Probate Notice.

I hereby give notice to all concerned that a Will purporting to be the last Will and Testament of Zachariah Burows deceased, late of Cass county and State of Nebraska, has been filed in the office of the Probate court of said county, and that a hearing will be had at my office in the city of Plattsmouth in said county on the 27th day of January at one o'clock p m of said day on the application to prove and admit said Will to probate at which time and place all persons interested in said estate are requested to appear and if they see fit contest admitting said Will to Probate.

Given under my hand and seal at my office this 2d day of January A. D. 1872

H. E. ELLISON, Probate Judge.

Jan4w3

LOCAL NEWS

Capt. Marshall has a few more of those patent Yale Lock Boxes left—Secure one.

Over forty ladies applied for clerkships to the Iowa Legislature.

We saw a horse pass down Main St. to-day at a lively gait, trying to get ahead of a neck yoke which was attached to the harness. When last seen they were both very close together.

The committee having in charge the Leap Year Party last evening, at Fitzgerald's Hall, state that the number present was much larger than was expected, and that they regret, very much, that several left without getting any supper. They prepared supper for a large crowd, but were not prepared for the number present last evening. We would add that as there is no cause for complaint, and as the ladies constituting the committees, themselves got no supper, there should be none made.

THE KEARNEY BRIDGE.

Messrs. Fitzgerald & Hill, the contractors for the erection of B. & M. R. R. bridge across the Platte at Kearney, will start out a force of hands and material for the erection houses, to-morrow. P. B. Murphy, Esq., has been awarded the contract for erecting the houses. They will be ready to commence active operations in the course of two weeks, and will push the work as rapidly as the weather and the state of the water will permit.

THE LEAP YEAR PARTY.

Given by the ladies of the Episcopal Church, last evening, was a complete success—so much so that we wish to see several repetitions of it before the close of the year. Much credit is due those in charge of the affair for the excellent manner in which it was conducted, and for the judgment displayed in their arrangements. The attendance was very large—the largest we have seen at any party of the season—there being about seventy dance tickets disposed of, besides a large number who only took supper and looked on and (we presume) wished they had not made rash promises.

There was one significant fact, in connection with the party, which gentlemen will do well to remember; that when the ladies assemble for the purpose of dancing they do not believe in loosing any time, "but keep the ball rolling." They did not allow time to hang heavy on their hands, but no sooner did you hear the accustomed "seats," that the voice of the most excellent floor manager, Mrs. Noble, was heard saying: "ladies will take partners for a quadrille." It was suggested to us that one of the principal reasons why there was less delay under the management of the ladies than with men was because they did not have to stop so often to go and get stimulants. Gentlemen would do well to follow their example. The net proceeds of the party will not fall much short of $100.

Cold Weather Reflections of a Bachelor

I'm a bachelor—I wish it distinctly understood that I am one of that benighted class—but I also aver that I shall not be one when another winter chills around us. I have been brought to that way of thinking by two phases of existence, which I have recently been investigating. The first is, that in the warm weather that follows an intensely cold winter, the marriage notices in the daily papers, show a vast increase over those following a mild winter.

This has been brought forcibly to my notice by the action of Jones, my former bosom bachelor friend. Last winter, Jones was continually looking as blue as a sick codfish, and was continually complaining of a cold back. Well, spring came, and Jones forsook my formerly much sought for society. I saw him now and then, but he always was accompanied by a female friend; and so I commenced to look suspiciously at the "marriage lists" of all the papers published around our place. Then it was that the greatness of their number, as compared with the warm weather that had succeeded a mild winter, a certain mild winter, struck me. I remember that fact, from having pored over the lists, to see whether a fair wearer of crinoline on whom I had been sweet, but who had gone off with another fellow—because the three hairs of his mustache were the color of her chignon, had her name chronicled therein.

