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The BEE PUBLISHING CO., Props. E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

A MERRY Christmas to our patrons.

OSCAR WILDE has sailed for Europe. In the language of the poet, "Take him all in all, we shall never look upon his like again."

WHAT did Vennor say about Christmas? "Look out for a blizzard." Well, we have something that is next door to it—a New England snow storm.

DENVER is afflicted with the Nilsson craze. Denver papers devote whole pages of poetry, prose and pictorial to the Swedish songstress.

SENATOR INGALLS has gone back to Kansas to attend to Senator Plumb's broken down fences. Incidentally, he will also, perhaps, return to Washington just after the civil service bill has been voted upon.

It is stated that ex-President Porter, of the St. Paul & Omaha road, only made two millions and a half out of his recent sale of stock to Vanderbilt. After a most desperate war Mr. Porter retires with a snug fortune, and the people of the northwest will have to bleed for it.

THE country is safe. The American people have been notified by the Associated press that the president will eat a magnificent roast of prize beef for his Christmas dinner, and Mayor Harrison, of Chicago, will also have a roast of the same fat steer. Now! don't talk any more about the British beef eaters.

THE other day the house passed a resolution imposing a fine of fifty dollars on each member, for each day's absence during the holidays. On Thursday and Friday the house granted leave of absence to more than one hundred members. In every instance the request of members for leave was granted by unanimous consent. Every member who has obtained leave is relieved from the fine, which shows that statesmen sometimes can play a farce that fools would be ashamed of.

COMMISSIONER PRICE has sent a circular letter to Indian agents, which establishes, or rather attempts to establish, certain rules that will do away with the evil practices existing among various tribes. If the honorable commissioner would devise some scheme to do away with the evil practices of the Indian agents, whereby some of them manage to accumulate \$10,000 or \$15,000 a year on a salary of \$1,500 a year, he would do the country a great service.

CHICAGO, with her six hundred thousand population, is about to organize a vigilance committee because the police force is small and withal so incompetent as to afford practically no protection. The trouble with the Chicago policemen is that their time is taken up too much in attending variety shows and gambling houses. If the Chicago people could only reinforce the police with a few wide-awake burglars and footpads, they would infuse new life and activity into the department.

TERESA STURLA, the woman who murdered her paramour, Styles, and was sentenced to one year's imprisonment, because some of the jurors thought she was afflicted with emotional insanity, has gone to the penitentiary with the avowed promise that she intends to reform and lead a virtuous life. As soon as she can get out she will try to procure an engagement on the stage. That is just the place for a bad woman to get reformed. Probably she is now open for a star engagement in some first-class variety theater.

If our Val had only lived in Great Britain he would have stood some show of making a cabinet officer out of the commissioner of agriculture. The British government has just created a cabinet place for Sir Charles Dilke. A minister of agriculture has been established at whose head Joseph Chamberlain will be stationed, while Dilke will succeed Chamberlain as president of the board of trade, an office also entitled to a position in the cabinet. We agree with a contemporary who says the British farmers are in need of more sunshine and less foreign competition, not of a new cabinet called by their name.

THE NATIONAL PARK.

Assistant Secretary Joslyn, of the interior department, said today that the opposition manifested by members of congress in the Yellowstone, D. T. National Park scheme was caused by the Union Pacific railroad company. He thinks that the railroad men are too late in coming forward with their objections. The park company had been negotiating with the secretary for three months before the contract was signed, and the railroad company had abundant opportunities to be heard on the park subject. The fact is that the reservation might have been secured and improved years ago; and the railroads have just learned, when it is too late, that there is big money in it. Rufus Hatch, one of the leading men in the park scheme, had an interview with Secretary Joslyn to-day, and the latter told him that it was his opinion the railroads could not do anything, and advised him to go ahead. Mr. Joslyn says the trouble with the Union Pacific railroad is that the park is liable to be open to visitors before the company can get its line extended to the park, and they are afraid that travel will be diverted to other railroads. Mr. Hatch informed Mr. Joslyn that the idea of his company was to build seven hotels, one on each of the seven sections rented, which would allow a whole section to each hotel for grounds, garden, etc. For the 4,500 acres the annual rent to be paid by the Hatch company of speculators is \$7,000.—Chicago Tribune Special.

