THE HERALD.

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IT'S TIME TO GO TO BED.

'Tis strange how pa does act sometimes
When I have got a beau;
He seems to think it just the time
Authority to show.
He never thinks himself once young,
But thinks me old instead;
But raps upon the floor and shouts,
"It's time to go to bed."

Now all was silent when at last
His saddened heart to cheer,
I said, "You must not mind papa,
He's getting old and queer."
He sat as still as any post,
And not a word was said;
When lo, another rap and shout—
"It's time to go to bed."

Said poor George, "May, I now must go,
And let folks go to bed;
He's knocked upon the floor now twice,
He'll knock next on my head."
"But you must come again, dear George;
Remember pa is old,
If he was young like you and I,
I'm sure he would not scold."

But poor George never came again,
The knocking scared him out;
And always when I've got a beau
Pa's got to bang and shout.
But I have got another now,
And Johnny is his name;
'Tis true that Pa still bangs and shouts,
But Johnny he is game.

"I think your papa has retired"—
It was no sooner said,
When instantly the rap and shout—
"It's time to go to bed."
I quickly bade dear John good night,
Up to my room did go,
And wish happens quite soon after
You very soon shall know.

I crept quite silent down the stairs,
While John outside did wait;
I threw my shawl about myself,
And joined him at the gate.
Hours at the gate passed pleasantly
Between dear John and I
I could not now enumerate,
No, not if I should try.

Pa says dear John has common sense
In not staying so late,
But knows not half the sparking done
By us down at the gate.
Dear papa no more raps and shouts
For us to go to bed,
There isn't so much sitting up
Since John and I were wed.
—[*Poughkeepie Press.*

OUR INSECT ENEMIES.

A Practical Communication from Prof. Aughey.

I wish to add some facts and suggestions to what the press has been saying on the subject of our danger from insects, and the remedy.

There can be no question about the INCREASE OF OUR INSECT ENEMIES.

Even the chintz bug has been increasing, on the whole, during the last ten years. I saw more butterflies of the army worm during the last summer than ever before in our history. It only requires a favorable season and conditions for this insect to become a formidable foe to our agriculture.—Tree borers are also alarmingly on the increase. I noticed them in large numbers in groves during the last season, where they were never, to my knowledge, seen before. Many more instances of the same kind could be given. The vast number of grasshoppers that occasionally sweep down on our plains is too familiar to need discussion. It should be recollected, also, that the amount of damage done in a year, throughout the United States, by insects, is not less than four hundred millions of dollars, (Packard.) Illinois alone has suffered to the amount of $73,000,000 in a single year. The poverty and starvation of settlements in Nebraska, produced by grasshoppers, is familiar to every one; in fact, these insect plagues bear most heavily on all the interests of the State.

We do not need to go far to ascertain the CAUSE OF THIS GENERAL INCREASE OF INSECTS.

The balance of nature has been interrupted in Nebraska. Insects are *increasing with the decrease of our insectivorous birds.* This decrease of birds is traced directly to the agency of man. As a few persons still deny the agency of birds in keeping down insects, I will give a few examples from my note book. In May and June, 1875, I examined the stomach of a great many prairie chickens which I had shot for that purpose, to ascertain definitely the nature of their food. No. 1 had 59 grasshoppers and 13 other insects in its stomach. No. 2 had 61 grasshoppers and 16 other insects and worms. No. 3 had 75 grasshoppers and 9 other insects. Besides these insects there was a large mass of the same kind of materials that was too much macerated to be counted. The stomachs of quails contained from 40 to 50 grasshoppers and other insects, besides a large mass that could not be distinguished. In previous years when the migrating grasshoppers were not in the state the contents of the stomachs of these birds were still largely made up of various kinds of insects.

