

A HEROINE OF THE STORM.

A Nebraska Heroine's Achievement During the Blizzard's Blasts.

LASHED TO HER LITTLE SCHOLARS

A Boy Saves Two Lives—Griffiths Congratulates the Northwestern—Omaha and Chicago Equal—Other City News.

A Heroine in the Blasts.

From Mr. J. H. Ager, of Ord, Neb., and one of the secretaries of the state board of transportation, representative of the Era learned an interesting tale of the pluck and good judgment exhibited by a young lady school teacher of Valley county.

Not many miles from the town of Ord is situated the school house of Mira Valley school district. This house is a small frame structure and the nearest dwelling to it is at least one-half mile distant.

The pupils who attend this school are usually brought to lessons in a conveyance in the morning, and called for in the evening. Thursday morning, January 12, there was little evidence of the coming of the terrible storm which played such havoc in all portions of the country, but when the blizzard came it broke with equal fury in the neighborhood of Ord.

In the little school house of Mira Valley school district, Miss Minnie Freeman, the teacher, yet in her teens, was endeavoring to allay the fears of thirteen pupils between the ages of six and fifteen years. The task was no light one and the children were wrought up to the highest pitch of excitement by the fury of the storm.

In the midst of the teacher's assurance that all would be well a terrible gust of wind struck the building, the windows rattled, the house shook and the floor of the structure was torn from its hinges. It was then the young teacher realized the necessity of preparing for emergencies.

With an exhibition of rare judgment, she gathered her little brood together, and securing a coil of strong heavy twine began with the largest ones and tied them to the chairs, to the arms and bodies, three abreast. This completed she huddled her charges around the stove and awaited the pleasure of the storm king.

As the storm king's fury was coming on sooner than expected, a terrific gale, sweeping everything before it, struck the building and carried away, in a twinkling of an eye, the entire roof of the structure, leaving the frightened little ones exposed to the elements. The time for prompt action had arrived, but the young teacher was equal to the emergency.

Taking the youngest and frailest of her charges in her arms, she tied the remaining end of the twine around her own body, and with all the words of encouragement she could muster, the courageous teacher started with her "team" of frightened little ones out into the fury of the storm. Those who have braved the terrors of a Nebraska blizzard need not be told that it required courage to enable a young girl to breast those furious winds.

Having in her keeping the lives of thirteen little ones and the happiness of thirteen homes, those who felt and suffered from the effects of Thursday's storm need not be told that the act of that young girl was one from which strong men themselves might quail.

Selecting her way carefully, following in the course of the storm, the brave girl led her little charges through snow drifts and blinding blizzards, now cautioning them about their steps, now encouraging them to cheerfulness, and all the way, herself bearing an additional burden of somebody's darling, urging them into renewed efforts.

And thus it was that after a wearisome journey of three-quarters of a mile, through all the fury a storm could muster, the little band reached the threshold of a farm house, where it is needless to say, they received a hearty welcome. At the very house where they found shelter one of the children made his home, and if the eyes of a loving mother filled with tears as she pressed her little one to her heart, they were not dried when she gave to the brave young teacher an embrace in which was embodied all the love and gratitude within a mother's heart.

It is safe to say that the subsequent reception of Miss Freeman in all the homes whose little ones had rescued perhaps from death was equally as warm as that accorded in the first instance.

Miss Minnie Freeman is a young lady only nineteen years of age, and is teaching her first term of school in Mira Valley.

Her action of Thursday has endeared her stronger than words can portray to those whose little ones she cared for so well, and the display of her heroic judgment and titles her to the esteem of all who admire heroism with a true ring.

BRAVE HARRY PRITCHETT.

He Saves the Lives of Two Ladies at the Risk of His Own.

There was a runaway on South Thirtieth street yesterday, and but for the courage and presence of mind of a fifteen-year-old boy three persons might have been either killed outright or seriously injured.

The lad's name is Henry Pritchett. He lives with his father on a farm about six miles southwest of the city, and together with his mother and a young lady named Martine, he was out in the morning on a shopping expedition.

At the corner of Tenth and Thirtieth streets the team attached to the sleigh became frightened. Young Pritchett, who was driving, kept a stiff neck, and refused to get out of the sleigh with his mother. The lines were old and badly worn and one of them broke.

This caused the horses to increase their speed and they rushed along at a frightful rate. When they were within two blocks of Mason street the frightened occupants of the sleigh were horrified to see that a wagon, loaded with a huge stick of timber, had broken down and that it extended clear across Thirtieth street.

To crash into this meant death, but quick as thought young Pritchett sprang from the sleigh, landing squarely on the off horse's back. He grabbed the bit of both animals and succeeded in stopping them within a few feet of the obstruction.

IRON WORKS.

The Growth of One of the Greatest of Omaha's Industries.

A Bee reporter, having heard last night that the stockholders of the Paxton & Vierring Iron Works held their annual meeting yesterday afternoon, started out in search of some of the officers to gain some information about the works and the business of the year just closed.