Mr. Joslyn's charge that the Union Pacific railroad is at the bottom of the opposition to the scheme of leasing Yellowstone park is all boah. Nobody in these parts will charge that this paper is partial to the Union Pacific railroad. Nor can any such charge be justly made against scores of leading papers that have been outspoken in opposition to the scheme of Hatch & Co. to monopolize the National park for speculative purposes.

The Yellowstone park was set apart by congress for the people of the United States as a resort dedicated to recreation and pleasure amidst nature's grandest scenery. If there is any need of protecting the park and providing the necessary accommodations for tourists and visitors, congress should appropriate the money and place it at the disposal of the interior department. To lease the park to a gang of speculators, and give them the privilege for many years to impose upon travelers and extort money for the enjoyments which that wonderful region affords, and to create a monopoly out of the hot springs that may have curative properties equal or greater than the famous springs at Carlsbad or of Baden Baden, would be nothing short of piracy. It is not an act of benevolence on the part of Mr. Hatch to lease and improve the Yellowstone park, but it is the scheme of a very shrewd financier, who sees millions in it for himself and his associates.

Inasmuch as congress has given no authority to the secretary of the interior to lease the Yellowstone park, it would have been much more in keeping with usage for the secretary or his assistant to have submitted the scheme of leasing the park to congress before the lease consummated. The supreme court has decided that the lease of an Indian reservation by the secretary of the interior without special authority from congress, is void. We take it that the same ruling would apply to the lease of the national park.

TOM HENDRICKS, of Indiana, who has for a great many years been posing as a democratic presidential candidate and was Sam Tilden's mate in the race of 1876, has positively declined to accept a place in President McDonald's cabinet. That is to say, Joe McDonald, of Indiana, is to be the next democratic candidate for the presidency. He will, of course, be elected. In fact, he is as good as elected now. His friends have for some time been organizing a cabinet for him. Leading democratic newspapers are earnestly discussing the merits of each candidate, and among other things they agreed that Tom Hendricks should have a cabinet office, but the trouble is that Mr. Hendricks positively declines. That will be sad news for Omaha, or rather for his brother-in-law who holds a position of honor in the city council. If Mr. Hendricks could only be induced to recall that decision, as he has so often done before, his brother-in-law might yet be in time to become postmaster of Omaha.

As there are still two years before Mr. President McDonald can take his seat, there may be a faint hope that Mr. Hendricks would change his mind and accept the postmaster generalship.

PENNSYLVANIA is wrestling with a great problem, and that is how a state government can be managed by two governors at the same time for five days. It seems that the constitution of the state provides that "the governor shall hold his office during four years from the third Tuesday of January next succeeding his election," and under this provision Gov. Hoyt went into office on January 21, 1879, making the expiration of his term fall on January 21, 1883. However, it happens that the third Tuesday after the election of Mr. Pattison will fall on January 16, 1883, so that according to the Pennsylvania constitution his term will begin five days before Gov. Hoyt's terminates.

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, junior,

who made a thorough investigation of the Union Pacific property when he was government director of that road, has just published his views concerning the future of that thoroughfare in a Boston paper. The following is an extract:

The whole result of my investigations has satisfied me of the investment value of this property. Believing in it and having led others to invest in it, I want to see the control of it in New England. The Ontario, Burlington & Quincy and the Union Pacific constitute together the Broadway or Washington street of this city. They will always be the chief commercial thoroughfares between Chicago and San Francisco. Other lines will be built through to the north and south of them, but these will be to the Union Pacific only what Third and Sixth avenues are to Broadway. At least that is the way it strikes me. Seeing it in this light the Union Pacific seems to me a very valuable property with a very great future, so far as occupying the country is concerned. The policy the company is pursuing is thoroughly sound one. Its surplus earnings have for years been invested, and are now being invested in feeders.

