THE TEMPLE OF JUSTICE.

Imposing Ceremonies of Laying the Corner Stone.

Upon Which the Magnificent New Court House Will be Built.

An Immense and Brilliant Procession, Half a Mile Long.

The Ceremonies Conducted by the Masonic Grand Lodge.

Eloquent Address by Hon. Andrew J. Poppleton.

The laying of the corner stone of the new Douglas county court house took place yesterday, under the auspices of the grand lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the jurisdiction of Nebraska.

Although the day was chilly, with a cold wind blowing the dust in clouds through the streets, it did not apparently lessen the attendance. The crowd began assembling at Court House square about 1 o'clock and the hill for an hour was black with people on their way to witness the great event in the history of the most progressive county in the state.

At 1 o'clock the procession began forming on Sixteenth street and Capitol avenue, in front of the Masonic Temple, and at 2 o'clock took up the line of march through the principal streets, as already published. As it passed down Douglas street to Ninth and up Farnam street it presented a most imposing appearance, being over half a mile in length, and brilliant throughout with American, Irish and Danish flags and with the banners of the various societies participating, as well as the rich uniforms and regalias worn by the several orders.

The procession passed THE BEE in the following order and strength:

Grand Marshal Frank E. Moores.
The city marshal and deputy with platoon of sixteen police.
Ancient Order of Hibernians Band.
Division No. 1, Ancient Order of Hibernians, twenty strong, with the Irish flag and stars and stripes.
The Cigar Makers Union, thirty strong.
The Danish Society, 100 members, with Danish and American flags and banner.
The Danish Brotherhood, fifty strong, with same.
The Omaha Turnverein, fifty members, with banners.
Mayor Boyd and Hon. A. J. Poppleton, orator of the day, in carriage.
The Concordia society, fifty members and banner.
The Omaha Glee Club, twenty members.
The Board of County Commissioners, Architect and County officials.
The Old Settlers Association.
The Union Pacific Band.
Mount Calvary Commandery No. 1, Knights Templar, acting as escort, fifty strong.
Master Masons of St. John's Lodge No. 25, Covert Lodge No. 11 and Capital Lodge No. 3 A. F. & A. M., one hundred strong.
The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar.
The Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M. of Nebraska.

The procession extended from Ninth street half way up the hill leading to the court house block, over half a mile in length, and was attended by a vast throng of spectators.

Within the grounds as early as 1 o'clock a great crowd had collected. By half past one all the space between the fence and the building was occupied by fully three thousand people, among whom were many ladies, while the roofs of the adjoining buildings groaned under the unusual weight of small boys. From the large derrick on the northeast corner stone, hearing the following inscription:

Laid by the
Masonic Fraternity,
G. W. Lininger,
Grand Master of Masons,
Oct. 25th, A. M., 5882.
John F. Coots, Builder.

And on the east side was engraved:

Elected 1882.
Fred Dexe,
Frank W. Corliss,
Benj Knight,
County Commissioners.

The iron beams of the structure were lowered to give space to the attending societies, and a platform was constructed for the members of the Grand Lodge, the invited guests and the orator of the day.

At 2 o'clock the procession reached the northwest gate of the grounds, and headed by the escorting Knights Templars, filed upon the flooring and received the members of the Grand Lodge, who, preceded by Acting Grand Master G. W. Lininger, Mayor Boyd and Mr. Poppleton, took their places on the platform. Mr Coots, the contractor, bearing in his arms the plumb, square, trowel and level, approached the grand master, and on behalf of Architect Meyers requested that the corner stone be laid by the Masonic fraternity, to which Grand Master Lininger made the following response:

MR. LININGER'S ADDRESS.

Brethren and Fellow-Citizens: - It would seem to be right and proper that we should say a few words upon this occasion, not only in support of our authority and right to lay corner stones of public edifices with the ceremonies of our ancient craft, but to express our thanks for the kind invitation (unsolicited) from the county commissioners of Douglas county (either of them belonging to our fraternity) to lay this corner stone; and if we may judge from the plans, specifications and work already exhibited to us, we will have one of the finest in appearance and most substantial buildings in our city and state.

