifications with what has come to be called "non-traditional" au-

thorship attribution, which uses quantitative statistical methodologies made possible by the late twentieth century's revolution in computing.⁴

Fortunately, at that moment I met David Holmes. Holmes is an internationally recognized authority in the statistical analysis of literary style. Using sophisticated mathematical models, he has studied difficult problems of authorial attribution involving works ranging from Milton's *On Christian Doctrine* to the *Federalist Papers*. In Part III of this article, he and researcher Roxanna Paez explain their methodology of multivariate statistical analysis. In brief, the method involves analysis not of the distinctive ironic locutions evident to any reader of the two passages above but of common words, such as "which" and "that" or "while" and "whereas," that every writer employs subconsciously in a pattern as distinctive as a fingerprint.

Our first step was to analyze Townley Crane's prose, using both traditional and statistical methods. We searched the *New York Tribune* for the summer of 1886, when Crane's New Jersey Coast News Bureau was already well established but Stephen had not yet begun his journalistic career, and collected articles with a dateline from the New Jersey shore towns named in Townley's prospectus. We found a total of twenty-two articles. Although in accordance with journalistic practice of the time none of the articles was signed, all bore an identical byline: "From the Regular Correspondent of the *Tribune*." In addition, the relatively small number of articles published that summer—a fraction of the total published each summer during the early 1890s—made it likely that Townley wrote all the articles himself. Their style is remarkably consistent. Townley Crane seems to have been a completely straightforward writer, an unimaginative but sincere booster of the New Jersey shore towns where he made his living. The following dispatch from Asbury Park is typical of his work:

The hotels were gay with music and filled with guests all this week, and the coming week promises to be more brilliant. The hotel parlors were crowded at the regular Saturday evening hops. A Japanese and fancy dress ball in Amusement Hall of the Coleman House drew a large crowd. The decorations, which were by Brown, the Philadelphia importer of Japanese goods, surpassed anything seen on the New-Jersey coast in years. The walls of the hall were completely hidden by Japanese panels, fans, umbrellas and lanterns. The hall was lighted by colored lights and dancing was

Notes

¹ The prospectus also lists Edgar C. Snyder as "Treasurer." We have been unable to discover any information about Snyder, who is likely to have been a young information gatherer temporarily assisting Townley Crane during the summer.

² On the history of the New Jersey shore, see Wilson.

³ "Among the Guests at Spring Lake" in Part II.

⁴ The most thorough introduction to methods and issues in traditional authorship attribution is found in Erdman and Fogel. For a brief overview see Altick, 77-95. An up-to-date brief history of "non-traditional" statistical approaches to attribution can be found in Holmes. Recent studies by Hänlein and Rudman emphasize the importance of employing both traditional and non-traditional methods in attributing authorship.

⁵ "Gayety Past and Present," *New York Tribune* (8 Aug. 1886): 3.

⁶ "Science and Crabbing" in Part II.

⁷ The town's name was changed on August 2, 1889. See "It Is Avon-by-the-Sea Now," *New York Tribune* (5 Aug. 1889): 3.

⁸ "The Crowds Surpass the Hopes of the Hotel Keepers" in Part II.

⁹ "The Presence of the Militia Attracts a Crowd of Civilians" in Part II.

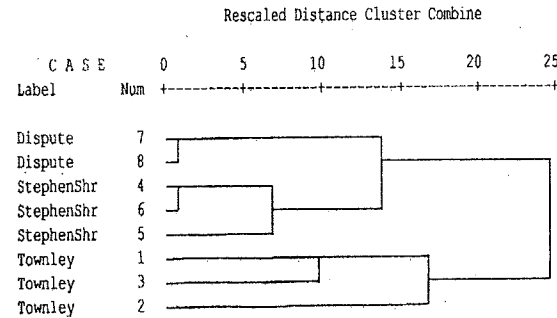
¹⁰ The New Jersey shore reports used are "Avon's School by the Sea," "Crowding into Asbury Park," "Joys of Seaside Life," "Summer Dwellers at Asbury Park and Their Doings," "On the Boardwalk," "Along the Shark River," "Parades and Entertainments," and "The Seaside Hotel Hop." The New York City journalism samples were taken from "An Experiment in Misery," "An Experiment in Luxury," "The Art Students' League Building," and "The Men in the Storm." The war correspondence consisted of "A Fragment of Velestino," "The Red Badge of Courage Was His Wig-Wag Flag," and "Stephen Crane's Vivid Story of the Battle of San Juan," which are collected in Vol. 9 of the University of Virginia edition. Townley Crane's journalism was taken from Sunday editions of the *New York Tribune* from July 4 to September 12, 1886. The articles have datelines from Asbury Park, Long Branch, Sea Bright, Sea Girt, and Spring Lake; all are bylined, "From the regular correspondent of the *Tribune*."

¹¹ Michael Robertson's research was supported by a FIRSL grant from The College of New Jersey. David Holmes' and Roxanna Paez's research was supported by the New Jersey MAC fellowship program.

Figure 7

***** HIERARCHICAL CLUSTER ANALYSIS *****

Dendrogram using Average Linkage (Between Groups)



Reading this left-to-right in the manner of branches of a tree, we can see that the two disputed samples first merge together, then join into the "Stephen" cluster. The "Townley" cluster remains distinct. The results of the cluster analysis and principal components analysis are mutually supportive, confirming our attribution of these seventeen articles to the youthful ironist Stephen Crane.¹¹

kept up until midnight.⁵

To locate articles that might be by Stephen, we searched the *New York Tribune* for the summers of 1888, when Stephen claimed he began assisting Townley, through 1892, when he was fired. We read every issue from the last Sunday in May, the earliest date when resort news was likely to appear, through the second Sunday in September, when the last of the summer visitors departed, searching for articles with a dateline from the New Jersey shore towns named in Townley Crane's prospectus.