Mr. Adams throws considerable light on the true value of these properties, or rather the value of their franchises. By the enormous exactions to which the people of this section have been compelled to submit, these roads have been able to pay interest upon their mortgage debt, which represents the first cost of the roads. They have paid a fair dividend upon the stock, and they have invested millions of the surplus in feeders that have been stocked and mortgaged for all they are worth. These feeders afford another chance for the same operation. But when the people, who have been taxed to build and maintain these great roads and their feeders, demand a fair division of the burdens of taxation, they tell us that the railroads have borne a greater share of the taxes than any other class of property.

THE latest corner is a corner in rubber. It is run by a syndicate of English, Spanish and Portuguese speculators. The India rubber ring operators by controlling the high grade raw product known as Para rubber. According to statements made at the recent meeting of rubber manufacturers, the work of the Para gum-gatherers is handled by about 150 merchants, who ship through eight firms, and it is by contracting with these shippers that the syndicate operates. The pressure applied to the high grade article has affected the low grades from Central America, Borneo and Africa to the extent of forcing up the price fifty per cent, and the manufacturers are endeavoring to stop their factories, and also by forming a competing company to restore the trade to what they consider a fair basis.

GENTLEMAN GEORGE PENDLETON may make himself famous by his civil service reform bill, but he will never grace the presidential chair. No democratic national convention would dare to nominate a man for president who is committed in advance to keeping every republican in office who happens to be in, refuses to resign or die, and behaves himself so that nobody can remove him for cause.

CALIFORNIA is making rapid strides in the path of civilization. The Californians have just organized a state branch of the National Association of Undertakers. The meeting of the California Funeral directors was very enthusiastic and harmonious. Among the resolutions adopted was the following:

Resolved, That this association earnestly request all manufacturers and wholesale dealers in undertakers' goods of whatever kind, within the United States, to refrain from sending out catalogues and price-lists to any parties who are not undertakers or funeral directors in good standing and carrying on a legitimate business.

This resolution will meet the approval of funeral directors in this part of the country. It is an outrage that anybody who is not a funeral director in goods standing should ever receive a list of prices of coffins. It is well enough to confide such a great secret to a person dressed in a shroud, but it is certainly unbefitting the dignity of the profession and damaging to the trade to circulate a price list that shows fifty-dollar coffins will retail for three hundred. Even Toolies, who invested in a coffin because it was handy to have one in the house, had no right, to see an undertaker's price list.

HAZEN AND WIGGINS.

On the 27th of November last Mr. E. Stone Wiggins, of Ottawa, Canada, addressed a letter to the president of the United States, through which he warned the people of this country against a terrible storm that is to pass across the continent from the Pacific to the Atlantic, and completely sweep the Atlantic coast to the Gulf of Mexico. This storm, Mr. Wiggins predicts, will occur on the 11th day of March next.

"No vessel, whatever her dimensions, will be safe out of harbor, and none of small tonnage can hope to survive the tidal wave and fury of this tempest. As the wind will blow from the southeast, the submerged low lands of the American coast, especially those bordering on the Gulf of Mexico and washed by the Gulf Stream, while the air currents for

several hundred miles along the east side of the Rocky Mountain range, owing to the great atmospheric pressure in those regions, will spread universal destruction."

General W. B. Hazen, chief signal officer, has just published a letter in The New York Tribune, in which he discredits the prediction of Mr. Wiggins, and seeks to allay the popular fear about this impending disaster. General Hazen gives the following reasons for his disbelief in Wiggins' prediction:

In order to make allowance for possibilities, General Hazen says:

