

LENT LEAVING.

With Few to Mourn Its Departure and the Coming of Easter.

Reflections on the Forty Days of Social Mortification.

With a Few Items of a Gossipy Character Regarding Coming Events.

Lent as usual in Omaha has been noted for the scarcity of social news and its abundance of gossip. The mortification of the flesh, which is supposed to be religiously observed, has never been considered applicable to the tongue which runs on with greater vigor and increasing speed during the forty days when the feet are forbidden to tread the many dance. The privations incidental to Lenten season have not been without compensation, aside from spiritual ones. Sundry dancs are escaping the morning headaches and bad spirits that follow all-night parties. Quite a number of men, by total abstinence, have regained health, vigor and decent good humor, and many mothers, who try to pay society far more than the demands, now arise in time to see their children before they start to school. But the largest class that has reason to be thankful for Lent is undoubtedly that which consists of lovers. Young people must have diversion, and when they cannot find any other they take to love-making as naturally as the politician takes to theft. Balls and parties are capital devices for bringing young people together, but most also keep them apart. The most ardent lover who wants to press his suit is no better off in a parlor when the lady of his choice is surrounded by scores of other ladies and admirers than he would be if a thousand miles away. But if the young lady observes Lent, he begins to be encouraged, for he is sure of finding her alone. His opportunity comes to say more than can be expressed in a two-minute chat at an evening party, and the lady learns to distinguish individuality from that of any one of the score of men who, dressed exactly alike, and making the same stereotyped speeches, flit around her in the course of the crush. The result is that the young man soon commences to ask the price of engagement rings. Speaking of engagements several have been announced and an equal number dented during the past few weeks. Gossip has already voted old the coming marriage of a Twenty-third street belle to a Detroit stock broker, which will be celebrated in June, and congratulations over the approaching event may be safely given. Whether a certain officer of the Fifth cavalry is to carry off shortly another Omaha young lady is not considered so certain, although Dame Ramor refuses to accept any contradictions on this point and already discusses the questions of trousseau and the date of the occasion. Such delicate subjects are however, somewhat out of the line of newspaper comment until they become assured facts relieved by marriage bells and the service of the church. It may be set down as certain that the hopes and fears of at least three Omaha gentlemen will be set at rest as soon as Trinity cathedral is sufficiently completed to permit the passage of a bridal procession up its aisles.

Social festivities will be resumed at once after Easter, and the various orchestras may prepare for any number of "extras" in addition to the regular programmes. On Monday evening the Concordia society will give an Easter party at Turner hall, for which great preparations have been made by the members of this select and popular German organization. As quite a large number of tickets have been disposed of a delightful time may confidently be anticipated. The "Sans Ceremonie" club will give a German on Tuesday evening at Standard hall in which some thirty couples will participate. On Friday a complimentary reception will be tendered by the Pleasant Hours club at Masonic hall to their treasurer, Mr. J. M. Ross. The remarkable success of the "Pleasant Hours" as a social organization has been in the largest measure due to its faithful and earnest officers, and no officer has played better his part than Mr. Ross. As this will be the first party of the club since Shrove Tuesday a very large attendance may be confidently anticipated. At the Congressional church parlors, will be given on Thursday evening, April 13th, the celebrated Fan Drill, with sixteen pretty maidens led by a young professor from the court of Queen Anne. Ice cream and cake will be served at the close of the entertainment.

STATE SOCIAL EVENTS.

A Variety of Domestic Events—Religious and Educational Notes.

Christy Fox, of Beaver City was married on the 24th to Miss Laura Mowbray, of Oxford.

Rev. P. C. Johnson, of North Platte, has secured a soft seat—an elegant easy chair, the gift of his bible class.

Mr. Winkham, of North Platte, was

joined by his friends on the evening of the 31st, the fiftieth anniversary of his birth. J. S. Bennett and Miss Caroline Gates, of Tecumseh, were launched on the matrimonial sea on the 28th ult. Mr. and Mrs. Clark and wife were installed in their home by a large party of friends on the 28th. A large number of useful gifts were received.

