

The U. S. Land Office has been lately opened at Grand Island. This is in pursuance of the arrangements made near one year since.

From the *Chieftain* we learn that the Commissioners of Johnson county will soon purchase a half section of school land for a County Poor Farm.

The Nebraska City *Chronicle* says Bishop Clarkson has ordained three native Indians, in the northwest corner of Nebraska, to the Ministry of the Episcopal Church.

The citizens of Nebraska City gave a banquet reception to the Hon. S. F. Noyes, Congressman elect from Wyoming Territory, on last Tuesday evening as he passed through that city on his way to Washington.

We see by the *Press* that the order for special election in Otoe county to vote aid to the Nebraska City, Southwestern Railroad Company and the Trunk Company have been rescinded. They have doubtless given up building "this back door fence," and "have more than half accomplished the object for which the election was ordered."

The Railroad from St. Joseph to Savannah, in Missouri, has been lately extended up to Marysville, in Nodaway county. The people of Nodaway county voted yesterday on the proposition of subscribing on the part of the county the sum of \$300,000 to the Q. M. & P. Railroad. We are not apprised of the result, but presume from what we have heard that it was favorable.

The Baptist Church at Highland will be dedicated on Christmas afternoon. The Mt. Zion Baptist Church, near the Rev. Mr. Moor's three, miles west of Brownville, will be dedicated on Christmas night, and the First Baptist Church in Brownville will be dedicated on Sunday the 29th inst.

The Rev. Dr. G. J. Johnson, of St. Louis, will preach the dedicatory sermon at each of these places at the times specified. The Church extend a cordial invitation to all who can attend these services.

Otoe county votes on the 4th of January, 1870, on four propositions, to wit: To issue \$5,000 ten year ten per cent. coupon bonds for bridge purposes. To issue \$150,000 twenty year eight per cent. coupon bonds to aid in building the Southwestern Railroad. To issue \$150,000 twenty year eight per cent. coupon bonds to aid in building the St. Louis and Nebraska Trunk Railroad. 4th. To authorize the County Commissioners to levy a tax of one per cent. annually to pay the principal and interest of these bonds at maturity.

The elections in Texas and Mississippi have resulted in favor of the Republican ticket. Their legislatures being largely Republican, will without doubt, ratify the 15th Amendment, rendering it less necessary for an extra session in Nebraska for this purpose. Reconstruction throughout the entire South will be completed early in the year 1870, when the Union will again flow on entire in all its parts. Let us hope never to be again disturbed by any "secessionist" from the most obscure quarter.

The great benevolence, "for or against universal freedom" has been destroyed, and with it we hope may be buried the bad passions it engendered. The nation is soon to be united under the ablest administration the country has ever enjoyed. We have bright hopes of the future. Let us have peace.

If the vote in Brownville precinct shall authorize the issuing of \$100,000 worth of bonds, they are to be handed over to the B. Ft. K. & P. R. R. Company, without conditions. The company is not yet organized, nor will it be until these bonds are issued. We are assured, however, that its officers will be competent men; and we shall ask that such stipulations shall be made on the part of the county as shall secure the faithful expenditure of this money by the company, in grading a line straight through the precinct, running west from Brownville. There is but little doubt but that the road from Quincy, in Illinois, to Brownville, will, during next summer, be put under contract, so far as grading is concerned. Let us, then, at the same time, grade as much as is possible west of this point.

If Douglas and Washington precincts will come forward with \$40,000 for the first, and \$60,000 for the second, a good road bed can be made through the county next summer. In the following spring it can be bridged, tied and ironed, by which time the road to Brownville from Quincy will be in operation.

We say this can be done; but will it? The answer to this depends entirely upon the earnestness and unanimity with which our people go to work. Towns where such work is now going on, are prospering beyond all precedent. Plattsmouth and Nebraska City were never so vigorously growing as now, and neither have as yet any better rail road facilities than formerly. The work is only progressing. The farmers, the mechanics, and the laborers, all feel the good effects resulting from the work on roads running from those two towns; and feel it now; are more prosperous now than one year ago; are more ready now than then, to vote aid to other roads running near them, because more firmly convinced that it pays. We are more firmly convinced now than ever, that Nebraska county has lost one entire year. Shall we add yet another? As time wears on, we will more clearly determine what we may expect. Every day, week, and month, that passes without determined action, throws the chances against us. Let the good work begin now, and move rapidly on to completion.