No families of birds are so little appreciated for their insectivorous qualities as plovers and snipes. They are represented in Nebaska by at least sixteen species. The number of insects which they destroy is enormous. I have found from thirty to forty-five insects and worms in the stomachs of one small species, (*Ægialitis Semipalmatus.*) Many of these plovers and snipes spend the cold months in the gulf states, and come north in the spring to hatch. Formerly they were exceedingly abundant in this state, but they are now becoming reduced very fast by murderous hunters. Our blue-Birds, thrushes, wrens, swallows, etc., all feed almost entirely on insects. The blackbirds and orioles that are charged with confiscating so many grains, will be found, on examination, to make insects at least 9-10 of their food. Now suppose that the INSECTIVEROUS BIRDS WERE LEFT TO INCREASE

until there were about a thousand to a square mile. Each bird, at a low calculation, would require 100 insects for food each day. This would destroy 100,000 insects each day on every square mile, and in a month, 3,000,000, and in five months 15,000,000. But insectivorous birds really consume nearer 200 than 100 insects each day, and at this rate 500 such birds to the square mile would accomplish the same result. If birds are increased to the number proposed there will be insects enough to furnish them with food for many years. When once the insects become reduced in numbers, the birds, of their own accord, if left alone, take themselves to other regions. If they must be killed by carnivorous man, let the point of oversupply be first reached

DESTRUCTION OF TREES.

But let it be remembered that our forest and cultivated trees in Nebraska alone are preyed on by about 140 species of insects. Apple, pear, and plum trees have about 100 species of insect enemies. Fifty species of insects interfere with grape culture.—There are at least 35 insect enemies of our gardens. Most species of insects have a remarkable fecundity. One pair of grain weevils will produce 6,000 young between April and August According to Reaumer, one aphide or plant louse (these apides are found on almost all kinds of plants,) may become the progenitor in a single season of six thousand millions. The female wasp produces 30,000 in one season.—(Packard.) The white ant deposits eggs at an average rate of 60 to a minute. Our own wild silk worm (*Attacus Escropia,*) which feeds so largely on our wild plum leaves, produces from 600 to 1,000 eggs per season. But I need not multiply these common instances of the enormous increase of sects. The cutomologist whose eye is accustomed to look for insects sees almost every foot of ground in summer time swarm with life. If the naked eye does not see them the microscope brings them to view. No one need, therefore, fear that such an increase of insectivorous birds as is proposed would produce a famine among them, especially as more than half betake themselves to warmer regions on the approach of cold weather. The fact is we must see them or suffer immeasurably more in the near future from insect depredations than we have ever done in the past.

THE BARBAROUS KILLING OF BIRDS.

But what hinders such a proposed increase of insectiverous birds? Every one knows that it is the barbarous custom of killing birds. No agent of destruction is so potent as bird dogs.—They do immeasurably more damage than traps. When trapping birds was made illegal, hunting birds with dogs should also have been forbidden. The farmer is seldom able to hunt during the busy summer, and when he can go gunning on his own fields the young game has been so reduced in numbers and made so wild by men and dogs that little can be obtained. *Better forbid by statute the killing of birds by any method for for at least three years, and after that permit it only for a month by shooting without the aid of dogs.* Dogs and traps should be eschewed forever in Nebraska for hunting. The enforcement of such a law would work unspeakable good to Nebraska. Surely sporting-men will, for the sake of the public good, be willing to abandon their favorite amusement. The objection is sometimes made that a large increase of prairie chickens and quails would be

ENDANGERING TO THE CROPS

of the farmers. I believe that is a mistaken view. In examining the stomachs of these birds that were killed in wheat stubbles after harvest, I almost invariably found more insects than grains of wheat. The only exception to this experience was the occasional finding of an almost exclusive meal made on prairie grass seeds and berries. But surely the few seeds and grains that they confiscate will not be grudged to them in view of the many insect enemies which they destroy.

SAMUEL AUGHEY,
State University, Lincoln, 1876.
—*Omaha Republican.*

FROM EIGHT MILE GROVE.

EIGHT MILE GROVE, NEB.
December 10, 1876.

MR. MACMURPHY—You ask of the people of Cass Co., the news, from their various locations. I would say that all is *lovely* at this place, only I feel that I was the victim of a deception, and imposition, in this, Mac. Early this morning one of the neighbor women came to my house rather in a hurry, as I thought, and left word that I was wanted at Mr. Walter Mutz's house (my son-in-law), and left. So I fixed up and "lit" out, on arriving at the door I heard some one titter, I thought it rather remarkable and hesitated, while hesitating the door was thrown open and behold! the neighbor women rushed out, seized me, pulled me in, and into the rocking chair, next pulled the spectacles off the face of Grand Ma McConkey and placed them on my venerable nose, I demanding all the while what it all meant, they said it was no matter; it was a girl! my grand-daughter, and its mother was doing as well as expected. Now Mac, this is "too bad," for I am 50 years old and cannot stand it. So I appeal to you for help, and till help comes your servant waits with a strange feeling.

