THE HERALD.

Election Items.

Election returns from different parts of the country show no change of any magnitude from the fall elections, politically speaking. As a general rule party lines have not been very closely drawn; in Nebraska where tickets have been run by the two old parties, the republicans appear to have been the gainers. The temperance question has been paramount in some localities abolishing other parties. In Ohio the Nationals were expected to change affairs to a certain extent, but their influence with few exceptions was small; some municipal elections in Michigan were carried by the Nationals. The greenback party developed the most strength in Wisconsin, carrying the elections in a number of towns. In Illinois where the republican and democratic lines have been drawn the results have been about equal to each. The socialists or commune element was at work in Chicago, and succeeded in electing one councilman. In the east, the State election in Rhode Island was carried by the republicans with good majorities.

In the river and harbor appropriation bill reported to the House of Representatives on the 3d, $270,000 is appropriated to the Missouri River. Of this sum Nebraska gets but $50,000, divided between Omaha and Nebraska City, for the improvement of the river at those points. Omaha gets $30,000 of the above mentioned and Nebraska City the balance. The whole is far too small an amount to make the improvements necessary. Of the balance of the amount appropriated $70,000 is for removing snags along the entire course of the river, $50,000 is for surveys, and the remainder is divided between the Yellowstone country and St. Joseph.

A Coming Issue.

The friends of higher forms of education in connection with the public school system would do well to prepare for a conflict which seems rapidly approaching. The determined opposition to appropriations for the College of New York, manifested in the Legislature at Albany, is but one of many signs of the times that point to an early attack upon the whole expensive machinery of high class education at the public cost—an attack which will not be confined to any city or State. Already there are sharp criticisms heard upon the high school and normal school of Cleveland—not that they are mismanaged or are not doing well the work expected of them, but because they furnish a kind of education, which, it is claimed, is no proper part of the common school system and ought not to be provided at the general expense. The argument used is that the community is not bound to pay for the instruction of a few hundred of its young men and women in Latin, Greek, higher mathematics, and the natural sciences, and that such instruction should be left to Colleges and Seminaries sustained by tuition fees or by endowments given by public-spirited citizens. The duty of the State, it is claimed goes no further than to give to every child the basis of a good English education—a knowledge of reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, geography and the elementary laws of health. Everything beyond this—all provisions for the study of ornamental branches, or of those designed only to afford a foundation for the learned professions is condemned as foreign to the proper purpose of universal education at the public cost. In support of this argument is urged the fact that a large majority of the children of the State are, by the circumstance of their living in the country, necessarily deprived of the privileges of high schools and are confined to such advantages as the district school affords. Why, it is asked, should the child of the mechanic, who happens to live in a city or large village, be given an education, at the taxpayers' cost, far better than that which the State gives to the child of the farmer? Ought not the system to be uniform for city and country? Should not the high schools and normal schools be abandoned, and more attention be given to the common schools that distribute their blessing to all?—Cleveland Herald.

Hints About Food.

Highly concentrated food, having much nourishment in a small bulk, is not favorable to digestion, because it cannot be properly acted on by the muscular contractions of the stomach, and is not so minutely divided as to enable the gastric juice to act properly. This is the reason why a certain bulk of food is needful to good digestion; and why those people who live on whale oil and other highly nourishing food, in cold climates, mix vegetables, and even saw-dust, with it to make it more acceptable and digestible; so in civilized lands fruits and vegetables are mixed with more highly concentrated nourishment. For this reason also soups, jellies and arrow-root should have bread or crackers mixed with them. This affords another reason why coarse bread of unbolted wheat so often proves beneficial. In England, under the administration of William Pitt, for two years or more there was such a scarcity of wheat that, to make it hold out longer, Parliament passed a law that the army should have all their bread made of unbolted flour. The result was that the health of the soldiers improved so much as to be a subject of surprise to themselves, the officers and physicians. The last came out publicly and declared that the soldiers were never before so robust and healthy, and that disease had nearly disappeared from the army. The civic physicians joined and pronounced it the healthiest bread, and for a time it was used almost exclusively. We thus see why children should not have cakes and candies allowed them between meals. Besides being largely carbonaceous, these are highly concentrated nourishments, and should be eaten with more bulky and less nourishing substances. The most indigestible of all kinds of food are fatty and oily substances, if heated It is on this account that pie-crust and articles boiled or fried in fat or butter are deemed not so healthful as other food. The following, then, may be put down as the causes of a debilitated constitution from the misuse of food: Eating too much, eating too often, eating too fast, eating food and condiments that are too stimulating, eating food that is too warm or too cold, eating food that is highly concentrated without a proper admixture of less nourishing matter, and eating hot food that is difficult of digestion.—American Woman's Home.

The Salem Summer School.

