

A Great Debate.
The last three days of the Beatrice Chautauqua, July 5th, 6th and 7th, will witness perhaps the largest gathering of people ever seen in the state of Nebraska. On the afternoon of July 5th the great joint debate on Prohibition vs. High License will be opened by Samuel Dickie, the chairman of the Prohibition National Committee. He will be supported by another distinguished gentleman whose name is not yet announced. Mr. Rosewater, the editor of the Omaha Bee, and Hon. John L. Webster, the eminent attorney of Omaha, will defend High License. The debate will continue during the afternoon of Saturday, July 5th and Monday, July 7th. On the intervening Sunday (July 6th) there will be a number of sermons and addresses, including one from Dr. De Witt Talmage. Talmage will speak at other places in the west, but at the Beatrice Assembly he will preach and it is as a preacher only that he is pre-eminently great.

THE COUNTRY NEWSPAPER.
Influence Wielded by the Rural Press—Advantages and Responsibilities.
There is a place and an opportunity not to be despised for the country newspaper worker, and with this, as with every large opportunity, a serious obligation to careful, thorough, honest work, writes Elwin A. Start, in the *New England Magazine*. It is not too much to say there is no better field for an intelligent, well-equipped man of large sympathies and vigorous personality than the editorial chair of a country newspaper, nor is there a position which places upon a man greater duties to the community in which he lives.

The editors of the great metropolitan newspapers rest on the heights of impersonal journalism, flinging their thunderbolts with a freedom born of almost entire personal irresponsibility; and while the thunderbolts are in great part shattered on the rocks below, the country editor walks with the multitude in the valley, gives the weight of his personality to the impersonal words of his paper, which come to the people like the warm handclasp of a friend, measures his words in accordance with the peculiarities of his constituents, and influences the thought and feeling of hundreds where the thunderbolt of the unapproachable Jove strikes one.

It was a successful country editor in a thriving Massachusetts town who once sagely remarked that, if he were a candidate for office, and must take his choice between the combined support of the metropolitan dailies and that of the country press, he would choose the latter, and accept with equanimity the hostility of his city brethren. Every country editor knows that he is right. The great dailies, so-called, are received in the abstract as vendors of the world's news. Their resources in this direction are great and cannot in the nature of things be rivaled by those at the command of country papers of limited circulation.

But the country paper comes closer to the hearts of the people at large. It is more thoroughly read, and it has an influence the greater because it is one of the subtle, unrealized, every-day forces of life. It is held rigidly to account for the honesty and fairness of its utterances. It cannot palm off upon its readers what are known in the slang of the newspaper fraternity as "fakes"; it must be reliable first of all. Neither can it violate moral decency in any marked extent and prosper, as can its neighbors in the great cities. In its neighborhoods, in New England, at least, its constituency is largely found in the churches, and will not tolerate vulgarity.

The country newspaper stands to dwellers outside the large cities in the place of a friend and regular home visitor, and it is essential above all things that it maintain the good character and good breeding that are required of other friends, if it would keep warm its welcome in the home circle.

STATISTICS OF OLD AGE.
An Analysis of Returns Respecting Fifty-Two English Centenarians.
Prof. Murray Humphry has just brought together a remarkable book on "Old Age," says the *Pull Mail Gazette*. It is based upon the results of an inquiry conducted by the collective investigation committee of the British Medical association.

In a portion of it the analysis of the returns respecting 52 centenarians are given; of these 16 were males and 36 females. Eleven of these were single (10 being females), 5 were married, and 36 were widowed. Out of 50 returns 3 only were in affluent circumstances, 28 were comfortable, and 19 poor; of these 9 were fat (8 being females), 20 were spare and 18 of average condition. Twenty-five were erect in figure and 25 were bent.

Out of 35 returns 28 used glasses, 7 did not; out of these 4 were poor, 5 had used glasses for 40 to 50 years, 5 for 30 to 35, 4 for 10 to 20, 2 for 4 to 6 years, 5 for "many years," 2 for a few years. From among these 1 had used spectacles for many years, but for the last 15 years had been able to read without them; another had not used them for 12 years, another "not for many years," but I can not now get them strong enough.

Natural Ink.
There is a plant in New Granada known as the "ink plant," the juice of which serves, without any preparation, as ink. The writing it assumes a deep black hue. Several sheets of manuscript written with this natural ink, became soiled with sea water on their journey to Europe, but when dried the writing was found to be still perfectly clear.

STATE NEWS.

NEBRASKA.

Grand Island raised \$400 for the Bradshaw sufferers in one day.

The B. & M. bridge at Ruby was partially consumed by fire Sunday afternoon.

Jonathan Edwards, residing near Weston, was struck by lightning and instantly killed.

A steady flow of emigrants for the Sioux reservation is passing through Niobrara daily.