JAMES HALL.

"Thay 'Amen' and thit Down."

Unfortunately for the Sunday schools, there are a number of middle aged gentlemen, who, thinking themselves endowed by nature with oratorical ability, visit Sunday schools to display their speech-making qualities. These gentlemen are very properly termed Sunday school bores, for they bore the children, bore the superintendent, bore the teachers and bore every person with whom they are thrown in contact.

One of these gentry had a round of four or five schools which he visited regularly, and as regularly bored, ending his orations invariably with "Amen."

Visiting one of his schools during his regular rounds, he made his appearance at the superintendent's desk, who, feeling greatly annoyed, yet out of courtesy, asked him if he desired to say a few words to the school.

"Wa'll, yes, I'll say just a word or two!" and straightening himself up, with one hand on the corner of the desk, and the other feeling for pins at the bottom of his vest he began.

"Wa'all, chil'un, your superintendent wants me to speek to yer!" and feeling vigorously for pins.

"Neow, what shall I say—what shall I talk about.

A bright little fellow, about four years of age, sitting in the front seat, who evidently had heard the orator before, jumped to his feet and lisped out, loud enough to be heard all over the school room:

"Thay 'Amen and thit down!"

The speaker collapsed.

Just as hardware men made a reduction of ten per cent. in the price of lawn sprinklers, along comes twenty-three hours of continuous rain to go five per cent. better.

EUROPEAN POLITICS.

ED. HERALD:—As you seem disposed to give information on the European question in your paper, please allow me to add my mite towards some general information on the subject.

European politics of to-day are a riddle to even the best diplomatists of the world. Every one expects a war, but at the same time ask the question, "who is going to the bloody dance?"

Russia furnishes the music, and Turkey, decidedly, the floor; the managers are going to be Disreali and Bismarck.

Those familiar with the politics of Russia know very well that she has, for the last twenty years, had her emissaries among the Sclavonic races to agitate a general Sclavonic movement known by the name of Pan Slavism.

To-day her time has apparently arrived. Religion(?) she is taking for the main-spring of this giant machine which is to open for her the southern borders to make her navy, in strength and capability, equal to that of England.

By Russian proclamations of to-day imperial speeches, word of honor given to England and words of the prophets scattered around the country, she tries to make her own people believe as well as the world in general, that the warlike preparations are only to save the Christian martyrs from Turkish barbarism. But this cannot be her only desire because her hands are to-day stained with the blood of "*Christian brothers,*" as she calls them.

Turkish barbarism never reached the heighth of Russian in its past history, or even that of to-day.

Ivan, rightly surnamed the Terrible, killed his son with his own hand; with fire and sword he ruined the republics of Novogrood and Pskow; and one of his best Generals he caused to be burned to death in an iron cage.

Peter, the Great, stained his hands with the blood of his own son,

Catherine II gave orders to her priests to distribute consecrated knives among the Russian convicts to be used against the Polish people.

Alexander, the present Czar, who gave orders to be called "The Father of his People," no longer than two years ago, murdered thousands of Polish "Unites," converting them to the Russian Greek religion by means of gallows, bayonets, knouts, and exportation.

This is the *Christian* Emperor whom half of the world believes to be the saviour of the martyrs in the hands of the Mahometans. This is the government most befriended by our great and glorious republic. F. S.

Pitch in, old boy, very glad to hear your gentle voice—pen we mean.—ED.

The Pint of Ale.

A Manchester calico printer was, on his wedding day, asked by his wife to allow her two half-pints of ale a day as her share of extra comforts. He made the bargain, but not cheerfully, for though a drinker himself (fancying, no doubt, that he could not well do without), he would have preferred a perfectly sober wife. They both worked hard. John loved his wife, but he could not break away from his old associations at the ale house, and when not in the factory or at his meals, he was with his boon companions His wife made the small allowance meet her housekeeping expenses—keeping her cot neat and tidy, and he could not complain that she insisted upon her daily pint of ale, while he, very likely drank two or three quarts. Once in a while the wife succeeded, by gentle, loving artifices, in drawing her husband home an hour or two earlier than usual, and very rarely she persuaded him to spend a whole evening in her company. They had been married a year, and the morning of their wedded anniversary John looked with real pride upon the neat and comely person of his wife, and, with a touch of remorse in his look and tone, he said:

"Mary, we'n had no holiday since we were wed, an' only that I haven't a penny i' th' world we'd take a jaunt to th' village and see the mither."

