

Politics and the Weather.

CLARION, April 20, 1880. DEAR JOURNAL: We hear that you have had some pretty stiff weather in Nebraska. Before Christmas we once had it 10° below zero here, and after that can scarcely be said to have had any winter. We have made up for it by a cold and stormy March and April. For a fortnight back it has blown in a manner worthy of Nebraska. But it is now beginning to soften into spring. Soon the dandelion, that

"Dear common flower, that grows by the way," "Fringing the dusty road with harmless gold," for which I have so often looked in vain upon the prairies, will soon be bestrewn the short, sweet grass.

From what I hear, it will not do for the JOURNAL to reprove its Genesee contemporary much longer for being so indiscreet as to mention the rainless skies of Nebraska. A youthful member of my family some time since charitably proposed that we should barrel up some of our superabounding rainwater for prairie use. If it were not for high railroad rates this might be a mutual good. It would be so, at least, if the Ohio soil were not so much more craving of moisture than the Nebraska soil. But I hope that ere this reaches you Divine Providence will have sent a plentiful rain, that will have rendered all my condolences impertinent.

The "Grant Loom," somehow, seems rather to hang fire. Ohio is a pretty serious dog in the way. And the remembrance that republics are only too apt to be "over-weighted by their Presidency," is a still more serious one, which no amount of pooh-poohing will blow away. Let patronage be sternly restricted by a genuine and permanent reform, and it will not matter much if a President is elected twenty times. But until then I think the nation will show its mind that once is safer than thrice.

Blaine is, not open to that objection. Unfortunately, however, he is open to a great many other objections. But if the Republicans really want, not merely to nominate their man, but to elect him, why should they not nominate a man who, like Senator Edmunds, will certainly draw every vote that is not already sure for the other side? We Independents, I know, are troublesome fellows, and if the Stalwarts could only make a clean sweep of us, they might, I dare say, nominate Hancock himself, without any uncomfortable remonstrances. But as long as we are let to live, we have votes, all the same as the editor of the Inter-Ocean himself. And when we ask, not that one of our number should be nominated, but that a man should be nominated, whom, like Edmunds, a Republican of the Republicans, we shall count it an honor to support, both reason and prudence suggest that we should be listened to. And as to his State, what one has deserved will of the Republican party, if Vermont has not?

Certain silly people about here smell the Pope so strong in everything, that they actually object to Sherman on the ground that his sister-in-law is a Roman Catholic. As if he chose his brother's wife for him! I should like to have seen him volunteering such an office for our Anglo-Saxon Teumseh. But in truth, an unreasoning, and almost ferocious hatred and dread of the Catholics is spread through the Republicans of this whole region, in good part through the intemperate bigotry of the Cleveland Leader. The editor of this, it is true, has suffered one of the deepest of domestic wrongs at the hands of those unscrupulous zealots who "compasses and land to make one proselyte," regardless of every principle of frankness or honor, or parental right. We can sympathize fully with him in his burning indignation at such an outrage, and its perpetrators. But no man has a right to allow his private griefs to poison his public utterances. If they are so great as to have disturbed the balance of his mind, he should retire from the editor's chair. And that the balance of mind of this gentleman is disturbed, is sufficiently clear from the fact that lately, when a professor of Oberlin Theological Seminary, in a public address, uttered a few friendly words of our Roman Catholic fellow-citizens, and fellow-Christians, the Leader fell foul of him, with the inquiry, Is there a Concealed Jesuit in the Faculty of Oberlin Seminary? The amusing absurdity of this attack will be more evident when we consider that the professor in question only said what nine-tenths of the educated Congregational ministers throughout the country would say. We shall next be asked whether the Pilgrim Fathers were not Jesuits in disguise. The Congregational ministers of America are quite as competent to take care of the interests of Protestantism, and of Christianity too, as the Cleveland Leader. Bishop Gilmore, however, is understood to be a man who so mixes politics and religion, not as they ought to be mixed, but as they ought not, that he cannot complain if he has provoked the enemy to carry the war into Africa, or into Rome.

The ladies give as a reason for marrying for money, that they now seldom find anything else in a man worth having.

Nebraska.

Two brief articles have been prepared and published, and left standing in the JOURNAL, relative to Nebraska, its advantages and products. One more short article must close the series for this season.