It is reported that a brass band at Tilden was run out of town for playing "Annie Laurie."

A Culbertson woman makes a living by furnishing her neighbors with Boston baked beans.

Kearney is preparing to entertain the Michigan state press association some time in August.

An Omaha man with \$60 in his pocket was arrested Sunday for stealing a dog collar worth 25 cents.

Never in the history of southern and eastern Dawes county have the prospects for crops been so alluring.

Shepherd, the condemned murderer of Dodge county, will secure a stay of execution until December.

Fire destroyed a barn at Chadron belonging to Henry Stephens, together with all the contents. Loss, \$1,200.

The Chadron creamery is now turning out 300 pounds of butter daily, an increase of 100 pounds per day over that of last week.

According to the West Point Progress there are thieves in that vicinity mean enough to steal flowers off the graves in the cemetery.

Mrs. Annie Grimison, wife of Judge J. A. Grimison of Schuyler, passed a creditable examination Monday and was admitted to the bar.

At South Sioux City the Missouri river is higher than it has been since 1894. Oscar Tebbets of Sioux City was drowned while crossing in a boat.

Miss Millie Cannell, aged ninety-seven years and six months, died Sunday at Kearney. She was supposed to be the oldest person in the state.

The Niobrara brewery is doing a land office business in original packages with the Dakotas. Over one hundred and sixty kegs were shipped last week.

The North Nebraska conference camp meeting will open July 21 at the Christian park and assembly grounds north of Fremont and continue for ten days.

The residents of Harrison smoked out a mountain lion den and succeeded in killing the she beast and nine cubs. The sire was not at home and escaped death.

Tom Connelly, who recently shot a man at Crawford, was heard from at Valentine last week where he chewed off Charles Strickland's chin in a rough and tumble fight.

Ira J. Graham has commenced suit in the district court of Otoe county against the Missouri Pacific Railway company for \$5,000 damages sustained by a crushed hand.

The seventeen-year-old son of Chris Krenger, living between Fremont and Arlington, who was wounded Thursday by the accidental discharge of his gun, died Friday night.

A Shell Creek, Platte county, couple who were about to be married quarreled over the selection of the "best man" to "stand up" with them, and the wedding has been declared off.

The body of a woman was found Monday floating in the Missouri river opposite Brownville. The clothing was of an elegant texture and indicated that the woman had been a person of refinement.

Three weeks ago a boy about sixteen years old rode a horse into a livery barn at Ashland and said he wanted to leave it there while he went in search of work. Since that time nothing has been heard of the lad.

The sheriff of Custer county is hunting for Walter H. Henderson, a Middle Loup farmer. During a quarrel Henderson tried to trepan a neighbor named McGrath with a plow hammer. McGrath's condition is serious.

Miss Hyla M. Davis is the first lady to claim a bounty on a wolf scalp in Grant county. She appeared at Hyannis the other day with the scalp of a big gray wolf which she had killed and secured the reward.

Deputy Sheriff Goodall of Dawes county arrived at Chadron yesterday in charge of a desperado and thief named Binghem, who has a notorious reputation in northwest Nebraska. He was captured in the mountains of Montana.

A Custer county Yankee contemplates working a new deal to secure another slice of Uncle Sam's domain. It is to obtain a divorce from his wife and allow her to live upon the land and after she makes final proof they will be reunited.

The people of Holdrege were recently treated to the exciting spectacle of a harness thief pursued and caught by John Y. Francis, and, at the point of a revolver made to deliver up a saddle and set of harness.

The whisky trust has completed the work of wrecking the Nebraska City distillery and the machinery has been shipped away. The building will be refitted with machinery for the manufacture of alcohol as soon as possible.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

The New Orleans chamber of commerce has petitioned congress for an appropriation of \$500,000 for the establishment of a line of steamers between New Orleans and the west coast of Africa.

Ex-Congressman E. K. Valentine of Nebraska, was, on Tuesday, selected by the republican caucus for sergeant at arms of the senate, receiving 23 votes on the second ballot to 13 for his next highest competitor. A caucus nomination is equivalent to election.

The bureau of construction and engineering of the navy department have received bids for the new naval vessels. Secretary Tracy, it is understood, is under the impression that the figures submitted on the armored cruisers are excessive and a special report on this point will be made to him. It is not believed that the bureau will make any recommendations, but will simply submit comparative figures for the secretary's information and guidance.

Second Assistant Postmaster general Whitfield has received information that the criminal action instituted under section 803, postal laws and regulations, 1887, as provided in section 3354 revised statutes amended by act of August 11, 1870, against W. A. Stoddard, failing contractor, has resulted in his conviction, in the United States court at Portland, Me. This is the first case of record where a conviction has been secured in the case of a failing contractor.

House.
The title of the silver bill has been amended to read: "A bill directing the purchase of silver bullion and the issue of treasury notes thereon and for other purposes."