One day I saw the name of Jones—yes—Jones and Brown; and following this: "at the residence of the bride's father, Bob Jones and Samanthy Brown, both of this city. The Rev. Pinchas Longprayer officiated, and the bride and groom looked like turtle doves. "*No Cards.*" I fell back stunned, but after a while recovered and determined to watch Jones. I did so. There was a marked change in his exterior. His coat was brushed, his hair was brushed, his teeth were brushed, his boots were brushed—in fact he was brushed all over. All very well said I, but I'll wait until winter comes. I waited. This morning I met him. I looked for the blue codfish look, he was as fresh as a morning glory, and as fresh as a sun ripened peach. "How's your back, Jones?" said I. "Never better, never better,"—said he, "feels like that of a healthy young school boy." Does she sleep behind? Or is there a magnetic influence in having a female comforter as a bedfellow, that routes Old Jack Frost, worse than Hooker routed the Rebs on the top of Lookout Mountain? That's what I want to know. So here is a fellow that accepts the first blushing damsel that throws her charms at him after the first of January; next year being Leap year and proposals from the ladies in fashion.

As for any other study that will keep until to-morrow, and this is enough for now.

Here's a true tale of woe, all about a beautiful and abandoned wife in this city. She married a wretch who loved her money not wisely, but too well. When he got the money he loved some body else, and departed for the "rolling prairies of the mighty West." His earthly possessions were burnt up in the Chicago fire, and then he came back to New York, and put up at the Astor House, without a cent in his pocket. Remorse seized him (it must have been remorse), and ascertaining the address of his lawful partner, he thus wrote her:

"I am here and penniless. Forgive the past and come to my arms again."

This is what she wrote back:

"I'll come as soon as I can. Excuse delay. I've gone to have a loaded head put on the cane you left."

He didn't wait! Remorse seized him again, and carried him off. Finis.—[New York Commercial Advertiser.

NEBRASKA.

From Editorial in New York Tribune.

The boundaries of Nebraska, as reduced by the act of admission, are the 40th parallel of North latitude and the State of Kansas on the South, the 25th degree of West longitude from Washington on the West to the 43d parallel of North latitude; thence two degrees due West to the 27th parallel of North latitude; thence North along that parallel to the 43d degree of North latitude; thence East along that parallel to the Keya Paha river; thence down the middle of the channel of said river to the Niobrara; thence down the middle of the Niobrara to the Missouri; thence down the Missouri to the 40th parallel, or boundary of Kansas aforesaid. The State is thus nearly 400 miles long (from east to west) with an average width of 200 miles and a total area of 75,000 square miles.

Her soil is, in the main, decided y fertile. On the uplands, it is a deep, dark vegetable mold, containing very little clay, and slightly impregnated with lime; while the valleys are even deeper and richer. It is mainly covered with a rich, nutritious grass, very palatable to cattle, buffalo and deer. It is a splendid grazing country, where excellent Beef, Mutton, and Wool, may be grown very cheaply, even after the cruel folly of trying to winter them without shelter or hay shall have been abandoned or utterly exploded.

Nebraska was formerly kept in the back-ground by a scarcity of Timber and Coal which, until the construction of her Railroads, seriously impeded her settlement. The Missouri, forming her eastern and in part her northern boundary is a large, deep, rapid, turbid river, difficult of navigation, especially up stream, but still navigable; and a very considerable belt of heavy timber lines its banks, save in the few places where it has been cut off; but the Platte, in the south, and Niobrara on the north line of the State, though each rises in the Rocky Mountains, far west of the western boundary of this State, are so shallow and rapid, so obstructed by islets, ever-shifting bars, quicksands, &c., that not even a flat-boat, much less a steamboat, can navigate them, unless for a few miles near their mouths. In the absence of Railroads, we did not and could not regard Nebraska as specially inviting to settlers.