The young people of Millard, and several from Papillion and Omaha, danced "all night till broad daylight" at the residence of Horace Hollenbeck, recently.

Johnny Harrison, of Clear Creek, Saunders county, has become tired of living alone and has taken into himself a wife in the person of Miss Brant.

The marriage of Harry D. Hall and Miss Mims J. Handal was the occasion of a grand celebration at Otis. The bridal gifts were unusually numerous and elegant.

Joseph H. Kelsey, of Dakota county, was married on the 28th ult. to Miss Mollie Henry, daughter of Dr. Henry, the physician at the Winnebago and Omaha agencies.

Boyd W. Williams, of Shelton, tied to Miss Rose Nutter of Gibson on the 28th. At the same time and place Geo. W. Parker and Miss Fannie Fitcher were made one.

Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Phillips, of Seward county, celebrated the twentieth anniversary of their marriage on the 29th. A large party of friends stormed their home and made the event a joyful and memorable one.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jenks, of Tecumseh, celebrated their silver wedding, on the 27th, on which occasion they were the recipients of many valuable and appropriate presents.

Rev. C. Dulleigh, the pastor of the M. E. church at Wood River, has taken a holiday of the neighborhood of the town of Gibson, Miss Ada D. Ellis. The happy event took place on the 28th ult.

Leander Payne and Miss Mary S. Campbell were married at Wymour on the 4th. A large number of guests were present and the occasion was one of highest enjoyment to all. The gifts presented to bride were many and elegant.

Eld. Andrew J. Cudney, of Schuyler, was married to Miss Annie E. Boyd of Fremont on the evening of April 4th. Eld. Cudney is a minister of the Seventh Day Adventist denomination, and is very highly esteemed by his people. Miss Annie Boyd is a graduate of the Battle Creek College, at Battle Creek, Mich., and has been engaged for some time in teaching in this State.

Grafton was shaken up by a social earthquake last week. Dr. Dillard, a distinguished leader of the bachelors, was captured by Miss Lora A. Hemberson, of Crown Point, Ill., who was visiting her sister in the neighborhood. The ceremony took place on the afternoon of the 4th. A large concourse of friends were present to bid them God speed, and tender their substantial wishes of esteem. Mr. and Mrs. Dillard spent a day or two in Omaha on their way east. They will reside at the home of the bride's parents at Crown Point, a few miles from Chicago.

Educational Items.

North Bend has 208 children of school age.

Fremont has 1,062 school children; Blair 740.

Tekamah will build another school this summer.

York's school opened with an attendance of 315.

Exeter has 114 children of school age, not enough to entitle it to a school board.

Dakota City has levied a tax of 12 mills to run schools seven out of the twelve months.

Grafton will have nine months school the coming year. The new school house will be completed in May.

Wymore has 375 children of school age. The population increased 250 in January and February.

A new fifteen hundred dollar school house is to be erected immediately at Clear Creek, Adams county.

Mrs. Hoag, a candidate for a place on the Wymore school board, was defeated by two votes. The suffering sisters deserted her.

The census of Plattsmouth, just taken, shows a total of 1,480 children of school age—726 males and 754 females. The girls as usual get away with the boys.

Central City has 378 children enrolled in her schools, an increase of 33 over last year. The value of school property in the district is \$165,000.

The State Teachers' association meeting at Crete was a decided success. A very large number of teachers were present and the exercises were very interesting.

The district meeting at Papillion was a quiet affair. John Schaab was re-elected treasurer. A tax of 8 mills was voted for the coming year. Three teachers are employed. The expenses of last year were \$1,400.75; estimated expenses of the coming year, \$2,220.

The Wymore school board has levied a tax of 25 mills for school purposes—10 for teachers' wages, 10 for the contingent fund, and five mills for building purposes. The schools have kept pace with the remarkably rapid growth of the town. The expenses last year were \$734.20.