The custom of laying corner stones for public buildings is an ancient one, but very much neglected in this country. Had our forefathers been so negligent as we in this respect the present generation would know less of the world's history. It has been my good fortune to see for myself and become convinced of this fact in recent travels in the old world. It seems to have been the custom in every age from the first formation of society and governments to transmit to future generations the history of the times in which they lived in the corner stone or secret vault. Our work to-day will be a feeble imitation of theirs. In most of the ruins of ancient temples, monasteries and abbeys, the corner stone or secret vault built beneath the edifice has yielded much towards making up the world's history, and every day's research among these old ruins discloses some new wide truths. While we may think that we are living in an advanced age of science, art and inventions, it is only necessary to visit the museums in Cairo, Egypt, or Naples and Rome to be convinced that we have much yet to learn. Many of what we call new inventions can be seen in their original simplicity and in some instances surpassing the present. Pompeii, the buried city of A. D. 79, furnishes about the best evidence of the mode of living, utensils used and the general condition of the world at this particular period. I do not cite this as showing that we are indebted to the fraternity for things brought to light in Pompeii, but as many of the same coins and relics have been unearthed in other localities corroborates the world's history at this particular period. In the eighth century Charlemagne, the first to carry Christianity north, and who undoubtedly belonged to that same class of builders of whom we are descendants, laid the corner stone of the church at Aix La Chapelle. Beneath this stone, in a well-cemented vault, he deposited very many valuable records and relics, together with what is claimed to be the only vestments of Christ and the Virgin Mary, including a copy of the Holy writings and a full accounts of christianity up to that period. I had no difficulty in tracing many of the emblems of the craft. The corner stones of Holy Rood, Norcross, Melrose and many other abbeys built in the twelfth century have furnished their full quota of information. The custom of laying corner stones is quite common in England and throughout Europe. There are but few important works undertaken without first making the usual deposit in the northeast corner of the structure, whether it be church, lock, bridge or any public edifice. The main idea seems to be to pay the debt we owe to future generations, transmitting to them through the corner stone the history of the age in which we live. The teachings of Freemasonry inculcate that in all our works, great or small, begun and finished, we should seek the aid and favor of Almighty God. It is our first duty, then, to invoke the blessings of the Great Architect of the Universe upon the work in which we are about to engage. I therefore command the utmost silence and call upon all to unite with our grand chaplain in an address to the Throne of Grace.

He then called upon Grand Chaplain Rev. James Paterson to invoke the divine blessing.

Grand Secretary Bowen read the list of articles deposited in the stone, among which were a list of the national, state and municipal officers, sundry coins and documents and copies of THE OMAHA BEE, Herald and Republican. After singing by the Glee Club the stone was laid according to the ancient masonic ritual, the usual tests applied and pronounced well and truly laid by the grand master, and consecrated with corn, wine and oil. Proclamation of this fact having been made, the Glee club and audience joined in singing "America," and Mr. Poppleton then delivered the following oration:

Hon. A. J. Poppleton.

In the year 1803, Napoleon Bonaparte, then first consul of France, sold to the United States of America, Thomas Jefferson being at that time president,—the French province of Louisiana. The price stipulated was $15,000,000. The ceded territory comprised all the country now included within the geographical limits of the states of Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Oregon and Nebraska, and the greater part of Kansas and Colorado. It also included Dakota, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, Washington and most of the Indian territory. This vast domain was thus withdrawn from the arbitrament of European powers and the uncertain issues of the period of the Napoleonic wars, and remitted throughout almost its entire length and breadth to the obscurity of an unexplored, unknown and impenetrable region.

From that day until May, 1854, a period of fifty-one years—the country now known as the state of Nebraska—was one of the state of our adoption; was one the state of our birth; to all the state of our pride and affection,—remained, in the language of the federal statutes,

INDIAN COUNTRY,

untouched by civilization, the range of the buffalo and the camping ground of the Indian, penetrated only at remote intervals by the adventurous and solitary fur trader or the devoted and indomitable priest, seeking to plant the cross in the remotest solitudes of this vast empire.

That portion of this state now comprised within the boundaries of the county of Douglas, was the special possession of the Omaha tribe of Indians, then led by Logan Fontanelle as head chief. In May, 1854, by treaty, this tribe ceded it to the United States; and on the 30th day of May, 1854, Congress, by what is known in history as the Kansas and Nebraska bill, gave to Nebraska, which included it, an organized territorial government and extended over it the Federal land laws—thus opening it to that advancing tide of western immigration, which set in with the California and Mormon exodus of 1849 and was only completely checked, eight years after, by

THE DISASTROUS PANIC OF 18 7.

It was the ill-fortune of the new territory to lose its first governor, Francis Burt of South Carolina, three days after his arrival within its limits. By law his duties were devolved upon the secretary, Thomas B. Cuming, who thereby became acting governor. In pursuance of the mandate of the organic act the acting governor at once proceeded to organize the territorial government. October 21, 1854, he issued his proclamation ordering a census as a basis of legislative apportionment. The census having been completed and reported November 20, 1854, on November 2, 1854, he issued rules and regulations for holding the first election for delegates in Congress and members of the Legislative Assembly. The election was to be held December 12, 1854, and on the 23d day of November a proclamation was issued designating the day and prescribing the boundaries of the counties, whose inhabitants should be authorized to participate in the election, viz: Burt, Washington, Dodge, Douglas, Cass, Pierce, Forney, Richardson—eight in all. At this moment

