

August 17, 1879.

Mr. Editor: You say write us something of interest from Creston. This may be a difficult matter, as there is but little excitement in our quiet town, still I will try to keep you informed of passing events.

I have thought that a description of our settlement might not be uninteresting, as we always like to know the surroundings of new acquaintances whom we hope to call friends.

A few years ago a well-known clergyman with his mother were riding through this region, scarcely a house to be seen in the 30 miles of their journey, she exclaimed, "will this country ever become settled?" He replied, "yes, within ten years you will be surprised at the marvelous changes!" And both have lived to see the fulfillment of the prophecy, for I think there are no homesteads open in the whole route, and many thousand acres of R. R. land have been sold. Of course, like all this portion of Nebraska, the surface of the country is rolling prairie, but without boasting I can safely say that there are few settlements of so recent date that show such substantial improvements. As soon as you enter its limits from any direction you are favorably impressed with its appearance; neat frame houses are to be seen, and in some instances good barns, corncribs and granaries. Many pleasant homes upon good farms are to be found costily struggling under the hills, built there for convenience of water for the stock and for house use; but during the past year Sec. 21 and its surroundings have grown to look like a prosperous farming district. Its natural advantages are great, being high table land, the country dipping away from it in all directions and from it the greater part of Creston can be seen.

Messrs. W. B. Williams and R. C. McCandlish have brought their brides to good homes upon opposite corners. West, stands the new church and house of W. Jackson; north, C. Heitsman's house; east, those of S. Tucker and W. Longworth, and south, the homes of W. N. McCandlish and A. Miles, while in the distance can be seen the Anson farms and Danish settlement; all with two exceptions have good frame houses, many of them surrounded with beautiful groves in growing condition. There are other good farms near, but the houses are not visible; several contemplate making improvements on their adjacent high lands, which will add greatly to the beauty of the scenery; this year they had to feed too many hungry ones not expected when they made arrangements for their crop, the hoppers consumed many planned improvements. When the R. R. is run through here from Stanton to Columbus, we shall be ready to rise with the emergency, and become a first-class town.

Harvest is over but I will defer speaking of it now, as I can do so with no certainty. Will call again. Yours, N. S.

Talking at Table.

Talking at table is one of the very best digesters; there is no tonic known to equal it, if it is of the kind calculated to promote hilarity and good feeling generally. Most parents are prone to prohibit their children from laughing and talking at the table; it is unphilosophical; it is a cruelty. Joyousness promotes the circulation of the blood, enlivens it, invigorates it, sends it tingling to the remotest part of the system, carrying with it animation, vigor and life. The louder the little ones laugh the better; the faster they talk the better, for then they eat less in a given time, consequently chew their food more thoroughly. Discard controversy from the dining table. Discourage all subjects which invite political or religious rancor. Let every topic introduced be calculated to instruct, to interest, or amuse. Do not let the mind run on business or previous mishaps or past disappointments. Never tell bad news at the table, nor for an hour before. Let every thing you have to communicate be, if possible, of a gladsome, joyous, hilarious character, calculated to bring out pleasant remarks or agreeable associations. On the other hand, never administer a reproof at the social board to either servant or child; find fault with nothing; speak unkindly to no one. If remarks are made of the absent, let them contain some words of commendation, which, if repeated in their hearing afterward will kindle kindly feelings, and thus will thoughts of the family table come across the memory of after years, when we have been scattered and some laid in their last resting place bringing with them a sweetness of emotion which makes it a pleasure to dwell upon them.

It is with a feeling of envy, not unmingled with a dread of insanity, that the visitor to Coney Island, trying to shut from his ears the maddening aerial pirouettes of the corset, recalls to mind the happy savage in his Western wilds, of whom the poet has so feelingly sung: "Lo, the poor Indian, whose untutored mind—" When a man is tired it isn't very strange, is it, that he wants to be retired?

The Charm of True Marriage.