Sheltonites are wrestling with the question, "How will the people be able to build a new school?" The rapid increase of school children and the limited facilities for teaching, forces the question into immediate prominence. The voting of sufficient bonds is out of the question.

At the annual school meeting at the school house, at Alexandria on the 3rd, Isaac Selger was re-elected district treasurer for three years ensuing. A tax of 8 mills was voted for teachers fund, 8 mills for bond fund and 4 mills for contingent fund, making in all 20 mills on the dollar. It was also voted to have 8 months school during the coming school year.—[News.]

The annual levy for school purposes amounts to 25 mills—12 for teachers' wages, 9 for buildings, and 4 for incidentals. The new school board is composed of school trustees, men who will push the interests of education fully up to the needs of the town. A new \$5,000 school was decided upon. Prof. Livingston's labors were highly complimented.

The annual report and examination of the Falls City schools recently was the most thorough and satisfactory in their history. The Journal speaks highly of the work of the teachers and does with these words: "The people of Falls City have reason to be proud of their schools, and should cordially support Prof. Rich in his efforts to keep them up to the high standard they have attained under the management of him and his able assistants."

Prof. Hubball, in his address at the state teachers' meeting, pointed out the important duties of parents in educating their children: (One way to help a teacher is to speak a good word for him. Many appear to rejoice in the failure of a teacher. He works hard to succeed; say a good word for him. In the higher grades, when study must be done at home, parents can help the teacher by entering into sympathy with the plan of study. When dancing parties and kindred amusements occupy evenings which should be given to study, there will not be such progress. Another way to help the teacher is to have an oversight of children's reading. Boys who read dime novels and The Police Gazette will not do much solid work. Parents can cooperate by seeing that the teacher has fair wages for his work.)

Religious Matters.

The Methodists of Neligh will build at an early day.

The new Presbyterian church at Niobrara is nearly finished.

The Methodists of Hebron are pushing their new church.

Bishop Clarkson confirmed sixteen persons at Plattsmouth on the 3d.

The German Methodists of Fremont have decided to build a parsonage.

A meeting of the presbytery of the

Omaha district will be held at Oakland on the 18th of April.

The United Brethren conference at Blue Valley last week was an important and successful gathering.

Rev. E. J. Robinson labored for several weeks in Louisville, Cass county, among the twenty, making a total of fifty members. Even conversions were made at Grand Prairie.

A convention of ministers of all denominations of the state of Nebraska is called to meet at Lincoln on May 9th and 10th, 1887, for the purpose of uniting the religious interests in the cause of temperance, and to synthesize their work, etc. The following among other subjects have been selected for discussion: 1. Can home education be complete, unless the principles of total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks are inculcated? 2. The relation and responsibility of our educational institutions to the temperance cause? 3. The place the temperance question ought to occupy in our Sunday schools? 4. The relation of the churches to the temperance cause, and what has the state a right to expect from them?

Profit, \$1,200.

"To sum it up, six long years of bed-ridden sickness, costing \$2000 per year, total \$1,200—all of this expense was stopped by three bottles of Hop Bitters, taken by my wife. She has done her own housework for a year since, without the loss of a day, and I want everybody to know it, for their benefit.—N. E. Farmer.

A Strange Duel.

San Francisco Chronicle.

A strange story of a duel comes from Omaha. A certain time ago two young fellows, journeymen at the Omaha, were sitting in a small War-war cafe, playing dominoes. A glass half full of liquor stood on the table between them, and one or two of their fellow workmen were looking on at the game with evident interest. There was little in the appearance of the group to attract special attention—still less to suggest the improbable notion that the four youths composing it were two duellists and their seconds, or that the stakes of the domino match was a human life. Presently, however, the game having come to a conclusion, the younger of the two players, a lad of 16, named Stanislas Julian, lifted the glass to his lips and drank of its contents at a draught. Five minutes later he was a corpse. The wretched boys had quarrelled and agreed to fight a duel in such sort that the death of one or the other must ensue. Having placed themselves in the hands of two seconds, these latter arranged that the principals should play a "cut" of three games of dominoes, upon the solemn understanding that the loser should swallow a dose of the deadliest poison procurable. This hideous compact was carried out to the letter, nor did any of the surviving persons concerned in it, when interrogated by the police authorities before whom they were subsequently brought, betray the least remorse for their share in the ghastly transaction.

