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MASONIC.

PLATTSMOUTH LODGE No. 6 A. F. & A. M.—Regular meetings at their hall on the first and third Monday evenings of each month. Transient brethern invited to visit.
JOHN W. SHANNON, W. M.
J. N. WISE, Sec.

MACOY LODGE U. D. A. F. & A. M.—Regular meetings second and fourth Fridays of each month at Masonic Hall. J. N. WISE, W. M.
WM. WINTERSTINE, Sec.

NEBRASKA CHAPTER No. 3 R. A. M.—Regular convocations second and fourth Tuesday evenings of each month at 7½ o'clock p. m.
E. T. DUKE, H. P.

EASTERN STAR DOORER LODGE.—Regular meetings of the Family are held on Wednesday evening, on or before the full moon of each month. All Master Masons, their wives, sisters and daughters are invited to attend. Unmarried ladies must be over eighteen years of age.
D. H. WHEELER, Patron.
MRS. C. A. DUKE, Patroness.
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WILLITT POTTENGER,
ATTORNEY AT LAW, Plattsmouth, Neb.

T. M. MARQUETT,
ATTORNEY AT LAW and Solicitor in Chancery, Plattsmouth, Nebraska.

S. F. COOPER,
ATTORNEY AT LAW, Plattsmouth, Neb. Will buy and sell Real Estate, and pay taxes for non residents. Improved and unimproved lands and lots for sale. [june25'68.

S. MAXWELL, SAM. M. CHAPMAN
MAXWELL & CHAPMAN,
ATTORNEYS AT LAW and Solicitors in Chancery, Plattsmouth, Nebraska. Office over White & Buttery's Drug Store. [apr1.

H. S. JENNINGS,
ATTORNEY AT LAW and General Land Agent, Lincoln, Nebraska. Will practice in any of the Courts of the State, and will buy and sell Real Estate on commission, pay Taxes, examine Titles, &c. [nov28tf.

Dr. J. W. THOMAS,
Having permanently located at Weeping Water Falls, tenders his professional services to the citizens of Cass county, Nebraska. [jan'69tf.

R. R. LIVINGSTON, M. D.,
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON—tenders his professional services to the citizens of Cass county. Residence southeast corner of Oak and Sixth streets; office on Main street, opposite Court House, Plattsmouth, Nebraska.

Dr. J. W. RAWLINS, M. D.
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON.—late a Surgeon-in-Chief of the Army of the Potomac.—Plattsmouth, Nebraska. Office with Dr. R. R. Livingston, on Main street, opposite the Court House. Private residence corner of Rock and 11th streets, two doors south of P. P. Gass'.

PLATTE VALLEY HOUSE.
E. B. Murphy, Proprietor, corner of Main and 4th streets, Plattsmouth, Nebraska.—Having been refitted and newly furnished offers first class accommodations. Board by the day or week. [aug28.

PLATTSMOUTH MILLS.
C. REISEL, Proprietor. Having recently been repaired and placed in thorough running order. Custom work done on short notice. 100,000 Bushels of Wheat wanted immediately, for which the highest market price will be paid. [aug28tf.

J. N. WISE,
General Life, Accident, Fire, Inland and Transit Insurance Agent. Will take risks at reasonable rates in the most reliable Companies in the United States. Office opposite the Court House, Plattsmouth, Neb. [may21tf.

MRS. J. F. DOUD,
Having just received a new supply of Goods, now offers Hats at a trifle above cost, and Bonnets of material styles and laces, also colored crape in latest styles at from $2.50 to $4.00. mar25tf.

NOTICE.
JAMES O'NEILL is my authorized Agent for the collection of all accounts due the undersigned for medical services; his receipt will be valid for the payment of any moneys on said accounts.
August 14, 67. R. R. LIVINGSTON, M. D.

FOR SALE OR TRADE!
A good dwelling house, containing six rooms, a good cellar, and cistern, a well, stable, wood shed and buggy shed on the lot, situate on the corning of Seventh and Locust streets; also a two story brick building, 28x36, with two lots, situate on 5th street north of Main. The above property will be sold cheap for cash, or traded for an improved farm in Cass county.
For particulars apply on the premises.
GEO. BECK.
All persons indebted to me are requested to call and settle immediately, as I must and will have them settled forthwith.
G. B.

Music, Music!
PIANOS,
ORGANS, MELODEONS!
I am Agent for the best Musical Instruments made. Persons wishing to buy Pianos, Cabinet, Metropolitan or Portable Organs, or Melodeons can purchase through my Agency on as liberal terms as they can from the manufacturers themselves. All Instruments fully warranted.
apr1tf. J. N. WISE.

Capt. D. LAHOO & CO.,
Wholesale and retail dealers in
WINES AND LIQUORS
Also a very choice selection of
TOBACCO AND CIGARS.
Main street, second door east of the Seymour House, Nebraska City, Neb.
Are just receiving a new Stock of Genuine Old Bourbon direct from Bourbon county, Ky., Bitters, etc. my18w.