To persons who never saw a prairie country, to look over it is rather an interesting sight; as a general thing the absence of timber gives to it the appearance of waste and barrenness to those who are accustomed to live in a timbered country. Timber of every kind common to this latitude can be cultivated on the prairies of Nebraska. Near the water courses and river bluffs a large quantity of trees are generally found growing in great luxuriance. Among the varieties found in such localities are cottonwood, box-elder, buckeye, maple, locust, ash, hickory, oak, willow, poplar, sycamore, walnut, pine and cedar. The shrubs include common juniper, pawpaw, prickly ash, sumac, red root, spindle tree, plum, currants and gooseberries, dogwood, butter bush, buffalo berry, mulberry and hazelnut. Cedars are found on the islands of the Platte, and along the Loup, and on the Niobrara there is a large quantity of pine.

But the interesting point we want to make is the fact that all this variety of trees will grow and flourish on the prairie, and that as much timber as may be needed by each farmer can be raised on his farm. It is not a little surprising to know that the early travelers, and, among others, Gen. Fremont, should have formed the opinion that the prairies of Nebraska were a sandy desert, unsuited for farming purposes, when in these times it has been examined by competent judges and pronounced without any hesitation to be a region which is to be the great grain and stock-producing area of the continent. Men don't make bread of sand, and they don't, as a general thing, settle in such localities. The United States cover 23 degrees of latitude; away to the frozen north, and down to the semi-tropic south. With all this choice, from the beginning of western settlement the great current of movement has been within a central belt five or six degrees in width, and nearly corresponding with the latitudinal length of Illinois, which lies between 36 degrees, 56 minutes and 42 seconds. This is the belt in the United States in which industry obtains the most certain and highest rewards. It is temperate in climate—and a man can work up to his best notch. The land is fruitful, and bears in great abundance those products which are necessities of life, and which therefore have a steady commercial value.

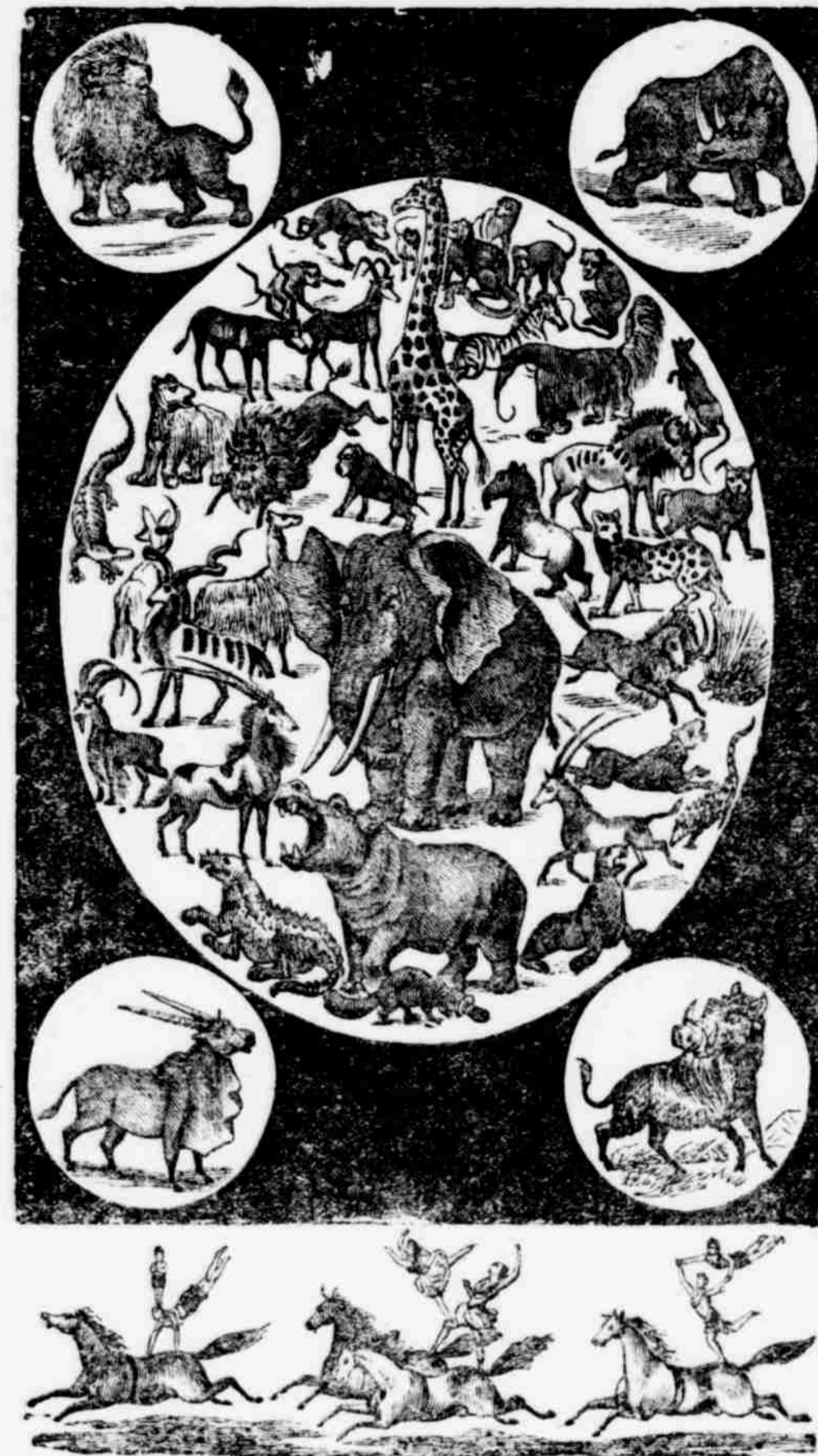
The population of Nebraska in the beginning of 1876 was 10,716, and at the close of 1875, 259,912, which was a twenty-five-fold increase in twenty years. Corn in Nebraska is most bountiful in production; with fair cultivation the yield is from 50 to 60 bushels per acre. Wheat from 15 to 25 bushels per acre. Barley from 30 to 40 bushels. Rye 25 to 30 bushels. Oats 40 to 50 bushels. A country which is adapted to the raising of corn; small grains; good for grass and hay, and has at all times a favorable climate, must be a good location for stock-raising. Live-stock is in great demand the civilized over, and it is in live stock the farmer finds a great deal of his wealth. It has been demonstrated among the Nebraska farmers that mixed farming is the most profitable, therefore every farmer should combine grain and stock raising. In fact every farmer that has carried cattle upon his farm and handled them with judgment for any length of time is now enjoying the rich profits of his investment and labor. Look around among your neighbors and in every case where money has been invested in stock and handled with care it has brought the largest increase in dollars and cents to those who have invested. And there is room in Nebraska for hundreds of thousands more farmers.