We have read the proposition submitted by the City of Brownville to its voters for adoption or rejection, very carefully. Stripped of its verbiage it is simply this: Shall the city of Brownville issue \$50,000 in bonds to build a railroad from opposite Brownville, on the bank of the Missouri river, to the St. Jo. & C. B. Railroad? If so, then the city is to appoint three trustees, conferring upon them the usual powers of railroad directors, to take the bonds, negotiate them, receive the proceeds, and build the road. The Quincy company is called upon to consent to this by the first day of March. If they don't, then some other company on the face of the globe is called upon to consent to it, without delay. If none does, then the three men get no bonds, and build no road. This muddle may suit the *Democrat*, but we confess that it don't. We believe in the Q. M. & P. Company; believe they will do, if not actually repulsed and driven off the field by our stupidity, just what they say they will do. We think a large majority of the property holders of this town are of the same opinion. We preferred to generously offer that company a proposition which they would undoubtedly accept. Instead of this we are making a proposition around which clusters in the mind of every exact business man, innumerable obstacles. The one great difficulty in our management of public affairs, is that they are controlled too much by men who have demonstrated but little talent in managing their own affairs. The clear headed, closely exact, solid men of the city, are too much engaged in personal matters to give public affairs that attention which their importance demands; and so they are left to those who have little else to do, and consequently are bunglingly done. Our sympathies are strongly enlisted in favor of the accomplishment of the object sought to be obtained by the proposition submitted, and shall vote for it now, hoping that what we desire may be brought about, and that the alternative which the proposition holds out may be avoided.

The proposition submitted to the voters of Brownville precinct by the County Commissioners, is published this week for the benefit of our readers. It occupies in our paper but little more than half the space devoted to it by the *Democrat*. This is the case in nearly all the matter to be found in the two papers. We publish no issue of our paper but what contains more reading matter than the *Democrat* of the same week, and nearly twice the amount of advertising matter.

Some enterprising ladies of this place have taken it in hand to get up a festival or entertainment for the Brownville Cornet Band, to be held in McPherson Hall on the evening of December 23rd. This is a laudible undertaking, and highly creditable to those who have it in charge. A rousing benefit is due the "Band Boys," too, who have spent much time and money in bringing themselves to the standard of perfection at which they have arrived. No occasion presents itself, where the services of the Band are needed, and would add to the interest and pleasure, but what they are on hand, "pay or no pay." They have the reputation, and justly, too, of being the best band in the State; and as they have so often "made music" for the good people of Brownville, it is to be hoped that on the occasion mentioned the citizens of the place will be on hand, and with their characteristic liberality, give them such a benefit as will prove "creditable and just" to all, both Band and people. The Band is now composed of the following worthy and permanent residents of the town: Smith, Welch, Shellenberger, Hart, McNaughton, Hacker, Bryant, McCall, Colhapp, Henderson and Shiraz.

A special election in Dodge county, held to authorize the county of Dodge to issue its Bonds to aid the Fremont, Elkhorn Valley & Missouri Valley Railroad resulted favorably. The majority being 312 votes. The U. P. Railroad runs through the county of Dodge, and the advantages thus derived by the farmers of that county have induced them to issue bonds to aid in building another road through the county. If the farmers of this county could realize now what they will know to be facts on the completion of the B. Ft. K. & P. Railroad, we would meet with less opposition in voting aid to railroads than we now have. Railroads quicken men's actions and manners; make them more liberal and enterprising. Slower and heavier means of intercommunication make us sluggish, hide-bound and strangely conservative of old ways, customs and habits. Of this fact we have daily painful evidence, more forcibly apparent when there is any public improvements contemplated. Let us lift ourselves out of these intolerable ruts, and if needs be, put down the stamps which will send the iron horse through the county.

