THE OMAHA DAILY BEE: FRIDAY JULY 1 1881.

TALES OF THE COMET.

A Large Number of Interesting Facts Regarding a Very Inter-esting Subject The Big Comets of History Their Age, Size, Etc, Etc.

Speaking about comets, there are some facts regarding these wanderers through space known to school children, who have reached the elements of astronomy, which may be of interest to the general reader, who has long since forgotten the teachings of his school boy days. The Daily News presents those interesting facts as follows:

Comets are observed only in those parts of their orbits which are nearest the sun. They are not confined like the larger planets to the zodiac, but appear in every quarter of the heavens, and move in every possible direction.

They usually continue visible a few weeks or months, and very rarely so long as a year. Their appearance is nebulous with few exceptions, or cloudlike, whence it is inferred that they consist of masses of vapor, though in a highly attenuated state, since very small stars are seen through them

The more conspicuous comets are accompanied by a tail, or train of light which sometimes stretches over an arc ot the heavens of fifty degrees or up-ward, but more frequently is of much less extent.

The same comet may assume very different appearances during its visibility according to its position to the earth and sun.

When first perceptible, a comet resembles a little spot of faint light upon the dark ground of the sky; as it approaches the sun its brightness increases and the tail begins to show itself.

Generally the comet is brightest when it arrives at its perihelion, and gradually fades away as it recedes from the sun, until it cannot be seen with the best telescopes we possess.

Some few have become so intensely brilliant as to be seen in full daylight. A remarkable instance of this kind occurred in 1843, when a comet was discovered within a few degrees of the sun himself; and there are one or two similar cases on record.

The brighter or more condensed part of the comet, or the part from which the tail proceeds, and the neb-ulous, matter which surrounds the nuclous, is termed the coma. Frequently the nucleus and coma are included under the general term head. Some comets have no nuclei, their light being nearly uniform.

lestial bodies.

to the planet Mars.

ceedingly unstable.

publican

The tail of a comet is merely the prolongation of the nebulous envelope crosses the orbit of Biela's comet. surrounding the nucleus and it almost This is of little consequence so long as always extends in a direction opposite the comets do not meet at that point; to that of the sun at the time. In some cases it is long and straight, in others it is curved at the extremity or divided into two or more branches. A few comets have exhibited two distinct

The length of the tails has some-times exceeded 100,000,000 or 150,-000,000 of miles; that of the great comet of 1843 is said to have been 200,000,000 of miles long. Comparatively few of the many

comets that visit our system, are visi-ble to the naked eye; most of them are faint, filmy masses, without tails, seen only with the

Up to 1818 only two comets were earnest. The present plan of relief is known the calculation of whose period to ship grain direct from St. Louis and hal been verified by their return, the other river towns to New Orleans in comets of Halley and of Olbers. Their barges which draw but little water. orbits are far apart and wholly unlike and there transfer it to ocean steam. same period, seventy-five years. , while I write barges In 1818 Encke's comet was discovare

ered, and since then many of these up the r bodies have become known, whose pe-Minneapolis, for this riod ran from three to six years. They And the significant fact about it is, as agree in other respects also; their or- I am told, that the freight from here bits are inside that of Jupiter, they move like the planets from west to east and the inclination of their orbits to the place of the ecliptic is not great- the way is the liability of the grain to er than those of the minor planets. heat, though expert shippers say that On account of these points of resem-blance they have been classed to- In the light of this "water-route," as gether as the 'inner group" of comets. these self-conscious westerners proud-Encke's comet, after a few returns, ly term it, Eads' jetties are of equal exhibited a regular shortening of its or greater national importance than period, and the same was found to be true of Faye's comet. Encke also observed in 1823 that the Pacific railways. Of course this route saves largely the storage and elevator charges of Chicago and the

the light of his comet was becoming seaboard. But even on this waters fainter. Prof. D'Arrest has recently route question the west is far from called attention to Encke's remark: united. Chicago, of course, objects to "Soon nothing will be left of the this great diversion of the foreign comet." It is a fact that from that grain traffic, while St. Louis, time to the present its brightness has not always an amicable rival. thoroughly in its favor steadily decreased.