DOUGLAS COUNTY HAD ITS BIRTH,

its exterior boundaries being described in the following words: "Commencing at the mouth of the Platte river, thence north along the west bank of the Missouri river to a point one mile north of Omaha, thence west along the south boundary of Washington county twenty miles, thence south ten miles more or less to the Platte river, thence east to the place of beginning." It will thus be seen that as mapped out by the executive, it included the whole of the present county of Sarpy, and that its north boundary was not further north than the Sulphur Spring. The north boundary of Omaha city at that time was near Burt street, north of which lay what was known as the Ned Jeffers' claim, not then platted as a town. Fort Omaha and the driving park are both situated upon territory then included in Washington county, of which Florence was the only voting precinct. There were two voting precincts in Douglas county, one "at the brick building at Omaha city and one at the Mission house at Bellevieu." The use of the words,

"THE BRICK BUILDING AT OMAHA CITY,"

indicates but one of that character in the city, and refers to a building erected by the Council Bluffs and Nebraska Ferry company for the use of the legislative assembly, and situated on lot 7, in block 124, as platted by A. D. Jones, fronting east on Ninth street between Farnam and Douglas. It was used for the sessions of 1854-5, and 1855-6. It was also the first general offices of the Union Pacific railroad company, being so occupied from December, 1868, until the fall of 1869, when they were transferred to the present headquarters building.

PRIMITIVE POLITICS.

With these boundaries and precincts the first election in Douglas county was held, resulting, with timely aid from Council Bluffs, in the choice of, exclusively, Omaha men.

Among the first bills introduced into the lower house was, "An act to define the boundaries of Omaha and Otoe counties and locate the seats of Justice therein." The question having been divided by order of the house on Tuesday, February 13, 1855, this being the last item of business transacted in the forenoon of that day, the bill was finally passed, the following persons, among others, some of them still familiar names, voting for the bill: Anselm Arnold, William N. Byers, William Clancy, Fleming Davidson, Thomas Davis, A. D. Goyer, William Kempton, J. McNeal Latham, Andrew J. Poppleton, H. C. Purvis, W. A. Richardson, John A. Singleton, Robert B. Whitted. The speaker of the house, Andrew J. Hanscom was one of the most active friends of the bill but being precluded by his office from voting except in case of the his name does not appear in the record. The bill as passed retained the boundaries fixed by the proclamation of the acting governor but substituted the name "Omaha" in place of "Douglas." In this form it went to the council where its reception was not entirely hospitable. Wednesday, February 14, 1855, Joseph W. Paddock, chief clerk of the lower house reported by "message from the house" to the council information of the passage of the bill. Thursday, February 15, on motion of A. D. Jones it was taken from the table passed to a second reading and referred to the committee on county seats and county boundaries. Friday, February 16, Mr Jones reported back the bill and recommended its passage. Saturday, February 17, it was again taken up for consideration when Councilman M. H. Clark, residing in Fontanelle and representing Dodge county,

MOVED TO STRIKE OUT "OMAHA"

and insert "Douglas." Upon this motion a sharp conflict arose, resulting in a series of postponements until Friday, February 23 when Mr Clark renewed his motion, whereupon the fate of the good name "Omaha" is thus sentiuely narrated by the clerk of the council, George L. Miller. "Mr. Clark moved to amend by striking out "Omaha" and inserting "Douglas" wherever it occurs, which was agreed to." Saturday, February 24, the amended bill was returned to the house, where an ineffectual effort was made to restore the name "Omaha." The writer of this address had the honor of leading that onset, but was finally obliged to succumb to the superior numbers marshalled by the friends of the town, Patron Saint of Democracy, Stephen A. Douglas. It is due to the five members of the council who voted against the sacrifice of the noble name Omaha, that their names should be here recorded, viz: Richard Brown, Benjamin R. Folsom, Alfred D. Jones, Origen D. Richardson, Samuel E. Rogers, three still living in our midst, the others long since numbered with the honored dead.

The result of this legislation was crystalized into a law approved March 2, 1855, which differed chiefly from the proclamation of the acting governor, in that it fixed the northern boundary of the county "three miles north of the town of Florence, formerly known as

WINTER QUARTERS."

It will be seen that under this legislation the fortunes of the ambitious young men who had chosen Bellview as their base of operations were not served to their satisfaction. It had no distinct representation and its votes were swallowed up by the superior numbers of Omaha, who were careful not to let their courtesy outrun their judgment. Accordingly at the succeeding session of 1855, through the efforts mainly of Benjamin F. Rankin and Silas A. Strickland, an act was passed giving that portion of Douglas county, now constituting Sarpy county, a representation of one member in the council and two in the house, though retaining it for all other purposes as part and parcel of Douglas county. This was but a stage and resting place in the march to complete habilitation as a county. Accordingly, at the session of 1856-7 the county of Sarpy, consisting substantially of the territory carved out by Douglas as an election district, was created by act approved February 7, 1857, and Leavitt S. Brown, Chas. S. Hallaway and Silas A. Strickland made commissioners to locate the county seat which was fixed by them at Bellview.