Julian's adversary, indeed, boldly avowed that, had he lost the match, he would have fulfilled his pledge to drink the poison as faithfully as had his dead antagonist; and the seconds protested that they had only "done their duty in seeing the duel fairly fought out according to the conditions settled beforehand."

For Colds, Sore Throat, Asthma, Catarrh, and other diseases of the bronchial tubes, no more useful article can be found than the well known "Brown's Bronchial Trochees."

Table Etiquette.

Laramie Boomerang.

It has been stated, and very truly, too, that the law of the napkin is but vaguely understood. It may be said, however, on the start that custom and good breeding have uttered the decree that it is in poor taste to put the napkin in the pocket and carry it away.

The rule of etiquette is becoming more and more thoroughly established that the napkin should be left at the house of the host or hostess after dinner.

There has been a good deal of discussion, also, upon the matter of folding the napkin after dinner, and whether it should be so disposed of or negligently tossed into the gravy-boat. If, however, it can be folded easily, and without attracting too much attention and prolonging the session for a moment, it should be so arranged and placed beside the plate, where it may be easily found by the hostess, and returned to her neighbor from whom she borrowed it for the occasion. If, however, the lady of the house is not doing her own work, the napkin may be carefully jammed into a globular wad and fired under the table, to convey the idea of utter recklessness and pampered abandon.

The use of the finger bowl is also a subject of much importance to the bon ton guest who gorges himself at the expense of his friends.

The custom of drinking out of the finger bowl, though not entirely obsolete, has been limited to the extent that good breeding does not now permit the guest to quaff the water from his finger bowl unless he does so prior to using it as a finger bowl.

Thus it will be seen that social customs are slowly but surely cutting down and circumscribing the rights and privileges of the masses.

At the court of Eugenie the customs of the table were very rigid, and the most prominent guest of H. R. H. was liable to get the G. B. if he presided his napkin on his lap and cut his egg in two with a carving knife. The custom was that the napkin should be hung on one knee and the egg busted at the big end and scooped out with a spoon.

A prominent American at her table one day, in an unguarded moment, shattered the shell of a soft boiled egg with his knife, and while prying it apart, both thumbs were erroneously jammed into the true inwardness of the fruit with so much momentum that the juice took him in the eye, thus blinding him and maddening him to such a degree that he got up and threw the remnants into the bosom of the hired man plonipotentiary who stood near the table scratching his ear with a tray. As may readily be supposed, there was a painful interin, during which it was hard to tell for five or six minutes whether the prominent American or the hired man would come out on top, but at last the American with the egg in his eye got the ear of the high priced hired man in among his back teeth, and the honor of our beloved flag was vindicated.

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MAIL LETTINGS.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS. POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT. WASHINGTON, D. C., March 10, 1887.

Proposals will be received at the Contract Office of this department until 3 p. m. of April 1, 1887, for carrying mail of the United States, post messages and transfer rate in the City of Omaha, Nebraska, from July 1, 1887, to June 30, 1888. Advertisement of route, instructions to bidders, and all other necessary information will be furnished upon application to the postmaster at Omaha, or the Second Assistant Postmaster General.

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S. D. Kettner, Deputy Treasurer OMAHA, NEB., May 24, 1881.

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W. E. Clark, U. P. R. Shops, OMAHA, NEB., May 24, 1881.

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U. P. R. Shops, OMAHA, NEB., May 24, 1881.

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