The results of our search were striking. The 1886 articles were uniformly pallid and inoffensive in their style. However, in 1889, when Stephen was seventeen, a distinctive new voice suddenly emerged in the *Tribune*. On July 30 the newspaper published an article that takes ironic aim at the visitors to a summer institute for Protestant clergy:

After spending half a day in discussing the question "Is There Any Other Science Than Physical Science? If So, What & Why?" it was a curious sight to see a number of the reverend intellectual giants of the American Institute of Christian Philosophy seated in a boat fishing for crabs and gravely discussing the question "Is there any better bait for crabs than fish tails? If so, what and where is it to be found?" Other eminent lecturers went in bathing, and as they bobbed up and down in the waves they solemnly argued about immersion.⁶

The following summer Stephen Crane wrote about the Christian philosophers with equally gleeful irony in an article identified and reprinted by Bowers (502-05). It seems likely that Bowers did not identify the 1889 article on the Institute of Christian Philosophy as Crane's only because at the time the earlier article appeared, the resort where the Institute was located was called "Key East Beach"; it did not change its name to the familiar "Avon-by-the-Sea" until later that summer.⁷

We found sixteen other articles published between 1890 and 1892 that bear the marks of Stephen Crane's distinctive prose style. In addition, most of the articles take ironic aim at the same subjects Crane treated in his previously identified shore journalism: "summer maidens" and their swains, hotel proprietors, and gleefully incompetent baggage handlers. An 1892 dispatch from Long Branch satirizes the puritanical moralists who are a frequent target of his previously identified shore articles:

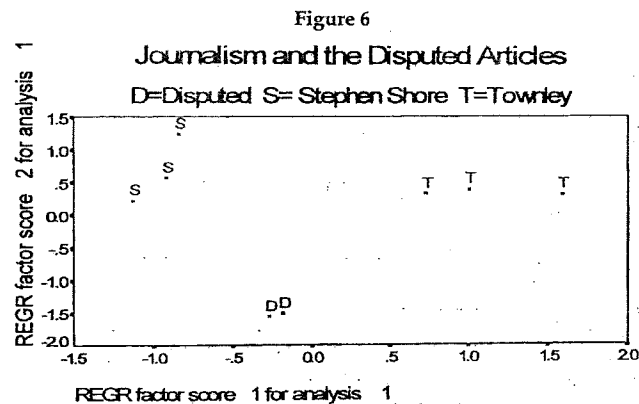
In spite of the fears of those who opposed the reopening of the gates of Monmouth Park [a nearby race track] this season, the crowd here is decidedly a quiet one. It is true that there are many cottagers and hotel guests that will insist upon dancing in the hotel parlors evenings . . . There are also people here who are so depraved that they will drink wine at the dining-table, and sometimes are seen to take an iced claret or a beaker of white-capped beer even between meals. But, on the whole, the crowd is an orderly one.⁸

In addition to these articles about familiar topics, it is likely that Stephen Crane also wrote some or all of the *Tribune's* numerous articles about the New Jersey National Guard summer encampment at Sea Girt. One piece in particular bears the marks of his style:

This afternoon trains bearing the Second Brigade rolled into the station, and hilarious mobs of soldier boys suddenly subdued themselves, formed in stern and compact bodies and were marched to the great mass of white tents on the State's encampment ground. Soon the colored contingent in the mess-halls and kitchens were grappling with their pans and kettles; the troops had thrown their knapsacks, helmets and kits about in their tents in that abandoned way which marks a soldier's home, in a trice a chain of sentries were about the camp, and the denounced and hated "pass" was again required.⁹

The witty and original linguistic juxtapositions—"hilarious mobs," "stern and compact bodies"—suggest Stephen Crane's authorship. At the same time, the article also contains the unironic admiration with which he generally treated the military itself—distinct from individual soldiers—in *The Red Badge of Courage*, his other war fiction, and his war correspondence. The article's larger significance is that it constitutes one other piece in completing the puzzle of how a young man who had never seen war could write so convincingly about it. Numerous scholars have demonstrated what Crane absorbed from his reading of Civil War memoirs and other literature; Crane himself said he picked up his sense of battle from the football field (Wertheim and Sorrentino, *Correspondence* 228). However, this article suggests that Crane was also familiar with military life from direct observation of his state's National Guard.

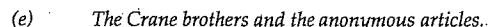
Fourteen of the seventeen articles we identified are from the



Projection onto the first principal component in Figure 6 shows the two disputed samples (labeled D) to lie clearly on the left of the axis, the "Stephen" side. They do, however, appear to have a somewhat distinctive style of their own since they do not fall directly into the cluster of points labeled S. It is the second principal component which is pulling these anonymous articles away; analysis of the data reveals that it is words such as "summer," "hotel," and "season" which are causing this uniqueness. This distinction in vocabulary between Crane's previously published shore articles and the newly attributed articles presumably arises because all of the latter are short news articles, whereas the previously identified pieces include both news reports and several long feature articles that have a somewhat different generic status.

An alternative analysis may be made using the technique of cluster analysis, and Figure 7 shows the resulting dendrogram, using the occurrence rates of the 75 words as raw variables.

Figure 5



The number of high-frequency function words used in this attributional phase was increased to seventy-five. The occurrence rates of these words for the texts under consideration were computed and, once again, a principal components analysis conducted on the data array. Figure 6 shows the textual samples plotted in the space of the first two principal components, which together explain 52.6% of the variation in the data set.