This practically closed a long and bitter controversy between the citizens of the rival towns in which fierce animosities were fired, political fortunes made and wrecked, life-long friends temporarily estranged and the progress and prosperity of both communities seriously retarded. But time, the smoother, the healer, the consoler, the mediator, in 24 years so wrought upon us, that the man whom in our moments of passion in 1854 we would have almost crucified—in 1878, after a strange and checkered life, through which, however, there ever shone the inextinguishable light of lofty patriotism and true courage, was by this city of Omaha tenderly borne to yonder hill and committed to an honored grave.

THE BOUNDARIES OF THE COUNTY

being thus finally adjusted, its subsequent career and development—little vexed by shifting legislation—depended chiefly upon natural resources and wise government. For 26 years its executive and administrative control has been in the hands of a board of county commissioners, who have managed them with honesty, prudence, economy and success.

During the long period from 1854 to the present time the following persons have served as county commissioners, in the order mentioned, leaving without exception an honorable record:

Jesse Lowe, Thomas Davis, Sylvanus Dodge, James H. McArdle, Harrison Johnson, Andrew J. Critchfield, Jas. M. Parker, Oliver P. Hufford, Thomas H. Allison, John Kelly, Edward H. Claplin, Hayman C. Hapman, Jonas Gire, Henry Ecke, Edwin H. Sherwood, M. W. Purchase, Thomas Wilkinson, Benjamin P. Knight, Joseph B. Redfield, Fred Dexe, F. W. Corliss.

The next step after providing for the election of the public officers provided for by the organic act, was to organize the courts and guarantee to the new political community—that central function of all just governments—the administration of justice. The president had appointed as judges of the supreme and district courts, provided for by the organic act Fenner Ferguson of Michigan, Edward R. Hardin of Georgia and James Bradley of Indiana. By proclamation, dated December 20, 1854, the acting governor assigned these judges to their respective districts, as follows: Fenner Ferguson, chief justice, Douglas and Dodge counties; Edward R. Hardin, all the county lying south of the Platte river; James Bradley, Washington and Burt counties. It also required the supreme court to hold a session at Omaha on the third Monday of February, 1855, and the first district courts to be held in the respective districts, as follows: Bellevieu, Nebraska City, Florence. Accordingly on Monday, March 1, 1855,

THE FIRST COURT OF RECORD

ever held in the county, the district court of the first judicial district of Nebraska, with practically, like jurisdiction to our present district court, was opened at the Mission house, Bellevieu, by Fenner Ferguson, chief justice; Eli R. Doyle, marshal. Little business was transacted, the wheels of justice being simply set in motion. The legislative assembly, by act approved March 16, 1855, reorganized the courts and fixed the time of holding them in Douglas county on the second Tuesday in March and the third Tuesday of October of each year. Accordingly the next district court was held by the chief justice in October, 1855, in the room occupied by the house of representatives in "the brick building at Omaha." None who were present at that court and there are many still living—will forget the scene.

THE FIRST BLOODY TRAGEDY

of the territory, being under investigation, and a leading citizen of Omaha under arrest for a capital crime, the grand jury refused to return an indictment. A motion being made by counsel for the prisoner's discharge, Oliver Perry Mason, then three days in the territory since chief justice of the state, known to less than half a dozen men in the room, rose and addressed the court in a philippic, characterized by all the qualities which have since become familiar to the people of the state, intensified by youth, the natural stimulous of strange people, novel surroundings, a client six months in irons and a just cause. In all the varied exhibitions of his characteristic oratorical powers since made in Nebraska, that day's work, has never, to my knowledge, been surpassed.

This court was afterwards held, for some years, in Pioneer block, whose projector and owner was Dr. Charles A. Henry,

THE PRISONER IN IRONS,

whom the grand jury had exonerated—and until the erection of the court house, which for over twenty years has afforded to the courts and bar of the county a court room of exceptional convenience and comfort for the administration of justice. The district court of Douglas county has been presided over by the following judges in the order mentioned: Fenner Ferguson, Augustus Hall, William Pitt Kellogg, William Kellogg, George B. Lake, James W. Savage, and the present incumbent. James Neville, sided and assisted by a bar which has never suffered by comparison with neighboring states, and some of whom have won a national reputation in the profession.

But I should do injustice to that portion of the bar who practiced in its courts of law and equity while Nebraska remained a territory—from 1854 to 1867—did I not make special mention of the men whose voices rang loudest and longest in

THE FIERCE CONTENTIONS

which during that period vexed court and jury. I name them in the order of their arrival, to my best recollection: O. D. Richardson, Experience Estabrook, Clinton Briggs, John I. Redick, James G. Chapman, James M. Woolworth, William A. Little, George B. Lake, B. E. B. Kennedy, Charles H. Brown and George W. Doane. I beg also to add to this list my own name. Most of them were eminently practicing lawyers—constantly in the thickest of the fray—and one of them, William A. Little of honored memory, was by common consent the greatest criminal lawyer Nebraska has yet produced.