teadily decreased. The history of Biela's comet, anoth- Indeed, St. Louis seems to tkink a er of the same group, has been even part of its mission is to "wipe out" more remarkable. In 1846 it divided Chicago and its tributaries. While itself into two parts, almost under St. Louis, Burlington, Keokuk and the eye of the observers, and each some other river towns favor chiefly St. Louis, Burlington, Keokuk and pursued its course separately. Upon the Mississippi route, Davenport, the comet's return in 1852 the distance Dubuque and the upper river towns of its two parts had become ten times with Chicago want a canal from Davgreater than in 1846; they were now enport to Hennepin, the western teras completely independent of each minus of the old canal from Chicago other, as if they had never been uni- The distance is about sixty-five miles ted. At its return in 1859 the comet and would involve an expenditure of was in so unfavorable a position as to render its observation extremely dif-ficult. The computations for the the Eric canal. Leading Iowa busiyear 1866 gave assurance of a most ness men tell me the recent Hennefavorable position, but the comet was pin canal convention at Davenport not to be found. There can be no was the most notable gathering even doubt, therefore, that Biela's comet held in the west. It is the ques has totally disappeared. tion of the west at present, you We thus see that two of the comets

it everywhere, political candidates of the "inner group" are subject to shape their policy with respect to it certain contingencies which threaten and they intend to have a national legtheir very existence, and we have islature elected on this issue. great west and southwest are joining reason to believe that the others will share the same fate. It is true that hands in this matter of water routes the latter have not yet betrayed any to the east and the gulf. This is the great changes, but a fact has recently come to light that is strongly against the permanent existence of these cewestern man's method of breaking up the solid south, and I confess, it strikes me as fully equal to the republican machine method of using little Mahone to break its solidity. Most of these comets pass through orbits that render a conjunction of this is their method of solving the two comets at one and the same point problem of railroad monopoly. 'Jay of the heavenly space probable, and Gould and Vanderbilt will come to even a collision of a comet with a planet terms and their senses when the Hen-

at some time or other absolutely cer-tain. The orbit of Encke's comet their confident boast. OLD WINDSOR. French Must Go.

but they are certain at some time or Washington Special to The Chicago Tribune. other to do this, and then their union The cabinet considered the case of or their division and destruction is Mr. French, commissioner railroads, Apart from this, however, there are other circumstances menacing the exother circumstances menacing the ex-istence of each of these two comets, or, at least, the immutability of their orbits. Encke's comet approaches the orbit of the planet Mercury, and Biela's that of the earth so closely that conjunction with these planets must take place at a calculable future period. Indeed, there would have been a fair prospect of the conjunction of Biela's comet with the earth towards the latter part of December, 1833, had



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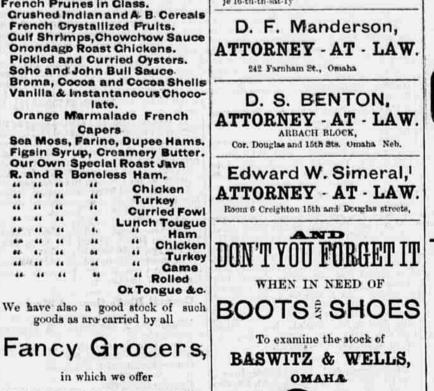
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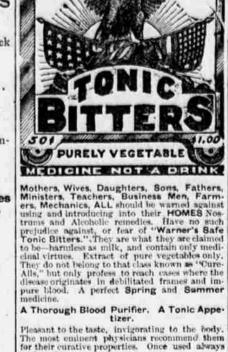
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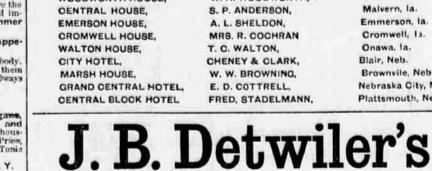
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TOWNS.

Nebraska City, Neb

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U. P. Transfer,

telescope.