Health, Comfort and Economy
Three reasons for boarding with
GEORGE W. COLVIN,
OAK STREET, PLATTSMOUTH, NEB.
Two blocks northwest of brick School House.
He has a BATH HOUSE, free to patrons; his rooms are well ventilated, and his prices are reasonable. [july22tf.

TO THE WORKING CLASS:—I am now prepared to furnisee all classes with constant employment at their homes, the whole of the time, or for the spare moments. Business new, light and profitable. Fifty cents to $5 per evening is easily earned by persons of either sex, and the boys and girls earn nearly as much as me. Great inducements are offered those who will devote their whole time to the business; and that every person who sees this notice, may send me their address and test the business for themselves, I make the the following unparalleled offer: To all who are not well satisfied with the business, I will send $1 to pay for the trouble of writing me. Full particulars, directions, &c., sent free. Sample sent by mail for ten cents. Address apr5m3. E. C. ALLEN, Augusta, Me.

LIVERY, FEED,
—AND—
Sale Stable,
—BY—
WM. J. HYATT, Proprietor,
Plattsmouth, Nebraska.
First rate Stabling and Wagon Yards for the accommodation of the public. A good stock of
Horses and Carriages
To let on very reasonale terms.
Stable on Main street, nearly opposite the Sheridan House. dec3tf.

J. W. SHANNON'S
FEED, SALE AND
LIVERY STABLE,
MAIN STREET, PLATTSMOUTH, NEB.
I am prepared to accommodate the public with
Horses, Carriages, Buggies and A No. 1 Hearse,
on short notice and reasonable terms. A Hack will run to the steamboat landing, and to all parts of the city when desired. mr29.

Will it pay us to build School Houses.

Many people think that money spent in building school houses is as good as thrown away, and when taxes are proposed to build them, they draw back as though they were about to have their money taken from them never to be returned.

In every school district there are six sections of land, amounting to 3,4480 acres. A school house large enough to accommodate a school district for the next twenty years, would cost about fifteen hundred dollars. Every acre would be worth a dollar more in a school district than in a district without a school house. In building such a house the real estate of the district would be enhanced in value to the amount of $3,480. the increased value on a farm of 160 acres would be $160. The tax the owner would have to pay would be $60.30, leaving a balance of $100.40.

There are few schools in the country realize that if they would have good schools, they must provide good school houses.

The day of poor schools and poor school houses are gone, and in another year we may expect to see a good school established here. Little by little everything is accomplished, and soon we may expect to see the miserable structures in our rural districts give way for larger and more commodious ones. Our city will lead the way by erecting an edifice that will be an enduring monument of the progressive spirit of our citizens, an example that every district in the county, that are looking forward to an increase of wealth and population would do well to follow.—*Tecumseh Gazette.*

The Indians.

The Cincinnati *Commercial* says: "Of course there can be but one end to all this trouble, which is but the repetition of what has taken place from the day when the march of civilization began from the coast of the Atlantic westward. Slowly but surely the Indians have fallen back, and tribe after tribe has perished utterly, either in border conflicts or by starvation, or the vices they have contracted from the white race. The history of the Indian tribes in the Northwest Territory, during the first half of the century, will answer, with change of name and dates, and places, for that of all the tribes upon the plains. They will vanish, and neither treaties, missionaries, agricultural implements, or Quaker commissioners will avert the fate that is sure to overtake them. The incidents that now form the burden of the news from Western Kansas are but the symtoms of the implacable antagonism that exists between the two races, and which can have but one result."

Washington's Self Control.

It is not known or realized so distinctly as it should be that our great Washington was by nature a violently passionate man, and that his habitual composure was the result of strenuous self-discipline—a triumph over natural frailty so complete as almost to have robbed him of the credit thereof, since few could believe him to be powerfully influenced by emotion who so rarely gave way to emotion in even slight degree. We are persuaded that the trials, responsibilities, and anxieties which that greatest of men had to carry would, but for his constant self-control, have worn him out long before the accomplishment of his work; or, if they did not actually kill his body, would have made an end of his efficiency for the labors devolved upon him. No fretful, fuming storming hero could have done his work.—*Lippincotts Magazine for June.*

Coal in Johnson County.

We are informed to-day, that Messrs. Anderson & Simmons have leased a quarter section of land from Mr. Goetz, for ten years, for the purpose of coal mining. These gentlemen are thoroughly acquainted with the coal enterprise, and being reliable and energetic men, we may soon see the coal interests of Johnson county fully developed. They are now absent for the purpose of procuring the necessary machinery for sinking a shaft, and will return shortly to commence operations. This will set Johnson county "a step ahead," and make the agents a fortune.—*Gazette.*

The Hamburg *Times* says: Horse thieving is becoming unusually frequent and fashionable in this vicinity. Four weeks ago a horse was stolen from this place; last week, two from a Mr. Brown near Clarinda, and on last Sunday night, one from Mr. Duane Rogers, of Percivil. On Tuesday a handcuffed gentleman, who, we understand, had been in a *fiasco* of the kind, passed through Hamburg in custody. He was a desperate villain, and gave the officers a hard fight before submitting to their companionship.