1. No storm track has ever been observed which moves in the path indicated by the words "that be felt in the Northern Pacific, would appear in the Gulf of Mexico on the night of the 9th, and—being reflected by the Rocky Mountains—would cross the meridian (Ottawa) from the west at noon of Sunday, March 11, 1883." The Rocky Mountains do not possess the power of "reflecting" a storm, though they may modify its course, and it is difficult to understand how a storm can proceed from the Pacific to Canada via the Gulf of Mexico and suffer any reflection whatever from the Rocky Mountains. There are two distinct classes of storms which traverse this country, the one which enters the country in the northwest (some of which can be traced from the Pacific across the mountains) and more easterly or southeasterly to the Atlantic, and the other which enters the country in the Gulf states and more northeasterly along the coast. It sometimes, though rarely, happens that two storms, one of each class, unite in their course, which may give a slight semblance of truth to such a description as that given above, but it should be distinctly noted that the words quoted will not stand a critical examination. The same may be said of a sentence which alludes to the "planetary forces" causing a subsidence of low lands, and the air currents on the east of the Rocky Mountains spreading universal destruction. Should a severe storm area cross the country in an easterly direction from the Rocky Mountains, strong southeast winds will blow towards the storm centre in advance of it, and strong northwest winds will follow it, according to a well established law of rotation of the winds in the vicinity of an area of low barometer. This is all that can be truthful in the sentence under discussion. There is no "great atmospheric pressure" in the region of the Rocky mountains, except that an area of high pressure may temporarily prevail there, and the words "planetary forces" belong to the vocabulary of astrology and medical superstition upon which modern science cannot be too severe.

2. It is absolutely impossible to predict a storm for more than a few days in advance. The weather cannot be too widely distributed that no one can foretell even the general character of a coming season, much less the occurrence of a particular storm in that season. It is possible that the advance of our knowledge may at some time enable us to predict the weather for many days in advance, but this is not possible at the present time. Meteorology is yet in its infancy, and no one is yet able to anticipate the occurrence of a meteorological phenomenon for more than a few days—a week at the most. If any one will take the trouble to verify the weather predictions which in these days are so frequently made by the actual weather experienced, he will find that about half of them are fulfilled and half fail. When a given prediction is fulfilled, it is often made a matter of marked comment, while the unfulfillment of a similar prediction at another time is passed over in silence. The impression, therefore, prevails that reliance can be placed upon the forecastings of weather prophets, but this impression will be removed by any one who will give attention to the subject. A series of simple guesses, based upon no reasoning whatever, will come true in the long run as many times as they will fail. Until then weather predictions are fulfilled more times than they fail, they must be regarded as equivalent to guesses and as having no value whatever. All predictions of the weather to be expected a month or more in advance, whether based upon the position of the planets, or of the moon, or upon the number of sun spots, or upon any supposed law of periodicity of natural phenomena, or upon any hypothesis whatever which to-day has its advocates, are as unreliable as predictions of the time when the end of the world will come.

During the past ten years the number of storms which prevailed in this country in March has averaged 12, varying from 10 in 1881 and 1882 to 18 in 1879. Some of these have been very severe, and it rarely happens that the month of March passes in any year without the occurrence of one or more storms accompanied by high winds upon the Atlantic coast. Undoubtedly in March, 1883, there will be storms of some severity, and some persons will be found who will notice the storm which comes nearest to March 11 and claim that Mr. Wiggins' prediction was verified, only that it was a day late, or a day early, or was not quite as severe as was anticipated, or moved in a slightly different path, or in some other way different in detail from that described, but that it was sufficiently near to entitle the author to a high rank as a prophet. Let no one expect his prediction to be fulfilled to the letter—it is safe to say it will not be, but let every one expect that the coming March will, like all its predecessors in the memory of man, be characterized by storms of greater or less severity.

General Hazen has done well to allay all needless alarm about a possible disaster, but for all that, the precautions which Mr. Wiggins recommended should be taken. No harm and very little loss can come from taking the needed steps to prevent wrecks on the Atlantic seaboard. Gen. Hazen may be right, and Mr. Wiggins may be way off. He may, however, have made discoveries that other observers have failed to note, and if his predictions should prove true, even partially, it would be criminal

for the people in the section most threatened, especially ship owners, to have taken no precautions.

New Books.

J. Fenimore Cooper, by Thomas R. Lounsbury, edited by Charles Dudley Warner, and published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston, is the fourth of the series of American Men of Letters which has created some considerable interest in literary circles. The work, as its predecessors, aims to give as many new facts concerning the career of the person under consideration as may be obtained. Lounsbury is Cooper's first biographical, no other work of his life having appeared before. The literary portion of the volume is carefully and well written, and forms a clear concise and connected narrative of Cooper's life and literary labors. It is unnecessary to say anything concerning the mechanical work as the reputation of the publishers stands unrivaled in this or any other country. The work is on sale in this city at W. T. Seaman's and the price is \$1.25.