Sometimes associated with him, often pitted against him—as an ally he was a tower of strength, as an antagonist nothing but untiring industry and sleepless vigilance could avail against disastrous defeat. He was elected the first chief justice of the state, declined the office by reason of ill health, and soon after died near Aurora, Illinois, sincerely mourned by his professional associates and the state which had just clothed him with its highest honors.

THE FIRST CENSUS OF NEBRASKA,

taken and reported to the acting governor November 20, 1854, was made by districts and showed a total population of two thousand seven hundred and thirty-two—thirteen of whom were slaves, brought into the territory by southern immigrants and mostly residing at Nebraska City. The Fifth district, comprising almost the identical territory originally included in Douglas county, showed a population of 615, none of whom were slaves. Another census was taken in pursuance of law between the 11th day of September and the 11th day of October, 1855, showing a population of 4,651, including residents upon the district in Richardson county known as the half-breed tract, eleven of whom were slaves. Of these Douglas county had 79, a gain in nearly a year of only 146. These figures convey a faint suggestion of

THE APPARENTLY HOPELESS OUTLOOK

for Omaha, at that time opposed and antagonized as it was by the entire South Platte and most of the North Platte country. Through what labor and strategy and well fought parliamentary and other battles this teeming metropolis was carried intact and unharmed through the succeeding years, there is not time to recount here, but there are living men who possess the supreme qualification for writing that history which Virgil ascribes to Æneas—men who can truly say with him, "All these things I saw, and a part of them I was."

Again in 1860, while the nation trembled from center to circumference with the approaching throes of civil war, the federal census taker did his work, giving the state a population of 28,841, and the county 4,328, still a moderate gain. In the next decade these figures increased to 122,993 for the state and 19,982 for the county, while yet another report raised them to 452,402 for the state and 3,645 for the county. In the meantime production, commerce and every branch of industry had

GATHERED STRENGTH AND GROWTH

until in this year, 1882, the county has reached an assessed valuation of $9,356,559 87, has a cultivated acreage of 70,386 acres, producing a crop valued at $16,529, while its chief town, the good city of Omaha, has outstripped all its rivals in our own state, Kansas and Iowa, and challenges the attention of the whole world to its concededly unsurpassed advantages as the queen city of the Missouri. In 1850 Omaha had no place on the map. In 1860 it did not exceed 2,500. In 1870 it numbered over 16,000, standing No. 83 in the rank of cities. In 1880 it moved up to No. 64, thus passing 19 of its rivals, with a population of 30,060. In 1790, ninety-two years ago New York had a population of only 33,131. Chicago does not appear in the census tables until 1840, when it makes its debut with a population of 4,479. When we remember that we are situated two hundred and fifty miles east of a meridian line equidistant from ocean to ocean and that more than half of our territory lies west of that meridian, the prediction may be safely made that in one hundred years Omaha will take rank well up among the first fifteen cities of the nation—the twentieth city today being Newark, New Jersey, with a population of 36,400.

A SELF EVIDENT FACT.

We hold it to be self-evident that a political community so fortunate in its birth, its growth, its present situation, as the county of Douglas, its fertile acres garnished with fruits of industry and plenty, holding within its limits the chief city of the state—a people loving peace, order, society, law, learning, culture—seated in the shadow of tolerant churches and free public schools—should enthrone the administration of justice in a structure in harmony with its beneficient and sacred function in the state. Bowing to this unspoken behest, with the full assent of the people of the county, aided by one who for many years has been their prudent, safe and wise counsellor, John C. Cowin, the present board of county commissioners, Frederick Dexel, Benjamin P. Knight and F. W. Corliss, conceived and planned

THE NOBLE STRUCTURE

whose corner-stone has this day been placed in position. May it rise in its strength and beauty to complete perfection and stand forever the safe shelter of weakness against strength, innocence against guilt, the persecuted against the persecutor, the oppressed against the oppressor—a sanctuary whose chosen high priests shall, in the language of their oath, "administer justice without regard to persons and do equal right to the rich and to the poor."