Mr. Dodge of Massachusetts offered a resolution, which was referred to the committee on foreign affairs, directing the secretary of the treasury to report to the house whether the Cunard steamship company refused to obey orders of United States officers and give return passage to emigrants landed Saturday in violation of the contract labor law.

The senate bill amending the internal revenue laws was passed. It relates to the method of battling beer.

The post office appropriation bill was passed without opposition.

On Wednesday Chairman Cannon, from the committee on appropriations submitted to the house the sundry civil appropriation bill. It recommends a total appropriation of \$27,820,000, being \$13,268,000 less than the regular and special estimates and \$2,029,000 in excess of the appropriation carried by the last bill. The report states that it is approximately \$2,000,000 in excess of the amount appropriated in the last sundry civil act, among which are: Eleventh census, \$175,000; artificial limbs for disabled soldiers, \$270,000; homes for disabled volunteer soldiers, \$600,000; and a state home for soldiers, \$100,000, and a large number of appropriations for public buildings.

Mr. Call offered a resolution requesting the president to institute negotiations with Spain for such modifications of the treaty with that government as will enable American cattle to be shipped from the United States to Cuba.

Mr. Cockrell addressed the senate in opposition to the senate silver bill.

Mr. Vest's bill entitled "to prohibit monopoly in the transportation of cattle to foreign countries," was taken up. No action was taken on the bill.

On Tuesday the house silver bill was reported to the finance committee.

Plumb's amendment to the senate silver bill providing that no funds available for the payment of the public debt (including such as are kept for the redemption of the United States notes) shall be retained in the treasury in excess of \$10,000,000, was considered. The amendment was amended by adding to it the words, "provided, that gold and silver coin and gold and silver certificates have been issued cannot be considered available for any purpose except the redemption of such certificates" and the bill went.

The committee on finance reported back favorably, with sundry amendments, the house silver bill, and gave notice that at the proper time it would offer it as a substitute for the senate bill.

The senate bill to prohibit a monopoly of the transportation of cattle to foreign countries was taken up and passed.

The senate bill to provide for the inspection of all live cattle and beef products intended for export to foreign countries was then taken up and passed. It requires the secretary of agriculture to cause to be made a careful inspection of all live cattle and beef products intended for shipment to foreign countries from the United States with a view to ascertain whether such cattle or beef products are free from disease, and for that purpose he may appoint inspectors who shall be authorized to give an official certificate clearly stating the condition in which some animals and beef products are found, and no clearance shall be given any vessel having on board cattle or beef products for exportation to a foreign country unless the owner or shipper of such cattle has a certificate from the inspector stating that said cattle or beef products are sound and free from disease.

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Correspondence Solicited.

A Ship Launch in Nebraska.
On the afternoon of June 10th the citizens of Beatrice gathered on their beautiful Chautauqua grounds to witness a sight unique in the history of the prairie states, the launching of a large oak-built steamer. After an oration, music and the reading of a poem, the vessel, gaily decorated with bunting, slid gracefully into the bosom of the lovely Blue River. As she left the shore she was christened by Miss Minnie McGee who broke a bottle of spring water (instead of the conventional wine) over her prow and named her Queen of the Blue. The Queen is over 70 feet long, 15 ft. beam, has two promenade decks and will seat 150 persons. She will be run as an excursion boat during the Chautauqua Assembly and will be one of the chief among the many attractions of that grand occasion.

Railroad Human Nature.
Now and then one finds a person who understands railroad human nature as exhibited by the gatemen in the depots. There orders are to pass no one in without a ticket, and it is the easiest thing in the world for them to wave back old age, youth, beauty, and anybody else who wants to pass in to meet a friend expected on that train. One of the surliest officials I ever saw has a gate in the L. & N. depot in Cincinnati, and I have seen him turn stiffly away from desperate men, weeping women, and howling children. To every protestation he had but one answer:

"Can't pass 'bout a ticket."

The other day, while I was watching him a little blue-eyed woman came gliding into the throng waiting at the gates. Of the two tenders she selected this one to operate on, although anyone could have seen that the other had the biggest heart. After several people had been turned away she slid forward in a graceful way and inquired:

"Beg pardon, sir, but am I speaking to the President of the road?"

"No-o, ma'am!" he stammered, thrown on his beam ends by the query.

"Ah! you look so much like him. Are you the superintendent?"

"No, ma'am—not exactly."

"Then you must be the manager?"

"Hardly, ma'am."

"Dear me! but how could the people be so mistaken?" she went on. "Half a dozen of them said you were one of the high officials, and I am so disappointed to find you are not. Perhaps, though, you have the general manager's powers when he is not here."

"What is it, ma'am?"

"My sister will be in on the 6:30, and I so want to go inside the gates and help her with the children. As you must have the authority of the manager in his absence, I make bold to—"

"Certainly, ma'am; walk right in," he interrupted.