"Would like to go John?" she asked.

There was a tear with her smile, for it touched her heart to hear him speak tenderly as in the old times.

"If thee'd like to go John, I'll stand treat."

"Thou stand treat, Mary! Hast got a fortin' left thee?"

"Nay, but I'm gotten the pint o' ale," she added.

"Gotten what, wife?"

"The pint o' ale," she repeated.

And thereupon she went to the hearth and from beneath one of the stone flags drew forth a stocking from which, she poured upon the table the sum of 365 three-pences—*4l. 11s. 3d.*—exclaiming:

"See, John, thee can have the holiday."

"What is this?" he asked in amaze.

"It is my daily pint o' ale John."

He was conscience stricken as well as amazed.

"Mary, hasn't thee had any share? Then I'll ha' no more fro' this day."

And he was as good as his word. They had their holiday with the old mother, and Mary's little capital, saved from the "pints o' ale," was the seed from which, as the years rolled on, grew shop, factory, warehouse, country seat and carriage, with health, happiness, peace, honor and renown.

Scene in a New York Police Court.

Judge—"Prisoner, I find you guilty of intoxication in the public streets. The punishment is ten dollars or ten days. Which will you take?" Prisoner—"I will take the ten dollars, your honor.—*Rowell's Reporter.*

An Indiana stump-speaker boldly announced the other day that "the country is drifting into arnica."—*Exchange.* In that case it will soon be in order to have the camp-phires lighted.—*Globe Democrat.* Seems as if that speaker had taken his alcohol in advance.

FROM GLENDALE.

GLENDALE, CASS CO., NEB.
December 9th, 1876.

ED. HERALD:—Gathering corn is about over for this year, and we are well and happy. Professor Polk has taken charge of our school, and is putting the scholars through as usual. M. D. Polk has taken charge of the Schlater school, he has got a large school of young ladies, and is going to supply Cass county with lady teachers next year. Mr. Core has gone east on business, we wish the old man a safe return. M. P. Williams is in the hog buness, he keeps the neighborhood cleaned of fat hogs.

There was a meeting at Louisville on the 2d, to set on foot a project to build a bridge across Platte River at that place. The meeting was addressed by Messrs. Wilson, Doll, Fox, Newberry, Cap. Hoover, and also the Cass County Reformer, who delivered a very able address on bridges, generally. If any of the young ladies want good tea, and sugar to sweeten it with, call on Mr. Nason of Louisville. C. S.

COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDING.

Board met pursuant to adjournment. Present—E. G. Dovey, Wm. R. Arnold, B. S. Ramsay, com'rs; C. P. Moore, Clerk, by Wm. L. Wells, deputy, and M. B. Cutler, sheriff.

The following accounts were examine and allowed on general fund, viz.

G. B. Crippen, services for Oct.	$108.00
" " " Nov.	100.00
" wood, etc.,	15.40
H. E. Wilson publishing error in election notice	5.00
E. G. Dovey & Son	2.70
H. R. Wilson bids for bridge $3.75, allowed	3.50
H. E. Wilson, bids for wood contract $3.75, allowed	3.50
W. H. Newell, express charges, per bill	2.95
C. P. Moore, postage &c, per bill	9.40
Geo. S. Smith, att'ys fees, State vs Milton Hollingshead	10.00
D. H. Barr, Justice Docket	3.75
J. C. Cummins, coal and stamps	71.75
H. J. Streight, stationary	2.65
State *Journal* Co., binding tax sale book	2.35
State *Journal* Co., poll books	30.50
Canvass of Nov. election, J. W. Johnson	4.00
Canvass of Nov. election, J. M. Patterson	4.00
Canvass of Nov. election, and return, C. P. Moore, Clerk	6.00
Canvass Nov. election 50th dist D. H. Wheeler	2.00
Wm. Winterstein	2.00
and returned C. P. Moore	4.00
H. A. Waterman & Son, lumber	5.75
M. B. Cutler, board prisoners 60c instead of 70c per day	46.20
Claims allowed on poor fund.	
J. H. Buttery, medicine, &c., for paupers on poor fund	13.85
J. H. Buttery, sundries	26.85
E. G. Dovey & Son, sundries	35.37
R. H. Vanatta, board paupers Oct. and Nov., 1876	77.50
H. C. McMaken, delivering coal cut down 35c, and allowed	9.00
H. A. Waterman & Son, lumber road dist. 52	20.00
H. A. Waterman & Son, lumber, road dist. 13	5.00
H. A. Waterman & Son, lumber road dist. 42	92
H. A. Waterman & Son, lumber road dist. 17	5.60
H. A. Waterman & Son, lumber road dist 19	24.36
W. J. White, repairing bridge, on bridge fund	16.50
Messengers, Clerks and Judges of election reduced $1 each decuction $8200, allowed	315.45