We print this week the President's Message in full. This paper will be read all over the globe with deep interest. It appeared in all the morning papers in Europe on the morning after it was delivered in Congress, and has been commented on in very favorable terms. It treats the Alabama, the Cuban financial and the reconstruction questions in a spirit in harmony with the great republic party, and in the true interests of the Government. The President draws by his every act more closely around him the great republic heart of the nation, convincing the most reluctant that no mistake was made in the nomination, election, and inauguration of Gen. Grant as president of this great Union. Read the message and be convinced that the country is safe, and that our national honor is in the safest of hands.

Capt. John B. Brown has been appointed Postmaster at Fairbury, Jefferson county.

TO CHILDREN.

NO. FOUR.

As we look at the half-grown boys that daily frolic on the streets of Brownville without any visible means of employment, uneducated in any of the arts, trades or sciences, we wonder if they have any ambition ever to fill stations of usefulness when they become fully grown up. It would be useless to write an encouraging and cheering word in hopes of arousing them from the terrible wastefulness of time and opportunities, for they never read. They go on to manhood with no thought of the future. The heights of their ambition is to loiter around the street corners in hopes of getting up a dog fight or finding some scene of excitement or brutality. They greedily feed upon these, and afterwards you may see them with both hands in their pockets, heads up, eyeballs rolling, and with jaws munching the quid as they relate the mornings observation to their comrades older and younger at the saloon door. If the city has been undisturbed through the day, one can readily detect it by the lazy, listless manner in which they stroll about. They can tell you to a fraction who has been arrested and for what, who got drunk during the day and where, who got whipped and by whom, who gambled and how much they lost. Their facts and figures in this department are undeniable. But what of the future? Are they better and wiser for what they have learned during the day. What calling in life are they better prepared to fill. Will such knowledge daily gained for years make them better farmers, doctors, preachers, mechanics, tradesmen or farmers? No boy, if he thinks at all about the future, but what wishes to become an influential man—a man of property and standing in community. Boys thus trained are not fitting themselves for any such positions. What then are they training themselves to be? Nothing but drudges servants, hack-wagon men, who live in back alleys, on poor streets, among poverty, filth and vermin. Now, there is nothing desirable in such a life, and not one of the boys of this county ever intend to live in that way; and what is more, they all know they will not. We ask then, why travel that road? Why be found in the company of those who are fitting themselves for just such a life, and no other? Unless you get out of the streets and into the school house, work-shop or some useful employment, now or soon, you will just as surely become a vagabond, an outcast, or a poor, worthless man, and remain such all your life, as that the world exists; and the great uncontrollable reason why, will be, because you are not prepared for anything useful.

The closing exercises of the State Normal School for the fall term came off last week at the Normal Building in Peru. We accepted Prof. McKenzie's invitation so far as to attend on Wednesday. The afternoon was spent in singing by the school, in reading essays and selected pieces, in recitations and declamations by the Seminary Department. We were greatly impressed with the great improvement in this department over what has often been our misfortune to suffer and bear with elsewhere in exercises of this character. The selected pieces and dialogues were noteworthy for their patriotism, noble sentiment, sparkling humor and literary value. All sickly, sentimentalism and mauling low entertainments, so disgustingly odious and out of place in the training and education of children were banished from the scene. On Wednesday afternoon the exhibition of the Seminary Department took place in presence of a crowded house, but owing to the fact that most of the older and more advanced students belong to the Normal Department, the interest was not so close as it should have been. It was hardly open to some which have preceded; yet the close observer could not fail to detect evidences of thorough drill in the various branches, and marked ability upon the part of students.

All things considered, the State of Nebraska has reason to be proud of her school. The material aid she has given it could not have been more worthily bestowed, and in no other way could she have employed the same amount of money and ensured an equal return of blessings upon her sons and daughters.

But it must not be forgotten that the very prosperity of the institution calls for increased aid. Already the school has outgrown the building, and so much so that the coming term all the rooms in the building will be occupied by young ladies, and the gentlemen will be forced to seek such accommodations as they can find in the village; and long before the next legislature shall convene, there will be a most urgent demand for another equal return of blessings upon her sons and daughters.

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The Concert.

