

RURAL WRITINGS

Items from the country are solicited for this department. Mail or send them in as early in the week as possible; items received later than Wednesday can not be used at all and it is preferred that they be in not later than Tuesday. Always send your name with items, that we may know who they are from. Name of sender not for publication. See that your writing is legible, especially names and places, leaving plenty of space between the lines for correction. Be careful that what you tell about actually occurred.

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CHAMBERS

A farmers institute will be held in Chambers on the 23rd of May, for the purpose of giving and receiving information upon subjects of interest to the farmer. There has been many inquiries since the last one was held here as to when the next one would occur here, and many persons have expressed a desire that we might have another, and now this desire is to be gratified.—The Bugle.

STUART

Mrs. Louisa McMullen and her daughter Fanny returned last Friday to their home in Lebanon, Indiana, after visiting with the family of Mrs. Donaldson and with friends in Sybrant and Norwood.

Rev. Getty has been offered a pastorate at Sturgis, South Dakota, at a salary of \$1,100 a year. He has resigned his position as pastor of the Stuart Methodist church and will accept his new call the first of June.

Mrs. O. Donaldson and daughter have been keeping up their farm work without the aid of men workers. Mrs. Donaldson carries the mail to and from Norwood, besides working in the fields and making hay while the sun shines.—The Ledger.

EWING

E. S. Gilmour came down from O'Neill Sunday, on his return he was accompanied by Keno.

The high water in the Elkhorn has made a new channel east of town, and the result will be a much improved condition for the making and maintaining of a public road leading to Frenchtown.

The same teachers have been hired for the next term who taught in the Ewing High School during the present term, except the teacher in the primary room, Miss Florence VanZandt. A young lady from Stanton takes her place.

The building of cement walks and crossings goes merrily on, with D. C. McKay and Joe Sullivan and their

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My Hair is Scraggly

Do you like it? Then why be contented with it? Have to be P. Oh, no! Just put on Ayer's Hair Vigor and have long, thick hair; soft, even hair; beautiful hair, without a single gray line in it. Have a little pride. Keep young just as long as you can.

"I am fifty-seven years old, and until recently my hair was very gray. But in a few weeks Ayer's Hair Vigor restored the natural color to my hair so now there is not a gray hair to be seen."—J. W. HANSON, Boulder Creek, Cal.

Made by J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass. Also manufacturers of Sarsaparilla, Pills, Cherry Pectoral.

Ayer's

helps using their best endeavors to get all the walks made as soon as possible. A walk made to the park will be next in order.—The Advocate.

INMAN

The death of Mrs. John Harmon's brother-in-law in Bloomfield, Io., is the reason of the absence of herself and husband this week.

The Methodist church fair and auction realized a nice sum for helping towards relieving the church's indebtedness. It is surprising the G. A. R. and the name quilts an which so much time and labor had been put should only bring \$5 and \$6.75 respectively while a gingham apron sold for 50 cents. But then an apron is worn a hundred times while a quilt is once.

The care given by Frank Conrad and wife to Mr. Friend, a telegraph operator, who with his wife came from Rapid City, S. D., but was compelled to remain here until his pass arrived and was taken ill, speaks volumes for their kindness of heart, for to "a friend in need" they "were friends indeed."

The invalid's wife did all she could to make him comfortable. Mr. Friend is getting along nicely thanks also to Dr. Johnson, of whom a young lady said, "I'm almost of the opinion that it would be a pleasure to be ill and have Doctor Johnson in attendance."—The News.

ATKINSON

Mrs. Anton Tomsik has purchased the Dibble property, just west of the Atkinson Hardware Co. and will begin the improvement of the same at once.

Lee W. Henry, formerly a resident of this city and publisher of the Atkinson Plain-Dealer, is visiting Atkinson friends this week, he went out with A. W. Miller to the Eagle Wednesday.

Louis Miller returned from Dustin, Sunday, where he has been assisting in the store. Louis will stay at home during the summer and attend a pharmaceutical school next winter.