"You are so kind."

"Don't mention it."

"But all leading railroad men are ever courteous," she said as a parting bit of taffy, and then she made a beeline down the depot.

"We turned to look at the gateman, and the change was surprising. He had braced up until his height was increased by four inches, his chest was thrown out, and he was standing as stiff as a crowbar while a man pounded him on the back and offered to lick the stuffing out of him if he would come off the perch. The little woman of all had found his weak spot.—N. Y. Sun.

The Life of a Shooting Star.
A small body, perhaps as large as a paving-stone or larger—more often, perhaps, not as large as a marble—is moving around the sun. Just as a mighty planet revolves in an ellipse, so this small object will move round and round in an ellipse, with the sun in the focus. There are at the present moment inconceivable myriads of such meteors moving in this manner. They are too small, and too distant for our telescopes, and we can never see them except under extraordinary circumstances. At the time we see the meteor it is usually moving with enormous velocity, so that it often traverses a distance of more than twenty miles in a second of time. Such a velocity is almost impossible near the earth's surface, the resistance of the air would prevent it. Aloft in the emptiness of space there is no air to resist the meteor. It may have been moving round and round the sun for thousands, perhaps for millions, of years without let or hindrance; but the supreme moment arrives, and the meteor perishes in a streak of splendor. In the course of its wanderings the body comes near the earth, and within a few hundred miles of the surface, of course, begins to encounter the surface of the atmosphere with which the earth is inclosed. To a body moving with the appalling velocity of a meteor a plunge into the atmosphere is usually fatal. Even though the upper layers of the air are excessively attenuated, yet they suddenly check the velocity, almost as a rifle bullet would be checked when fired into water. As the meteor rushes through the atmosphere the friction of the air warms its surface. Gradually it becomes red hot, then white hot, and is finally driven off into vapor with a brilliant light, while we on the earth, 100 or 200 miles below, exclaim: "Oh, look, there is a shooting star!"

New Fashions in Quakerdom.
It has been announced that the solid wooden shutters and heavy-paneled doors peculiar to Philadelphia are no longer fashionable in that city. New light has come to the inhabitants.

Great Industrial Meeting.
The Farmer's Alliance and the Knights of Labor, are to have a grand rally at the Beatrice Chautauqua on the afternoon of June 28.

At 1:30 the eloquent Harry Tracy, President of the Southern Farmer's Alliance will speak, followed during the afternoon and evening by Hon. John H. Powers, President of the Nebraska Farmer's Alliance, General G. D. Weaver so popular with the Knights of Labor, and that brusque and hearty old sea-dog Captain Trevelick. Among the thousand who will attend on the 28th there are doubtless a great many, who, if they knew the store of rich things provided on other days, would spend a longer time at the assembly. We advise everyone to send for a program to the Secretary of the Chautauqua, S. S. Green, at Beatrice, Neb. Rates will be reduced on all railroads.

THE OTHER FELLOW GOT THE DROP.

He was six feet two inches tall and weighed 250 pounds. His face was purple with rage, and his breath came in short and quick gasps. He walked into the office of a quiet little man on a certain street of this city, and, with a heavy cane uplifted, he commenced: "D-n you, I've got you now. My time has come, and I'm just going to wipe up your floor with you. You are a—gentleman, sir!" he stuttered as his eyes fell upon the self-cocking revolver held pointed at his heart by the quiet little man. "That's all I wanted to say, sir. Good morning, sir," and he rushed out of the door with the perspiration standing in beads upon his forehead. Turning to the Town Talker, the quiet little man said: "Don't say a word about this, but that man is going to meet with a sudden death some of these days," and he replaced the weapon in his pocket.—Louisville Commercial.

A Millionaire in a Pitiable Condition.

The men I pity most at New Year's time are the millionaires, says the *San Francisco Chronicle*. They balance their books and they find that they have not made anything like as much as they would like to have made, however much they have made. I don't know, because my business does not take me much into the haunts of the millionaires, but I judge 1889 has not been a good year for them. The other day a friend of mine went in to see a well-known real-estate owner of other people's real estate as well as his own. He found him seated at his desk with his bank-book before him, in a brown study. He looked pale, and haggard, and ill.

"What's the matter? You don't look well."

"Don't I? Do I look bad?"

"Yes; you look bad."

"Well, I guess you'd look bad, too, if you had \$5,000,000 lying idle in the bank, not drawing a cent of interest."

A Mouse's Perilous Trip.

The other day at Jackson, Mich., a dog chased a mouse, and the frightened animal ran up a telegraph pole, and then started out on a wire for the next pole, 160 feet distant. The wire swung gayly in the breeze, but the trembling traveler hung on and reached the next station in about an hour. He descended the pole, and when he reached the base he was so tired that he allowed himself to be picked up by a spectator.