The Dye Brothers and Mr. and Mrs. Bennett held their musical entertainment at the first Baptist Church in this city on last Monday evening. The audience was large, and was composed almost solely of our lovers of good music; such an audience as could appreciate just such an entertainment, and intelligently criticize the musical ability of the performers. The pieces selected for the evening ranged from the impressively solemn to the ludicrous and witty; from the softest of passions to the most infuriated and frenzied; from the intellectual and noble to the simple and unostentatious. The varied characters were well represented, by first class talent. The delight and sympathy of the audience was frequently shown by their cheering. Our joy is the greater, as this musical troupe is composed entirely of home talent. They have held concerts in various towns in Southern Nebraska, where they have established a reputation which places them among first class performers, and secured from the press flattering mention. They met with very substantial encouragement on last Monday night.

The Masonic and Chapter Festival will be held at the lodge room in Brownville on the 27th inst, at which time the officers of both societies will be installed. Brethren of the order, whether affiliated here or not, and their wives and families, are invited. Those without such amiable company can bring their intendeds or those they would like should become such, to the festival. Preparations have been made for the accommodation of all who may be present.

We received this week from the seed agency Vienna, Warren county, New Jersey, a sack of the finest and freshest chestnuts we ever saw, always excepting those we ourselves used to gather on the chestnut ridges in Pennsylvania. They are as fresh as if just dropped from the burr. See their advertisement in another column.

For the Advertiser.

Nebraska State Normal School.

Mr. Editor: In the absence of an examining committee a few notes from a visitor in regard to the closing exercises of the State Normal School, may be of interest to your many readers.

The exhibition of the Model School or Primary Department, in charge of Miss Anna Swan, came off on Friday evening last, and though participated in by small children only, was highly interesting. Some of the declamations, recitations and essays would have done credit to much older heads. The pupils in this department have made marked proficiency during the past term.

The examination of the several classes commenced on Monday, and continued till Wednesday noon, and were in a high degree satisfactory. The students, with scarcely an exception, acquitted themselves nobly. I have attended nearly all the examinations of this institution, from its opening, and have never failed to be impressed with the fact that its high reputation for thoroughness and perseverance is well earned; and yet it is but just to the students in attendance the past term, as well as to the faculty, to say that the examination which has just closed exceeded all that have preceded. It was an honor to know any class of students who exhibited more perfect knowledge of the studies they had been pursuing.

Special praise is due to the Geography, Physiology, Chemistry, and Latin classes, under Prof. Martin; the Geology, Chemistry and Drawing class, under Prof. McKenzie; and the Drawing class, in charge of Miss Ault.

On Monday afternoon an interesting address on "Man," was delivered to a large and appreciative audience, by Rev. G. A. Reeder, of Ohio.

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All things considered, the State of Nebraska has reason to be proud of her school. The material aid she has given it could not have been more worthily bestowed, and in no other way could she have employed the same amount of money and ensured an equal return of blessings upon her sons and daughters.

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TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

From Dispatches of December 11th. The French and German Bishops will oppose the dogma of Papal Infallibility. The American Bishops will support it. The Legislature favors the removal of all barriers from Chinese testimony, not only as an act of justice, but as a policy. Gen. Rosecrans is the guest of the Union League in New York. Fisher's telegram, delivered at a meeting in New York on Thursday night. It is said that the Legislature of Ohio will promptly ratify the XVII amendment.

From Dispatches of December 12th. Advice from London says that Mr. Baring has just received information assuring him that the Chinese treaty, lately concluded between Great Britain and the Emperor, and that of the United States, has been ratified in China. Mr. McHenry Brown, Secretary of the American Embassy, is on his way to Paris, via California, carrying the message to the Emperor. The English Parliament will convene on the 14th inst. The English Bishops will support the dogma of Papal Infallibility. The American Bishops will oppose it. The Legislature favors the removal of all barriers from Chinese testimony, not only as an act of justice, but as a policy. Gen. Rosecrans is the guest of the Union League in New York. Fisher's telegram, delivered at a meeting in New York on Thursday night. It is said that the Legislature of Ohio will promptly ratify the