H. W. Phillips left for Hand county, South Dakota, Tuesday morning. He was accompanied by Chas. Steinbronn, J. J. Stilson, Wm. Bokhof and F. H. Swingley, who go to verify the glowing reports given out by Mr. Phillips of that country.

The \$120,000 that McGreevy turned over to Mike Harrington, before he left the country, will pay off all the depositors of the defunct Elkhorn Valley bank, settle the Holt county claim of about \$1690, leave Mike a good fat fee and take up some of notes held by the Trust Co., against the short grass country crowd and the great big hearted might possibly be induced to pay the costs that have been taxed up against Holt county in the McGreevy case.

County Attorney Mullen informs the county board, through the columns of last week's Independent, that their action in voting to lay on the table the resolution refusing to accept the two per cent bids of the banks for county money was a bar to any criminal prosecution under the law for illegal combination to secure said funds for use at that rate. This may be true, but what was Mr. Mullen doing all this time? Was he on a vacation or was he down in Missouri trying a large damage suit for some wealthy client? The records will show that he has drawn his salary for the past year. For what? To act as legal advisor to the county board and give them his opinion which from his statement he says they were badly in need of. This question has been talked about and published in the county papers since the first of the year, and as the legal representative of the board and county, it was his plain duty to protect the taxpayers' interests, at least make some attempt to do so and not come in after the damage is done, with a lengthy opinion saying how the other fellows were guilty, they at least can plead ignorance of the law, but what excuse has our talented county attorney?—The Graphic.

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FOSSIL CORKSCREWS

QUEER FREAKS OF NATURE THAT ABOUND IN NEBRASKA.

Gigantic Spirals of Mineral Fashioned So Mathematically as to Be Easily Mistaken at First Glance For Works of Art.

Nobody knows with certainty what the so-called "devil's corkscrews" really are. They are found by tens of thousands in Nebraska, most particularly in Sloux county, and some of them are as much as forty feet in height, without counting the gigantic "roots" presently to be described. Quartz is the substance of which they are made, but how they came to be imbedded, numbers of them together, in the sandstone cliffs of that region is more than anybody can tell, unless, perhaps, one theory, to be mentioned later, is to be accepted as correct.

You are traveling, let us say, on horseback through that part of the country, and, as often happens, you see, standing out from the face of a sandstone cliff, a gigantic spiral. If, as geologists have proved, the sandstone rock be chipped away a corkscrew shaped thing of quartz is exposed to view, fashioned so mathematically as to be easily mistaken at first glance for a work of art. The white spiral may be free, as a sculptor would say, or, in other cases, may be twined about a sort of axis, as a vine would run around a vertical pole.

Somebody awhile ago gave to these spirals the name "devil's corkscrews" for want of a better and as expressive of the mystery of their origin. Scientists discussed them in vain, and many theories were formed in regard to them. There were authorities who declared they were fossil burrows excavated in tertiary times by gophers of a huge and extinct species. And, to confirm this notion, the bones of some burrowing animal were actually found imbedded in the substance of one of the "screws." This seemed to settle the matter for awhile, until the controversy was started again by the discovery of the osseous remains, under like conditions, of a small deer. Nobody could assert that a deer was ever a burrowing animal, and so that notion had to be abandoned.

Other theorists declared that the "fossil twisters," as some folks called them, represented the prehistoric borings of gigantic worms that lived in the very long ago. Yet others suggested that they were petrified vines, though it was difficult to explain how or why the "poles" on which the alleged vines seemed in many cases to have been trained had been so admirably preserved, or, for that matter, originally erected.

In the midst of so many contradictory theories the problem seemed likely to defy solution indefinitely. The one that held out longest and gained most adherents was that of the extinct gophers. It accounted for the "root"—a shapeless appendage often nearly as big as the "twister" itself and attached to the lower end of the latter—which obviously, as it seemed, had been the nest of the rodent animal, the "corkscrew" representing the spiral hole by which it made its way to the surface of the ground. What could possibly be more easy to comprehend?

