

Creston. Mr. Editor:—I am happy to inform you that the long looked for shower made its appearance on Saturday afternoon, and this morning another one blessed us, greatly refreshing the parched earth, and now the pumpkins and other vines are holding out their leaves, looking fairly smiling with the dust washed from their faces; we hope the long drought is broken, at least those who are through haying; what the state of mind would be of those who are in the midst of large contracts for themselves or others, should rain become abundant, I will leave you to imagine.

The harvest was better than many feared, one man who put in thirty acres of wheat and thought at one time he would have nothing, threshed out seven bushels and a peck; another, from twenty-five acres, threshed three bushels.

The "hoppers, last fall, passed thro' here diagonally, leaving their eggs by millions; on either side of their course the crops are good, yielding a fair average with other years.

The promise of a corn crop is magnificent, a few more weeks, without enemies, and we are sure of it, even upon the replanted fields.

Several of our residents have become bona fide land owners recently, Messrs. J. A. Fulton, Isaac Allison, W. H. Allison and Samuel Weaver having made final proof upon their homesteads.

"May their taxes never grow less." The Black Hills fever has broken out quite badly in our midst, owing to the return of Mr. Isaac Allison from those regions for his family. He brings such glowing accounts of present prosperity and future possibilities that several families have been very desirous of accompanying him to this Eldorado; all who wish to do so will not be able to get away at present, but may follow; he leaves next week, accompanied by Mr. Valentine, and his entire family, including his son-in-law, Mr. Perry.

Messrs. White and Danforth have bought J. A. Fulton's interest in the threshing machine, and are now out with J. Brown.

At least I think so. Now, the editor of the Democrat seems to think that commissioners are elected by the vote of their respective districts, and that Columbus should or could elect their own candidate, but I beg leave to differ; he will see, if he reads the law, that each commissioner is elected from each of said districts by the qualified electors of the whole county, "the same as other county officers." Columbus had her candidate last fall, but her candidate got left, and it has been a very irritating sore to the Democratic party. The county did not endorse their choice, although they were arrayed against the Republican nominee. The Democratic party did all they could to coerce the county in the choice of commissioner. I believe that the present board will do and does all that the law requires of them to the best of their knowledge and belief. If it is their duty to re-district the county this fall, which I doubt, I feel sure it will be done, and would have been done if neither Mr. Critch or Mr. Wentworth had moved to Nebraska. But perhaps they are of those who believe that the whole Board of Commissioners are to be re-elected this fall, and thereby gain a new "deal."

CITIZEN.

Changes in the Moon. Evidence of change may be discovered which can be explained. The moon is exposed to the action of heat other than that which pervades her own frame at the time of her first formation. The sun's heat is poured upon the moon during the long lunar day of more than a fortnight, while during the long lunar night a cold prevails which must far exceed that of our bitterest arctic winters. We know from the heat-measurements made by the present Lord Rosse, that any part of the moon's surface at lunar midday is fully 500 degrees Fahrenheit hotter than the same part two weeks later at lunar midnight. The alternate expansions and contractions resulting from these changes of temperature cannot but produce changes, however slowly, in the contour of the moon's surface. Prof. Newcomb, indeed, considers that all such changes must long since have been completed. But I cannot see how they can be completed so long as the moon's surface is uneven, and at present there are regions where that surface is altogether rugged. Mighty peaks and walls exist which must one day be thrown down, so unstable is their form; deep ravines can be seen which must one day be the scene of tremendous land ships, so steep and precipitous are their sides. Changes such as these may still occur on so vast a scale that telescopes may hope from time to time to recognize them. But changes such as these are not volcanic; they attest to lunar vitality. They are antecedently so probable, indeed, while volcanic changes are antecedently so unlikely, that when any change is clearly recognized in the moon's surface, nothing but the most convincing evidence could be accepted as demonstrating that the change was of volcanic origin and not due to the continued expansion and contraction of the lunar crust.

Proctor in Belgravia.

Parity. There are hints of an existing condition of affairs in this country, given in recent revelations, which equal in immorality the state of Rome in latter days of the Empire, or Paris before the fall of the Bourbons. Yet the mass of the people, we contended, are decent, are God-fearing; the instinct of the American woman is to be modest and pure. Human nature is no coarser or less reverent than in the days of our grandfathers. Our literature is purer than it was then; there are a thousand avenues into which the human mind can turn—science, art, knowledge of every kind—to divert it from gross animal passions. Why do these passions then dominate our social life, like the seven devils who found the house swept, garished, and entered in to take possession? We believe one reason to be that the barriers are lowered in domestic life to allow them to come in. Matters are discussed in the presence of young girls which once matrons blush to mention. There is a familiarity with voice, an acceptance of it as a matter of course, shown in our newspapers, in our ordinary talk, in our pulpits, which debases the minds of the young. The very air is poisoned in which our children live. No legislation, no single reform can touch this disease any more than it could cure the malaria which slays its victims by the thousand. It is for each family, each clergyman, each mother to clean and sweeten their own household.