Almost immediately after the silver-bound tie was laid and the golden spikes driven in the Pacific Railroad, they were quietly taken up again, deposited with Nevada's silver hammer in a car and sent to San Francisco, while a common wooden tie was substituted and the "last rail" secured to it by a common iron spike.

They have, in Lafayette, Indiana, a "walk on" ordinance, which is strictly enforced. If a gentleman of leisure, who has apparently no object in view, is seen loafing about the street corners, post office, court yard fence or other public place, a policeman orders him to walk on, and he is kept walking until he is induced to get something to do, or is walked out of the city.

"But if I put my money in the savings bank," inquired one of the newly arrived, "when can I draw it out again?" "Och," replied his Hibernian friend, "sure an' if you put it in to-day, you can draw it out to-morrow by giving a fortnight's notice."

A dissipated and unmannerly nobleman, presuming upon his "nobility," once asked Sir Walter Scott, who sat opposite to him at a dinner, what was the difference between Scott and sot.—"Just the breadth of the table," retorted Sir Walter.

A dentist in Vienna having delivered artificial teeth to a lady of rank there, who declined to pay for them, advertised them to be sold again, and to be seen in the mouth of this lady, naming her.—He got his money by that means.

A gentleman in New Jersey holds the position of judge, deacon, agent, bookkeeper, banker, secretary treasurer, and librarian. All offices are independent of each other, and are said to be filled with ability. What a brain!

Conversation is a very serious matter. There are men with whom an hour's talk would weaken one more than a days fasting.

Another Phase.

The English having made up their mind that the *Alabama* business had been settled by Reverdy Johnson, and finding that it was by no means an accomplished fact, appear to have jumped to the conclusion that Mr. Johnson's successor would come among them breathing threatenings and slaughter, are moved to enthusiasm by the discovery that his errand is pacific. The few friendly and dignified expressions which have been let fall by Mr. Motley since his arrival in England, have done much to assure the British press that America is not obstinately bent on war, and in the relief of this discovery some of the papers have indulged in very silky talk about the cause of what they regard as a sudden change. The truth is that these journals have not been able to comprehend the fact that Senator Sumner is not the Government of the United States, and that though he may have expressed the real feelings of the majority of the people of this country on the questions at issue between Great Britian and ourselves, it did not follow that the administration should of necessity accept his speech as the cue of their action. Perhaps the best effect of Mr. Sumner's speech will be brought by the statesmanlike utterances of Mr. Motley. The English people will find that while America feels as deeply as a nation can feel when its honor is concerned, she has no intention of plunging recklessly into war, so long as an amicable settlement is possible. When this is comprehended the British journalists will, perhaps, re-peruse Sumner's speech, as embodying the sentiments of the people, than they before regarded it while it was supposed to shadow forth the policy of the Government.—*San Francisco Times.*

Michigan beats Chicago on Divorcing.

An amusing and actual case came before a lawyer of Pontiac, Michigan, a few days ago. A man residing in that county (whose name is not mentioned) became enamored of another man's wife, and supposing that, if he could obtain her husband's consent for a valuable consideration, he could take her to himself without violating the law (she being willing,) produced a forged title from the woman's father, to the effect that he had heard serious charges against his son-in-law and was coming to take his daughter away. The husband, supposing that he must loose his wife, was induced to accept a *horse* in exchange, supposing that he would thus be released from the bonds of matrimony without the expense and trouble of appplying to the courts. A few days since the husband, hearing that his wife intended to return to her first love, and not feeling disposed to receive her, consulted a lawyer as to whether she could return and oblige him to live with her, and was very much surprised to learn that the bargain and sale he had made were null and void. He now wishes to obtain a divorce, and congratulates himself on having the best of the bargain, for he says he has a horse that is worth more than the woman ever was.

Friday.

It is strange enough that Friday is regarded in all countries as a peculiar day. In England it is generally considered unlucky; many people will not commence an undertaking on that day; and most sailors believe the vessel is sure to be wrecked that sails on Friday.

If a marriage takes place on that day, the old wives shake their heads, and predict all manner of misfortune to the bride and bridegroom. Nay, they even pity all children who are born on that day. In Germany, on the contrary, Friday is considered a lucky day for weddings, commencing new undertakings, or other memorable events; and the reason of this superstition is said to be the ancient belief, that the witches and sorcerers held their weekly meetings on that day; and of course while they were amusing themselves with dancing and riding on broomsticks round the Blocksberg, they could have no time to work any evil. By all sensible people, Friday is regarded no better and no worse than any other day of the six.—*Scrap Book.*

Whitewash.