This new information on Crane's sudden surge of productivity during 1892 helps to fill out our understanding of how the twenty-year-old Stephen constructed a career as a professional writer. The previous June he had dropped out of Syracuse University in his second and final attempt at higher education. The previous December his mother had died, leaving him with the responsibility to support himself. In 1892 Crane decisively turned his back on the conventional career he had envisioned when he enrolled in college in 1890 as a mining-engineering major and instead decided to make his way as a writer. From the moment he made that decision until his death, Crane rejected the career path of the older generation of American writers, as exemplified by two of the 1890s' most respected novelists, both of whom would later befriend Crane: William Dean Howells and Henry James. Howells and James regarded fiction writing as a sacred calling and repeatedly expressed their disdain of journalism. The two older writers regarded newspapers as a threat to serious fiction and journalists as degraded snoopers (Robertson 11-54). By the summer of 1892, Crane was already a novelist; he had completed a draft of his first novel.

Maggie, and he may already have conceived of his second novel, *The Red Badge of Courage*, which he started the next year. However, he refused to make the distinctions between the novel and the newspaper, between artistic and journalistic careers, that were central to Howells' and James' professional identity. Throughout his career, Crane moved easily among the worlds of avant-garde poetry, popular fiction, and newspaper journalism, unconcerned with an earlier generation's distinction between "high" and "low" modes of literary production. The articles excerpted in Part II show a writer who was able to use the unpromising form of the summer resort news article both to write dazzlingly witty send-ups of the Gilded Age middle classes and to forge a modern career path that journalist-authors from Ernest Hemingway to Tom Wolfe would follow in years to come.

II.

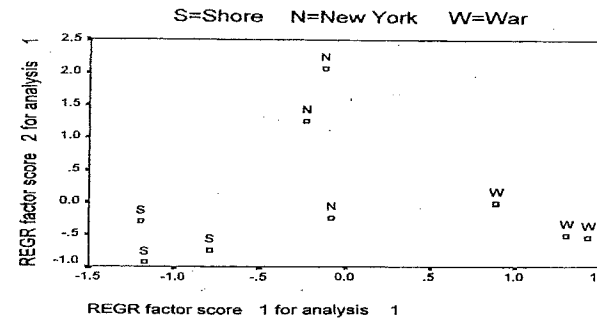
Below are excerpts from the seventeen unsigned articles that are possible additions to the Stephen Crane canon. All appeared in the *New York Tribune*; the date of publication and page number appear at the end of each excerpt.

SCIENCE AND CRABBING.
PLEASANTLY COMMINGLED WITH OTHER
LABORS AND JOYS AT KEY EAST.
SKETCH OF THE HEAD OF THE SUMMER
SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHY—
PERSONAL NOTES OF THE RESORT.

Key East Beach, N. J., July 27.—The Seaside Assembly meetings are more largely attended this year than in the other five years of its existence, and the interest in its various departments is steadily increasing. The Seaside Assembly is not a Sunday-school assembly, as many persons think. Its object is both to educate and to entertain. Its departments comprise a school of music, a school of English literature, a school of art, a school for the study of the English Bible and Bible Greek, a kindergarten, and lectures, readings and musical entertainments. The American Institute of Christian Philosophy meets here every summer as the guest of the assembly. The professional men and women who come here every season and participate in the several working departments regard their stay here as a rest, although they work as hard in the assembly as they do in their homes in the great cities. They have their regular hours for recreation and pleasure, when they highly enjoy themselves. After spending half a day in discussing the ques-

first two principal components, which together explain 50% of the variation in the data set.

Figure 4
S. Crane Journalism



This quite remarkable plot clearly illustrates how even Crane's non-contextual function words differ in their rate of usage among the three genres of his journalism. Clearly, when looking at the disputed texts in a later analysis, we must be careful to compare them only against the appropriate mode of journalism from our known writings.

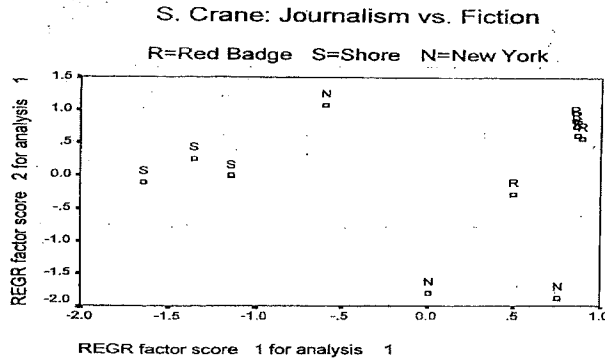
(d) Journalism controls

We now proceed to the next phase by bringing in the samples of journalistic writing from Townley Crane, Richard Harding Davis, and Jacob Riis and discarding the samples of Stephen Crane's war journalism, which have served their purpose. By comparing writing styles solely within the genre of journalism, we hope to add further weight to the validation of the method of analysis. Figure 5 shows these textual samples plotted in the space of the first two principal components derived from the occurrence rates of the fifty most frequently occurring words. The groupings are very evident, the most interesting being the tight clustering of the three Townley Crane samples (labeled T), which all lie well to the left along the first principal component, which explains 32.7% of the variation in the original data set. It is the second principal component, which explains an additional 17.0% of the variation, that separates out the Davis (labeled D) and Riis (labeled R) textual samples from the others, although it is hard to distinguish

(b) Genre comparison: Crane's fiction and journalism.

In this phase, we discard the Conrad samples and bring in the textual samples of Stephen Crane's journalism both from the Shore (labeled S) and from New York City (labeled N). The samples from *The Red Badge of Courage* are labeled R. Using the fifty most frequently occurring words from this corpus, Figure 3 shows the textual samples plotted in the space of the first two principal components.

