

A young lady at a box party one night defined a chaperon as "one who got out of the way whenever there was a chap around."

The Washington newspapers announce that the capital is seething in all kinds of wickedness. Congress cannot be blamed for it this time.

Notwithstanding the evident desire of both parties to handle the liquor question carefully, the rush for drinks at the candidate's expense continues.

It may not be invariably true that fine feathers make fine birds, but in the case of the parrot they certainly do make a brilliant conversationalist.

Personal investigation has assured the agricultural editor of one of our New York city dailies that the story that watermelons grow on water lily stems is a canard.

An electrical type-setting machine has been invented in Italy by a Dominican friar, which is said to produce words in type faster than the linotype can make them in metal.

Mrs. Alva Vanderbilt, the divorced wife of Willie K., for years has not addressed a manial directly, but has employed certain persons to take from her the royal commands. To talk to a tradesman or to order anything out of a shop is too much for her nerves.

The Spanish authorities in Cuba continue to affirm that the insurrection is practically crushed, and at the same time to send vehement appeals to Madrid for more men and money. It is hopeless to expect anything like accurate details of military movements in Cuba, as neither party is scrupulous about telling the exact truth; but measured solely by the efforts which are made to suppress it, the insurrection clearly is a formidable affair.

The new portable Maxim gun, a small innocent-looking affair weighing but forty-five pounds, bids fair to revolutionize modern methods of war. Its muzzle can be moved out by the bearer in all directions, and it will fire 600 bullets a minute, sending them through forty inches of oak. It is estimated that an army of 10,000 men equipped with this death-dealing terror would be equal to an army of 1,000,000 men with the present weapons.

Lady Churchill's achievements in English politics first showed the energy of American women abroad. Now Miss Mary Leiter and Miss Jane Chamberlain, who were, are going to give an exhibition of their political fitness. Politics in Great Britain and the United States are entirely different. It is likely that the young wives could not be tempted to electioneer on the American plan, and at the same time the sort of feminine stumping done in the United States would not capture a vote in England.

Professor Wiley, the chemist of the Agricultural Department, has initiated a series of experiments to determine the relative fertility of typical soils of the United States. The ultimate object of the investigation appears to be to determine the nature of the fertilizers necessary to restore the fertility of any particular soil, and thus to save the farmers thousands of dollars annually spent for fertilizers which do not meet the necessities of the soil to which they are applied.

Two tons of pig-iron have been purchased by the Lancashire, Pa., authorities for the physical culture of tramps. Each convicted tourist will be compelled to take five hours' active exercise by carrying this iron from one end of the prison yard to the other under penalty of stoppage of rations. The method has nothing to commend it but its utter uselessness as a productive factor and its aggravation to the tramp. The infliction of misery without some compensating benefit is the most diabolical of reform measures.

We are threatened with a hotel building age. Architects and engineers say that never to their knowledge was there as much projected hotel and apartment house construction as now. What is the reason? It is this, that electric buttons, electric cookery, electric travel, and electric action of all kinds, concentrates advantages, and helps to multiply opportunities for association. The social side of life is being developed. People want to be more together instead of divided. Theaters, churches, clubs, associations, tours, travels, lectures, reading of papers, books, magazines, cable, telephones, and what not, are springing up right and left.

That was a grateful surprise which met the Iowa school teacher who was engaged to a nobleman. For her courageous devotion to him the young woman is rewarded by the discovery that he is no nobleman at all.

The new law in Michigan forbidding the organization of military companies composed entirely of members of one religious creed is a sensible one. Religion and arms should always be separate, though it would be pleasant if laws were not needed to keep them apart.

OVER THE STATE.

SAFE blowers have been operating at Creighton. The gates college at Neligh will be removed to Norfolk.

WAR is being waged in Nebraska City on unlicensed dogs. WM. DELAY, a pioneer of Seward county, died last week of paralysis.

THE corner stone of the Masonic temple at Red Cloud will be laid August 1st. E. D. STEWART of Fremont has been elected principal of the public schools of Red Cloud.

JIMMY CURRAN, a 9-year-old South Omaha boy, was run over and killed by the motor cars. THE Emerson creamery is doing a large business, about 9,000 pounds of milk being received daily.

J. G. CLAYTON and family left Fullerton the other day for the Rocky mountains in a prairie schooner. THE summer meeting of the state horticultural society will be held at Wymore, Neb., July 23, 24 and 25.

THE opera house in Pierce is rapidly nearing completion. The grand opening will be held about September 1. THE town dads of Scribner have just levied an occupation tax upon its business men to replenish the village exchequer.

THE barber shop at Pierce was entered by burglars and \$75 worth of supplies taken. But one razor was left in the shop. SEVERAL burglaries were committed at Elmwood. Among others who suffered was Mr. Mayfield, a publisher, who was touched for \$10.

THE Board of Public Lands and Buildings has notified Janitor Grinnell that owing to a lack of funds his services will have to be dispensed with. NEWS reached Butte that Fred Biege, living on the state line between Butte and Fairfax, fell into an old well and was drowned. He was 25 years old.

H. BALL, a farmer who resides in the southern part of Holt county, an inmate of the county jail, is charged with the crime of seducing his 14-year-old step daughter. A. T. NICHOLS, the ex-cashier of the People's State bank of Litchfield, was sentenced to a term of three years in the state penitentiary for receiving deposits after knowing the bank was insolvent.

ADOLPH STEINCAMP and Henry Gaebel, two German farmers living southeast of Louisville, quarreled, and the result was that Steincamp was shot in the back and left arm with a shotgun in the hands of Gaebel. OMAHA will turn night into day during state fair week. The plan contemplates the lighting of twenty-six blocks by lamps placed five feet apart on each side of the street and diagonally across and over the intersections.