A summer school of biology, of zoology, and of botany was established by the Peabody Academy of Science in 1876, at Salem, Massachusetts. The attendance and the pecuniary results of the first two sessions indicate that it may be as permanent an annual as certain species of the flowers which its students analyze. Intended primarily for the teachers of Essex County, it has attracted by its distinguished corps of instructors students from several States and several colleges. Among the twenty students of the last session Virginia and Louisiana were represented, and of our colleges. Vassar, Wellesley, Cornell, and Williams sent either professors, graduates, or students. The emphisis which this school lays upon the importance of forming a correct method of scientific study is indicated in Dr. Packard's opening address to the students: "Biology as well as geology is a science of observation. The fact concerning the morphology, mode of growth, and mutual relation of organisms must be learned by handling, observing, and drawing the objects themselves.... We shall endeaver to study nature at first hand, and the scalped, the pencil, and microscope will be the instruments of research. It will be better for us to study a few forms of life thoroughly, and thus from one type learn how to study others. Specialists in the knowledge of a few forms, we shall learn how to study and observe, so that for a knowledge of others only time will be wanted.... The idea I would impress upon you is to spend the bulk of your time in the thorough study of a few typical forms of life, dissect and draw, learning how to observe for yourselves, it will be easy to teach others. After becoming thoroughly acquainted with the structure of a sea-weed, a fern, a pine, a lily, a sea-anemone, a sea-urchin, clam, snail, worm, insect, fish, and bird, their structure and mode of development, then what time you have left you can devote to indentifying species and observing their habits, collecting, and studying the classifications of the different groups."

During the session of the Salem school held last summer, the instruction comprised some ten lectures a week upon zoology and botany, by Dr. Packard, Mr. John Robinson, and other distinguished scientists. The principal work, however, of the students consisted of laboratory practice in the dissecting and drawing of specimens. The clam alone occupied the attention of a part of the students for a week, and to the grasshopper an equal amount of time was allowed. In addition to the regular biological students, Mr. Charles S. Minot gave a course of six lectures and practical demonstrations in histology; and the Rev. E. C. Bolles, one of our most distinguished microscopists, gave instruction in the use of that necessary instrument of scientific investigation.—C. F. Thwing in Harper's Magazine for March.

Nebraska City is in debt $391,000 and the Mayor of that city says it is impossible for her to ever pay it. Plattsmouth is unable to pay her indebtedness. This, in both instances, is the result of undertaking to run a city on the high presure plan and voting a bonded indebtedness for every imaginary want. Either of the above named cities are not as well provided with side-walks and other *needed* improvements to-day as our little town of Blair. Those people who want to bond this city to buy a fire-engine, or for any other cause, have an illustration in the above, of the beauties of a bonded indebtedness.—Blair Pilot.

Under the caption of "Fourteen Years on Deck" the Plattsmouth HERALD tells its readers of the commencement of the fourteenth volume, and we hope to see "Little Mac" on deck at the expiration of another fourteen years, bold and outspoken as he has always been in the past.—Beatrice Courier.

THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST of April 1st, contains its usual 50 engravings, illustrating animals, plants, buildings, labor-saving contrivances, etc.; Work for the Month laid out in detail with particular suggestions; extended Humbug exposures; $1,000 House; Livery Stable and Carriage-House plans; Among the farmers, by One of them; Farm Crop Talks, No. 14; Goat-Raising for Profit; Root and Fodder Crops; Gardening Chapters; Plant One Grape Vine; Sunday Farm appliances, illustrated; Many Home Hints; Boys and Girls' Columns; Using the Microscope, with interesting illustrations; and a great variety of condensed useful articles and items. Price 25 cents; $1.60 a year. ORANGE JUDD COMPANY, Publishers, New York.

Too Much Law-Making.

Cleveland Herald.

Mr. Beecher might well have added to his enumeration of the wastes and burdens of society the great waste and burden of excessive legislation. A country with a long established civilization, a system of government founded on the approval and affection of the whole body of citizens and a collection of statutes adapted to its needs, requires but little if any additional law-making from year to year. And yet we have Congress and thirty-eight States legislature besides at work every year grinding out new laws for the people to obey. Even the lawyers cannot keep track of this mass of legislation, and it often happens that an old statute is brought to light that has been wholly lost sight of and forgotten because buried under the annual accumulations of new legal material. The grand total of expense, business disturbance, and annoyance occasioned by needless legislation would if it could be computed, startle the country. The evil is on the increase and demands the application of the sharp remedy of public indignation.

Fact in Natural History.

The researches of scientific men, says the Journal of Science, have shown that some species of crustacea, among others the ordinary barnacles that infest the bottoms of our ships, although blind, fixed and helpless, as they appear to us, are, in their youth, active, sharp-sighted little creatures, shaped somewhat like our water-flea, with long antenæ, which are provided with cups at their extremities. Having passed the period of youth, they begin to think of settling down steadily in some chosen spot for the remainder of their life. By means of sucking cups they adhere to some fixed or floating body. In this position a long hump grows out of their back, from the end of which a sticky fluid is poured out, which glues them firmly to the object to which they have attached themselves. The function of their sucking cups is thus rendered useless, and the little animal glides down the declining days of its little stream of life, in quiet enjoyment of a new phase of existence.

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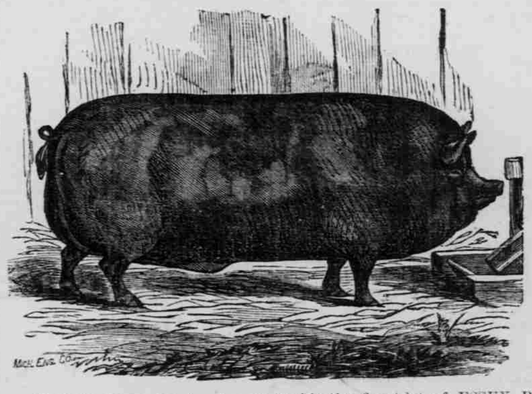

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All Wool Blankets from $1.25 up.
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