A PLEA FROM A NIHILIST.

He Wants the Proposed Treaty With Russia Rejected.

GROUNDS OF HIS OBJECTIONS

Stepniak, the World-Renowned Leader of Revolutionary Movements Against the Czar, Writes to the United States Senate.

Proposed Russian Extradition.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—[Correspondence of the BEE.]—In London, last June, I spent a morning with Mr. Sergius Stepniak, the world-renowned Russian nihilist, who has for several years directed from the outside the revolutionary movements against the czar. Mr. Stepniak was very earnest at the time in his opposition to the ratification by the senate of the Russian extradition treaty with the United States, and said he intended to come to this country when congress convened for the purpose of laying before the senate his objections to the treaty.

A few weeks ago he informed me that his literary and other engagements would preclude a visit to the United States, and I suggested to him the feasibility of his writing the objections he entertained against the treaty, and laying it before the senate committee on foreign relations, and giving it publication in the press. Knowing something of the extraordinary literary abilities of Mr. Stepniak, I felt sure that he could make a strong presentation of his side of the case and the following, which I have just received from him, fully meets expectations, and will command not only a close reading but careful consideration:

A PLEA FOR THE REJECTION OF THE PROPOSED EXTRADITION TREATY WITH THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT.

To the Senate and the people of the United States:

It is the rule with all civilized nations that nobody can be condemned without being heard in his defense. The projected extradition treaty with the Russian government, if ratified by the American senate, will be a wholesale condemnation to capital punishment and worse, of any member of the Russian patriotic party—designated under the awkward name of Nihilists—man or woman, who may happen to seek refuge upon the soil of the United States.

As a foreign exponent of six years' standof the views and aspirations of the party now in judgment, I beg leave to say, in the interest of truth, some words of explanation as to the general character of this party and the bearing of the question now before the senate.

To illustrate a thing known very little with a thing known very well, we may assimilate the so-called nihilist party with the Irish nationalists. What we, the so-called Russian nihilists, want is a national home rule for our country. We want to overthrow the czar's despotism, to break the yoke of the autocratic bureaucracy, and to win for our country a national representative assembly, having the supreme control over the affairs of the state, as it is in other European countries.

As with the Irish nationalists there are among us various shadows of opinions. The active body of the nihilist conspirators comprises simple radicals, land nationalizers and social-democrats. Each of these sections expect various fruits fruits from the establishment of a national representation—just as the various sections of the Irish home rulers do, but his can not be a maker of consideration for the present. As far as practical politicians, as an actual party, we, Russian nihilists, are not more subversive than that.

I will not waste your valuable time upon quotations from various authentic documents, such as reports of our political trials, official manifestoes and reiterated declarations of the accredited organs of our party. I will only refer those who wish to verify these statements to Americans who have journeyed through Siberia and Russia. Some of them have seen or have been in communication with several hundreds of more or less prominent members of our party, and had their views stated from their own mouths, or their own hands. Now as these men, writers, are summing up the views of our party fully and corroborate these stated above, I can well dispense wasting your time in disproving the many falsities circulated upon our tendencies by the agents or instruments of the Russian government.

But the article three of the treaty, excluding the regicide from the list of political crimes, contains also the following passage:

"If it be made to appear that extradition is sought with a view to try or punish the person demanded for an offense of a political character, surrender shall not take place."

That clause seems to imply that the American republic will not entirely object to the Russians making some efforts to change the Autocrat from their government. But at closer examination the thing looks different. This provision of the treaty provides practically for nothing at all.

private parties in private houses, people of all ages, sexes and classes are arrested kept in prisons *durante beneplacito* or exiled to Siberia or other deserted regions by hundreds and thousands, without even the formality of some trial. A simple order of the police suffices. No counsel is allowed to visit them; they are kept ignorant of the name of their accuser; they as a rule are informed but vaguely upon the nature of the charge brought against them. Very often they are not told what they are accused of, and have to start to their melancholy journey with nothing but the knowledge of the fact that the police conceived some "suspicions," that their political faith is "unsound."

Is it not an exaggeration of a party statement? I can only refer those who should be doubtful to the extensive literature on the subject, and if they have no time for it, to the pages of contributions to the American press, which has the advantage of being perfectly unimpeachable and very recent. Before starting to his journey one American writer was a declared opponent of the "Nihilists." He has not become their convert or advocate now, and his testimony is that of an impartial observer, who gives to his fellow countrymen some samples of the bulk of facts he has collected on the spot. Thus the Americans learn from a short account how girls of seventeen and fifteen and boys of fourteen were exiled to Siberia by order of the police, because their elder brothers were killed by the gensdarms and it was suspected the younger were likely to sympathize with them and pity them; the others had the same fate because they refused to turn informers against their elder sisters. They learn likewise how at the time when the trial of the 193 propagandists was "set up" 890 admittedly innocent people between young men and girls were kept in close solitary confinement for periods ranging from one to four years, during which time eighty prisoners lost their reason or committed suicide in their cells or died from prison maladies, all this because the accusation wanted to get from them useful information.