Our advanced theories of divorce and free love making the matrimonial relation merely a partnership to be dissolved at pleasure whatever else may be said in their favor, strike a deadly blow at an element in it which was meant perhaps to be supreme above all others. What is the sweetest charm of all true marriage, what the greatest advantage, what the most priceless happiness, the human heart? Not the flush and splendor of its early love; not the richer development which it brings to the character; not even the children who are gathered around its shrine. No, but the intimacy and reliability of its companionship; the fact that it gives those who enter in it, each in the other and through all scenes and changes, a near and blessed stand-by. Marriage in some of its aspects is doubtless the source of an immense amount of unhappiness, crime, injustice, blight and down-dragging, one of the most perplexing institutions society has to deal with,—only the blindest sentimentalist will deny that. On the other hand, however,—and this is not mere sentiment but sober fact,—of all the evidences of God's goodness to be found in this lower world, all the proof that he cares for us not only with the wisdom of a Creator but with the interest and love of a Father, there is none quite equal to his sending a human being into the arena of life, not to fight its battles, win its victories and endure its sorrows alone, but giving them, as they go forth out of their childhood's home, a relation in which each two of them are bound together with the closest of all ties, live together under the same roof, have their labors, their property, their interests, their parental affections all in common, and are moved to stand by each other, hand to hand, and heart to heart, in every sorrow, misfortune, trial and stormy day that earth can bring. It is an ideal, if not always realized in full, which is tasted even now, amid all that is said about marriage miseries, more widely perhaps than any other happiness. — Sunday Afternoon.

The Queen of All.

Honor the dear old mother. Time has scattered the snowy flakes on her brow, plowed deep furrows on her cheeks, but is she not sweet and beautiful now? The lips are thin and shrunken, but those are the lips which have kissed many a hot tear from childish cheeks, and they are the sweetest lips in all the world. The eye is dim, yet it glows with the soft radiance of holy love which can never fade. Ah yes, she is a dear old mother. The sands of life are nearly run out, but feeble as she is, she will go further and reach down lower for you than any other upon earth. You cannot walk into a midnight where she can not see you; you cannot enter a prison whose bars will keep her out; you can never mount a scaffold too high for her to reach that she may kiss and bless you in evidence of her deathless love. When the world shall despise and forsak you, when it leaves you by the way side to die unnoticed, the dear old mother will gather you in her feeble arms and carry you home and tell you of all your virtues until you almost forget that your soul is disgraced by vices. Love her tenderly and cheer her declining years with holy devotion.

Independent Girls.

How truly independent are the girls who work for their own livelihood? They are not always on the lookout for a husband who will support them. While woman is free and independent she will not marry except she marries for love, and love alone. But your other damsel of the useless hand—why, she must marry anyway. Papa may not live always, and he may not leave her a fortune when he dies. If she cannot have a husband whom she loves and respects, she is obliged by the pressure of her own helplessness to take the best she can get, or run the risk of having no one to support her! Horrible thought! Any girl of average intellect, over twenty years of age, ought to be ashamed to confess that she could not, if necessary do something to provide for herself an honorable and independent living, no matter if her father can count his wealth by thousands. Don't hang your daughter like a millstone about the neck of some unfortunate man, but give her some trade or occupation by which she can gain an honest living.

We are informed by one of our city fathers that an examination of the new Civil Code, relating to cities of second class, has convinced the Council that after September 1, we shall have no valid city government until the election next April, and hence they will meet frequently for the remainder of the month, to put the city in as good shape as possible preparatory to being mustered out by the law. It is pretty generally believed also, that the law requires an election of a full Board of County Commissioners in each county this fall, though there seems to be a little doubt of the fact. Some of our leading lawyers will do well to look up the matter. — Lincoln Journal.

Choose those companions who administer to your improvement.

How Monkeys are Captured.