But the opening of the Union Pacific Railroad changed all this. That road traverses the State throughout its length, from Omaha, its chief city, on the east, to Julesburg on the west, making Nebraska no longer "outside row," but the very heart of the Union. There is no other point in the United States whence *all* our great commercial centers—New York, Boston, Chicago, St. Louis, New-Orleans, San Francisco—can be reached so easily and quickly as from Omaha; and the southern half of the State is within a day's ride of this great thoroughfare. Nebraska's inadequate timber is thereby supplemented from the great forests further North; while her thin veins of coal will soon be re-enforced from the ample deposits of Wyoming and Colorado in the west, of Iowa on the east, and of Dakota on the north. Time and research will doubtless discover thicker veins beneath her own soil; while forest culture—now barely inaugurated—will in a few years enrich and gladden her landscape with groves, and clumps, and rows, and spacious woodlands, of the choicest timber. Other railroads—a goodly number of them—are already in progress. The Burlington & Missouri River Railroad is completed from Plattsmouth on the Missouri, to Lincoln, (the State capital), in Lancaster county, and is being rapidly pushed westward to Fort Kearney, where it will form a junction with the Union Pacific. The Midland Pacific likewise reaches from the Missouri (at Nebraska City) to Lincoln. The Sioux City and Pacific enters Nebraska at Blair, 30 miles north of Omaha, is running to West Point, 35 miles, and is being pushed 42 miles further northwest. The Omaha and North-Western connects with the above at Blair; the Omaha & South-Western runs from Omaha through Lincoln to Beatrice, and is soon to be finished to intersect the St. Joseph and Denver on the Little Blue. These are but portions of a net work which will soon gridiron all southern and eastern Nebraska, rendering her lands as accessible and her produce as easily marketable as those of Ohio.

So many people ask—"Where are those free lands that you talk of?"—that we are happy to answer, "In Nebraska, not five days' journey from this city." You may reach Fort Kearney inside of four days, when you will have free land within a day's wagon-ride, with the Platte and several affluents skirted by woods all around you.

Of course, you will *not* look for free land if you have money, for you can do better. Any man worth $2,000 may better buy lands on a railroad than get them for nothing eight or ten miles away.—But there are lands along the lines of railroads either already constructed or soon to be so, of which you may take by pre-emption eighty acres without paying anything, and, if you served the Union in the late struggle, we believe you can use hundred and sixty acres. Now, don't say you can't find any free land, or that it is far away from all railroads, &c.; for here is such land—here is good soil, with water, wood, &c., in a region rapidly gaining population, in a mild and healthful climate, where almost every product of the Temperate Zone will grow luxuriantly, and where the Platte, though worthless for the purposes of commerce, affords the fullest and best facilities for irrigation that anywhere exist.

A little girl having noticed that after her mother's toilet there was invariably a sprinkling of powder on the carpet, observed on seeing the snow the other morning, "See mamma! the angels have been using the "poudre de riz."

The *Scientific American* says it is now impossible to construct a burglar-proof safe—for the thief, with his cylinders of compressed dydrogen and oxygen, can, in a few seconds, burn holes of any size in the hardest of metals—his fire-drill enabling him, in a few minutes, to work his way into the strongest safe that ever was constructed."

Have a Home.

Have a home of your own somewhere. Buy a piece of land and own it. Buy it with the determination to keep it as long as you live, and to leave it to your heirs. If you have no money except what you earn yourself, then scrupulously save and lay aside part of your income, until you have enough to pay for a piece of land. To be an owner of a homestead will have a beneficial effect upon your character.—It will increase your self respect, your confidence in yourself. You will feel that you have a substantial position, and something at stake in the community.—The habit of saving, which you will have formed in saving money to purchase a piece of land, will in itself be valuable to you. It will aid you greatly in acquiring other property, and becoming independent. The tendency of this is to make you more self-reliant, more ambitious, more industrious, more careful, and a better citizen.—Gilman, Ill., Real Estate *Journal.*

A Yankee who sought to introduce the "gift enterprise" in Germany had to leave post haste.

