

The Plattsmouth Daily Herald.

SECOND YEAR

PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA, THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 9, 1889.

NUMBER 20 / 1

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CIVIC SOCIETIES.

CLASS LODGE No. 146, L. O. O. F.—Meets every Tuesday evening of each week. All transient brothers are respectfully invited to attend.

PLATTSMOUTH ENCAMPMENT No. 3, I. O. O. F.—Meets every alternate Friday in each month in the Masonic Hall. Visiting brothers are invited to attend.

CLASS CAMP No. 32, 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 Adviser; S. C. Wilde, Banker; W. A. Boeck, Clerk.

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

PLATTSMOUTH LODGE No. 6, F. & A. M.—Meets on the first and third Mondays of each month at their hall. All transient brothers are cordially invited to meet with us. J. G. RICHY, W. M. Wm. Hats, Secretary.

PLATTSMOUTH LODGE No. 8, A. O. U. W.—Meets every alternate Friday evening at Rockwood hall at 8 o'clock. All transient brothers are respectfully invited to attend. L. S. Larson, M. W.; F. Boyd, Foreman; S. C. Wilde, Recorder; Leonard Anderson, Overseer.

VALUE OF OLD MASTERS.

FIGURES OF INTEREST TO THOSE WHO LOVE FINE PICTURES.

Americans Not So Easily Humbled as They Once Were—The High and Low Water Marks of Famous Painters—Murrillo's Range from \$18 to \$125,000.

The value of pictures has been very considerably disturbed by the revelations recently made. It has thrown suspicion upon the method of sale by auction, which has heretofore been so popular, and suggests the possibility that more than one of the great picture sales of recent years have been in a measure "cooked" affairs, in which prices have been made to rise to a height by no means in accord with the actual state of the market.

Americans have not shown quite the same taste for "old masters" as have the people of other countries. Once they revered them on account of their age and gave high prices for their pictures. But they were innocent then, and when they awoke to the fact that most of the old masters which they owned were bogus, they made haste to rid themselves of the same.

Since then Americans have had little to do with this class of pictures. Now, however, they are beginning again to buy them.

BIG AND LITTLE GEMS.

Following are some extreme and some average prices of the pictures of men whose names are mentioned:

Jan Van Eyck—An adoration of the magi in the Northwick sale in 1859 fetched \$2,100. Van Eyck's works are scarce and much sought after. The picture mentioned must have been an excellent example, for another picture of the same subject was sold in Cologne in 1832 for a little more than \$500. Only the best of his pictures have sold for more than \$200 or \$300.

Guercino—His finest works in the Louvre are valued at \$4,000, \$5,000 and \$6,000, the "Martyr of St. Peter at Modena" being considered worth \$9,000. Nearly every gallery in Europe has some specimen of his work. During the last century the highest price obtained at auction has been \$2,400. Small heads and less significant works have sold as low as \$10. A few single figure paintings have been sold at from \$50 to \$250.

Hans Holbein—His works are abundantly represented in foreign galleries. Though one of the greatest German painters his pictures have never brought large prices at public sale. A portrait of a lady was sold in 1859 for about \$2,000; other portraits in recent years have rarely exceeded \$200.

Guido Reni—His "Rape of Helen" in the Louvre has been assessed at \$9,000. His works are in all the European galleries. They have seldom sold for more than \$2,000. A "St. John" was sold in 1833 for \$3,400.

David Teniers—More of his pictures than those of any other painter have been sold publicly. He is extensively copied and imitated, but of a list of about 350 different sales of his pictures the highest price ever brought for any one was \$5,000 paid in the Van Sassegen sale, in 1853, for a painting called "The Five Senses."

MURILLO AND RUBENS.

Murrillo—The greatest of the Spanish school in point of value. There are nine of his pictures in the Louvre. The most celebrated of these is the "Immaculate Conception," for which the French government paid \$125,000. This is far in excess of all the others, which are rated as worth every where from \$1,500 to \$13,000, at which figure the "Holy Family" has been appraised. His pictures figure in all the principal museums of Europe, and have often sold at auction at very high prices. There were no less than fourteen of his pictures in the famous

MANNERS OF AMERICANS.

The real test of the manners and morals of a nation is not by comparison with other nations, but with itself. It must be judged by the historical, not by the topographical standard. Does it develop and how? Manners, like morals, are an affair of evolution, and must often be a native product, a wholly indigenous thing. This is the case, for instance, with the habitual American courtesy to women in traveling—a thing unparalleled in any European country, and of which, even in this country, Howells finds his best type in the Californian. What takes the place of it among the Latin races is the courtesy of the high bred gentleman toward the lady who is his social equal—which is a wholly different thing. A similar point of evolution in this country is the decorum of a public assembly. It is known that at the early town meetings in New England men sat with their hats on, as in England. Unconsciously, by a simple evolution of good manners, the habit has been outgrown in America, but parliament still retains it.

Many good results may have followed imperceptibly from this same tendency to decorum. Thus Mr. Bryce points out that the forcible interruption of a public meeting by the opposite party, although very common in England, is very rare in America. In general, with us, usages are more flexible, more adaptive; in public meetings, for instance, we get rid of a great many things that are unutterably tedious, as the English practice of moving, seconding and debating the prescribed vote of thanks to the presiding officer at the end of the most insignificant gathering. It is very likely that even our incessant self criticism contributes toward this gradual amelioration of habits. In that case the wonder is that our English cousins, who criticize themselves quite as incessantly, move so slowly.—Harper's Bazar.

A Large Pendulum.

The longest pendulum on this continent swings in the technological school at Atlanta. It is a heavy pear shaped piece of iron attached to a brass wire forty-two feet long. The upper end of the wire is pivoted in a steel plate so as to cause the least possible friction. The swinging of the pendulum gradually describes a circle on the floor in a direction following the sun, showing in this that "the earth do move."

Directly under the pendulum is a large circle divided into twenty-four parts, of fifteen degrees each, to correspond with the hours of the day. The north pole is placed directly under the pendulum and the meridians of longitude meet there. The parallels of latitude make smaller circles inside the first.

Dr. J. S. Hopkins, president of the school, who made and put up the pendulum, performs the experiment as follows: The iron is brought to the edge of the circle in the meridian of Atlanta and let swing across. Apparently it goes straight across, but gradually it traverses the circle in the direction taken by the sun and opposite to the revolution of the earth. The pendulum not being directly over the axis of the earth, does not move in exactly the same time as the sun, but falls behind some hours a day. It is said that if it were at the north pole, where it would be immediately over the axis, it would traverse the circle in exactly twenty-four hours, and at the equator it would not traverse it at all, for gravity would operate to prevent.—Atlanta (Ga.) Cor. Philadelphia Times.

A Good Old Irish Maxim.

When George IV complimented Lord Eldon, after a Christmas dinner at the Pavilion, on the strength of his head, the chancellor quoted, amidst the general applause of an appreciative company, the famous old Irish maxim: "Keep your back from the fire and don't mix your liquors," which had been communicated to him by Mr. Dundas, who received it from the jovial Duke of Rutland.—London Truth

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