E. O. WELLS, a prominent citizen, a member of the city council of Columbus and ex-confederate soldier, died last week of Bright's disease. Mr. Wells has been a resident of the state many years and was well and favorably known there. THE portrait of H. E. Palmer, department commander of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1884, has been received at the office of General Gage. It is the intention to have the portraits of all the ex-commanders in the state at this office eventually.

THE settlers on the reservation near Emerson who were evicted have all returned to their farms, but all are being "chased." The Flourney Land company lessees all have to go. ACCORDING to the assessors' reports there are 28,165 acres in wheat in Johnson county, 69,704 acres in corn, 15,377 in oats, 51,910 in meadow, 750 in barley, 956 in millet, 193 in rye, 2,125 in flax.

THE boot and shoe store of John F. Rowell at Hastings was closed by creditors. An eastern firm was pressing him for the payment of a bill and he gave eleven chattel mortgages aggregating about \$2,800. A HEMMINGFORD dispatch says that county Surveyor J. P. Hazard was severely if not fatally injured by his team running away. He was thrown from the wagon, breaking several ribs and otherwise injuring him.

A SPORTY individual walked into a drug store at Decatur and poured from a pitcher what he thought was water and drank a half a glass. It proved to be turpentine. A doctor was called and the chances are that he will recover. THE Farmers' Grain and Stock company's elevator at Prayne was burned. The insurance of the elevator was \$1,500, and on the grain \$1,000. The Kaspar Bros. Milling company had about 600 bushels of rye stored in the elevator on which there was no insurance.

HENRY TREMER lost his life in a shocking manner on the farm of J. D. Brezner near Egin. He was bringing in horses from the pasture. He was riding and had his feet through the stirrup straps, as the stirrups were too long for him. In some way he was thrown and his feet remained in the straps. He was found alive but died soon after discovery. THE Cattlemen's Protective association, which was organized at Alliance last fall for protection against the rustlers in the sand hills, has caused the arrest of Hank Matthews and a man by the name of Tracy. Sheriff J. W. Thompson arrested Matthews as he was boarding the west bound train. The cattlemen claim they have sufficient evidence to convict him.

FRED GILLARD, a widower about 40 years old and well known in the county, was arrested at Big Springs for outraging the person of Mary Foltz, 15-year-old girl. The girl was injured so badly that she is in a precarious condition. She has always been a good reputation. WE shall stand up for Nebraska this year, says the Ashland Breeze, by eating home grown potatoes at 25 cents a bushel. A TON of flour and barrel of rice was shipped to Southern Lincoln county for the benefit of a few families who hadn't enough to bread them till after the harvest. E. MERRILL, an inmate of the Soldiers' home, Grand Island, has invented a cultivator which has the prominent feature of enabling the rider to lift the plow without in any way affecting the tongue. This is said to be a new thing and the old soldier has applied for a patent.

Nearly a Million Dollars Short.

The State Board of Equalization has completed its labors with the exception of Boyd county. The assessed valuation of the state is, in round numbers, \$171,036,000, as against \$183,000,000 in 1894, a falling off of \$12,000,000. It is expected that the amount realized from state assessments this year will fall between \$600,000 and \$900,000 less than the legislative appropriation of last winter, which were a total of \$2,785,000. This deficiency will, therefore, be added to the outstanding floating indebtedness, which is now about \$800,000. The school fund levy is, maximum, 1 1/2 mills; minimum, one-half of 1 mill. It is claimed that this great shortage in state valuation arises from an apparent competition between taxpayers as to who shall make the smallest return to the assessor in proportion to the amount of property he owns. STATE Horticulturists to Meet. The State Horticultural society has accepted the invitation of J. M. Russell & Son of Wymore to hold a summer meeting with them July 23, 24 and 25. Wednesday the 24th has been designated as peach day for Nebraska and the society members and those interested in horticulture are to pass the day in the Russell orchards, with thousands of bushels of peaches in sight and hundreds of bushels of early ripening varieties to eat. Nebraska has long been known to raise the best apples, cherries and grapes in the west. It is not as well known that hardy varieties of peaches are also grown with commercial profit in the state. Passes to the State Fair. For several years the State Fair board has been wrestling with one feature of the pass question which has caused it no end of trouble and also, it is estimated, a loss of over \$10,000 per year in the matter of gate receipts. On account of the change of location of the fair this was considered a good year in which to make a reform and a radical change has been made in the form of the passes. During the last few years all of the state fair associations, with three or four exceptions, have discontinued the issuing of unlimited season passes and have adopted the coupon or punch system. So that Nebraska in adopting the coupon system this year is really somewhat behind the times. The plan of issuing two kinds of passes, a coupon pass and the old style, was discussed, but it was decided that it would cause trouble and therefore only one kind is used. It has attached to it five coupons, each one good for one admission to the grounds. The coupons are dated one for each day of the fair. Under this system the board of managers hopes to break up a "combination" which has been imposing upon it for several years. Paroled Convicts Disappear. Warden Leidigh is looking into the question of rewards for the return of paroled convicts who have taken French leave. At least ten of the twenty-five or thirty convicts out on parole are said to have fled the state and the warden fears every one will disappear in the same way. Information from the governor's office is to the effect that a majority of the missing men skipped out last summer before Warden Leidigh came into official existence, but no one was aware of it until Warden Leidigh began to devise some way to get them back to the state. The board of managers hopes to break up a "combination" which has been imposing upon it for several years.

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