On the 13th of October, 1854, standing upon this identical spot, as far as the eye could reach, no token of human habitation greeted the vision, save a few scattered structures clustered along the Iowa bluffs and here and there dotting the plateau on which Omaha has since been built. To the west and south there stretched apparently in limitless expanse, a primeval solitude of undulating prairie, broken at rare intervals by the green crest of oak and walnut groves. To the north the dim semi circle of bluff closed upon the swift current of the Missouri—rising as it approached that turbid stream into a succession of wooded bluffs which stretched away towards the council fires of the explorers, Lewis and Clark, kindled half century before near Fort Calhoun. To the east the bold outline of bluff skirting the Missouri valley looked down upon a level expanse of waste prairie bottom,

DESTITUTE OF ANY BADGE OF CIVIL NATION,

save the rude huts in which the Latter Day Saints had wrestled with the rigors of inhospitable winters during their sorrowful pilgrimage to the valleys of the mountains. It was a scene of singular interest—peaceful, solitary, filling the soul with a sense of isolation and loneliness, but beaconing the brave heart and strong arm to the storm and struggle and conflict of the future empire which should rise from its bosom.

Standing upon the same spot one hundred years later, but looking out from the dome of this towering temple of justice, I see a land teeming with plenty and blossoming with beauty. I see the steel-laid highways at our doors laden with the world's traffic and travel. I see the ever revolving wheel of commerce bearing the products and arts and culture of distant countries to and fro past our gates. I see the heavens darkened with the smoke of laboring engines. I see

THOUSANDS OF BUSY HANDS AND HAPPY FACES

to whom the hissing monster caged by Watt and Stevenson is food and raiment. I see the air swarming with electric messengers which girdle the globe and bring cities and states and nations ear to ear and heart to heart. I see stately spires piercing the sky and sheltering churches across whose threshold the shadow of persecution, the dungeon, the rack, the faggot and the stake have never fallen, and on yonder square I see in stately marble the University of Omaha, the focus of inventive and aspiring youth, the Sorbonne and Mecca of liberal learning, towards which the footsteps of wisdom turn, even as the wise men gathered from the east towards the eternal light which poured its effulgence upon the despised Nazarene. All these things I see, and I feel that, with such a past and such a future, life has been indeed worth living, and the men and women who have thus far borne its labors and trials and hardships and perils will need no nobler monument than the proud municipality of which his structure shall forever stand the crown and glory.

In the language of one whose life shed lustre upon the law and helped to anchor, deep and safe, the foundations of a perpetual constitutional union, "Let the earliest light of morning gild it and parting day linger and play upon its summit."

HUB PUNCH is acceptable. With lemonade or hot water, it makes a splendid "night cap" on going to bed. Trade supplied at manufacturers' prices by M. A. McNamara. Families supplied by A. H. Gladstone, Omaha, Neb.

WANTED—A first class double-cylinder press feeder at this office.

ORANGE BLOSSOMS.

A Pleasant Wedding on Burt Street and Other Nuptials.

A very happy and enjoyable event occurred yesterday at the residence of Mr. N. Merriam, on Burt and Twenty-first streets. This was the marriage of Mr. Frank Persinger, the well know and popular young banker, of Central City, and Miss Hattie D. Gale, a lovely and accomplished young lady, who is well known in the musical circles of Omaha.

The wedding occurred about noon yesterday, the nuptial knot being tied by Rev. J. B. Maxfield, presiding elder of the M. E. church. The attendants were Mr. H. Persinger, a prominent Des Moines journalist, and Miss Alice Tzschuck, daughter of Hon. Bruno Tzschuck. There were about a score of relatives and intimate friends present, and at the conclusion of the all-important ceremony the congratulations were numerous and sincere. The wedding dinner, which followed in due course, was of the most elegant character, and all in all the occasion was a happy one, beyond even the usual course.

The presents were numerous and handsome, and among others the reporter noted the following:

Painting, "Longfellow," Miss Morse; silver flower stand, Miss A. Chaffee; set silver knives, forks and spoons, Mr. and Mrs. N. H. Gale; silver butter dish, sugar bowl and cream pitcher, Mr. and Mrs N. Merriam; silver card receiver, Mr. and Mrs. Belden; student lamp, Mrs. B. Tzschuck; silver berry dish, G. B. Tzschuck; pallet, Mrs. E. Benson; plaque, Mr and Mrs. J. A. Gillespie; one pair gold bracelets from the groom, Frank M. Persinger; silver cake basket, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Dickey; steel engraving, Mr. and Mrs J. L. Smith; sewing machine, N. R. Persinger, Central City.

The happy couple left in the afternoon for their future home in Central City.

BLAKE-MUNGER.

Mr. J. R. Blake, of Scribner, will to day be united in marriage to Miss M. C. Munger, of this city, the ceremony taking place at the residence of Mrs Everett Hurlburt. The wedding takes place at 9:30 this morning, and Rev. McCandlish is the officiating clergyman.

CITY NOTES.

—Yesterday a large delegation of Knights of Pythias from Davenport, Ia., paid Omaha a visit. They came over from Council Bluffs, where they met in grand lodge. The lodges represented were Damon No. 10, Davenport No. 50 and Coeur de Leon No. 80. They were accompanied by Strasser's splendid union band, probably one of the finest in the northwest. Among those present were Bros. George Metzger, of Damon lodge No. 10; W. Waddell, D. D. G. C., of Stephen's lodge No. 84; Frank Zenischek, lodge No. 50, and Bro. Gundaker. In the evening the band serenaded THE BEE office, giving some remarkably fine selections.

