

The Plattsmouth Weekly Herald.

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PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA, THURSDAY, JULY 5, 1888.

VOLUME XXIV, NUMBER 16

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CIVIC SOCIETIES.

CLASS LODGE No. 145, I. O. O. F.—Meets every Tuesday evening of each week. All transient brothers are respectfully invited to attend.

PLATTSMOUTH ENCAMPMENT No. 1, I. O. O. F.—Meets every alternate Friday in each month in the Masonic Hall. Visiting Brothers are invited to attend.

TRIO LODGE No. 81, A. O. U. W.—Meets every alternate Friday evening at the hall. Transient brothers are respectfully invited to attend. F. J. Moran, Master; Workman, E. S. Baring, Foreman; Frank J. Moran, Secretary; I. B. Brown, Guide; George Housworth, Recorder; H. J. Johnson, Financier; Wash. Smith, Receiver; M. Maybright, East M. W.; Jack Daugherty, Inside Guard.

CLASS CAMP No. 332, MODERN WOODMEN of America—Meets second and fourth Monday evening at K. of P. Hall. All transient brothers are requested to meet with us. L. A. Newcomer, Venerable Consul; G. F. Niles, Worthy Advisor; D. B. Smith, Ex-Hauler; W. C. Willets, Cleric.

PLATTSMOUTH LODGE No. 8, A. O. U. W.—Meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at their hall. All transient brothers are cordially invited to meet with us. Wm. Hays, Secretary.

NEBRASKA CHAPTER No. 3, R. A. M.—Meets second and fourth Tuesday of each month at Mason's Hall. Transient brothers are invited to meet with us. F. E. WHITE, H. P.

Wm. Hays, Secretary.

M. J. ZION COMMANDARY, NO. 5, K. T.—Meets first and third Wednesday nights of each month at Mason's Hall. Visiting Brothers are cordially invited to meet with us. Wm. Hays, Rec.; E. M. Miller, E. C.

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LIFE IN HOLLAND.

THE CURIOUS MATRIMONIAL CUSTOM OF "MARRIAGE BY PROXY."

The Wife's Legal Position—Wives and Daughters of the Lower Classes—The Railroad Watchwoman at Her Post. An Iron Social Rule.

A marriage by proxy, or, as it is called, "marriage by the glove," is prevalent in Holland, and is brought about by the fact that many of the eligible young men after having finished their education depart for Dutch India to engage in some lucrative commercial enterprise or to accept a position in this colonial service. The scarcity of marriageable white ladies in that climate induces the would-be husband to write to a friend in Holland, disclosing his wish for a wife.

The friend selects a willing young lady, generally one with a substantial dowry and otherwise conforming closely to specifications of the letter. A photograph of the favored one is inclosed in the return epistle. After the lapse of a few months, a soiled left hand glove, with a power of attorney, is received from the far away bachelor. The friend in Holland marries the selected bride in precisely the same manner as if he were the actual groom, and the young wife departs in the next Indian mail steamer to bring happiness to the lonely one in the far east. A marriage of this description is as binding as if the bridegroom were present, and is never repudiated. If either party to the glove marriage should die before meeting in India the survivor would share the property of deceased in accordance with the law.

THE WIFE'S LEGAL POSITION.

The laws in Holland in regard to the legal position of the wife are very much behind the age, and the husband can do about as he likes with the person and the property of his helpmate. The laws are silent as to the wife's claim on the husband, but lawyers have told me that this apparent void in the law book is caused by the inviolable devotion of the helpmate to his home and its inmates. Love for home, wife and children is nowhere more thoroughly illustrated than in the Netherlands, and cases of neglect to provide in every possible way are very rare in the land of dykes.

The wives and daughters of the lower classes try in every way imaginable to aid the husband and father in procuring a living. In summer you will observe hundreds of them on their knees in the public squares armed with a three inch spike wedding the grass blades from between the stones, for which they receive twelve cents a day. Others are engaged in wheeling sand into outlandish bound merchant ships, to be used as ballast. You will see a woman pushing a wheelbarrow, containing about 200 pounds of sand, up a broad gangway inclined at least 30 degrees, at a gain simply wonderful considering that the wheeler is of the weaker sex. You will often meet a small procession on the tow path of the river Amstel, consisting of mother and two or three children, haggard to the low line of the canal boat, miles. They hang, as it were, in the harness, and their swinging regular walk proves that a great part of their lives has been passed in this way. When the boat comes abreast you feel like using a rope's end on the father of the family, who, placidly smoking his pipe, sits in the stern steering the vessel, but your anger will cool when investigation shows that he took to the row path and allowed his wife the helm, all dangers for collision, etc., would have to be paid by him.

THE RAILROAD WATCHWOMAN.