The ape family resembles man. They love liquor in the fall. In Darfour and Senar the natives make a fermented beer, of which the monkeys are passionately fond. Aware of this the natives go to the parts of the forest frequented by the monkeys, and set on the ground calabashes full of the enticing liquor. As soon as the monkey sees an tastes it he utters loud cries of joy that soon attract his comrades. Then an orgie begins, and in a short time they will show all degrees of intoxication. Then the negroes appear. The few who came too late to get fuddled escape. The drinkers are too far gone to distrust them, but apparently take them for larger specimens of their own genus. The negroes take them up, and these begin to weep and cover them with kisses. When a negro takes one by the hand to lead him off, the nearest monkey will cling to the one who thus finds support, and endeavor to go on also. Another will grasp at him, and so on, until the negro leads a stragling one of ten or a dozen tipsy monkeys. When finally brought to the village they are securely caged up and gradually sobered down; but for a day or two a gradually diminishing supply of liquor is given them, so as to reconcile them by degrees to their state of captivity. — Globe Democrat.

W. T. Richardson is drawing up the plat of the reconstruction of the town of Ulysses preparatory to a new survey of the site. There is nothing to hinder Ulysses making a live town and a good trading point. They have a water power sufficient, if properly managed, to accommodate the south half of the county in the way of milling. But energy and unselfishness is necessary to the prosperity of any town. — Butler Co. Press.

It is very possible that the government will one day buy up all the railroads and charge only enough tolls to pay the running expenses. We can then all visit our sisters, our cousins and our aunts at the other end of the Union for about five dollars. — Exchange.

"Conductor, why did you not wake me as I asked you? Here I am miles beyond my station." "Conductor?" "I did try, sir, but all I could get out of you was, "All right, Maria; get the children their breakfast, and I'll be down in a minute."

A son of Charles Brown, Shell Creek Precinct, about nine years old, was a few days ago bitten by a rattlesnake while on his way from school. A large dose of whiskey and an application of soda to the bite, allayed the swelling. — Schuyler Sun.

"When the weather is wet, We must not fret; When the weather is dry, We must not cry. When the weather is cold, We must not scold; When the weather is warm, We must not storm. But be thankful together, Whatever the weather."

Two twin brothers are said to be so much alike that they frequently borrow money of each other without knowing of it.

Be very careful, if you regard your self as the guardian of your honor, that you do not occupy the position of a squire.

Value the friendship of him who stands by you in a storm; swarms of insects will surround you in the sunshine.

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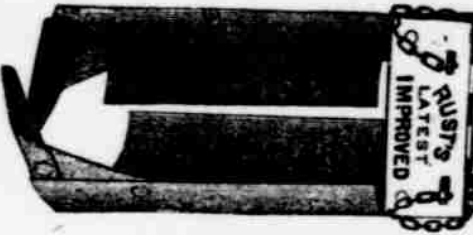
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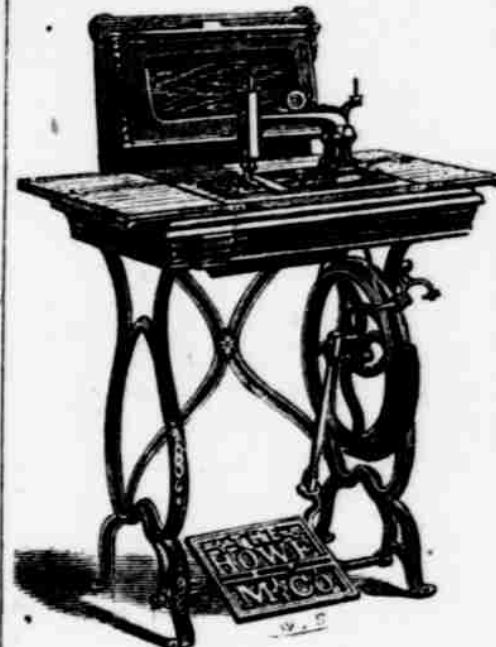
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