If all this is not a sufficient provocation what is it? The Irish Fenians have also taken occasionally, the laws in their hands. The American public opinion excused them and sympathized with them, nevertheless, because great were their provocations. But our provocations are greater than those of the Irish were within the two last centuries. And we are laboring under an enormous disadvantage; they had their O'Connell and their Parnell at Westminster and their Michael Davitts before the masses of the English people, who control in the last resort the ministers and the parliaments and the governing class. And we, to whom have we to appeal for the redress of our wrongs?

The American people, approving of the Irish cannot blame us, if they are consistent.

There is another reason, still more peremptory, why the Americans cannot ratify the proposed treaty; it is that such an act would be paramount to a solemn sanction given by them to the Russian despotism.

The Russian grievances are little known in America. If they were there would be only one voice of approbation and encouragement to the "nihilists," to persevere in their individual rebellion till the time when they will be able to get up a wholesale rebellion. Certainly no American statesman would have proposed a monstrosity like the projected treaty.

But enough is known upon Russian conditions to make it a matter of common property that the Russian government is an abominable one. Two forces are in deadly feud in Russia of to-day. Liberty, championed by the so-called nihilists and despotism. If you disapprove, for one reason or another of both contending parties, the natural course to follow is to keep aloof and to let them settle their disputes as best they can. The maintenance of the asylum right in a statu quo is nothing but a policy of non-interference. You will afford the same protection of your laws and the same facilities for expressing their opinions to our bitterest enemies if they chose to settle among you. Besides, have you not in your midst the accredited representatives of our enemies, ambassadors and consuls? We do not ask you to expell them from your territory as parties to the heinous crimes committed by the czar's government, which send them to you.

The proposed treaty breaks this policy of non-interference in the Russian interior struggle in favor of one of the contending parties. You offer to lend the assistance of your police and magistrates to the czar's gendarmeries and spies hunting down the czar's enemies. The disapprobation of these enemies is not sufficient to justify such a step; it implies the full approbation of the party whom you propose to assist. You make common cause with the czar's government. You put it to exactly the same level as your own government; you solemnly declare that the czar's laws such as they are now-a-days are binding morally for the Russians as yours are for the Americans.

Now, are you prepared to meet that? After being the first to proclaim the right of rebellion to tyranny, will you be the first to reassert at the end of the century the divine eight of kings and emporers to trample down all the men held most sacred? For this is the only standpoint from which rebellion in any form is blamable in Russia of to-day. Or you consider us Russians to be a lower race, which has no right to feel like other men do and to wish for what other men have won.

This is the issue now before the American senate, and this moral aspect of the question is indeed the only important one which is at stake.

Many able American writers have pointed out that in the projected reciprocity with the Russian government there is no reciprocity whatever. No American guilty of an attempt against the person of the president or any member of his family will think to seek refuge in Russia, treaty or no treaty. This is self-evident. Whilst—these writers said—Russians implicated in conspiracies against the czar's life will certainly flock to America.

Only the harmless people who keep cautiously aloof from political action in an expectant position, and whose actual opposition is limited to "rebellious utterances," (grumblings) at private houses and private parties, (for no rebellious speech will be allowed in public), only those would practically profit by this clause. According to the Russian laws they are "political offenders," and are actually visited by heavy penalties. Suppose one of them had come to seek refuge in the United States, the treaty promises that they will not be surrendered to the czar's vengeance.

As to the actual rebels against the Russian autocracy, they are extraditable according to the tearms of the treaty.

Regicide and political assassination in general, are certainly not the only form of activity of the Russian rebels or "nihilists." They publish and circulate clandestine papers and pamplets, propagating the idea of liberty and calling the Russians to the sense of their dignity as men and citizens; they attempted to set up some popular insurrections, and of late they organized an uninterrupted series of extensive military conspiracies among the officials of the army garrisoned in the capital and in other towns. These conspiracies, in which the military and the civilian join hands, have for scope open rebellion against the czar's despotism. But they have not pushed their chivalry towards their very unchivalrous enemies so far as to attempt the person of the despot from the responsibility for the misdeeds committed by his orders or by those of his dependents. The fact is that all these conspiracies accepted and accept the assassination of the czar as essential to the success of their insurrection and as commendable at any time. Thus all the members of these conspiracies, according to the Russian laws are parties to the regicide, whenever committed or attempted by any member of the said conspiracies.

The clandestine revolutonary publications approve and justify of the regicide and are likewise accessories to the crime: authors, compositors, as well as propagators of these papers. Even the readers of the regicidal paper, who have not immediately turned informers, are, according to the strict terms of the Russian laws, accessories to regicide, They are punishable with death, whenever the czar chooses to apply the full rigor of the law, as for instance in the case of the young student Rosovsky, eighteen years of age, hanged in Kieff, March 5, 1880.

Thus the whole body of actual political offenders is covered by the treaty, because as the matter stands in Russia they are all connected in one way or another with regicide.