You cross a railroad track and casting a glance along the iron path, a woman, dressed in red tunic and glistening helmet, waving a white signal flag, catches your eye. She is the watchwoman at the crossing. At every railroad in Holland this position is filled by a woman, and railroad officials have assured me that no accident has ever been caused by watchwoman's carelessness. They receive twenty guildens (\$8) per month. A man would require double that salary and might get intoxicated once in awhile. Distinctions in privileges between married and single women are so thoroughly established here by social custom as to be observed in the every day associations of the sexes. A native will readily discover whether the couple walking on the street in front of him are married or not, this discovery being made easy by the strict adherence of the populace to the ancient custom compulsorily introduced into the country when under the iron rule of "Alva the Bloody." An unmarried woman always takes the right arm of her escort, while the married one selects the left side of her husband. So deeply has this custom entered into the life of Hollanders that at a church wedding the bride enters the edifice on the right side of the groom, the wife returning on the left side of her husband when the ceremony has been performed. No unmarried lady can dream of going to church, concert or any place of public assembly without the escort of parents or male members of her family. She cannot take a walk, pay a visit or go shopping unaccompanied by her mother or other chaperon. Until the betrothal of the young lady has been announced, she remains the sole charge of father and mother, and she makes acquaintances only in the presence of a third party.

Unmarried daughters in that country are chaperoned to all places of amusement. Even dancing parties are interspersed with singing, recitations, etc., for the amusement of the elders of the family, who sit around the tables, sipping their coffee, wine or other favorite beverage, while the young people dance. Here the young must make the best of their opportunities, for when it pleases the parents to go home the daughters also quit the gayeties of the ballroom.—Amsterdam Cor. New York Tribune.

A Court Dress in England.

The one article of court dress alone calls for the exercise of all one's intellectual powers. Like Mrs. Todgers' wife, it calls for anxiety and a sense of responsibility that threatens one with prostration. No man, save a play actor or a circus rider, or an ocean sailor known as a naval officer, or an army revolver, known as such at Washington because of his powers as a round dancer, has the remotest conception of what a court dress is to the constitution.

To a free born American, born through many generations of common clothing that is designed to be as comfortable and as

as possible, the change to a court dress is appalling. He suddenly finds himself tramped up like a stuffed turkey. His front elevation leaves one in doubt as to the sex of the wearer—while that of the rear suggests a bumpy tailed rooster. This, with bombs braided on his coat tails and gold grape vines worked up his back—while his patrician cold and heartless world in thin knit drawers. To all this a small sword is added that embarrasses locomotion and threatens unexpected tumbles by a propensity it has, from the total depravity of inanimate things, to get between the legs.—Down Platt in Bel-Tard's Magazine.

Sounding Public Opinion.

A minor actress employed in a current comic opera took unusual and effective means of finding out what was said about her. A considerable element in the audiences at that kind of an entertainment is made up of rather fast young fellows, who go in often once a week to see the same thing over again, if they happen to like them. These cheap loungers in the cafes between Twenty-third and Thirty-third streets, and a great deal of their idle chatter is on theatrical subjects, especially on actresses who happen at the time to be foremost in professional beauties.

Now, the young performer in question had read a great deal of the questions in the newspaper criticisms, and had resolved that she was just tolerably acceptable as an actress and singer, but she was anxious to find out how the swell comedians rated her. Therefore she went to a firm of law reporters and hired a shorthand expert for an entire week. His duty was to mix as much as possible with the frequenters of the fashionable bar rooms, listen to the remarks that they might chance to make concerning her, and to write them out verbatim, and to turn the work over to her at the end of the job. The man's report made a considerable lunch of foolscap closely written over, and composed of dialogues in which the actress was discussed. No doubt that in reading it she had plenty of reason to resent the freedom of speech, but, as she is considered a slightly object, she doubtless found comfort to overbalance her modesty's grievance.—New York Sun.

A Cradle of Palm Leaves.

There is a tribe in the palm region of the Amazon that cradles the young in palm leaves. A single leaf turned up around the edges by some primitive process makes an excellent cradle, and now that it is made to do service as a bath tub. Stripes coral are formed from the sinews of another species of palm, and by these this natural cradle is swung alongside a tree, and the wind rocks the little tot to sleep. Long ago the Amazonian mothers discovered that it was not wise to leave baby and cradle under a cocoa palm, the mischievous monkey delighted to drop nuts downward, with unerring precision. An older child is stationed near by to watch the baby during his siesta, and the chatter of the monkeys overhead is enough to cause a speedy migration.—Drake's Magazine.

The Armies of the Future.

At a meeting of the members of the Royal United Service Institution held recently a paper was read by Col. H. M. Hozier on the equipment and transport of modern armies.