Figure 3



This plot clearly shows that Crane's shore journalism differs markedly in his use of words from his fiction writing. Projection onto the first principal component also reveals that his New York City journalism has a style which clearly differs from his shore journalism, being more similar in word usage to the style of his novel.

(c) Stephen Crane's Journalism

Having noted the stylometric difference between Crane's New York City journalism and his shore journalism, we can now discard the genre of fiction, which has served its purpose as a control, and add Crane's third mode of journalism to the analysis, namely his war correspondence. Accordingly, the three textual samples obtained from his war dispatches from the Greco-Turkish War (1897) and from the Spanish-American War (1898) were added to the other samples of his journalism, and a principal components analysis run on the occurrence rates of the fifty most frequently occurring words in this corpus in the usual manner. Figure 4 shows the samples plotted in the space of the

tion "Is There Any Other Science Than Physical Science? If So, What and Why?" it was a curious sight to see a number of the reverend intellectual giants of the American Institute of Christian Philosophy seated in a boat fishing for crabs and gravely discussing the question "Is there any better bait for crabs than fish tails? If so, what and where is it to be found?" Other eminent lecturers went in bathing, and as they bobbed up and down in the waves they solemnly argued about immersion. Still others took long walks in the beautiful pine woods which are one of the chief charms of Key East Beach and gathered rare wood plants and big bunches of daisies and "Black-eyed Susans." In the evenings the several entertainments are a source of solid enjoyment to large audiences. Some of the most eminent scholars who come here have made good records as fishermen, and they have captured several big fish with hooks baited with dainty portions of "shedder" crabs. They, too, have been taught the painful lesson that a sea robin cannot sing, is not good to eat and is not even fit for crab bait. When they catch one they extract the hook and sadly cast him back into the sea.

Key East Beach was founded by Edward Batchelor, a wealthy cigar manufacturer of Philadelphia. He at first intended to remove his large factory here, and little dreamed that his tract of land would ever make a popular and fashionable resort. Mr. Batchelor invested a large amount in laying out the town. The avenues are broad and finely graded. There are several groves of tall pine trees in the town, and the cottagers have plenty of shade. The prevailing style of architecture is the Early English. Mr. Batchelor built the Avon Inn, which is one of the finest hotels on the New-Jersey seacoast. He subsequently erected Berwick Lodge, a small but finely appointed house. New cottages were erected every year, and the cottage life here is one of the most delightful phases of the season. The Buckingham and the Oxford Hotel are new hotels which are popular with many summer visitors. The Norwood Inn is the summer home of the most of the musical talent of the assembly. The town is a temperance place, and only has one drug store. Mr. Batchelor is opposed to the running of special excursion trains, and thus far Key East Beach has been kept free from the "carry-our-own-lunch-in-a-basket" crowds which are such a source of annoyance to the cottagers at some of the New-Jersey water resorts. The cottages are all occupied and the hotels are filled with people well able to pay good prices for good entertainment. The town is bounded on the south by the famous Shark River Inlet, one of the greatest places for fishing and crabbing along this coast. The crabs are unusually fat and numerous this season, and every day the surface of the water is

dotted with boats filled with pretty girls and their gallant attendants. Many a charming maiden has snared a lover as they two sat side by side in a boat and, "the world forgetting, by the world forgot," dangled in the water stout lines tied to fish tails or job lots of beef. Here the daring small boy can have all the fun he wants without danger of drowning, and the long-eared idiot who rocks the boat can wade ashore after he has succeeded in upsetting the craft. In one of the coves of Shark River is a natural bed of the finest oysters known to epicures. The bed is small and the "musquashes" bring big prices. On the banks are huge piles of clamshells, monuments to the memory of delicate spring chickens, luscious lobsters and toothsome weakfish, which departed this life in old-fashioned clambakes.

[Paragraph on the Rev. Dr. Charles F. Deems, founder of the American Institute of Christian Philosophy. Paragraph on Miss Edith Waylen, the teacher of "voice culture," followed by several paragraphs listing arrivals at the resort.]

30 July 1889: 3

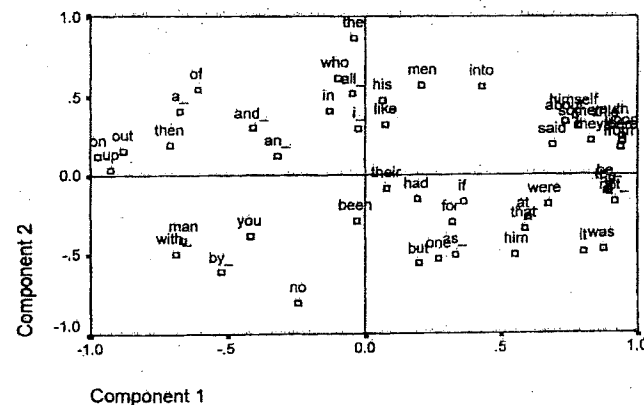
ON OCEAN AVENUE.

MANY NEW-YORK FACES RECOGNIZED AT LONG BRANCH.