We are not defending the principle of political assassination, and we make upon this point no distinction between sovereigns, presidents and simple mortals.

When the president, James Garfield, was assassinated, the organ of the Russian revolutionary party (of the so-called nihilists) published on its first page in black mourning borders the announcement of the death of the president with the following declaration under it:

"Whilst expressing to the American people our deep sympathy at the death of the president, James Garfield, the executive committee feels it its duty to protest in the name of the Russian revolutionary party against all acts of violence similar to that just perpetrated. In a country where the citizens enjoy the right of freely expressing their opinions, and where the will of the people not only makes the laws but chooses the persons who are to execute them,—in such a country political assassinations are manifestations of despotic tendencies identical to those, to the destruction of which we are devoting our lives in Russia. Despotism, whether wielded by individuals or by parties, is equally condemnable and violence is justifiable only when opposed to violence."

(Nordonia Volia, October 23, 1881.)

Self-control is one of the highest duties of a citizen, and the necessary condition of the very existence of human societies. But there are cases when self-control is but a nickname to the slavish cowardice, and when retaliation becomes a moral obligation towards humanity.

I earnestly beg you not to consider these words as an outburst of what is called "revolutionary fanaticism." It is the expression of sad Russian realities, and its truth is sometimes recognized in our country by men who have little to do with anything subversive.

January 24, 1878, a young nihilist girl, Vera Zassulibet, shot at the chief of the St. Petersburg police, General Trepoff, inflicting on him a wound in the abdomen, which for many weeks held in suspense his life. By a special order, she has been tried by a jury and was acquitted on the 31st of March, 1878. The dastardly act of General Trepoff—the flogging of a political offender named Bogolinbodd, for not having taken off his hat before him—was considered by the jurymen, mostly small officials of the civil service, a sufficient provocation to justify an act of retaliation of such kind

Now, according to the terms of the projected treaty, a girl, who under similar circumstances shall commit a similar act shall be extraditable. The common law breakers are tried by the jury, though the privilege has never been extended to political offenses, which are tried by special courts, or rather special commissions nominated by the government.

The free republic proposes to be more relentless in pursuing offenses against the czar and the police than a Russian jury has been in the single case when it has been called upon to pronounce upon an offense of a political character.

Are the everyday acts of the Russian government such as to call forth and justify acts of retaliation of this kind in general?

This is a question of fact and the answer to it depends on the amount of knowledge upon Russian inner conditions. It may be said without any exaggeration that the Russian autocracy, has to the utmost, the advantages which the command over an enormous military force gives it, to suppress the legitimate aspirations of the people, and to maintain a regime hateful to all the educated classes, disastrous for the material and moral interests of the people, imperilling the future of the nation and of the state.

In the absence of representative institutions the press was the only vehicle to give some utterance to the popular needs. During the last fifteen years of reaction, the press has been gradually crushed, because it did not cease to speak of the popular grievances. Now Russia has practically no press at all. The censorship and the private orders of the ministers prevent our papers from speaking upon any question of some public importance. Thus, to quote one illustration out of a thousand, whilst all the European papers are indignant at the barbarous suppression by the Cossacks' whips and the butt-end of soldiers' guns, the purely scholarly disturbances in our universities and the killing of several disarmed students, the Russian papers are not allowed to say anything, to publish any detail, beyond the mere reprint of the official announcement of the closing of such and such university.

The popular education, upon which the future of the nation reposes, has been subjected since 1874 to restrictions which became more and more cynical as the reaction increased, because the government knows well that the masses in becoming educated will see where the cause of their suffering lies and will cease to be obedient.

The inviolability of the person, all juridical guarantees, the freedom of speech, or rather the freedom of talk in the sacred precincts of men's own houses, are violated shamelessly, because they constitute a standing danger to the despotism. For words uttered at

As a principle this is perfectly true. But I beg leave to point out a fact which is generally little known: The extreme paucity of "nihilists" who are likely ever to seek shelter in America, which makes the whole question rest almost entirely in the domain of principles.

The number of the so-called nihilists who seek refuge in foreign lands is comparatively very small. They form but an insignificant part in the total number of those engaged in actual conspiracies, two, three, certainly not more than five per cent. The remaining ninety-five per cent of the so-called nihilists fight and perish on their posts without having ever crossed the frontier. The lists of the political convicts who appear in scores of our political trials prove it. If needful, they are sheltered in the inland.

But even among those who leave the country very few expatriate for ever. The majority seek abroad only a temporary refuge. Then they return secretly to their countries and resume their work anew. For all these America will not do at all for a place of refuge, simply because so distant. For the very same reasons all the refugees who settle abroad permanently shun going to America as long as they can help it. They are crowding in nearer places, as they are all most anxious to keep some connection with their old companions or to write for the party literature (the only mode of assistance a refugee can lend).

