

# Sunday Shaving

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## WHAT PEOPLE SAY.

### "Sunday Shaving."

To the Editor of the Palladium:

SIR—A somewhat long and exhaustive article in the Times Saturday evening, headed "Sunday Shaving," commences by quoting the law which says: "Nor shall there be any servile laboring or working on that day (Sunday) except works of necessity and charity." After quoting the above, and giving some of the "essential facts" why the agreement-breaking barbers worked on Sunday, it proceeds to attack that sec. of chap. 20 which makes Sunday work an offence, declaring it to be a "dead letter and bad law," and then it goes on trying to make one believe that keeping a barber shop publicly open on Sunday is a necessity. Statements of this kind can reflect anything but credit on the author. To the "essential facts" it might have added that barber shops are open from 7 A. M. to 1 A. M. Saturdays, compelling barbers to work 18 hours and giving all who desire ample opportunity to get shaved before Sunday. For the benefit of two or three unshaved strangers who arrive on the Sunday train, certain hotel proprietors have been trying to get the shops opened on Sundays, thereby compelling 85 barbers, who work 18 hours Saturday to lose the pleasure of attending

The Oswego Daily Palladium,  
May 30, 1882, page 4.

church and their only day of recreation. This, to say the least, is unjust. The decision of recorder Getty that servile labor of this kind is not a work of necessity or charity, and by promptly fining the offenders, is regarded by all sober-minded and intelligent citizens as just and right. It is to be hoped, therefore, that if the case is carried to the higher courts, it will meet the same and just decision that characterized it at the hands of recorder Getty. Respectfully,  
COIFFEUR.

# Sunday Shaving

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BARBERS.  
E. PAINE & SON,  
FASHIONABLE  
HAIR DRESSERS & BARBERS,  
AND DEALERS IN  
PERFUMERIES, OILS, &C.  
All kinds of Artificial Hair Work made to order.  
Shampooing done in the most approved style.  
BASEMENT OF CITY BANK BUILDING, CORNER OF WEST FIRST  
AND CAYUGA STREETS.  
EDMUND PAINE. EDWARD M. PAINE.  
CHARLES H. SMITH,  
Fashionable Hair Dressing and Shaving Saloon,  
BASEMENT 100 WEST FIRST-STREET.  
HENRY POST,  
Fashionable Hair Dressing and Shaving Saloon,  
COR. WEST FIRST AND BRIDGE STREETS.  
THOS. E. OSBURN & SON'S  
Barber Shop and Bathing Saloon,  
JEFFERSON BLOCK, WEST FIRST-STREET.  
T. E. GRANT,  
Barber Shop and Fancy Dyeing Establishment,  
NO. 25 WEST SENECA-STREET.

Above:

The Oswego City Residence and  
Advertising Directory, 1859.

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Transcription

35 barbers, who work 18 hours Saturday to lose the pleasure of attending church and their only day of recreation. This, to say the least, Is unjust. The decision of recorder Getty that servile labor of this kind is not a work of necessity or charity, and by promptly fining the offenders, is regarded by all sober-minded and intelligent citizens as just and right. It is to be hoped therefore, that if the case is carried to the higher courts, it will meet the same and just decision that characterized it at the hands of recorder Getty.

# Sunday Shaving Questions

## Questions from the article:

1. Who is the letter written to?
2. Who is the letter from?
3. How many hours did a typical barber work on Saturday? What are the hours?
4. Who wants barbers to work on Sunday? Why?
5. What is the point of the letter?

## Questions for further research and discussion:

1. The letter mentioned that some people could work on Sundays without breaking the law. Who could work on Sundays back then?
2. What were barbers' opinions of working on Sundays?
3. Were there any labor laws in place back then to prevent someone from working 18 hours a day?
4. Who is "recorder Getty"?
5. Why was the no work on Sunday law in place?
6. When did the 'no work on Sunday' law cease to exist in New York state?