Professor E. H. Barbour, however, has declared—and his decision is accepted provisionally until somebody offers a better—that the corkscrews are of vegetable origin. They are, he asserts, the fossil remains of ancient water weeds of gigantic size, which grew millions of years ago on the bottom of a vast sheet of water that covered all of Nebraska. These must have been the biggest aquatic plants that ever existed, and when the huge lake that overflowed the region in question dried up the remains of many of the plants were left behind buried in the accumulated detritus at the bottom.

In the course of time—ages after the bottom of the ancient lake had been converted into solid rock—rivers plowed their way through the land, cutting this way and that and exposing to the view of the modern traveler on the faces of the cliffs the fossil casts of the prehistoric water weeds just as they stood when they grew hundreds of thousands and probably millions of years ago. Their tissues were replaced as they decayed by silica from the water, particle by particle, and thus, as if by magical means, their likenesses have been preserved for the wonder and admiration of the present survivors on the earth.

Such is the theory now pretty well accepted by scientists in regard to the origin of the "fossil corkscrews." Possibly it is not correct, but if otherwise there is room for the exercise of anybody's imagination in the consideration of this veritable romance of the ancient history of the world.—New York Herald.

Personal Beauty.

If either man or woman would realize the full power of personal beauty it must be by cherishing noble thoughts and hopes and purposes, by having something to do and something to live for that is worthy of humanity and which by expanding the capacities of the soul gives expansion and symmetry to the body which contains it.—Upham.

A Man of Action.

Hicks—There isn't a man in town who can keep the conversational ball rolling like our friend Gayrake. Wicks—Nonsense! He never says anything worth listening to. Hicks—No, but he does a lot of things worth talking about.—Philadelphia Ledger.

He who feels contempt for any living thing hath faculties that he hath never used, and thought with him is in his infancy.—Wordsworth.

Queer Little Blunders. From an account of the Doncaster (England) Art club's annual exhibition in the Doncaster Gazette: "Miss — also goes in for portraiture. In hitting off her father's head her intentions are good, but the execution lacks very much in artistic finish."

In the London Mall's description of a parade in honor of the king of the Hellenes the reporter said: "The soldiers, clad only in their scarlet tunics, presented an unpleasant contrast with the warmly clad members of the police force."

From the windows of a British tailor: "We have cleared a Scotch merchant's remains of high class overcoatings at a big reduction."

Not a Born Forger.

The indorsement of checks is a very simple thing, but, as the following story will show, it, too, has its difficulties:

A woman went into a bank where she had several times presented checks drawn to Mrs. Lucy B. Smith. This time the check was made to the order of Mrs. M. J. Smith—M. J. were her husband's initials. She explained this to the paying teller and asked what she should do.

"Oh, that is all right," he said. "Just indorse it as it is written there."

She took the check and, after much hesitation, said, "I don't think I can make an M like that."

Hair.

Animal hair differs in construction from that grown on a human head. In human hair the upper skin is smooth and thin. The circular section is comparatively broad, forming the main part of the hair shaft. It is striped in appearance and carries the color matter. The tubular part is thin, extending to about one-fifth and certainly not more than to one-quarter of the entire width of the hair. Animal hair also consists of three parts, but these are differently constructed, the tube often filling the entire hair.

Sciatica Cured After Twenty Years Of Torture.

For more than twenty years Mr. J. B. Massey, of 3322 Clinton St. Minneapolis, Minn., was tortured by sciatica. The pain and suffering which he endured during this time is beyond comprehension. Nothing gave him any permanent relief until he used Chamberlain's Pain Balm. One application of the liniment relieved the pain and made sleep and rest possible, and less than one bottle has effected a permanent cure. If troubled with sciatica or rheumatism why not try a 25-cent bottle of Pain Balm and see for yourself how quickly it relieves the pain. For sale by Pixley & Hanley.

Very Low Rates to Des Moines, Iowa, Via the North-Western Line. Excursion tickets will be sold on six dates, May 14, 15, 19, 17, 21, 23, limited to return until May 30, inclusive, on account of general Assembly, Presbyterian Church. Apply to agents Chicago & North-Western R'y.