Maynhold, by Bjornstjerne Bjornson, translated from the Norse by Rasmus B. Anderson, has just been published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston. Magnhold is the latest effort of the Scandinavian poet, patriot and novelist translated into English, and is a story of considerable power. This is the seventh volume of the series and the last of the translations. The work is written in Bjornson's usual passing style and bears the stamp of his individuality. The volume is nicely bound and the type is large and easy to read. W. T. Seaman has the volume on sale at his warehouses on Farnam street.

In the Coils; or the Coming Conflict. By "A Fanatic." A. T. McDill, Philadelphia, publisher. This work, an attack upon the principles of free masonry, was written by an Omaha preacher, for reasons of his own does not give his name to the book as author. In his preface he states that there is only a thread of fancy running through the narrative, and that the characters are taken from real life, and the incidents are not overdrawn. Necessarily to make the plot interesting, the writer must draw more or less on his imagination. It is attempted to be shown that a local lodge of masons in a place where the story is laid, ties down its members and exerts an undue influence on the community. To judge of its merits one should read the book. It is for sale by local book sellers.

STATE JOINTINGS.

Dipterists has about abated in Merrick county.

Sam D. Cox, late of the Central City Courier, will become "local" of the Lincoln Journal on January 1st.

An Episcopal parish has been organized at St. Paul.

A pork packing establishment, with a capital of \$5,000, is to be started at Chapman, Merrick county.

Four boys were marketed in Schuyler county, which averaged 465 pounds.

Mrs. L. Shortel and child, of Tekamah, were buried in the same grave on the 17th. Both were victims of consumption, and the child died a few minutes after its mother.

The members and friends of the Catholic church at Jackson, Dakota county, contributed \$1,784.25 in sums varying from 25 cents to \$65, to build a parsonage.

The Springfield Monitor has taken the place of the Springfield Signal, which died, aged two weeks.

There are two enterprising men at Dakota City, according to the Eagle. They purchased a lot of hogs that died of Indian measles.

The United Presbyterians of Pawnee City are discussing the prospects of a new church.

A case of small pox has appeared at Norfolk, and a number of people were exposed to the danger unknown to them.

The school house at D'Sota burned to the ground last Wednesday night.

The Baptist society of Blair is building an extension to its church for the use of a small school.

Small pox, O'Neil carry revolvers and make nights hideous shooting with them.

All bids made for the Illinois university lands in Gage county were rejected.

The Lincoln friends of the widow of Sheriff Jack Woods, murdered at Minden, are taking measures for her relief.

There is a baby in O'Neil nine and a half months old that weighs thirty pounds, and they are blowing a great deal about it.

Some months ago a man named Brigham, living at Pine, eloped with his wife's sister leaving his wife to provide for herself and three children. She struggled bravely to do so, but last week became crazy, and the county authorities will have to take care of her. If the indignant people up there could catch Brigham and his sister-in-law, they would make them suffer.

Grand Island's new horse cart is to be named after the citizen that gets the most votes.

The hog buyers of Grafton have paid \$38,000 in the past three months, which is pretty good for a small place.

Nemaha county is almost rent asunder by the proposed change of the county seat. On the night of the 15th the residence of Wm. Broilier, three miles east of residence, caught fire and was entirely destroyed. The family lost everything the home contained.

Melinda C. Ealy, suing John Schrock, agent, at Aurora, for breach of promise, got a \$1,200 judgment last week.

H. B. Coffman, cashier of the Exchange Bank at Hebron, has been appointed assistant treasurer of a railroad in Kansas.

The Knave's offer to quit claim the disputed land in Thayer county to the settlers at four dollars an acre and all costs, but they are pretty stiff about it.

Dunbar's new public hall is completed. A Texas school teacher named J. F. Killabro victimized by prairie by departing last week, about \$350 ahead.