Dr. Hally was the first astronomer to ascertain with precision the periods which certain comets require to pro form their revolutions around the sun. Many astronomers since his time, however, have been able to predict the times of their reappearance and to mark their paths around the stars. Dr. Halley discovered the comet of

1682 to be the same that appeared in 1456, 1531, 1607, and hence concluded that its revolution through space is accomplished in about seventy-five He foretold its reappearance years. in 1759, which actually took place after a retardation of between one and two years. The same body appeared again in 1835, and may be looked for again in 1911. The comet is traced in history as far as 11 B. C.

A comet called Encke's has a period of three and one-half years; another, Biela's, of six and three-quarters years; and several others perform their revolutions in from five to eight years.

There are a few comets, beside the ones above mentioned, which comfrom sixty to eighty years; but it is certain that by far the greater num-Berkshire and the Connecticut valley, ber require hundreds and even thousands of years. When this is the case it becomes almost impossible to assign their exact periods.

Remarkacle comets appeared in England can have no adequate concep-1680, both of which approached so tion of the boundless resources near the sun as almost to graze its sur- of this great west. Some one

face. The comet of 1811 has acquired great celebrity. It remained visible to the naked eye several months, shin-to the bolt of the bill o to the naked eye several months, shin-ing with the luster of the brigher stars and attended by a beautiful, fan-shaped tail. This body is supposed to require upwards of 3,000 years to complete its excursion through space. The splendid comet of 1858, gener-ally known as Donati's, will long be remembered for the remarkable phys-ical appearances it presented in the telescope, as well as its imposing as-

telescope, as well as its imposing as-pect to the naked eye. It is presumed had some ground for his statement. I to have a revolution of 2,100 years. | wish the farmers of New England

Hardly less famous will be the could have an excursion out into this Hardly less famous will be the grand comet which appeared in 1861. This comet had a tail 100 degrees in length. Its period of revolution would appear to be much shorter than that Donati's, probably not exceeding 450 years. It is probable that there are many the probable that there are many

thousands of comets belonging to the nothing more. Now a little trip out

related to each other, but these bodies are in many particulars very unlike planets. The latter all move in es-sentially the same plane, the former in planets cutting this at every possi-ble angle. The planets move in near-ly circular orbits, and from west to east, the comets and meteors in highly eccentric orbits and in every conceiv-action of the skin was worn that is reinforced fronts, reinforced that is reinforced fronts, reinforced backs, and reinforced sleeves, makes that, with the uneven stony soil of the east, great improvements in agricul-iural methods are not only possible, but eminently desirable. Theology may or may not be an improvable sci-ence, I leave that to the divines, but agriculture is most assuredly. eccentric orbits and in every conceiv-able direction. The planets—at least the larger ones—move in stable or-bits; that is, in orbits whose position and form cannot be permanently al-tered by the mutual perturbations of the planets themselves. These bodies are, therefore, in no danger of de-struction by collision with one another. They seem to have a lease of perma-

Nust Union Pacific Deads . . . OKARA, MER

the latter part of December, 1833, had that the matter be laid over until an-it escaped its mysterious destruction. other cabinet meeting, in view of the The comets of Brorsen and Faye fact that pass through the orbit of Jupiter, and ATTORNEY-GENERAL MACVENGH, a conjunction with this planet, or even who has charge of the litigation against

a close approach to it, will certainly the Central Pacific is absent from the affect their existence or their course. eity. Secretary Kirkwood, in making De Vico's comet has a similar relation this suggestion, stated, however, that he did not see what possible excuse If we add to all this the fact that Mr. French could give for having astronomors have by very recent com- written the letter. It was his (Kirkastronomers have by very recent computations, demonstrated the possibili-ty of a conjunction of three or even wood's) opinion that Attorney-General MacVcagh would agree with him in the matter. There is, therefore, every reason to think that the remofive comets at once, it is easy to comprehend that their existence is exval of Mr. French will be ordered at the next cabinet meeting, which will IOWA AND THE WEST.