Meeting Robert Vierring, vice-president, he learned from him the following facts: The amount of business done during the year 1887 was over \$1,000,000, being an increase of \$180,000 over 1886.

In 1887, the Paxton & Vierring iron works paid to railroads for freight, \$80,000; while in 1886 the freight bills amounted to only \$15,000.

The corporation paid to its employees \$65,000; while its labor account for 1886 was only \$15,000.

The corporation was organized two years ago. It started business with forty men, and the number was increased during 1887 to 212 men. On the date of the organization of the company the stock was \$250,000.

A year ago it was increased to \$75,000, and yesterday it was increased to \$100,000, and authority was given the new board of directors to make a further increase at any time during the year 1888 to an amount not exceeding \$200,000, to meet the requirements of the rapidly growing business of the corporation.

During the year 1887 the company purchased of Mr. Kuntze another acre of land for \$18,000, and during the year another acre for \$15,000, and new machinery and tools have been purchased to the extent of \$4,000.

For the year 1888 the corporation contemplates the erection of a new and commodious brick office, some additions to its present foundry and machinery and the erection of another foundry for the manufacture of car wheels, gas and water pipes.

"We have now," said Mr. Vierring, "one of the finest plants for foundry purposes in the entire west. Considered with respect to its trackage, switches and railway facilities, there is nothing equal to it, even in Chicago. We expect to keep right on growing with the times."

"As an evidence that the works have been well managed from the start, there has not been, since the organization of the company, the slightest change in the direct or indirect officers, and yesterday, for the third time, they were re-elected."

"Who are the directors and officers?" "The directors are Hon. W. A. Paxton, Louis Vierring, A. J. Vierring, J. L. Kennedy and myself. The officers are Hon. W. A. Paxton, president; Louis Vierring, secretary and treasurer; A. J. Vierring, manager, and I am, as formerly, vice-president."

"Has the business been profitable during the year?" "Very profitable. It has been more profitable, however, in Omaha than it has been at any other place, for instance Chicago. We are largely interested in the Vierring, McDowell & Co. foundry of Chicago, of which I am president, and I know a great deal, by reason of my official connection with the Metal Age, a leading journal of the volume of foundry business done last year in that city, and the profits made, and this company here has succeeded beyond all comparison and expectation. If the business had not been prosperous during the last year, we would not risk the improvements and enlargements I have mentioned."

"I do not think the people of Omaha realize fully how many men we employ, and how much money we expend here in the city, which would otherwise go to Chicago, and at other points. We started here in Omaha, took hold of a business, which up to that time had not been profitable, and asking no bonus from the board of trade of that city, we have, in two years time, placed this institution on a financial basis unequalled in the west, considering the length of time it has taken to establish it."

"In this connection, Omaha people ought to appreciate how much public-spirited citizens, like Hon. W. A. Paxton, do in a city, and to Mr. Paxton's name, unequalled credit, push and enterprise behind us, the success we have had would have been impossible. Mr. Paxton, in his beginning, said he would take stock in the company only on condition that it be made, as rapidly as possible, the leading institution of its kind in the west. This is what we have done."

"Had I the time I could give you many other interesting facts regarding our plans for the future, but I am very busy, and as I expect to be in Chicago on the afternoon train, my time is fully occupied, so you must excuse me, please, for the present."

BENCH AND BAR.

Police Court.

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County Commissioners' Proceedings.

SATURDAY, JAN. 14, 1888. Board met this day. Present: Anderson, Corrigan, Mount, Turner and Mr. Chairman.

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The appended amendment by Mr. Corrigan was also adopted. And for each prisoner sentenced to bread and water not to exceed the sum of 20 cents per day. The jail and court house committee reported as follows: Mr. Chairman: Your committee on court house and jail find two offices in the court house and one in the jail in which the radiation is insufficient during extreme cold weather and have taken steps to have the trouble obviated.

In regard to the management of the jail, the sheriff seems disposed to do all in his power to prevent the recurrence of the alleged abuses, but in its present crowded condition there are many difficulties to overcome. Your committee respectfully recommends that the board of commissioners take such steps in the premises as will enable the sheriff to employ two jailers or guards, instead of one as at present.

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At 5 o'clock last evening Chairman O'Keefe called "Hats off," and the county commissioners assembled to consider matters relative to the jail. The following from the county attorney was read and placed on file:

To the Board of Commissioners of Douglas County: Gentlemen—Your resolution of this date regarding the boarding of prisoners confined in the county jail is duly received. Touching your authority in this matter, it is my opinion that you have the absolute power to say what the sheriff shall receive from the county for the board of prisoners, as section 5 on pages 380 and 381 provides as follows:

"For boarding prisoners not exceeding 75 cents per day nor more than \$3.50 per week when the prisoners are confined more than six days." You will see by the above section that you are permitted to pay a sum not exceeding the amounts therein specified. It follows that you may in your discretion reduce the amount to such a reasonable sum as you in your wisdom shall see fit.