A little whitewash, says the Boston *Journal* of Chemistry, will do a great amount of good; but a full supply, enough to cover the inside of barns, stables, cellars, etc., with two good coatings, is much better:

The lime which enters into this composition is a purifying agent, and the wash serves as a disinfectant. The benefits conferred in this regard compensate for all the labor and expense involved in whitewashing; but the clean, tidy appearance which it gives to farm premises is most pleasing and salutary. In no way can a farmer make so imposing and even elegant show for trifling expenditure as by a free use of whitewash.—Even old buildings glow and glisten under the whitewash brush, and assume a new appearance. Buildings, in the eye of the owner, as well as those of his neighbors, have a higher money value after the process is completed.

A most remarkable case of conformity to hotel rules, at some personal inconvenience, is thus related by the Cleveland *Plaindealer:* A guest at one of our hotels, the other evening, was discovered by the proprietor rather tenderly embracing the chambermaid. The loudlord rebuked him somewhat angrily, and wanted to know the reason of such conduct.—"Simply obeying the rules of the house," said the guest, pointing to a card tacked to the room door. "Don't it read, 'Any neglect of servants should be reported at the office?' I don't want to be reported at the office for neglect of servants, do I?"

Secretary McCullough is credited with a good repartee. It is said that Miss Anthony and Mrs. Stanton once attended the Secretary's reception; and Miss Anthony facetiously remarked: "Of course, you do not think that the strong-minded would leave Washington without besieging the Treasury?" "Ah, Miss Anthony," said the Secretary, smiling, "the Treasury does not suffer so much from the strong-minded as from the *strong-handed.*

The folly of attempting to insulate lightning rods with a ring of glass, is shown by the fact that an electric coil, which is necessarily much less powerful than lightning, has been made in London, by which electricity is driven thro' five inches of glass.

There is nothing so noble in this world, no statue, no cathedral, phenomenon of grandeur and beauty, as the man that comes out of its temptations and trials, nobler than when he entered them.

Mankind has been learning six thousand years and yet how few have learned that their fellow beings are as good as themselves.

The State of Nebraska.

There is, perhaps, no part of the West that offers so great inducements and advantages to emigration as Nebraska.

Nebraska is the assylum for the poor. Thousands are seeking homes in her borders, and what was once termed "The Great American Desert" is being rapidly turned into vast fields, teeming with evidence of rich and bountiful harvests, school houses and beautiful cities.

In consequence of the manifold advantages and ruperior inducements offered by Southern Nebraska to the homeless emigrant, it is receiving its share of the westward flowing tide; and as we receive letters daily asking for information regarding the soil, climate, &c., we find it impossible to answer all of them, but will endeavor to answer, to the best of our ability, all observations of a general nature:

The climate is mild; the country very high and consequently healthy; the soil in the bottom lands is a rich black loam, from five to ten feet deep, and very productive; on the uplands it is a sandy loam, from two to four feet in depth.—The country is well watered. Wheat, corn, oats, and all kinds of vegetables yield abundantly for the time and labor bestowed, and always bring high prices. There is no country in the world equal to Nebraska as a stock raising country; our prairie grass is acknowledged to be the best feed for cattle known.

Stock requires little care, and pays as well if not better here, for the amount of money invested and labor bestowed, than anywhere else in this latitude. Fruit of the hardy varieties grows well and yields prolifically. With little or no attention, orchards have always borne large crops of fine fruit; but now the farmers are giving them more attention, and they find a good orchard pays a very large profit.—*Tecumseh Gazette.*

Josh Billings on the Death of Artemas Ward.

A cynic having remarked that Josh Billings never gave expression to any beautiful thought, we present the following from Josh Billings on the death of Artemas Ward for inspection:

Deth has done a kruel thing lately.—Deth seldum is parshul. This is awl that kan be sed in his favor. He mooves his sythe awl a round the world, now in this field, now in that. Wheat, flowers, and weeds drop, wilt and wither; for he sythes erly and late, in city and in town, by the herhstone and away off whare the wanderers are. Deth has done a kruel thing lately. Deth is seldom kind; here a father; another, a wee smal thing but a month on a visit, and thare Mary and Charly go down on a visit in white clothes. Deth moves; many fields are awl bare, for Deth cuts close as wel as kruel. Deth loves to mow; its his stile. He is old and slick in his sikle. He mowed for Abel of old and for Abel of yesterday. Deth mows strongly; round fall the dasy and grass, and alone, snarling, stands the korse thistle, left for what Deth can't tell, for God only noze. Deth, you have done a kruel thing lately. You hev mowed where the wittiest of them awl stood; whose words have gone lafing awl over the world, whose heart was as good and soft as a mother's! Deth, you have mowed where my friend Artemus stood, and Humor wears mourning now for the child of her hart. I am sad and very sorry.