Whatever difficulties you have to encounter be not perplexed, but think only what is right to do in the sight of Him who seeth all things and bear without repining, the result.

A WOMAN.

An Anger Which Bores Square Holes. To send a verdant youngster after a drill wherewith to make square holes is one of those time-honored workshop jokes, the freshness and originality of which is perennial with succeeding generations of perpetrators. But the laugh is now over, or at least on the side of the victim; for incredible as it may appear, this apparent impossibility has been accomplished, and in a way so simple and easy that any one may prove the fact for himself. As may be supposed, the invention excited more genuine astonishment among the mechanics gathered at the Paris Exposition than any of the other wonders there displayed. There was a constant crowd surrounding the inventor, watching him bore hole after hole square, and puzzling over the very simplicity of the provokingly simple solution of the problem.

All that is required is an ordinary hand drill-stock. A stationary one with a chuck below for holding the work, the inventor, Mr. James Hall, of London, uses; but he says a common brace will answer—"anything, in fact, will do that will properly hold the drill."

The tool itself is the usual form of three square drill, so that it will be seen that no special apparatus at all is required. Clamp or chuck this drill in its holder so that "it will wobble," and you have the whole secret. Instead of making a round hole, as it undoubtedly will if tightly grasped, when loosely held it produces a square one. Why it should act thus at first to all appearances an impenetrable paradox, and even after the rationale is discovered it scarcely seems quite clear.

GOT. "I got on horseback within ten minutes after I got your letter. When I got to Canterbury I got a chaise for town, but I got wet through before I got to Canterbury, and I got such a cold as I shall not be able to get rid of in a hurry. I got to the Treasury about noon, but first of all got shaved and dressed. I soon got into the secret of getting a memorial before the board, but I could not get an answer then. However, I got intelligence from the messenger that I could most likely get an answer next morning. As soon as I got back to my inn I got my supper and got to bed. It was not long before I got to sleep. When I got up in the morning I got my breakfast, and then got myself dressed that I might get out in time to get an answer to my memorial. As soon as I got it I got into the chaise, and got to Canterbury by three, and about tea time I got home. I have got nothing more to say, so adieu."

The above Professor Hart, in his "Composition and Rhetoric," quotes from an English publication.

The Art of Listening. Persons who talk are always in danger of talking too much; the better they talk, the greater the danger. Nearly all men and women who gained the reputation of eminent conversationalists have been little else than monologists, and monologue is as deadly a foe to conversation as incurable stupidity. We get tired, after awhile, of the most eloquent speech if it comes from one mouth, and we inwardly pray for what has been aptly called a few flashes of silence. How many brilliant people there are in society whom all their acquaintances fear on account of their gift of utterance! Everybody dreads to broach a topic, lest the sparkling talker should exhaust it and his hearers still be talking on. The passion for speech, like other passions, grows by indulgence, and at a certain stage of development becomes so morbid as to require neither sympathy nor response.

Exchange. Of all the aerial phenomena with which the Northwest has been visited this summer, perhaps the one that struck New Uim, Minn., last Sunday evening caused the greatest scare. The citizens of New Uim, as well as those of the neighboring towns of Renville county, had just supped, when the air suddenly grew hot—not with the heat of summer evening sultriness, but with that of fire. So intense was the heat that people at first thought their houses ablaze, and afterward that some tunnel communicating with the realm below had blown out its terrestrial end. The blast of air passed from south to north, and lasted about two minutes. Those who expected that the prophecy about the destruction of the world by fire was being fulfilled were soon enjoying a cool breeze that followed the remarkably hot one.

Italian Girls. The girls of Italy do many things our young ladies would never think of doing, and they leave unlearned certain accomplishments which only the very poorest American fair ones pass by. The Italian bride makes her own outfit, and as the trousseau consists of six dozen of everything, being intended to last twenty-five years, and must be embroidered and frilled, the task is not an easy one. But they take their time to it, occupying two years in getting it in shape, and all the time the work is going on the lovers are courting. The husband gives the dresses, shawls, everything, in fact, but the under-clothing. Italian girls do not learn to sing, draw, and play on the piano. These are left to the people who earn their living by them. But they are taught to sew, cook and iron. Forney's Progress.

Odds and Ends. A newly engaged man is always mis-taken. Where is the best place for reflection? In a mirror. No one is more profoundly sad than he who is obliged to laugh. When fortune cresses a man too much, she is apt to make a fool of him. Laziness grows on people. It begins in cobwebs and ends in iron chains. Annihilate not the mercies of God by the oblivion of gratitude.—Sir Thomas Browne. Those days are lost in which we do no good, those worse than lost in which we do evil.

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