Col. Hozier called attention to the present attitude of foreign nations, with large bodies of cavalry watching each other on each side of frontier lines. In any future war he believed that there would be an increased number of engagements between cavalry, and that by their means much damage would be done at an early period of any war to roads and railroads; but these cavalry engagements would never be decisive of the war, and victory would depend upon which side would be able to bring up infantry with the greatest rapidity. This involved railway transportation. There were now everywhere in foreign lands fortresses commanding the lines of railways, and at the first opening of war upon the continent no doubt a dash would be made at these fortresses to prevent them being victualled for any lengthened period. They must be prepared to strike quick blows, and within a short time of the outbreak of hostilities. They must reduce the weight to be carried by every soldier and by every horse; they ought not to handle the soldiers by making them carry enormous weights. Next, they must have a very efficient railway corps, able to repair railways in advancing, and to break them down when they were not wanted. Thirdly, they must do without camp equipment and tents, because they would not be able to carry them in the future.

The face of the country everywhere in Europe had changed in the seventy-five years which had elapsed since the last great war; and there was no longer the necessity for such measures to encamp the fighting men as formerly were absolutely necessary. He advocated the soldiers wearing a gray dress in time of war. The kit must be reduced in weight to about thirty-eight pounds, instead of fifty-two pounds, which it was at present. Men should carry not more than thirty rounds of ammunition at a time. Thirty had been shown to taking infantry into action on horseback, but then one man out of every four would be required to hold the horses and he recommended the substitution of Irish curs—each car drawn by four horses, and carrying fifteen armed men. With regard to the arms carried by a cavalry soldier, he recommended that a triangular sword be substituted for the present form, because in fighting a man always did more damage by thrusting than by cutting, and that a pistol should be substituted for a carbine. The revolver, he thought, was not a useful weapon for a soldier to carry. The weight which the horse ought to carry should be lightened as far as possible.—London Standard.

Miners' Calves in Alaska.

Miners find no difficulty in keeping their calves warm and comfortable by making use of Russian ovens, which are very simple in build, as they are made of stone, in the shape of a large box stove, from three to four feet long inside, from eighteen to twenty inches wide, and the same in depth, with an iron plate on top to cook on. The chimney is built of the same material. Miners who winter here last winter and the previous winter went out every day to cut their regular firewood, and so far no severe cases of frozen limbs have occurred. Indians travel and live in brush houses all winter. They subsist chiefly on dried moose, caribou meat and fish.—Juneau Free Press.

A modern Washington 2,000 pounds of soap.

GENTLEMEN EMIGRANTS.

WHY MANY YOUNG BRITONS GO TO AMERICA.

An English View of the Matter—Why British Youngsters Take Kindly to the Farm—From a Social Standpoint—The Outcome.

It must be borne in mind that the young American and Canadian of the more educated class thoroughly despise farming, and the sentiment is echoed among those sons of the soil who are, or think they are, too "smart" to plow and sow. Land there has no prestige, no attraction of the kind it has in this country. This feeling against farming is partly genuine ambition and partly mere vulgar snobishness, and the provincial press is continually noting and deploring its existence. The rural "back" beyond the Atlantic would far sooner sell ribbons or saucers across the counter than work upon his father's farm or even upon a good one of his own. Store keeping, except in some parts of the south, is in the eyes of society in a country town, a higher pursuit, a less vulgar, a more refined occupation than cultivating the broadest of acres. This is not considering the conditions of transatlantic life, wholly unnatural, and in some sort a reaction from the rough pioneering life of preceding generations.

The stout limbed young Briton, however, starts upon traditions exactly the reverse. He has as much contempt for towns, for high stools and shopkeeping as his American friends have for farming, and entirely with the latter that a position behind the counter of an ironmonger or bootmaker's shop is a haven of bliss. It would be quite superfluous to discuss the comparative merits of these opposing points of view. And this for the excellent reason that, even supposing the young English emigrant were less stiff necked in the matter, the great rush of competent natives for inferior urban situations already exceeds the demand.

TO LABOR ON THE LAND.

It is not at all surprising that Americans and Canadians are continually asking us why we bring up young men in luxury, educate them expensively, and then send them across the Atlantic to labor on the land—an occupation which may be carried on as well and even better by comparatively uneducated men. The question is natural enough to people who, in the first place, do not look at life with quite the same eyes that we use, and in the second, have little idea of the interior social economy of this country, and the hopeless competition that exists. If America had vacant desks to offer to the sons of our upper and upper middle class, no doubt these would be sought with eagerness. But even the tolerably influential American Canadian knows well that, if he had the desperate interest in securing the humble posts of this kind for half a dozen English lads from Rugby or Halesbury, he would be at his wits' end to accomplish the task.