Making Love with Umbrellas.

A certain dramatic writer, being caught in a shower of rain, took refuge under the portico of a handsome dwelling in New York. As soon as he had taken the position, a window was opened, and a lovely female face appeared, which seemed to beam with sympathy and anxiety. She soon retired, and sent him an umbrella by a servant. He fell at once desperately in love, and thinking from her anxious looks that the feeling was reciprocated, he called on her next morning, sent up his card, and gave into her own hands a very costly umbrella he had purchased in the place of the old and shabby one he had borrowed, and then wound up all by making a profession of love. The young lady, without even noticing the exchange that had been made, perceiving how her act had been misinterpreted, *naively* replied: "I feel it to be my duty to undeceive you, sir. At the time of the shower I was anxiously expecting the arrival of a gentleman, who is, I confess, very dear to me, who wished to see me in private, and my only motive for sending you the umbrella was TO GET YOU OFF THE STEPS!"

Origin of the Pew System.

One hundred and seventy years ago an elegant Parish Church at Atherstone, England, was, as all houses of worship had been, entirely open and available to all worshipers, but it entered the mind of an elderly lady that she would prefer to know where to sit. It was unpleasant to think anybody should be placed beside her. She accordingly begged to be allowed to put up a piece of boarding to screen herself off from the rest of the world. No sooner did this appear than another wanted a partition to enable her to enjoy, as her own, some particular spot. Then an old gentleman thought he would like to have some accommodation reserved for him. This closing in of the church for private purposes gave its interior such an irregular and patchy appearance that it was presently resolved to pew the whole building, which was accordingly done, a large share of the expense being defrayed by a family well known in the neighborhood. And so this pew system has grown and grown on, until it has become ingrained in English church life.

Give Your Children a Paper.

A child beginning to read becomes delighted with a newspaper, because he reads of names and things which are familiar, and he will progress accordingly. A newspaper in one year is worth a quarter's schooling to a child. Every father must consider that information is connected with advancement. The mother of a family, being one of its heads, and having a more immediate charge of children, should herself be instructed. A mind occupied becomes fortified against the ills of life, and is braced for emergency. Children amused by reading or study are, of course, more considerate and easy governed. How many thoughtless young men have spent their earnings in a tavern or grog-shop who ought to have been reading! How many parents who have not spent twenty dollars for books for their families, would have given thousands to reclaim a son or daughter, who had ignorantly, thoughtlessly fallen into temptation.

The pastor of a popular church, one Sabbath evening, at the Sabbath School concert, said: "Boys, when I heard your beautiful songs to-night, I had to work hard to keep my feet still. What do you suppose is the trouble with them?"—"Chilblains, sir," said a little six-year-old boy; which, notwithstanding the solemnity of the occasion, set the whole audience in a roar.

NEBRASKA.

What a Correspondent of the Department of Agriculture thinks of our State.

A correspondent of the Department of Agriculture for March and April 1869, furnishes the following statement in reference to the resources of Nebraska:

A line drawn diagonally from Maine to California will intersect a similar line from Washington Territory to Florida somewhere within the comparatively new State of Nebraska. By this simple demonstration it will be perceived at a single glance that, as far as geographical position is concerned, Nebrasna holds the central place in the great combination of States comprising the American Union. It has an area of about 73,000 square miles, or nearly twice that of either of the great influential States of New York or Pennsylvania. Its population, which in 1860 was estimated at 28,000 persons, has now probably reached five times that number. Nebraska is strictly an agricultural State. It has neither forests, waterpower, nor minerals, nor even coal to any considerable extent, so far as is yet known.

The climate is of a medium temperature. The thermometer may sometimes in summer reach 100 degrees at noon, but the strong breezes from the Rocky Mountains always render the nights cool and comfortable. Winter weather commences about the first of September, and although thaws and rains prevail a considerable portion of the time until the first of April, balmy and delightful days, and even weeks, intervene, the mercury in the meanwhile descending below zero only on rare occasions.

The topography is entirely characteristic. No other section, not even those which are formed like it, high rolling prairie countries, possess the same peculiarities. There are as a general thing neither plains nor hills; the whole surface looks as if cast in a mould. There is no level ground except at the margins of the streams, which prevail at rare intervals, and then scarcely ever reaches an extent of more than 200 or 300 acres in any one place. The prevailing form of the surface is a succession of ridges, gently and smoothly rolling like so many great wrinkles on the brow of nature, but without uniformity, and lying toward each other at every conceivable angle. These irregularities of the surface are so gentle, and the hillocks so round and smooth, that no impediment is experienced to the cultivation of the land.