The upshot of all this is that a hardly perceptible fraction of them settle in the new world, where they are practically secluded from everything that is going on in their country. The fact is that of the men who took any part in the conspiracies of the last ten years there are actually in America not more than five or six individuals, scattered all over the United States. The many thousands of Russians living in America are simply emigrants, with a thin sprinkling of men who expatriated voluntarily for political preferences, without being in any way connected with actual conspiracies.

The material harm the extradition practice could inflict upon the Russian revolution is absolutely insignificant. But its moral effect will be a very great one. It will not stop or in any way diminish the so-called "crime" of the nihilists. If hundreds and thousands of men and women of good, sometimes high position, generally of excellent education and very best prospects of life, give up every thing, life, property, family happiness and join for the love of their country in this "criminal" activity—they most certainly have very serious reasons for so doing. For ten years the frightfully unequal struggle is going on, and men and men, thousands men and women—the flowers of the nation, come to fill the places left vacant by those who perish.

Suppose the ill-informed and ill-advised Americans ratify the treaty and join hands with our oppressors, which I do not believe; suppose all the free nations of the world follow the example, which is impossible; it will not stop one single hand risen to strike a blow in favor of our country's freedom. But this would strengthen enormously the hand to the opposite faction. Supported by the vote of one free country, the Russian despotism will be much more obstinate in resisting the legitimate aspirations of the people, and much more rulers in extirpating the slightest show of opposition.

If the Americans do not wish to take the lead and set an example in supporting a dying-out, discredited despotism over a young, hopeful nation of 100,000,000; if they do not wish to assume upon themselves the moral responsibility of new thousands of wrecked lives, they must reject the monster alliance. And the more unanimously, the more emphatically they do it, the better it will be for the common cause of humanity, and the more they will approach the moment when Russia's noblest sons and daughters shall be able to abandon the barbarous methods of warfare to which they are compelled now.

S. STEPNIAK.

13 Grove Gardens, Hanover Gate, N. W., London.

A statement similar to the above has been sent to Senator Hawley, of Connecticut, who is personally acquainted with Mr. Stepniak, and that, together with the above, will be laid before the senate committee on foreign relations. PERRY S. HEATH.

THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

Business Done At the Regular Meeting Saturday.

Commissioner Mount was absent Saturday afternoon from the regular meeting of the county commissioners, over which Chairman O'Keeffe presided. An appeal from the Omaha Medical college asking for exemption of taxes on the property; also one from T. A. Megeath, register of deeds, in reference to tax register of mortgages and one from Horace C. Metcalf protesting against the assessment on his property, were referred to the committee on judiciary.

The committee on court house and jail were empowered to act on the suggestion of Frank E. Moores, clerk of the district court, in reference to employing a copyist to re-copy Docket "A" of the district court.

C. P. Needham, ex-county clerk, submitted the following report, which was adopted.

Amount of cash on hand, last report	$ 3,817 68
Fees collected during the year	32,068 15
Total,	$35,885 83
EXPENDITURES.	
Clerical services as per voucher	$28,727 55
Warrants and vouchers	1,898 91
Cash on hand	5,259 37
Total,	$35,885 83

The following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, that Henry J. Noice be and he is hereby appointed justice of the peace for Union precinct, having been elected but failed to qualify.

Resolved, that the county judge be requested to pay out of the fees of his office the salaries for assistants therein employed, based on the allowance made for such assistants by this board.

Appeals of R. M. Patterson and George S. Week from erroneous taxes were referred to the finance committee.

The communication of George Kelly, in reference to the janitor work in the basement of the county building, was placed on file.

The official bonds of J. P. Hanger, road supervisor, and Henry J. Noice, justice of the peace, were approved, and those of Fritz Schatz and Charles Teitz were referred to the judiciary committee.

The county treasurer was directed to tax the personal property of the Singer Manufacturing company and J. E. Boyd at $255 and $1,800 respectively for the year 1887.

The committee on construction, to whom was referred the matter of salaries of county officers not fixed by law and of deputies and assistants, reported as given in Saturday evening's BEE.

Personal Paragraphs.

James Bassett, of Papillion, Neb., is at the Windsor.

G. M. Lewis, of Lincoln, Neb., is at the Millard.

J. Coe, of Nebraska City, Neb., is at the Millard.

M. Stern, of Hastings, Neb., is at the Windsor.

Mrs. J. A. Dean, of Lincoln, Neb., is at the Millard.

C. E. Hanson, of Kearney, Neb., is at the Paxton.

Miss I. E. Foster, of Dubuque, Ia., is at the Paxton.

J. Ullman and wife, of St. Louis, are at the Paxton.

Harry Stern and wife, of Hastings, Neb., are at the Millard.

W. A. Morse and son, of Holdrege, Neb., are at the Millard.

Thomas O'Day and wife, of Neligh, Neb., are at the Paxton.

J. J. Wilson and wife, of St. Joseph, Mo., are at the Windsor.

D. F. Richards and wife, of Clarendon Neb., are at the Paxton.

V. M. Chesbro and wife, of Brainard, Minn., are at the Windsor.

NEWS OF NEBRASKA TOWNS.