DECEMBER 7th.

Board met pursuant to adjournment. Present—E. G. Dovey, Wm. Arnold, B. S. Ramsey, Com'rs.

The following acc'ts were examined and allowed on general fund:

G. H. Black, registrar for Nov. election	$ 15 00
A. C. Fry, putting coal in cellar	50
J. N. Wise, assignee for C. H. Tolles, reports fees	10 00
C. Brown, paid by C. P. Moore, cleaning chimneys, &c., Mr. Ramsay opposing	2 00
Henry Boeck, chair for County Judge, Mr. Ramsay opposing	11 00
C. H. Tolles, official reporters fees, Sept. term, 1876	30 00
J. A. MacMurphy, blanks and advertising, $49.50 allowed	49 00
J. A. MacMurphy, blanks, &c.	15 05
State *Journal* Co. for District Court $25, allowed	22 00
J. F. Drath, witness fees, State vs Brickert, blank certificate.	12 00
F. E. White, coal on poor fund.	9 10
G. E. Pronger, framing bridge, dist. 19, allowed	6 00

December 8th, 1876.

Board met pursuant to adjournment. Present—E. G. Dovey, Wm. B. Arnold, and B. S. Ramsay. Wm. L. Wells, Deputy Clerk, M. B. Cutler, Sheriff.

The following certificates, Clerk District Court, were presented and ordered cancelled, and Clerk instructed to draw warrants for same in favor of D. H. Wheeler, to-wit:

W. D. Groesbeck, case State vs Bricket	11 60
Chas. P. Hall, State vs Bricket.	11 60
Jacob Schlanker " " "	11 60
G. W. Groesbeck " " "	11 60
L. C. Burr and Geo. W. Dove State vs Bricket	11 50
Rob't. Mitchel, State vs Bricket	11 50

Supervisors receipts examined and orders allowed on the several road districts as follows:

J. M. Eaman, supervisor receipts cancelled on dist. 33	2 00
A. McMullen, sup'vrs receipts cancelled on dist 12	4 00
C. B. Brush, supervisor receipts cancelled on dist. 44	4 00
Ambrose Beckert, supervisor receipts cancelled on dist. 52	2 00
Arch Rager, supervisor receipts cancelled on dist. 24	2 00
Geo. W. Graves, supervisor rep'ts cancelled on dist. 30	9 00
C. H. Kirkpatrick, supervisors receipt cancelled on dist. 49	2 00
Claim of G. S. Smith, County attorney, allowed on general fund, salary second half year, (objected to by B. S. Ramsay)	50 00

FOR THE HOUSEHOLD.

HOW GIRLS CAN LEARN TO BE HOUSEKEEPERS.—Begin with your own things and your own place. That is what your mother will tell you if you rush to her, enthusiastic with great intentions, and offer to relieve her of half her housekeeping. Don't draw that little bucket of cold water to have it poured back upon your early zeal. Reform your upper bureau-drawer; relieve your closet-pegs of their accumulation of garments out of use a month or two ago. Institute a clear and cheerful order, in the midst of which you can daily move; and learn to keep it. Use yourself to the beautiful,—which is the right,—disposing of things *as you handle them;* so that it will be a part of your toilet to dress your room and its arrangements while you dress yourself; leaving the draperies you take off as lightly and artistically hung, or as delicately folded and placed, as the skirts you loop carefully to wear, or the ribbon and lace you put with a soft neatness about your throat. Cherish your instincts of taste and fitness in every little thing that you have about you. Let it grow impossible to you to put down so much as a pin-box where it will disturb the orderly and pleasant grouping upon your dressing-table; or to stick your pins in the cushion, even, at all