Long Branch, June 28 (Special).—That part of the season which is called the opening, and of which an old and now successful patron of the green cloth remarked on Saturday: "To-day all the hotels and all the gambling houses open here," has come and gone. The rain of last Saturday prevented the opening day from being the great success which had been predicted for it, and which it would it in a measure have been had the day been fair. The greatest ghost at the seashore is the weather. It will not be laid. Bad weather prevents people from coming and it drives them away. Like the fishes in the sea, for one or two of which many a gentleman who would die under a hard day's work will cast a squid for hours, summer people come and go to and from the seaside in shoals. Otherwise the conditions are reversed; for while the big fish in the waters eat up the little ones, on shore the little fish do their utmost to eat up the big ones. What makes the seaside a success, when it is a success, is piping hot weather. Even a land breeze that seems to come laden with the intensified concentrated essence of tropical heat is endurable, but one rainy day and the seaside guests slip into their wet-weather costumes and hurry back to brick and brownstone walls. Great things are predicted for the present season, and the arrivals of the present week from Sandy Hook to Bay Head indicate that

Figure 2
Loadings Plot

Fiction: S. Crane vs. J. Conrad



Using the textual samples from Stephen Crane's *The Red Badge of Courage* and Conrad's *The Nigger of the 'Narcissus'*, the fifty most frequently occurring words were identified and the occurrence rates of these words used as input to a principal components analysis. The positions of the samples in the space of the first two principal components are plotted in Figure 1.

Figure 1

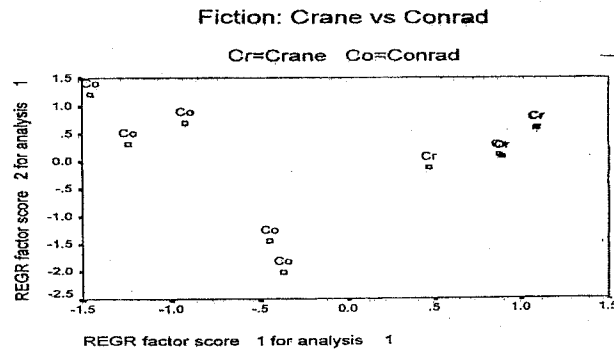


Figure 1 shows that the five Crane text samples are tightly clustered, having positive values on the first principal component, whereas the five Conrad text samples all lie to the left of the plot with negative values on the first principal component. It is important to remember that the horizontal axis (PC1) is the dominant axis, alone explaining 39.2% of the variation in the original data, with the vertical axis (PC2) explaining only an additional 15.3%. One should therefore project the points downwards onto this first axis when examining patterns. We can see which words are associated with Crane and Conrad by looking at the associated scaled loadings plot in Figure 2, which helps to explain the clusterings observed in the main plot. Words on the right of this plot such as "himself," "youth," and "from" have high usages by Crane, while words to the left such as "on," "up," and "out" are words favored by Conrad. These plots confirm the validity of our statistical methodology, showing that the Crane and Conrad samples are clearly distinguishable from each other.

there are some prophets who may yet enjoy honor in their own country. A good many people, too, appear to be coming to stay. The engagements of rooms are, the hotel men say, for longer periods than has been the custom in former years, and this year the season at the seaside is expected to eclipse in gayety, fashion and in quality that of the mountain resorts. But this is the old, very old story. Hotel men are at the beginning of a season by the sea invariably enthusiastic. Fortunately, too, for them, they are able to bury the memory of a half dozen poor seasons under the recollection of one good one. "Why," says Boniface, "in 1872 or 1874, or somewhere there, we fairly coined money. Never was a better season, and this one is going to be just like it." This many times repeated is ever new, no matter how often the flattering tale that Hope tells in June reads backward in September. "We are not doing much yet," said one of the leading hotel men here yesterday, "but we don't expect to so early in the season. Come around to-morrow night if you want to see a dandy lot of guests." What peculiar significance the word "dandy" has in the vernacular of the seaside hotel man he knows best perhaps, but the appreciation of it is not remote.

[Several paragraphs of arrivals.]

29 June 1890: 22

THRONGS AT LONG BRANCH.
TO EXTEND THE SEASON AT THE VARIOUS
HOTELS.

THE HOTELS STILL CROWDED—BUSY BAGGAGE
SMASHERS—AMONG THE LATEST VISITORS.

Long Branch, Aug. 28 (Special).—The business of the hotels here continues good, and as soon as a room is vacated another guest takes it. So great is the demand for rooms that the hotels will keep open later than usual this year.

All the trains arriving here are crowded and the baggage-smashers never had such a harvest as they have had this year. It is no uncommon sight to see the articles of a lady's wardrobe lying in confusion among the splinters of what was only a few minutes before a compact Saratoga trunk. If any remonstrance is made the only satisfaction the owner of the trunk gets is a broad grin from the baggage-smasher and the hope of any allowance the company may condescend to make to avoid a suit at law for the recovery of the full amount of damage done. The baggage department has been severely strained this season.

[Several paragraphs of arrivals.]

24 August 1890: 22

A GENERAL HUM OF PREPARATION FOR THE HOT DAYS IN PROSPECT.

Long Branch, May 28 (Special).—The hotel people are rapidly bringing order out of chaos and their houses are nearly ready for the expected summer guests. Gangs of strong-armed men keep the air full of dust which they beat from the gayly figured carpets that belong to the hotel parlors. Tidy-looking housemaids are busily engaged in polishing up the windows. Carpenters, with faces bronzed by constant exposure to the elements, keep up a merry clatter with their hammers, and jolly fellows energetically ply their paint brushes as they sing and whistle about a certain young woman by the name of Margaret Murphy, who, they say, has a home where she greets her friends on Sunday evenings. The air is filled with the perfume of violets and lilacs and the smell of new paint and fresh varnish. The boatmen of Pleasure Bay, Shark River and Barnegat Bay have their vessels nearly ready for crabbing, boating and fishing parties. The several railroad lines are being laid with new steel rails and put in the best possible order for the heavy traffic of the "heated term." The hotel men all unite in saying that the season will be one of great prosperity, judging from the large number of applications they have already received for rooms. They are, of course, delighted because there will be races at Monmouth Park this summer and they have not yet stopped expressing their satisfaction over their prospects for a good season. The railroad managers say that they expect to bring more people down here this summer than they carried for several years past.