Some of the Troubles of Nebraska City Councilmen.

LARGE IMPROVEMENTS SHOWN.

Farmer Durre Opens Two Arteries and Bleeds to Death Near Wisner—Funeral of F. L. and L. G. Mayhew at York.

Nebraska City's Budget.

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb., Jan. 29.—[Correspondence of the BEE.]—The troubles in the city council here continue to cause dissension, and much bitter feeling has been stirred up in many quarters. Of the more recent causes of strife the resolutions opposing the city's acceptance of the gift of the Fulton tract of land from Hon. J. Sterling Morton for park purposes are the most prominent. The council wants the land but does not care to thank Mr. Morton for it.

The matter of the Wyoka cemetery fund and management is still in as unsettled a condition as ever. While the ordinance recognizing the association as created in accordance to a late law governing cemeteries was defeated in the council they refuse to meet the question in the courts. No formal demand can be made of the council by the association for possession, and in order to bring it before the courts, as the meetings of the council are secret and with locked doors, and at irregular intervals. Already three actions at law have grown out of the cemetery muddle and the end is not yet.

Another complication which bothers the council is the permanent grade question, which they have been dodging. Whatever way they may decide from one to twenty damage suits are sure to result. Rosewater, Christie & Lowe, of Omaha, were paid $2,500 to establish a grade, but now an ordinance is before the council to repeal the one establishing that grade, because of the threatened damage suits against the city. Verily the lot of the Nebraska City councilman is an unenviable one.

Many of our citizens have expressed dissatisfaction with the BEE'S recent "write up" of the leading Nebraska cities and placing the estimated improvements of Nebraska City for 1887 at half a million. Nebraska City can show figures upon which she is ready to gamble that a million and a half comes near the cost of her improvements during that year, and will double it in 1888. Nebraska City is quite willing to accept the blame for every piece of deviltry committed in the state, but objects to being slighted when credit for good is due. When a city has enough enterprise to support three daily and five weekly newspapers—which can be said of only two other cities in the state—it is evidence sufficient of Nebraska City's general prosperity.

A prominent railroad official of the B. & M., who is also a heavy real estate owner in Nebraska City, stated several days ago that he had great confidence in this city and he was investing his money in its future. He prophesied great things for Nebraska City, and said work would be commenced in the early spring on their Nebraska City and De Witt line, and before next fall trains would run through this city and over their Cheyenne extension, and make this the terminus of several divisions. The gentleman also volunteered the information that the bridge being built across the river here by his company would be the best and most expensive of any between Omaha and Kansas City, and meant more for the city than he could tell.

A number of Fremont county, Iowa farmers, backed by the majority of the commissioners of that county, have made a proposition to the people of this city whereby they agree to build a turnpike road across eight miles of river bottom to Nebraska City and contribute liberally towards the building of a wagon bridge across the river at this point if our citizens would take hold of the matter and see that the bridge was built. No steps have yet been taken in the matter by our citizens.

The Nebraska City Cereal mills, which have but recently commenced operations, find such a great demand for their different goods that the company is compelled to run day and night to fill orders.

Work was resumed Friday on the natural gas prospect hole in South Nebraska City, enough money having been assured to push the investigations to a satisfactory conclusion.

The C. S. Hutchinson Packing and Provision company are making extensive improvements in their house and arrangements for summer killing. This company is largely interested in the recently incorporated Union Stock Yards company of this city, which is to commence business this coming summer.

One of the new enterprises established in Nebraska City the past week is a plant for the manufacture of soda and mineral waters on a large scale. The proprietor of the enterprise, Mr. M. Seltzer, of Kerr, Ia., is a young man of means and business push, and promises to make his plant one of the leading industries of the city.

Ainsworth Notes.

AINSWORTH, Neb. Jan. 27.—[Correspondence of the BEE.]—The Western News has been sold, O. B. Rippey, proprietor for over two years retiring, and H. R. Bisbee, formerly of Valentine, succeeding him. The transfer was made on the 23d and possession given on the 24th. The paper has always been considered good property and the transfer was one of considerable importance. L. F. Austin, editor under Mr. Rippey's ownership, is to stay with the new firm as foreman for a few weeks. The democratic policy of the paper has not been changed, and the principles of democracy will be liberally expounded.

Reese Mayes, editor of the Long Pine Bugle, was on Wednesday arrested by Altschuler & Rippey, of this town, for criminal libel, and on being brought before the county judge was bound over to Monday, January 30, before the same official. The alleged criminal libel was for publishing in his paper that their place of business had been closed, causing them much annoyance and loss.

The snow which was piled up so high in the late blizzard is rapidly melting by the action of the sun and much south wind. Though there was no loss of life in this county by the blizzard, there was much suffering and some were rendered destitute and are being assisted to recover their losses.

The ladies of the Methodist church have in contemplation a cantata, to be presented at an early day.

Funeral of F. L. and F. G. Mayhew.