—Last evening Albert B. Hunt, better known here as Harry Hunt, gave a private masquerade party at Central hall. Everything that could have been thought of, and to the comfort of his guests was well provided by the jolly young host, and a brilliant success crowned his efforts. Hoffman's orchestra furnished the music. The following formed the committee of arrangements: Harry Hunt (manager), Herman Bublitz, Alf Arnaman, John Curry, F. M. Snow and M. A. Bird.

—The Jay Gould party, now en route to Omaha, arrived at Weeping Water last evening and cast anchor there for the night. Mr. Gould being adverse to traveling at night. They will arrive in Omaha about noon to-day.

—An error was made yesterday in regard to the agency of the celebrated Globe fine cut chewing tobacco. H. S. Clark & Co. are sole agents for Omaha.

—The rapidly increasing business of the telegraph department of the Union Pacific railway necessitates the erection of two new lines from this city to Omaha. A gang of men commenced work this morning.—Lincoln Democrat, 23d.

—Prof. Aug. Walther and Julius T. Fetzner were in Fremont yesterday to make arrangements to give a grand concert in the opera house some time in November.

Railroad Matters.

Special Dispatch to THE BEE.

CHICAGO, October 25.—The Western Trunk Line association met here to-day to consider the recent action of the Eastern Trunk Line association in awarding to the Rock Island road one-third the seaboard emigrant business west. The secretary was instructed to notify eastern lines that the award was not satisfactory nor in accordance with existing agreements.

It is announced the Nickel Plated road has completed arrangements by which its trains will run from Buffalo, over the Erie to Elmira, N. Y., thence over the Lehigh valley into New York city, and when the Lehigh is completed to Buffalo, trains will run direct over its track from the Nickel Plated terminus.

DOLAN & LANGWORTHY.

An Extensive Establishment and Its Claims to Patronage.

An Immense Stock and a Steadily Increasing Custom.

A couple of important events in the history of Omaha are noted in today's BEE, the laying of the court house corner stone and the beginning of the work of paving the streets of the city, that the evidences as well as the right to a claim of metropolitan importance may be visible to those who take an interest in the welfare of the city. But while these two events are of the highest importance and interest, Omaha can boast of that which goes further still toward substantial growth and prosperity, viz: a number of substantial and enterprising establishments, which have entered the arena as rivals of the great houses of the east in their respective lines of business. Among those who are justly entitled to the first rank on this list is the well-known house of Dolan & Langworthy, Nos. 110 and 112 Fourteenth street, between Dodge and Douglas. These well-known dealers in heavy hardware, wagon stock, etc., occupy the entire three-story building and basement named above, and although in the city for a comparatively short time have already justified their own expectation of the field they occupy and met with a merited recognition from patrons of the city and surrounding territory.

A BEE reporter visited their establishment yesterday, made a reconnoissance of its extent and inventoried briefly its stock and it was no small undertaking. The building is 45 by 75 feet in size and has 15,000 feet of floor room, and in addition the firm occupies a large brick warehouse in the rear with their valuable stock. A hasty glance at the endless variety of goods kept was enough to convince the reporter of the hopelessness of attempting a detailed description.

On the basement floor were found an immense variety of heavy goods, such as horse shoes, nails, thimble skeins, hubs, etc, while the floor above was equally crowded with bar iron and steel, plow steel, springs and axles, and malleables of every description. Here, too, the space occupied by shelving was filled with builders' hardware of all sorts, sizes and value. A space is reserved on this floor for the office, which is a busy scene at all hours of the day, and where everything is found in the shape indicative of prompt and business-like attention to the orders and interests of patrons.

On the second floor is an extensive line of wood stock, wagon and carriage makers' material, which is continued in the third floor, and includes every imaginable thing pertaining to a buggy or wagon, from the smallest piece to jobs entire and complete, except as to painting and trimming alone. A department is also allotted to the display of carriage tops, cushions and similar stock, all of the most unexceptionable make and quality. There is nothing ever demanded in the experience of wagon and carriage makers not to be found on one of the four floors described.

In the warehouse alluded to above is carried a vast amount of hard wood lumber for wagon makers use, embracing oak, hickory, ash and poplar, all high grade stuff, and only carried by firms extensively engaged in this business.