[Several paragraphs of miscellaneous news.]

29 May 1892: 28

NEARLY EVERY COTTAGE LET AT SPRING LAKE.

Spring Lake, N. J., June 11 (Special).—Wreaths of smiles are hung upon the faces of all the hotel proprietors and business men of this place in anticipation of one of the best seasons in the history of the resort. Happily, too, the annual pounding and hammering is nearly over, and the ears of the newly arrived guest will not be assailed with a noise as of a dozen boiler factories in full operation which so often characterizes a resort when its inhabitants are in the throes of preparation for the summer reveller. The town preserves its old appearance of quiet fashion, and no unholy merry-go-round nor ribald clam chowder house is permitted to trespass upon its sanctity. Nearly every cottage in the town has been rented already, and there is a great scramble

Stylometric Methodology

The "Burrows" technique discussed above, which works with large sets (50-100) of frequently occurring function words, is a proven and powerful tool in authorship attribution. Essentially it picks the N most common words in the corpus under investigation and computes the occurrence rate of these N words in each text or text-unit, thus converting each text into an N-dimensional vector of numbers. Multivariate statistical techniques are then applied to the data to look for patterns.

The two techniques most frequently employed are principal components analysis and cluster analysis. The former aims to transform the observed variables to a new set of variables which are uncorrelated and arranged in decreasing order of importance. These new variables, or components, are linear combinations of the original variables, and it is hoped that the first few components will account for most of the variation in the original data, thereby reducing the dimensionality of the problem. Typically, the data are plotted in the space of just the first two components, enabling a two-dimensional graph to portray the configuration of the data in multivariate space. No mathematical assumptions are necessary; the data "speaks for itself." Clusterings of points, each representing a sampled text, are clearly visible, as are outliers or points which do not conform to any pattern. Cluster analysis provides an independent and objective view of any groupings amongst the textual samples by means of a tree-diagram or dendrogram. Two texts that have a small dissimilarity (or large similarity) in the values of their N word-occurrence rates rapidly merge together in the manner of two branches on a tree. A common measure of dissimilarity is the Euclidean distance between the texts, computed from their word-occurrence rates.

Each phase of the analysis (see below) employs different text selections, so only the top N most frequent words for those particular texts under consideration are used. Special computer software identifies these words from a corpus of texts and computes their occurrence rates for each individual text in that corpus.

Hierarchy of Analyses

(a) *Fiction only: Stephen Crane and Joseph Conrad*

The first phase in the investigation was designed to establish the validity of the proposed technique. For this study, known texts must be shown to be internally consistent and separate from each other.

Table 1: Textual samples

<u>Author</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Sample</u>	<u>N (sample size in words)</u>
Stephen Crane	<i>The Red Badge of Courage</i>	1	3022
		2	3036
		3	3037
		4	3009
		5	3006
Joseph Conrad	<i>The Nigger of the "Narcissus"</i>	1	3000
		2	3000
		3	2999
		4	2996
		5	3014
Richard Harding Davis	<i>A Year from a Reporter's Notebook</i>	1	3000
		2	3000
		3	2999
Jacob Riis	<i>How the Other Half Lives</i>	1	3000
		2	2992
		3	3032
Townley Crane	Journalism	1	1660
		2	1660
		3	1658
Stephen Crane	New York City Journalism	1	3000
		2	3000
		3	3000
	Shore Journalism	1	2304
		2	2304
		3	2306
	War Correspondence	1	2888
		2	3447
		3	3406
	Anonymous Articles	1	1814
		2	1802

for the remaining ones. The tide of emigration has turned northward, and it is doubtful if a single cottage in North Spring Lake will be for rent by the end of this month.

[Several paragraphs of arrivals.]

12 June 1892: 22

AMONG THE GUESTS AT SPRING LAKE.

Spring Lake, N. J., June 25 (Special).—This town has taken on its usual garb of lurid summer hues. The beach, the hotel verandas and the lakeside are now all alive with the red and white and gold of the town's summer revellers, who make merry in a nice, mild sort of way. The hotel proprietors have removed the sackcloth and ashes which is said to be their dress during the dreary winter months, and have appeared in gentle, expansible smiles and new clothes, for everything points to a most prosperous season.

[Several paragraphs of arrivals.]

26 June 1892: 24

BLACK BASS FISHING AT BELMAR.

Belmar, N. J., June 25 (Special).—The fishermen who throng this resort in the summer are growing violently enthusiastic over the glittering prospect of unexcelled bass fishing this season. At the mouth of Shark River is one of the best grounds along the coast for the famous black bass. The fish come to the mouth of the inlet to feed upon the small fry from the river.

[Several paragraphs of arrivals.]

26 June 1892: 24

THRONGS OF PEOPLE AT LONG BRANCH FOR THE MONMOUTH PARK RACES.

Long Branch, July 2 (Special).—The summer guests have been pouring into the town for the last three days by the trainload, and the big hotels are rapidly filling up with those who had their rooms engaged for the season. There will be a large number of the members of the "sporting" fraternity here while the Monmouth Park races are being run. The hotel men say that they will have the biggest crowd here over Sunday "the summer capital" has ever known. A number of special trains ran this afternoon from New-York and Philadelphia, and most of them are running two and three sections each. This evening the hotels were alive with music and dancing. In the hotel reading rooms there were little parties grouped around the tables at which the

portly mothers and fathers of the dancers were engaged in exciting contests of whist and "hearts." In the cafes men with big diamonds in front of their shirts sipped some of the mysterious concoctions that are so popular here on warm days, as they eagerly discussed the chances of their favorite horses. In the handsome billiard parlors for women in the casino of Hildreth's West End Hotel a number of the fair sex wielded their cues in a manner that made them the envy of many of the men who have played for years. To-morrow there will be driving parties to Pleasure Bay, Sea Bright and the charming drives through Rumson.