probably be held on Thursday, as the president leaves Friday for Long Branch and New England. Secretary As Seen by a Vermont Journalist Kirkwood is said to be desirous to Correspondence of The Springfield (Mass.) Rehave State-Auditor Sherman, of Iowa, at present candidate for governor o CEDAR RAPIDS, Ia., June, 1881. that state, appointed to that place, and To leave Boston Monday afternoon Senator Allison is quoted as favoring and be in the heart of Iowa Wednessuch appointment; but day evening, with a couple of hours to THE GENERAL IMPRESSION

spare in Chicago, gives one an idea of the "progress of civilization" of which is that the place will be tendered to Gen. J. M. Rusk, of Wisconsin, whe Uruguay and Paraguay, and declined. Berkshire and the Connecticut valley, Gen. Rusk, it is known, has the esteem of the president, and his apbut there is wealth and population and empire on these prairies. One whose pointment certainly could not be con only ideas of agriculture are obtained among the rocky fastnesses of New sidered a railroad appointment, as he is well known as a radical anti-monopolist. The fact of the removal of French, however, may be regarded as certain, whoever is appointed to succeed him. IS IS BELIEVED

that, upon his dismissal from the gov-ernment service, Mr. French will enter the employ of the Central Pacific and other railroads as their represen-tative here. Mr. Guthrie, who was Mr French's first assistant from the creation of the Bureau of railroad acthe Railroad Commissioner's office.

No Hospital Needed.

No palatial hospital needed for Hop Bitters' patients, nor large-salaried, talented puffers to tell what Hop Bitters will do or cure, as they tell their own story by their certain and abso-lute cures at home.-[New York In-July1-15 dependent.

thousands of comets belonging to the horning more. Now a little trip out solar system, of which a large propor-tion never came sufficiently near the sun to be seen from the earth. United states is manufactured at the son. I know that your farmers have United States is manufactured at the Planetary and cometary orbits, meteors and comets seem to be closely related to each other, but these bodies



addressing the students of the National School of Elecution and Oratory, said, "We are living in a land whose genius, whose history, whose institu-tion eminently demand oratory." The National School of Elecution and Oratory was estab-lished in 1874, to supply this demand. Chartered in 1875, Nineteen Teachers and Lecturers, Specialists in their departments. Summer Term, July 5, Fall Term, October 3. Schul for circular to J. H. BECHTEL, Secretary. TARRANT'S SELTZER APERIENT, wil correct the acidity, carry off the offending cause, and save sometimes a lorg spell of illness, its effects are gentle and thorough, and its gen-eral use would prevent mucd suffering. J. H. BECHTEL, Secretary, 1416 and 1418 Chestant street, PhiladelphiC.

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Notice to Non-Resident Defendants E. D. Late (full name unknown) will take no-tice that he has been sued by Dudley M. Steele, Samuel R. Johnson and Sanford W. Spratiln, co-partners, doing business under the firm name of Steele, Johnson & Co., in the District Court of Donglas county, Nebraska, to recover £3,031.29, and interast from October 18, 1880, due them on a promissory note bearing date April 20, 1878. Also that an attachment has been made on certain funds in the First National bank of Omaha, Ne-braska, belonging to you and which the said par-ties above named seek to obtain the apply in pay-ment of their said claim. You are required to answer said petition on or before Monday, the 22d day of August, A. D. 1881. WAREN SWITZLER. ev-sal-4t. Attorney for Plaintiff.

Discases of Children and Charonic Discases a Specialty. Office at Kosidence, 2009 Casssfreet. Hours 5 to 10 a. m., 1 to 2 p. m., and after 6 p. m. apiddim Attorney for Plaintiff. ev-sat-st.



GEO. H. PARSELL, M. D.

Sealed proposals will be received by the Board of County Commissioners of Douglas County, Nebraska, until Wednesday, July 27th, A. D., 1881, at 2 o'clock p. m., for the erection of of a court house building at Omaha, in said county, is accordance with plans and specifications made by E. E. Myers, architect of Detroit, Michigan, and now on file in the county clerk's office at Omaha. **REAL ESTATE AGENCY,**

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