COMING NEBRASKA STATE FAIR.

Special Premiums.

To the Friends of the Cause.

It is customary, at all State Agricultural and Horticultural Fairs, to award what are termed "Special Premiums," offered by enterprising individuals or organizations, to aid and encourage some special object. For instance, the Lancaster County Agricultural Society of this State offers one thousand dollars in special premiums, to be awarded at the next State Fair. The Short Horn cattle breeders, and Black Hog breeders, and friends in this State, propose to raise one thousand dollars for each of these classes of stock, to be awarded in addition to the regular premiums offered by the Board. Two individuals in each class have already offered one hundred dollars each—making two hundred dollars in each class—toward making up the fund. Moses Stocking, of Eldred, offers fifty dollars towards making up a respectable "special premium"—$200 to $500—for the best essay on "*The Timber Question;*" the essay to embrace: the present supply throughout the country; the rate of waste; present demand and supply; future prospective demand and supply; best method of stocking western prairies with timber; varieties best adapted and most profitable; mode of planting and cultivating; rate of growth; purposes to which it is adapted; climate effect on a country by denuding it of forests, and vice versa; probable effect on an open country by reason of establishing forests.

The object of this card is to announce the above facts, and to give an opportunity to all who may desire to aid in the undertaking. Our leaflet circular pamphlet of "special premiums" will be issued within the next thirty days, fifteen thousand copies for gratuitous circulation. Those who may desire to add to the foregoing, or get up any additional new features, will please communicate with me at once.

R. W. FURNAS.
Pres't St. Bd. Ag.

Brownville, Jan 20, 1872.

Horse-Racing and Fairs.

The Boston Cultivator, speaking of the annual meeting of the Hampden Agricultural Society at Springfield, Mass., says:

"The Society is now nearly $25,000 in debt, the result of the management of the Springfield Club, who built the grand stand several years ago, and saddled the expense upon the Society. This has occasioned great opposition to the Club, which culminated on Wednesday in a square fight, in which the fast-horse party, as they were called, were defeated."

It is high time that a broad distinction were made between sporting clubs and agricultural societies, and between horse racea and agricultural fairs. The union of these two diverse, if not antagonistic elements, has been the means of strangling what is good in associations for the promotion of agriculture and kindred pursuits. Breeding race-horses is not within the sphere of farming. It may reasonably be doubted whether it is productive of any good; it is very clear that it is productive of more evil, if the morals of the human race are of any account. Horse-races are gatherings for black-legs, and they are no more within the range of a farmer's legitimate pursuits, than gambling. We do not at all believe in mingling things that are so opposed, and the farmer will have reason to rejoice, if the day ever comes when agricultural fairs shall again be made what they ought to be, and what they once were. We may express the hope that this subject will be discussed in the winter sessions of agricultural societies, and that they will decide to cut loose from such evil associations. The result of the Hampden agricultural Society's departure from farming to horse-racing, may be an extreme case, but it is not a strange one.—[New York Observer.

Beautifying Farms.

Great progress has been made within the last twenty five years among the farmers of the country, not only making their farms more productive, but in making them more attractive. This, in large measure, is the result of prosperous farming. Those who had debts to pay did not feel able to expend much in ornamenting their places; but since they have freed themselves from this burden, they have been more disposed to attend to the appearance of things.

There has been, also, an advance in taste. There are not so many now as formerly, who decry all attention to the ornamental as a waste of time and money. This race of niggardly and boorish men is fast dying out. Increasing intelligence, the circulation of agricultural reading, the formation of agricultural societies, the infusion of a larger element of educated and cultivated men into the profession, have had a powerful influence in securing more attention to the esthetics of farming, instead of having every thing expended for mere pecuniary returns. And this is a great advance. It ennobles the pursuit of the farmer. Man is a creature of taste, and not a mere grub; and he who neglects to cultivate and to gratify this element in his nature degrades himself. Any one may form a pretty correct estimate of the intellectual, if not the moral state of his neighbors, by simply looking over their farms. The one who allows his buildings and lands to lie in a slovenly state, when he has the means of improving them, may be a money loving, but he will also be a slovenly man with no elevating instincts.