The property-owners along the ocean front who refused to go into the movement for the bulkheading of the foot of the bluff are now repenting with a vigor that throws in the shade the ancient method of using sackcloth and ashes. They spend a portion of their time in watching the sea make inroads into the bluff. That portion of the bluff that went down into the boiling surf in the last few days has badly damaged the driveway, and the big gap torn in the face of the bluff will be an eyesore the entire season. The town authorities will try and secure legislative action next winter that will give them the right to protect the bluff and roadway opposite the property of the men who refuse to make their ocean frontage safe.

[Several paragraphs of miscellaneous news and arrivals.]

3 July 1982: 28

GUESTS AT SPRING LAKE.

Spring Lake, N. J., July 1 (Special).—The annual season of hops and dances is to come. With the opening of the huge Monmouth House the pretty girls begin the usual agitation for young men who can dance, look habitually tired and say the low, sweet sentences which make the summer maiden's heart flutter for almost a week. Great exertions have been made by the hotel proprietors in getting their ballrooms in order, and now the dreamy strains of waltz music float out on the evening air and come to the rescue of young men whose girls are guiding them toward the ice-cream saloons.

[Several paragraphs of arrivals.]

3 July 1982: 28

THE PRESENCE OF THE MILITIA ATTRACTS A CROWD OF CIVILIANS.

Sea Girt, N. J., July 9 (Special).—This afternoon trains bearing the Second Brigade rolled into the station, and hilarious mobs of soldier boys suddenly subdued themselves, formed in stern and compact

O'Ruddy into chapters from the hand of Crane and chapters from the hand of Robert Barr. O'Donnell also explored the possibility of identifying the author of units as small as paragraphs. The chosen variables were diverse, ranging from punctuation and syntactic measures to use of metaphor and dialogue. O'Donnell presented no graphs or tables, and it is unclear which, if any, control texts were used apart from the novel itself. He did, however, employ a sophisticated statistical technique—discriminant analysis—albeit in an unsophisticated manner, and assigned the first twenty-four chapters to Crane and the last eight to Barr, which proved, when the manuscript surfaced, to be off by only one chapter.

Sampling and Textual Preparation

The task we faced was to examine the seventeen articles and attribute them to either Stephen or Townley Crane. In order to attribute authorship successfully, we require suitable control texts in more than one genre. Within the genre of fiction, samples of about 3,000 words were obtained from *The Red Badge of Courage* and Joseph Conrad's *The Nigger of the "Narcissus,"* the latter being chosen because we know that Crane and Conrad read and admired one another's novels (Conrad, "Introduction" 2-3). For journalistic controls, we turned to Richard Harding Davis and Jacob Riis, who were, along with Crane, the most prominent American journalists of the 1890s. We know that Crane was familiar with their work, which paralleled his own war correspondence (in the case of Davis) and New York City journalism (in Riis's case). Accordingly, samples of text were taken from Davis's *A Year from a Reporter's Notebook* and Riis's *How the Other Half Lives*.

Examples of Stephen Crane's New Jersey shore reports, New York City journalism, and war correspondence were taken from the University of Virginia edition of Crane's work; samples of Townley Crane's journalism were taken from the *New York Tribune*.¹⁰ The seventeen anonymous articles were first merged, the resultant text then being split into two halves of approximately 1800 words each. Ideally, we require samples of about 3000 words for the stylometric tests, but analyses have previously been conducted on samples as small as 600 words, although this is a severe test of stylometry's ability to discriminate between authors. All samples were either typed, scanned, or downloaded from an internet resource. The following table lists the texts and samples used in this investigation:

Introduction

The field of research now known as stylometry—the statistical analysis of literary style—dates back to 1851 when the English logician Augustus de Morgan suggested in a letter to a friend that questions of authorship might be settled by determining if one text “does not deal in longer words” than another (de Morgan, 102). His hypothesis was investigated in the 1880s by Thomas Mendenhall, an American physicist, who subsequently published an impressive display of academic labor on “word spectra,” the frequency of words of different lengths. Since then, stylometrists have been searching for a unit of counting which quantifies the style of the text, a set of measurable properties which may be unique to an author.

In this quest almost every conceivable measure has been considered, ranging from sentence lengths to syntactic and semantic features. In the early 1960s the academic world was given a convincing demonstration of the power of stylometry when two distinguished American statisticians, Frederick Mosteller and David Wallace, decided to use stylometry to attack the mystery of the authorship of the *Federalist Papers*. Growing computer power and the availability of machine-readable versions of many literary works have now led to a plethora of techniques being brought to bear on authorship issues. Most researchers believe that common words are of the most value in characterizing an author’s stylometric signature. They study the so-called non-contextual function words—prepositions, conjunctions, articles, and certain verbs and adverbs—that tend to be used subconsciously by a writer. Following the seminal work by Burrows, multivariate statistical analyses involving large sets (50-100) of these words have met with astonishing success, a recent example being the study on the provenance of *De Doctrina Christiana* (Tweedie, Holmes and Corns). This particular methodology will be the one used in this investigation. It has been applied to a wide variety of authors and genres, including Austen, the Brontë sisters, Shakespeare, and the different genres of Scott and Byron, and has become the first port-of-call for attributional problems. A review of stylometry’s evolution can be found in Holmes.