Nor again could the American by any possibility realize the singular aversion to physical toil that by a strange law animates such a large proportion of our educational youth. The cry of "What shall we do with our boys?" is, as we have said, as rare as ever among the parents of the upper and middle classes, who for years have been bringing into the world far more children than they could reasonably expect to float in their own class in life. Nor is it any good pushing downward in this country, for there the well bred seeker for work meets not only an army of small clerks loafing and jostling one another to a living, but in addition to them the inevitable ubiquitous Teuton. Poor as are the prospects of the gentleman's son without brains, money or interest, a high stool in such a sphere, even if it could be won, what is it? Fifty pounds a year, the disadvantages without the advantages of a great city, a constant struggle to keep the map on the coat and the top on the cupboard, inferior companions, bad air, bad tobacco and music halls.

THE FINAL OUTCOME.

English people who look upon the cleaning out of pig sties as a horrible degradation, but riding on a moving machine a performance not unworthy of a gentleman, would be regarded by an American farmer as showing signs of softening of the brain. The perfect republicanism of the farming community beyond the Atlantic, which so often irritates the English gentleman emigrant of capital who becomes proprietor, stands in good stead those who have to work for others. The latter, at any rate, have no material anxieties. They may go, within certain limits, almost where they choose, and making certain of food and lodging and sufficient wages. If their lot is cast among a class socially lower than that in which they were born, it is proportionately kinder hearted and less likely to leave them in the lurch in case of unforeseen misfortune. If the physical work is hard, there is a large proportion of English youth to whom physical toil is infinitely preferable to mental labor and deprivation from fresh air. Sometimes this is only fancy and a youthful excess to be rid of books, but often it is perfectly genuine and will stand the test of years.

Social sentiment is deeply adverse to such a line of life, but, after all, what a trifling thing is this when placed upon the scales with bread and butter and an average degree of happiness. If there are more gentlemen to use an ambiguous phrase, brought into the world than can be maintained in a soft handed and black coated state, demand and supply must assert themselves. For the youth who has no intellectual hankering and whose chief delight is in his physical powers, one can imagine many a physical fact that he should be absorbed into that immense and industrious class who till the soil of the American continent. He will be none the worse for his gentle rearing if he have tact and sense. Even if he lose his superficial graces and become almost unrecognizable in the course of years from the ordinary working farmer of the country or the adoption of hard life. Is there any special happiness in this life, or extra chance of it in the next, in possessing certain tricks of manner and speech that indicate neither virtue, industry, honesty or even education in its comforting sense? For what do young men of this kind, whose education has been to them simply a bore, and its result a hatred of books, lose by such a life if they are otherwise happy, healthy and industrious—Mac-

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A SONG.

There is ever a song somewhere, my dear,
There is ever a something sings away;
There's the song of the lark when the skies are clear,
And the song of the thrush when the skies are gray.
The sunshine showers across the grain,
And the bluebird thrills in the orchard tree;
And in and out, when the eaves drip rain,
The swallows are twittering ceaselessly.

There is ever a song somewhere, my dear,
In the midnight black, or the mid-day blue;
The robin pipes when the sun is here,
And the cricket chirrups the whole night through.
The buds may blow, and the fruits may grow,
And the autumn leaves drop crisp and sweet;
But whether the sun, or the rain, or the snow,
There is ever a song somewhere, my dear.
—James Whitcomb Riley.

Woman Can Be Ingenious.

Who was it said that no woman ever invented anything? It was untrue, anyhow. A woman can be ingenious when it seems to her worth while. A device for increasing the business of a barroom is a bright silver dollar glued fast to the floor in front of the bar. A man comes in to order a drink, discovers the coin, desires to pick it up and pocket it without being seen, and to that end gives to the bartender a bill in payment for his beverage, so that he may have time, when that person turns his back to make change to pick up the dollar from the floor. But the bartender manages to shorten the opportunity so much that the man cannot stoop quick enough to touch the prize. So he orders another drink and tries again. Perhaps he spends three or four times as much as he intended to before he is able to touch the dollar, and to find out that he cannot detach it from the board. Then he either smokes out quietly or laughs over the trick, and in either case the extra patronage has been gained for the saloon, while the dollar remains safe for further service. But what else? That a woman would did when her husband told of the trick? She provided herself with a sharp edged tack puller, and made a round of all the groggeries in her neighborhood where the dollar does was being worked. She bought one glass of beer in each place, neatly paid up the glass while the bartender was making change, and went on to repeat it.—New York Sun.

Some Other Kind.

He had 'em stretched across the car for everybody to stumble over, and after surveying them for a minute a little girl turned to her ma and said:
"Is that the kind we had for dinner yesterday?"
"What, dear?"
"Why, pickled pigs' feet."
He blushed and drew 'em up.—Detroit Free Press.

Ambitious and Enterprising.

The southern California resorts are ambitious and enterprising. After establishing a reputation as winter resorts, they now enter the field as summer resorts.

The Petit Journal recently appealed to Bismarck to restore Alsace and Lorraine to France, to kiss and make up, and then both gave a go at England.

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