Those of you who conclude to be of the score of saving farmers, will keep no idle people about you, nor idle land, nor idle horses; keep everything at work, put half your land in grass-graze with cattle, milk as many cows as your help can easily manage, save and feed well all your calves. Do not keep too many hogs, substitute a few sheep, so that you will get family woolsens and summer mutton cheap; raise fall colts from your work-mares; have winter grass for open weather, and shelter for all animals; feed some roots to young things in the barn, and oat meal and apples to your family the year round; this will keep down the doctor's bill to reasonable proportions; consult old intelligent farmers as often as you can; you don't know it all.—Ex.

In Lynchburg, Va., a distinguished member of the bar, appealing to the court for the discharge of his client, wound up with the statement that, if the court sent him on further trial, a stain would be left on his character that could not be washed off by all the soap that could be manufactured from the "poudrous carcass of the Commonwealth's attorney." To this the poudrous attorney replied that, while he "deemed it foreign to the case at the bar, he desired to advise the court, if they thought it advisable to boll the opposite counsel for the concentrated lye out of which to make it."

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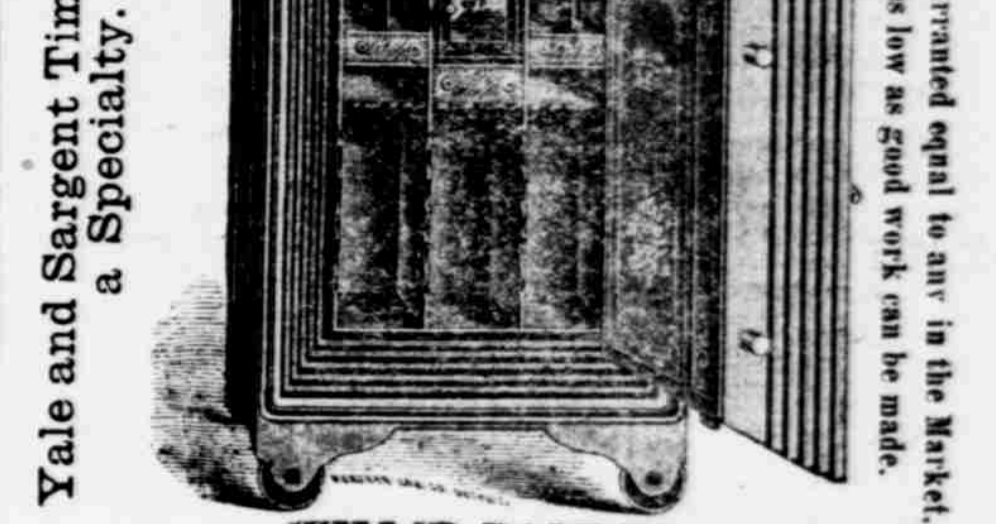
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