This paper is not the first to apply stylometric techniques to the works of Stephen Crane. In 1966, when stylometry was in its adolescence, Bernard O’Donnell used an approach involving eighteen variables in an attempt to separate the posthumously published novel *The*

bodies and were marched to the great mass of white tents on the State’s encampment ground. Soon the colored contingent in the mess-halls and kitchens were grappling with their pans and kettles; the troops had thrown their knapsacks, helmets and kits about in their tents in that abandoned way which marks a soldier’s home, in a trice of chain of sentries were about the camp, and the denounced and hated “pass” was again required. With the advent of the militia the hotels begin to fill to overflowing. All now are comfortably crowded.

[Several paragraphs of arrivals.]

10 July 1892: 24

AMONG THE VISTORS AT THE VARIOUS HOTELS.

Belmar, N. J., July 9 (Special).—It seems that when the recent stroke of hot weather fell upon the people in the cities, scores of them grabbed their baggage and hastily made for Belmar. All the hotel proprietors now support that slight and non-aggressive tinge of arrogance which comes upon the owner of a well-filled inn.

[Several paragraphs of arrivals.]

10 July 1892: 24

THE CROWDS SURPASS THE HOPES OF THE HOTEL
KEEPERS.

Long Branch, July 23 (Special).—The season here is far exceeding the hopes of even the hotel proprietors. All of the hotels are crowded. In spite of the fears of those who opposed the reopening of the gates of Monmouth Park this season, the crowd here is decidedly a quiet one. It is true that there are many cottagers and hotel guests that will insist upon dancing in the hotel parlors evenings, while others are engaged in concerts and performances of various kinds, the net proceeds of which go to well-known benevolent institutions and movements. There are also people here who are so depraved that they will drink wine at the dining-table, and sometimes are seen to take an iced claret or a beaker of white-capped beer even between meals. But, on the whole, the crowd is an orderly one. There are many crabbing parties to Pleasure Bay, Branchport and Little Silver every day, with delicious little dinners and a pleasant ride home in the moonlight. On race days the hotels are comparatively deserted, from noon until dinner time. At night the hotel corridors and broad plazas are crowded with smartly gowned women and men attired in evening dress. On Sundays the several churches between Elberon and Seabright are crowded to the doors with earnest worshippers, while the hotel parlors are

thronged with people who lazily listen to so-called "sacred concerts," the music of which is mostly taken from popular operas.

The gambling houses are doing a big business this year, but the men who patronize them are a class who can afford to lose considerable money on games of chance. The old summer cottage of Daniel Dougherty, the lawyer on Ocean ave., near the great gambling establishment of "Phil" Daly, the "King of the Gamblers," is the newest lair of the tiger. The usual number of statements about immense sums being lost nightly at the clubhouses are published, but none of them can be traced to authentic sources. When rumors are circulated that the dens are to be raided, the gamblers smile in derision and go on shuffling the cards, throwing dice and twirling the roulette wheels and balls. The patrons of these costly "clubhouses" are the men whose faces are well known at all the big racetracks, with here and there men who have been operating in Wall st. for many years. The native Jersey men are not allowed to gamble excepting in their own poker dens.

[Several paragraphs of miscellaneous news and arrivals.]

24 July 1892: 22

A GOOD SEASON AT BELMAR.
GUEST AT THE HOTELS AND DWELLERS IN THE
COTTAGES.

Belmar, N. J., July 23 (Special).—The season is under good headway. The hotel proprietors lamented many things until the last few days. But just now they are beginning to admit that this world hath charms even for them.

[Several paragraphs of arrivals.]

24 July 1892: 22

MANY GUESTS AT SPRING LAKE.
WHO THEY ARE AND WHENCE THEY COME.

Spring Lake, N. J., July 23 (Special).—There is to be a grand carnival on the lake here within the next few weeks. The inevitable social drudge has appeared and is now going about collecting subscriptions.

[Several paragraphs of arrivals.]

24 July 1892: 22

A GOOD SEASON AT SPRING LAKE.
NAMES OF SOME OF THOSE WHO ARE MAKING
IT GO.

Spring Lake, N. J., July 30 (Special).—When the troops depart from the State Encampment at Sea Girt, a good deal of pleasure and fun for the Spring Lake summer girl also disappears. Then, each fair maiden had any number of natty-uniformed attendants, who obeyed her every wish with neatness and dispatch. Now she has to put up with the usual summer dude, and even he is not very prevalent here.

[Several paragraphs of arrivals.]

31 July 1892: 22

TENNIS AT SPRING LAKE.
LIKEWISE FISHING, DRIVING, DANCING AND
OTHER JOYS.

Spring Lake, N. J., Aug. 6 (Special).—The Spring Lake and Sea Girt Company held a sale of land here this week. Visitors and probable purchasers were taken over the ground in carriages, and a brass band played enthusiastically. Fifty lots were sold.

The hotels are now all thronged. This can be observed by noting the arrogant curves of the hotel proprietors' mustaches.

[Several paragraphs of arrivals.]

7 August 1892: 3

JOYS OF LIFE AT BELMAR.
ON THE RIVER, ON THE BEACH AND AT THE
HOTELS.

Belmar, N. J., Aug. 6 (Special).—The summer days at this resort glide past with much enjoyment by the visitors of the great crabbing and fishing facilities offered by Shark River. The usual number of blue bathers congregate in the surf, and the inevitable summer youth makes love to the inevitable warm-weather girl on the beach in the moonlight by the sad sea waves.

[Several paragraphs of arrivals.]

7 August 1892: 3