YORK, Neb., Jan. 29.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—Union memorial services were held to-day in the Methodist church in memory of F. L. and F. G. Mayhew, father and son, who met their death on the 19th at San Diego, Cala., by asphyxiation. Both were prominent and wealthy citizens of this place and were among the leading supporters of the Methodist church and college. All the city turned out this morning to pay tribute to their memory. The remains of the deceased were expected to arrive in Milwaukee to-day, where the interment will be held. Addresses were made by Rev. G. A. Miller, Rev. G. A. Smith, A. R. Wightman, president of York college, E. A. Gilbert and Rev. Duke Slavens.

Opened Two Arteries.

WISNER, Neb., Jan. 29.—[Special Telegram to the BEE.]—William Durre, a prominent farmer who has resided south of this place for the past eighteen years, committed suicide this morning, by cutting the arteries of both wrists with his pocket knife. The deceased exhibited pronounced symptoms of insanity on Friday evening but it was hoped that it was only a temporary return of a similar attack which he suffered about two years ago. He rose this morning before the family was awake and a few hours later was discovered dead in a neighbor's field. He leaves a wife and seven children in good financial circumstances.

Dakota City Items.

DAKOTA CITY, Neb., Jan. 27.—[Correspondence of the BEE.]—A big dance, under the management of D. J. Ryan, is among the announcements booked for this week, at the court house. Reed's orchestra of seven pieces, of Sioux City, will furnish the music.

Rev. J. W. Jennings, the Methodist Episcopal pastor at this place, has during the past week been the recipient of a number of handsome gifts, among which was a handsome easy rocking chair. Rev. Jennings since his arrival here has done some good work, and these tokens of appreciation were well earned.

But one vacant store building remains in town, and that will soon be occupied.

A fortune awaits some enterprising young men who will start a lumber yard and bank at this place. No better opening could be found in the state.

Successful Revival Meetings.

FREMONT, Neb., Jan. 29.—[Special to the BEE.]—Union Evangelical services have been in progress in Fremont ever since the beginning of the year. It was originally intended that these meetings should be continued four weeks: one week each in the four churches participating. There has been so thorough a religious awakening during the last few evenings of the meetings that it has been decided to continue the work for at least two weeks yet. Revs. Brown and Hois, who have been conducting a successful revival at Grand Island, will take charge of the future meetings, assisted by the local pastors. About forty conversions have been made. The business houses close evenings on account of the meetings.

Counterfeiter and Burglar Combined.

Cisco, the fellow arrested for passing counterfeit money yesterday seems to have been also in some way implicated in the burglary of Stevens' shoe store the night before, as some of the stolen property was found in his room.

HER WEDDING PRESENT.

"Hush! It is Clarence Hyde's step." And Rosa Eldon sprang to her feet rosy and smiling, when the freshly plucked heliotrope trembling among her glossy brown braids, and her pretty, blue dress floating round her trim figure like an azure cloud.

Only eighteen, and very fair and lovely was our little Rosa—a trifle spoiled and willful, perhaps, but what else could one expect? Every one petted and made much of her, and Clarence Hyde thought her the fairest specimen of feminine humanity that ever the sun shone on.

Lizzy Eldon made room for her sister—Lizzy, just one year younger, and scarcely less fair, yet very different in character. Lizzy was quiet, sage and demure, while Rosa rattled away like a merry mountain stream flowing over its mossy stones. Lizzy thought her sister perfection, while Rosa was always lecturing Lizzy in a capricious fashion, and laying down the law to her after the most approved manner of elder sisters.

"How nice it must be to be engaged!" Lizzy said, with a half-encouraging smile as Rosa paused at the glass to adjust her hair. "I wish I were engaged!"

"You? Oh, you are nothing but a child!" Rosa said, patronizingly. "There, give me my pocket-handkerchief." And away she went, light and lithe as a blue-winged butterfly.

Clarence Hyde was in the parlor, anxiously waiting her coming; but Clarence had rather a disturbed face. He was a well-made, handsome, young fellow, with laughing, wine-brown eyes, straight features, and brown hair thrown back from a broad, frank head.

"Why, what makes you look so sober?" was Rosa's first arch question when the ceremonials of greeting were gone through with, and she had time to take a good look into his face.

"Sober? Do I?"

He was playing rather restlessly with the crimson cord that looped back the white muslin draperies of the pretty bay-window that made Mrs. Eldon's cottage look like one of the lovely rustic habitations you see in old English engravings.

"Exactly as if you had the toothache or a bad conscience."

Clarence laughed in spite of himself.

"You are wrong, then, my little riddle-guesser; I am afflicted with neither the one nor the other malady."

"Well, what is it, then?"

"Rosa, what would you say if it were to become necessary to defer our marriage for some time?"

A shadow came over the infantile bloom and freshness of Rosa's face.

"To defer our marriage, Clarence? I can't imagine what you mean."