Schreyer, the Custer county homesteader shot a few weeks ago by an Olive cowbird, is getting better. He only received a flesh wound.

Hastings is growing at a rapid and solid rate. A number of citizens contemplate erecting business houses in the spring.

The Methodist church at Gibbon is about completed. It will cost about \$2,500.

There are nine ministers in the small town of Gibbon.

Plattsmouth has a juvenile brass band. While driving in the country near Hastings, on the 17th, John Henry ran into a wire fence and cut a gash in his face and neck from the mouth to the collar bone.

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METCALF & BRO. 1005 Farnam St., Omaha. Diptherists has about abated in Merrick county. Sam D. Cox, late of the Central City Courier, will become "local" of the Lincoln Journal on January 1st. An Episcopal parish has been organized at St. Paul. A pork packing establishment, with a capital of \$5,000, is to be started at Chapman, Merrick county. Four boys were marketed in Schuyler county, which averaged 465 pounds. Mrs. L. Shortel and child, of Tekamah, were buried in the same grave on the 17th. Both were victims of consumption, and the child died a few minutes after its mother. The members and friends of the Catholic church at Jackson, Dakota county, contributed \$1,784.25 in sums varying from 25 cents to \$65, to build a parsonage. The Springfield Monitor has taken the place of the Springfield Signal, which died, aged two weeks. There are two enterprising men at Dakota City, according to the Eagle. They purchased a lot of hogs that died of Indian measles. The United Presbyterians of Pawnee City are discussing the prospects of a new church. A case of small pox has appeared at Norfolk, and a number of people were exposed to the danger unknown to them. The school house at D'Sota burned to the ground last Wednesday night. The Baptist society of Blair is building an extension to its church for the use of a small school. Small pox, O'Neil carry revolvers and make nights hideous shooting with them. All bids made for the Illinois university lands in Gage county were rejected. The Lincoln friends of the widow of Sheriff Jack Woods, murdered at Minden, are taking measures for her relief. There is a baby in O'Neil nine and a half months old that weighs thirty pounds, and they are blowing a great deal about it. Some months ago a man named Brigham, living at Pine, eloped with his wife's sister leaving his wife to provide for herself and three children. She struggled bravely to do so, but last week became crazy, and the county authorities will have to take care of her. If the indignant people up there could catch Brigham and his sister-in-law, they would make them suffer. Grand Island's new horse cart is to be named after the citizen that gets the most votes. The hog buyers of Grafton have paid \$38,000 in the past three months, which is pretty good for a small place. Nemaha county is almost rent asunder by the proposed change of the county seat. On the night of the 15th the residence of Wm. Broilier, three miles east of residence, caught fire and was entirely destroyed. The family lost everything the home contained. Melinda C. Ealy, suing John Schrock, agent, at Aurora, for breach of promise, got a \$1,200 judgment last week. H. B. Coffman, cashier of the Exchange Bank at Hebron, has been appointed assistant treasurer of a railroad in Kansas. The Knave's offer to quit claim the disputed land in Thayer county to the settlers at four dollars an acre and all costs, but they are pretty stiff about it. Dunbar's new public hall is completed. A Texas school teacher named J. F. Killabro victimized by prairie by departing last week, about \$350 ahead. Schreyer, the Custer county homesteader shot a few weeks ago by an Olive cowbird, is getting better. He only received a flesh wound. Hastings is growing at a rapid and solid rate. A number of citizens contemplate erecting business houses in the spring. The Methodist church at Gibbon is about completed. It will cost about \$2,500. There are nine ministers in the small town of Gibbon. Plattsmouth has a juvenile brass band. While driving in the country near Hastings, on the 17th, John Henry ran into a wire fence and cut a gash in his face and neck from the mouth to the collar bone. Tecumseh complains that the B. & M. freight rates are so high the farmers market their grain elsewhere. There is a daily attendance of 424 in the Tecumseh public school. Clark Puffer, of Talmage, has contracted for 10,000 young fish, mostly California salmon and black buffalo, to stock his pond. The people of Elk Creek, Johnson county, have started a subscription in aid of a cemetery.

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