In respect to streams and timber there is a deficiency, annoying to all settlers, and which, in the minds of many, is an obstacle altogether insurmountable. Except on the margins of the water courses, or where the enterprising settler has supplied the deficiency by artificial aid, the State is destitute of trees. Whenever the prairie fires are kept in check, however, the timber will grow rapidly and vigorously. The principal varieties are the oak, hickory and cottonwood. In four or five years the latter will attain the size of a man's arm, and become available for fuel and other useful purposes.

The streams are uniformly deep and sluggish, but narrow. During the drouths of the summer the banks are often left six or eight feet high, as perpendicular and smooth as if cut with a spade. Although the streams have a tendency to dry to the bottom throughout the whole extent, there are at intervals, in the beds, springs which never yield to the heat. In tracing the course of a stream these springs are to be found at every half mile or less. They vary in size from 5 to 50 feet in breadth, and from 10 to 100 feet in length. They are generally oblong in shape, and are concealed from view by the tall grass with which they are surrounded, unless immediately approached. Without this wise provision of nature for supplying the vast herds of buffalo which once grazed here, these animals could not have subsisted during the summer. The water of these springs is generally clear, cool, palatable and abundant. The well water of Nebraska is also of excellent quality and easily obtained. In many instances it is not necessary to dig more than 15 or 20 feet, and in some cases good water has been obtained at the depth of 10 feet. The soil, although easily penetrated by the spade, has a tendency which renders unnecessary the walling of wells.

The drought during summer is a great impediment to agriculture in Nebraska; but last season the counties bordering on the Missouri river were uneffected by it, and the supply of rain in that section was abundant. The difference was accounted for in the minds of many practical observers in the attraction furnished to passing clouds by the water of the Missouri and the growth of heavy timber on its banks.

From the nature of the soil, however, and the peculiarities of the surface, a protracted period of dry weather does not affect vegetation here as in many localities. The rain on falling, fills the numerous gulleys and is rapidly absorbed by the ground. The hot sun and fresh breezes on the tops of the hillocks causes a free evaporation, but excessive dryness is prevented by a constant supply of moisture, brought to the surface by capillary attraction. It is a well known fact that, in mountainous countries, springs which are dry in rainy seasons, give forth copious supply of water when the soil has been parched with heat for any considerable time. The same law, on a more extended scale, seems to be in operation throughout Nebraska; for experience shows that a protracted, heated and dry term does not have the effect in parching vegetation growing upon her irregular surface that would follow in a flat prairie section.

The great pest of Nebraska is the grasshopper or locust, yet it has this affliction only in common with other localities.

The soil has the dark color common ot all prairie countries; but the tinge is more inclined to gray than is observable in the soil of Illinois. The loam does not extend to the same depth as in that State, and contains a larger proportion of silica. After digging a few feet, earth of a bright yellow cast is reached.

The native grass affords to the casual observer no special indication of fertility. It is by no means of rank growth, not being more than 8 or 10 inches high, sparsely set, and in limited quantity.—Few weeds or shrubs are seen. The grass in low lands however, attains a vigorate size and often reaches as high as a man's head, from which the settler obtains his hay for winter use.

The wild grass, although apparently dry and harsh, is quite nutritious, and cattle thrive on it most marvelously.—This section was in former times the favorite resort for wild cattle, whose instinct led them to the best pastures.

In general appearance there is nothing about Nebraska to gratify emigration except where cultivation and art have beautified the landscape. When Lewis and Clark looked upon this locality in the unbroken solitude of nature, I do not wonder that they called it the "Great American Desert;" but time and the pressure of emigration westward have demonstrated the grossness of the misnomer.

The climate and soil are favorable to the production of every kind of grain and grass. Wheat and corn flourish to an extent not surpassed in any States of the Great West. It is not uncommon for farmers to raise 30 bushels of the former and 75 of the latter per acre. Oats and barley yield in the same proportion.

All kinds of vegetables, potatoes, beets, carrots, cabbage, onions, &c., attain great perfection.

Attempts at raising tobacco and sorghum have been attended with success.

There are considerable numbers of wild grape vines and plum trees in the timber along the water courses, but the adaptability of this soil and climate to general fruit culture has not yet been fully tested. Fruit trees have been planted in considerable numbers, but have not yet been sufficiently matured to demonstrate their bearing capacity. The apples, pears, grapes and plums, thus far produced, are of the first quality. Berries of various kinds develope readily and fully, and I believe that care and experience will produce the same results with the larger fruits.

For stock raising Nebraska has ample resources. The vacant lands of the State and of railroads give the herdsman wide range. A herd law, which acts as a protection to the grower is an actual benefit to the stock raiser. Much attention has been devoted to this department of agriculture in various sections. This State was a natural home of wild horses and cattle; and the Indian ponies in proportion to their bulk, are as hardy a race of animals as can be found anywhere. The air is clear and healthful, the climate temperate, the surface of the ground irregular, the grasses nutritious and abundant, together with an endless supply of all other varieties of food. Thus far stock raising has met with good success; and Nebraska is producing many fine horses and mules, and has some excellent specimens of the best breeds of horned cattle and sheep, the high ground and the dry and calubrious atmosphere being particularly favorable to the latter.