Fortunate Missourians. "When I was a duggist, at Livonia, Mo.," writes T. J. Dwyer, now of Graysville, Mo., "three of my customers were permanently cured of consumption by Dr. King's New Discovery, and are well and strong today. One was trying to sell his property and move to Arizona, but after using New Discovery a short time he found it unnecessary to do so. I regard Dr. King's New Discovery as the most wonderful medicine in existence. Suresst Cough and Cold cure and Throat and Lung healer. Guaranteed by Pixley & Hanley, druggist 50c and \$1. Trial bottle free.

Very Low Rates to Annual Meeting German Baptist Brethren Springfield, Ill.

Via the North-Western Line. Excursion tickets will be sold May 31 to June 2, inclusive, with favorable return, limits. Apply to agents Chicago & North-Western R'y.

It Is Dangerous To Neglect a Cold. How often do we hear it remarked: "It's only a cold," and a few days later learn that the man is on his back with pneumonia. This is of such common occurrence that a cold, however slight, should not be disregarded. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy counteracts any tendency of a cold to result in pneumonia, and has gained its great popularity and extensive sale by its prompt cures of this most common ailment. It always cures and is pleasant to take. For sale by Pixley & Hanley.

Excursion Tickets to May Musical Festival, Sioux City, Iowa.

Via the North-Western Line, will be sold at reduced rates May 23 and 24, limited to return until May 25, inclusive. Apply to agents Chicago & North-Western R'y.

How to Ward off Old Age. The most successful way of warding off the approach of old age is to maintain a vigorous digestion. This can be done by eating only food suited to your age and occupation, and when any disorder of the stomach appears take a dose of Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets to correct it. If you have a weak stomach or are troubled with indigestion, you will find these Tablets to be just what you need. For sale by Pixley & Hanley.

Wanted: Gentleman or lady with good reference, to travel by rail or rig, for a firm of \$250,000 capital. Salary \$1,072 per year and expenses advanced. Address, with stamp, Jos. A. Alexander, O'Neill, Neb.

A Mountain of Gold could not bring as much happiness to Mrs. Lucia Wilke, of Caroline, Wis., as did one 25c box of Buklen's Arnica Salve, when it completely cured a running sore on her leg, which had tortured her 23 years. Greatest antiseptic healer of Piles, Wounds and Sores. 25cents at Pixley & Hanley's Drug Store.

CASTORIA

The Kind You Have Always Bought, and which has been in use for over 30 years, has borne the signature of and has been made under his personal supervision since its infancy. Allow no one to deceive you in this. All Counterfeits, Imitations and "Just-as-good" are but Experiments that trifle with and endanger the health of Infants and Children—Experience against Experiment.

What is CASTORIA

Castoria is a harmless substitute for Castor Oil, Paregoric, Drops and Soothing Syrups. It is Pleasant. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other Narcotic substance. Its age is its guarantee. It destroys Worms and allays Feverishness. It cures Diarrhoea and Wind Colic. It relieves Teething Troubles, cures Constipation and Flatulency. It assimilates the Food, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, giving healthy and natural sleep. The Children's Panacea—The Mother's Friend.

GENUINE CASTORIA ALWAYS

Bears the Signature of

Chas. H. Fletcher

The Kind You Have Always Bought

In Use For Over 30 Years.

THE CASTORIA COMPANY, 27 MURRAY STREET, NEW YORK CITY.

SMITH'S TEMPLE OF MUSIC Pianos and Organs

Stringed Instruments, Sheet Music, Music Book and Musical Merchandise

Pianos and Organs sold on easy payments. Personal attention given to tuning and care of instruments put out. Special attention given to supplying country localities with piano and organ teachers. Get my prices and terms.

G. W. SMITH

LOCKARD BUILDING

O'NEILL, NEB.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY

\$60

TO

Seattle, Everett, Portland and North Pacific Coast Points and Return.—Final Return Limit October 31—via the

Great Northern R'y.