"Listen, Rosa, and I will tell you. My uncle has just come from California, very poor and a confirmed invalid. I am his only surviving relative, and to me he naturally appeals for protection and companionship. I must give him a home, Rosa. You know I had laid up just enough to begin housekeeping in a quiet, economical sort of way, but this new plan will necessarily alter my arrangements."

"I never heard of any uncle before."

"No; dearest; I knew very little of him—nothing personally—as he never visited my father during his lifetime."

Rosa's face was turned away from Clarence Hyde's. She was silently twisting a bit of paper round her slender fore-finger.

"Rosa," he said after waiting a minute or two for her to make some remark, "tell me honestly, dear one, which you would prefer—to begin housework on this new scale, one humbler and more frugal than I had originally hoped and intended, or to defer our marriage until I can earn enough to carry out those original arrangements?"

She was silent for a moment, then she answered in a voice which seemed to chill Clarence's buoyant heart:

"Neither."

"Rosa," he exclaimed, "I do not understand you."

"I spoke plainly enough. Neither."

"Do you mean that—"

"I mean that you must give up your uncle or me. After all that has been said and known of our engagement, its publicity and length, I certainly cannot consent to its further postponement. And we shall be poor enough if we marry immediately, without filling our house with a host of needy relatives."

Clarence Hyde looked at his fair fiance in perfect amazement. Never in the whole course of their acquaintance had he seen this phase of her character. He had fancied her all that was sweet, pure and womanly. Could it be possible that she was cold-hearted, selfish and dead to all the sweet ties of nature.

"Rosa," he said, mournfully, "is this to part us?"

"It is for you to say."

"Do you wish me to give up my poor, dependent uncle?"

"Either him or me," Rose answered inbifferently.

"It will be hard—very hard for me to lay aside the brightest wishes of my life," he said earnestly; "but Rosa, duty is my first object. I cannot leave my uncle to wear out his few remaining days in poverty and solitude."

"Very well, then we will consider our engagment at an end," returned Rose, carelessly, stooping to pick up the odorous purple blossom which had fallen from hair,

"And you can give me up so readily, Rose?"

"Oh," said Rosa, a little impatiently, "where's the use of being romantic about it? You have chosen your part. I have chosen mine. So let it be!"

Clarence Hyde took his leave, dejected enough. It is not pleasant to set up a fair idol and worship it with all the strength and tenderness of your nature, only to find, after all, that it is dust and ashes—hollow-hearted and false.

Cuthbert Hyde sat smoking his meerschaum by the open window as Clarence entered—a spare, shrewd-looking old man, with deeply seemed wrinkles on his brow, and restless, bright eyes gleaming like live coals beneath his over-hanging brows.

"Clarence, my boy, something has gone wrong," he said brusquely, after he had regarded his nephew in silence for some time.

"Tell the old uncle what it is!"

"I have told you about Rosa Eldon, sir; well, she and I are—in fact, it is all over between us."

"Engagement broken—eh? Past the power of patching up?"

"Yes, uncle."

"And it was on my account? Nay, boy, don't turn away—I can read the truth in your eyes. So she's played you false?"

"We are parted, uncle; is not that enough?"

"Well, perhaps so—perhaps so. It was well you found her out in time, Clarence. It's for the best, my boy."

Clarence Hyde was passing down the village street a day or two subsequently, toward dusk of a mellow August twilight, when a slight form glided up to him, and a tremulous hand was laid upon his own. He started at first, but quickly recognized the face.

"Lizzy Eldon!"

"Oh, Clarence, I could not rest without telling you how very, very, wrong I thought Rosa, and how sorry I am for you."

"Thanks, Lizzy. I do not think she has treated me quite right."

"How could she be so cruel—so unwomanly! You were right, Clarence—you acted nobly! I think Rosa will live to repent it!"

As Clarence stood there listening to Lizzy Eldon's impetuous words and holding her soft little hand in his own, he wondered that he had never before noticed how very, very pretty she was—a softer, more subdued style of beauty than Rosa's, yet not less bewitching.

They haunted him all the night long, that oval, earnest face, those swimming blue eyes.

Daily Rosa's image waxed fainter and more faint in his memory, and Lizzy's shy, gentle looks grew more than ever present in his heart.

"I do believe I've fallen in love with the girl," he thought. "I wonder what she would say if I were to propose to her?"

Next to the wonder came its realization. One October day, when they had strayed away from the nutting party, whose gay voices made the wood musical, Mr. Hyde asked Lizzy Eldon if she would accept the love her sister had slighted, and Lizzy, smiling and blushing, answered yes.

"You see, Uncle Cuthbert," said Clarence, as he explained the new position of affairs to his uncle that night after he had seen Lizzy home, with her nut basket only half filled—and no wonder, all things considered—"it will be so pleasant! We shall all live together; and Lizzy is a nice housekeeper. She thinks it will be so pleasant to have you sitting by our hearth. And, uncle, you will go and see her to-morrow, won't you?"

"Yes, I'll go," said Uncle Cuthbert, briefly.

And the next day Lizzy was surprised at her sewing by a brown-faced little old man, who took both her hands in his, and kissed her brow, just as if he were an old acquaintance.

"So you are going to marry my nephew, are you?" said Uncle Cuthbert.

"Yes, sir," said Lizzy.

"And you love him?"

"Oh, yes, sir."

"And you wont object to having the old man in your house, weak and helpless though he be?"

"I shall be glad to have you with us, sir, for I don't remember my father, and you will be one to me, I am sure."

Uncle Cuthbert kissed her again, and walked off as abruptly as he came.

"He's a funny old gentleman," thought Lizzy, "but I know I shall like him."

Rosa contemplated the present state of things a little contemptuously.

"If you choose to adopt all Clarence Hyde's poor relations, why, I can only wonder at your taste," said she loftily.

But Lizzy only smiled, and doubted to herself whether Rosa could ever have really loved Clarence.

"No, no, no!" echoed her heart.

The day of the wedding drew near. Lizzy's white dress was nearly finished, and modest little presents were beginning to be sent in from friends and neighbors.

"Here's my present," said Uncle Cuthbert, walking in one day and tossing a little box of carved wood into Lizzy's lap "I cut out those wooden flowers myself when I was in California."

"Oh, uncle, what a dear little box!" said Lizzy, smiling her bright thanks, while Rosa elevated her nose rather scornfully.

"Well, but open it; it's lined beautifully," persisted the old man.

Lizzy obeyed:

"Why, there's a parchment deed in it, uncle," cried the astonished Clarence, who was leaning over Lizzy's shoulder.

"Of course there is—a deed making over £10,000 to Lizzy Eldon the day of her marriage," answered Uncle Cuthbert, dryly, "and I've got another one for you at home, Clarence, my boy. Aha! the old uncle wasn't so poverty stricken after all. You musn't think, my young lady," he added, turning abruptly to Rosa, "that gold is not gold because it's a trifle rusty and tarnished. Appearances aren't everything in this world."

So Clarence and Lizzy began the world with the fairest of prospects and true love enough to float the bark of life into its sweetest haven.

Rosa Eldon was somewhat chagrined in her secret soul, but she wisely kept her feelings to herself and old Uncle Cuthbert was quite satisfied with the choice his nephew had made.

LETTER LIST.

List of letters remaining uncalled for in the post-office for the week ending January 27, 1888.

Note—Parties calling for these letters will please say "Advertised," giving the date at the head of the list, and inquire for same at the "Ladies' Delivery Window."

To avoid mistakes have your mail addressed to your street and number.

GENTLEMENS' LIST

A.

Adams L, Allen Harry E, Adams J W, Anderson Olof, Anton J, Adkins J M, Ackerman H, Adams Thompson, Anderson Otto, Armstrong H A, Anderson C G, Akers S

B.

Barton Riley, Bates J H, Beach E T, Bloome W A, Bolen A, Barlow L H, Bates James, Beckett Wm, Bowen J, Brady Aaron, Brown George, Brown L F, Buckley John, Burghardt Fred, Brown C W, Boyle M, Burschkat Gus, Bartlett Geo, Bl..him Prof H, Becem E Miles, Bowman Wm, Brandt Wm, Bartlett A, Bear & Co S, Bell & Smith, Bowers C L, Briggs J A, Brown Henry 2, Boston Tea Co, Butler Justin L, Byers P, Brown F P, Burmester Chas F, Bast A D, Beam J, Bierd Ch, Budt C H, Britton F W, Base W H, Beaton Duncan, Blendorf Geo, Booton C C, Brand Herbert, Brown A H, Brodball stocking Co, Brown G K, Brown Dr J E, Burnett James

C.

Carcatty J W, Clegg Jarn F, Cole H H, Crowly F, Case W A, Cixer W H, Code H A, Crowl Rich, Currier M A, Cabade Mingle, Connor T, Conklin W S, Cummis J, Catlin Theo, Clark A H H, Coleman Ed, Cronkhite Myron, Christianson M, Coffman A, Crane George T, Culton James H, Christenson M, Coan Hugh, Cole H J, Curtright T S

D.

Dann H, Donnelly William, Dullman Fred, Davis T S, Donelly P, Dunbar P E, Danilson J, Donnelly F, Duncan Ed, Dhering C F, Doose Henrich, Dwer Michael S

E.

Eggers J, English R E, Ravens Jasper, Edwards H F, Elmer W M, Edwards E L, Enders F, Esedt Rich, Ellis V, Francis J P, Fuller Geo A, Foster W M, Flanders J E, Franey Jno, Finkenstein T, Forsaith M, Foster G M, Flanders J P, Fred D, Finn J, Fleming M J, Frank L, Freta Garrig

G.

Gadd Geo, Gland Jos, Grobe G, Gunnigs Pat, Getshbe P, Grimstead G S, Grinberg H, Gardner W H, Gooch C, Griffin C H, Gannon G, Glasp Wm, Greenwalt W, Grydesen