A large amount of the land of Nebraska is withheld for settlement by railroad grants and speculators. The homestead or pre-emption settler is the only party who can receive advantage of the government's liberality. The fact that there is a constant stream of this class of emigrants pouring into the State is a sure indication of a sentiment prevailing in the older States in accordanee with views herein expressed: and I believe they cannot seek a location where practical sense and vigorous industry will meet a more ample return. They must not expect to find a land flowing with milk and honey, or imagine that ease and repose await them. They will not find all the comforts and necessaries of life ready prepared. Their paradise will only come from the sweat of the brow. The pioneer's hope rests on a willing heart and a ready hand. Luxuries he must not expect; comforts he will only find by a cheerful contentment with his lot. If he is destitute of money and has but one poor yoke of oxen, and a frail covering for his wagon to protect his wife and children from the cold night winds, he need not despair. With the example in his mind of others who have preceded him he may well feel that he has at his command resources which will not fail him.

Necessity is the mother of invention, and the Nebraska settler, in default of trees to build a log house, does not appeal in vain to mother earth for shelter. He can select the favorable side of a ridge and prepare a "dug out." This architectural anomaly is worthy of a description, and some idea of its mode of construction may be valuable to those who contemplate trying a pioneer life.—The settler cuts into the bank an opening of the size required, digging two or three feet below the level of the surface in front. The plastic nature of the soil allows him to dress the sides and floor as smoothly as if the cavity had been cut from a bed of solid marble by the chisel of a skillful workman. He then proceeds to the nearest bottom, and cuts a couple of forked saplings, of which to make his door posts. Having placed horizontally on the prongs another sapling, he pins to the middle another prong to support the ridge pole. He then has the front part of his roof; the rear being in the bank is easily managed. He then places on the top such twigs and branches as he can find, and perhaps a board or two, and overlays compactly with sods and prairie grass. He then has a roof that will shed water, perhaps not as effectually as boards and shingles, but which for want of them must be made to serve the same purpose. As a finishing stroke, all the openings in the sides, except a door and window are compactly filled in with layer of sod. Fireplaces and chimneys are constructed in the same primitive style, but a common substitute for them is a small cooking stove, with the pipe projecting through the roof. Shelters for cattle are made nearly in the same way.

Another mode of constructing a dwelling is to use sods, instead of bricks, and prairie mud instead of mortar. These materials are a substitute for the sun-hardened tiles and adhesive clay of New Mexico, and the habitations are dignified in this section by the name of "adobe houses."

In these rude and uncouth structures the patience and efforts of the housekeeper are doubtless severely taxed to attain comfort and render appearance comely, but I have seen in them an order and neatness which would be sought for in vain in some more pretentious residences.

In some of the more favored locations the settler has the materials for stone or log-houses. Were it not for the scarcity of fuel, good brick might be manufactured. Log, stone, or brick houses are extremely rare. The most useful kinds are those described, or the small frame shanties, built of imported lumber, costing from $30 to $70, which are generally the choice of men of the requisite means. I doubt, all things considered, if the latter are as comfortable as the former. Any of these structures come within the requirements of the homestead law, which demands that the settler's dwelling shall have a window, door, floor, and roof, and be a comfortable house to live in.

The first duty of the immigrant, after having provided a shelter for himself and family, and one for his cattle, is to prepare his ground for a crop. The best time for breaking prairie is between May and August, although some continue this work all the year round, when the weather will permit. Between the months named the sap is running upwards, and the roots will die, which is not the case when it is descending.—Ground broken later becomes overgrown by means of the reinvigorated roots of the grass, and it is found very difficult to eradicate them.

Recently a company having 30,000 acres on salt creek, near Lincoln, the capital of the State, introduced a steam plow, costing $10,000, from Leeds, England, and designed continuing operations all winter. They broke to the depth of seven or eight inches, entirely covering the sod; the result of the experiment remains to be seen. The usual depth of breaking is about two inches, or just enough to detach the roots and peel off the sod.

The settler who has means at his command will have his own teams and hire assistance, or, if he chooses, can get his ground broken by contract at $3,50 per acre. But the majority have neither means nor sufficient teams; perhaps only one yoke of cattle or a span of horses.—The method of such is to "change work" with their neighbors, uniting their own and the labor of their teams. In this humble way they commence operations and lay the foundation of competency and independence.

The soil is allowed to remain undisturbed until the spring opens, when it is easily pulverized with the harrow, and is prepared for the seed without additional labor.

No successful attempt has been made to raise winter wheat in Nebraska. The ground, in consequence of the high winds, is kept bare of snow, and the sprouts yield to the rigor of the weather.