It is a great mistake that money spent in reasonably improving the appearance of a place is thrown away. It may be doubted whether there is any more direct method of increasing its pecuniary value. Certainly its market value will depend very much upon its outward appearance. Tasteful and well painted buildings, well arranged yards and gardens with neat fences, shade trees properly disposed, good farm fences and cleanly kept fields, will set off a farm to great advantage and make an amazing difference when it comes to be sold. And even if it be not sold, these things will add amazingly to the enjoyment of it by its possessor, if he be not blind to everything but the dollar.

Every man, too, owes it to the community in which he is living to contribute to general reputation and to public enjoyment, by making all his surroundings as attractive as possible. There is such a thing as paying too much attention to the outside and show; but there is reason in all things, and a measure of time and attention and expense should be devoted by every one to making his farm and his house more and more attractive every year that he lives.

To restore the keyes of a piano to their original color, rub on the keyes with leather a preparation of sal-volatile, prepared chalk and oil.

West of the Mississippi river the United States still owns 973,472,563 acres, distributed as follows: Iowa, Missouri and Arkansas, 16,000,000; Dakota and Wyoming, 145,295,284; Montana, 86,904,605; Kansas, 23,148,076; Nebraska, 52,523,637; Colorado and Idaho, 117,800,000; New Mexico and Utah, 224,140,000; Nevada and Arizona, 136,000,000; Minnesota, 86,776,170; Indian Territory, 154,000.

"Gentlemen, I have won this cup by the use of my legs; I trust I may never lose the use of my legs by the use of this cup," were the words of a successful competitor for the prize of a foot-race.

Frederick the Great kept an aid-de-camp to wear his shoes till he could put them on, but he sometimes wore them too long, and got a kicking for his pains.

Mr. Elias Birchell, shawl manufacturer of Philadelphia, lately spun from a single pound of American wool a thread of 47,000 yards, or nearly twenty seven miles.

In the North Georgia conference, while the question of the insanity of a member of the conference was recently being considered, one preacher stated that the case was not clearly one of mental unsoundness, as the accused could at any time preach an hour and a half to two hours. The bishop shook his head and remarked: "That's a bad symptom."

In California, brandy, which is said to have more body and a smoother taste than grape brandy, has been distilled from the berries of the manzanita bush, which is indigenous to that state, growing nearly everywhere along the foothills and in the mountains. The bushes thrive equally well on the mountains where the soil is dry, and in the valleys where there is no moisture, requiring no labor for their cultivation. The berries are about the size of ordinary garden currants, and after gathering, may be kept in sacks for months without exhibiting any signs of decay.

About a year ago, a deaf and dumb couple in New Jersey were married.—Lately the wife gave birth to a child, and can now both hear and speak.

A patriotic gentleman in Mendon has lessened the government's expenditures $96 per annum by marrying a soldier's widow. Go thou and do likewise. Patriots, to arms!

A negro waiter, who had twice awakened a traveler to inform him that breakfast was ready, and a third time broke his slumbers by attempting to pull off the bedclothes, explained thus:—"Massa, if you isn't gwine to git up, I must hab de sheet anyhow, 'cause dey're waiting for de table-cloth!"

A clergyman in the West has recently been arrested for stealing, and the defence set up is that he has kleptomania, a mania for stealing. It may be so, but with such a mania he should stop preaching and go where he can't steal.

Sol. Smith Russell, who traveled with and made faces for the Burger family of Swiss bell-ringers, was baptised recently in the Episcopal church at Canton, Miss., and he contemplates studying for the ministry. Not long ago, he was in Kentucky singing "If ever I cease to love."