The firm, whose establishment is thus briefly described is composed of Messrs. William Dolan and L. H. Langworthy. Mr. Dolan is from Dubuque, and has been engaged in his present business ever since 1865, and has consequently familiarized himself with all its details, able to buy with caution and judgment, and ready to give customers the benefit of his knowledge and experience in every way. Mr. Langworthy went into the business in 1877, becoming a partner of Mr Dolan in Dubuque. In January, 1881, the firm appreciating the advantages and growing importance of the field, came to Omaha and began business and as their transactions for 1882 are double those of 1881, which were then more than satisfactory to them, it will be seen that Omaha was the place for them and that they are the men for the place. They have not only made extra efforts to introduce and sell goods to Omaha manufacturers but handle goods manufactured in Omaha and push their claims in every way abroad and with gratifying success. They not only wholesale but do a retail business, and at their house anything from a pound of nails to ten car loads of iron or steel can be purchased, and with the equal assurance to the purchaser that whether his order be large or small he will receive equal consideration and square dealing.

The house is represented on the road by two men, one being Mr. Langworthy, the business management at home being left to Mr. Dolan, and he has conducted it most ably. Their territory covers the country tributary to the U. P. as far west as Laramie, south to Kansas, north beyond the termini of the railroads, and invades Iowa for a very considerable distance in the east. They are extending these limits all the time, and have already achieved a high reputation for push and vim, as well as for business integrity and enterprise. There is no house in the city to be more commended or deserving of warmer wishes for success than that at the head of which Messrs. Dolan and Langworthy stand, and where THE BEE wishes them the success they so richly deserve.

CUTTING SCRAPE.

A Ferocious Tussle on Lower Twelfth Street.

A serious affray took place last evening about 6 o'clock on Twelfth street, near Douglas. A man known as "Windy Joe," who formerly worked for the Homans, and Dug. Barns, who runs Harry Lucas' lunch counter, got into a friendly tussel on the sidewalk, over a silk handkerchief, and it gradually verged into a quarrel. The two got out into the street and Joe drew a knife or razor and slashed away at his opponent, inflicting four wounds, one of which nearly proved fatal. One cut was across the breast, severing a couple of buttons, a second inflicted a cut on the right arm and another made a horrible gash across the right side of the neck, through which the jugular vein plainly protruded.

The wounded man had his injuries attended to by Dr. H. W. Hyde, who found it necessary to take seven stitches in the cut on the neck, and who says it was a miraculous escape from death. It was a hair-breadth escape from murder for "Windy Joe." At a late hour last night the police were looking for the man who did the cutting, and it was expected that he would be in jail before morning. Just how serious Burns wounds may eventually prove is uncertain.

THE BIG BASINS.

Completion of the Immense Reservoirs of the Water Works.

Some Fine Work Soon to be Exhibited to the Omaha Public.

Our citizens generally will be pleased to learn that the upper reservoirs of the water works company, located in West Omaha precinct, are now permanently finished and equal in completness to anything of the kind in the United States.

About a year ago the basins were made ready for the reception of water, but the brick work was really of a temporary character, the intention being that when every particle of the earthwork was thoroughly settled to construct the brick work that is to last for all time.

So it was about two months ago the contract for the work was let to MacRitchie & Nichol, the celebrated civil engineers and contractors of Chicago, men who have successfully constructed more reservoirs of this kind than any firm in this country and who have at the present time several others under way. Charles MacRitchie, the senior partner, came here in person with his able assistants, Messrs. Patton and Beals, and not a moment's delay was made in commencing and continuing the work, until on Tuesday their contract was completed. About an hundred men and teams have been employed all the time, and the work of repuddling and laying the double laved brick walls has been done in a systematic manner—certainly to the satisfaction of the disinterested mechanical eye and undoubtedly to the satisfaction of the water works company, for their interests have been guarded in the most critical and skillful manner by Hugh Murphy, than whom there is no one in the west better suited to inspect just such construction. Not a foot of bank has been puddled, not a hod of cement mixed, not a brick laid to solid rest, without Murphy's immediate supervision, and if his verdict is that Mac Ritchie and Nichol have done their work well, it is safe to bet that such is the case. Some additional work remains to be done by way of sodding the banks, gravelling the tops thereof, etc., when, undoubtedly, the reservoirs will be thrown open to the examination of the city officials and the Omaha public, and then two immense reservoirs will greet the eye that would be an ornament to any city, as they are to ours, besides being something whose solid, permanent usefulness is at once apparent to the most disinterested.

Mr. Mac Ritchie during his short stay in Omaha has made many friends among our staunch business men, for his push and knowledge of the profession and business of his choice. He left last evening for Freeport, Illinois, where his firm have other large reservoirs to construct, leaving behind a reputation for the highest skill and integrity in contract work.

The new water works company have settled right down to business it seems, and everything that is done now is of the "rock of ages" style. The settling basins on the river bottoms are being placed in a permanent condition. David Wilkie, of this city, has this work in charge, and when he finishes our citizens can rest assured that the work at one end of the line will be done as satisfactorily as the other, for Mr. Wilkie has established a reputation in his particular line of contracting since his arrival in Omaha that shows he stands at the head of his business.

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