One of the resorts of the pioneer to obtain a crop, when he cannot wait for the full preparation of the ground, is to plant "sod corn." Having broken the prairie in the spring and allowing it to remain until planting time without further attention, he then proceeds to raise the sod with a hoe, and, at proper intervals, throws in a few grains of corn, pressing back the sod with his foot; or, if he prefers, he can cut the sod with an axe, covering the grains, of course, in the same way. Often a crop of 30 or 40 bushels of corn to the acre is raised by this method.

Having provided for a crop, the next thing which will occur to the sagacious farmer is to make an effort to supply the deficiency in timber. He will select a favorable location, and after ploughing several furrows to prevent the encroachment of prairie fires, he will proceed to plant on the aera within the requisite number of trees. This work is done by making furrows at intervals of three or four feet, and then with a hoe securely setting the roots of the twig. The cottonwood, on account of its rapid growth, is generally selected. A great abundance of little trees of this species is obtained from the banks of the Missouri. The lack of fuel is at present one of the greatest drawbacks to the prosperity of Nebraska; but if the present attention to tree culture is continued, it will in 15 or 20 years have a greater abundance of timber than many of the older States.

I commence by referring to the central location of Nebraska, and shall conclude with a mere allusion to the advantages which her position as a great agricultural centre afford. With the mining regions of the Rocky Mountains on one side, and the hungry east on the other, as the means of communication radiate to all points of the compass, her abundant crops, her flocks and herds, will find their natural markets, and rich returns will come back to fill the farmer's heart with gladness; civilization will extend its full power, and every boon within the scope of rational human aspiration be granted her people.

The Broker and His Clerk.

Many a man who has become a hardened criminal might have been saved to society by a little tender sympathy and discriminate kindness in the beginning of his vicious life. Few men have grace to act like the broker in the following incident, but success would follow often such kindness:

It is easy to ruin, and it is easy to save a young man. One of the leading brokers of New York had a young man in his employ. The vast amount of money in his hands was a great temptation to him. Small sums were missed day after day; one quarter, then fifty cents, then one dollar, then two dollars, were missed. He was charged with the peculation. The broker showed how he could detect the abstraction of the smallest sum of money. The young man stammered and confessed. "Now," said the broker, "I shall not discharge, I shall not dishonor you. I intend to keep you and make a man of you. You will be a vagabond if you go along in this way. Now let me see no more of this." He went to his work. He did not disappoint the confidence. He did honor to his employer. The other day he was inducted into one of our banks in an honorable position, and his employer became his bondsman to the amount of $10,000. Had he conducted as some would have done—sent the boy away, proclaimed his dishonor—perhaps he would have ended his days in the State Prison and been sent to his tomb in the garb of a convict. But a young man was rescued from ruin who had been placed amid the temptation of money and for a moment was overcome.

A $300,000 Diamond.

The Rock Island *Argus* of May 24, says:—A few days ago a gentleman came up the river on the steamer New Boston who privately exhibited to the officers of that packet a diamond in the rough, which, in its unpolished state, is supposed to be worth somewhere in the vicinity of $300,000. It is further supposed to be the second or third diamond of size in the world. It is about the size of a walnut, is perfectly transparent, and has power of magnifying to the same extent as a first quality glass. The lucky possessor found it at his home in the gold mining district of Nova Scotia, and also stated that he had found one or two small ones, one of which he sold for $12,000 in its rough state. To convince the officers of the boat, he produced files of Nova Scotia papers containing accounts of the finding of the diamond, minute discriptions of the same, descriptions of the finder, and other evidence to indisputable to be questioned. He also showed letters from prominent New York jewelers, who had examined the prize, one of which was from the house of Rall, Black & Co. He is going to Iowa to see about loaded investments, with a view of some day locating there. He proposes to have the diamond polished, and sell it to some crowned head if possible. For the benefit of the ladies we will state that we don't know whether he is married or not.

A man wearing a pair of spotted pantaloons took a noontide siesta under a tree in the neighborhood of Madison, Ind. A German, who was out hunting, saw his leg hanging over a rock, and, mistaking it for a huge boa-constrictor, fired a charge of shot into it. The moral is obvious: don't wear spotted pantaloons when you take an out-of-door nap in Indiana.

When dunces call us fools without proving us to be so, our best retort is to prove them to be fools, without condescending to call them so.

If you want to have a man for your friend never get the ill will of his wife.—Public opinion is made up of the average prejudices of womankind.

Wandet—"A Leedle Drunk."

"I wants to get a drunk," said a Teuton the other day to a person he met in the street; "where I gets 'em, hey?"

"Want to get a drink? "Well, I reckon you can get that at any saloon in town, where benzine is sold. There is a place over the way for instance," pointing to a saloon across the street.

"Teuton went across to the saloon.—Saloon keeper got out a glass mechanically, with a look that seemed to say: