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The wonderful exploration of the Louisiana purchase by Lewis and Clark began on Monday, May 14, 1804. The expedition set out on that date from the mouth of Wood river, "a small stream which empties itself into the Mississippi, opposite to the entrance of the Missouri. It is situated in latitude 38 degrees, 55 minutes, and 19.5 seconds north, and longitude from Greenwich 89 degrees, 57 minutes and 45 seconds." And just ninety-seven years ago, that is, on the ninth of January, 1805, the exploring party were housed at Fort Mandan, and the diary is: "Wednesday, Jan. 9, 1805.—The weather is cold; the thermometer at sunrise is 21 degrees below zero. Ka-go-ha-mi breakfasted with us, and Captain Clark, with three or four men, accompanied him and a party of Indians to hunt, in which they were so fortunate as to kill a number of Buffalo; but they were incommoded by snow, by high and squally winds, and by extreme cold; several of the Indians came to the fort nearly frozen, others are missing, and we are uneasy for one of our men, who was separated from the rest during the chase, has not returned."

It is seen by the above that the Buffalo did not all go south during the winter and that, all the year round, grazing on the upper Missouri was then sufficient to subsist large herds. The extreme cold in that camp on the morning of January 10th, 1805, was registered at "forty

degrees below zero or seventy-two degrees below the freezing point."

Telling of the sufferings of an Indian boy thirteen years of age who had lain out all night in the blizzard with very little clothing upon him, and of an Indian who, though his dress was very thin, "had slept on the snow without a fire and not suffered the slightest inconvenience"—the diary declares: "We have indeed observed that these Indians support the rigors of the season in a way which we had hitherto thought impossible. A more pleasing reflection occurred at seeing the warm interest which the situation of these two persons had excited in the village; the boy had been a prisoner and adopted from charity, yet the distress of the father proved that he felt for him the tenderest affection; the man was a person of no distinction, yet the whole village was full of anxiety for his safety, and when they came to us borrowed a sleigh to bring them home with ease, if they survived, or to carry their bodies if they perished."

Those Indians before they became civilized had kindly sympathies for those in affliction.

The Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis next year ought to have a map of the Missouri river on exhibition, showing each of the daily journeys and camping places of Lewis and Clark during their expedition. Perhaps a plaster cast of the Missouri valley would be better. And it might show the *then* and the *now* of that stream and the country it permeates.

In the remarkably terse and cogent "What of the Morrow" published in the Conservative of January 2, 1902, over the name of C. H. Reeve, of Plymouth, Indiana, there is a very just statement as to Peter the Hermit.

And then Mr. Reeve points out innumerable classes of Hermits who have dreams and rave and rant as to the future, giving out prophecies of disasters and portents of calamities for the whole earth. And then he comes to the sixteen-to-one crusade and remarks, as to the philosopher, statesman, soldier and orator of this state, who has been and is Peter the Hermit of the Platte and platitudes.

"Finally, there came one extraordi-

narily gifted with eloquence, but with a single impracticable idea for the cure of all public ills, and that idea was that, two things unequal in value anywhere in the world, could be made equal by local legislative enactment; and two principles utterly antagonistic and irreconcilable, could be made harmonious by the same method.

"He succeeded in turning things upside down and they are not righted yet, while he continues to preach his fallacies."

Mr. Reeve is eighty-five years of age and sound in body and mind, and drawing from a vast and varied experience, this able and honest citizen gives the readers of The Conservative a taste of old-fashioned patriotism seasoned with wit and garnished with wisdom. It is hoped that he may continue to favor us with his great and good teachings in civics.

The writers for many farm papers are mere theorists,

and know nothing about life on the farm. After forty-six years' residence on the same farm, the editor of The Conservative concludes that the book of his experience in agriculture, horticulture and arboriculture is to him far more useful than many recent publications by grange officers and other guardians of plowmen, herdsmen and orchardists. And the returns made in cash by the farm are not, as a rule, the result of having followed grange advice or having practiced the precepts laid down by associated wisdom in any sort of secret societies.

Are we to conclude, since the Omaha Daily Bee

has ceased to censure State Treasurer Steuffer that he is now an honest and efficient officer? And if he is honest and efficient, is it not the duty of the Omaha Daily Bee to retract all that it said and all that it implied as to certain of his official acts having been unlawful and not honest?

The Conservative, believing in the Bee, was led into censure of the state treasurer because of the very direct charges made against that officer. And now if the Bee retracts, The Conservative will apologize. And if the state treasurer is innocent it is the duty of every decent citizen and decent journal to uphold and defend him.