LINCOLN NEWS AND GOSSIP.

A Bureau of Agriculture and Live Stock Industries

PROPOSED BY DR. BILLINGS.

Another Attack on General McBride—The Nebraska, Dakota, Wyoming and Pacific Railway Incorporated.

LINCOLN BUREAU OF THE OMAHA BEE, 1029 P STREET, LINCOLN, Dec. 23.

The bill proposed by Dr. Billings and published in the December number of the Western Resources, is provoking considerable comment in Lincoln. It is generally conceded to be as practical as the general work of the directors of the patho-biological labratory of the state university. At this time THE BEE representative has not heard a single word in its favor. Many of his friends admit that it is a ripe piece of gall. The cranky visionarian would have all laws and regulations appertaining to the state board of agriculture, or sanitary live stock commission, or for the suppression or prevention of contagious or infectious diseases in the live stock of the state, repealed and abolished, and instead a bureau of agriculture and live stock industries in the department of state. The official head of this bureau, the bill provides, shall be the secratary of state, assisted by a veterinary counselor, state veterinarian, veterinary inspectors and an extra assistant. The official head is to get $2,500 per annum in addition to his regular salary, and the counselor $500 additional to the salary he receives as the director of the university experiment station. The state veterinarian is to trot along on a salary of $4,000 per year. The inspectors are to secure $8 per day for all time they are actually employed. The extra assistant is to receive $1,500 per year for the privilege of helping the counselor kill hogs and other animals afflicted with infectious diseases. And, besides, provision is made for the employment of a countless number of clerks, or as many as such visionary frauds as Billings may deem it necessary to employ. The bill will doubtless make the mouths of petrified office and position seekers water. It is altogether probable that such cattle will become strong exponents of the bill. The public will be otherwise disappointed. But it goes without saying that every honest, intelligent, justice-loving law maker will oppose it to the bitter end. "Billings ought to be punched out of the state," said a prominent citizen of Lincoln this morning. "His gall would put a Sioux Indian to shame. There is nothing practicable, reasonable or sensible in his proposed bill. It is a notorious fact that he is a disgrace to the institution he represents. He is the most profane man I ever met. His oaths make the blood in the veins of a decent man curdle. He is a moral leper, a stench, a blight, a disgrace to society and the university."

KNOCKED 'EM OUT.

General McBride has been attacked in a blood thirsty manner by a morning paper again and his friends think it forecasts consideral fear on the part of the railroad gangs that he is a dangerous candidate for speaker. His reply to the attack, which appeared over his signature in this morning's Call, was a complete knock-out. In the meantime the B. & M. organ is devoting much space to praising Olly-Gammon Olmstead, their pet candidate. Deweese, the B. & M. political manager, is for Watson, whilst their ponderous daily is for Olmstead. In case lightning should strike either of them the cry. "We did it," would be sufficiently strong—so they reason—to secure the appointment of a committee on railroads that would not be very dangerous to the roads.

A NEW RAILROAD COMPANY.

Late yesterday afternoon art cles incorporating the Nebraska, Dakota, Wyoming & Pacific railway company were filed in the office of the secretary of state. While yet a paper road, the stockholders are men whose names give assurance that it may materialize, and become a feeder of the leading marts of the state. It is intended that the road shall tap Douglas, Dodge, Washington, Burt, Dakota, Dixon, Wayne, Cedar, Knox, Stanton, Madison, Pierce, Antelope, Boom, Greeley, Wheeler, Holt, Keya Paha, Garfield, Valley, Brown, Loup, Custer, Blaine, Thomas, Lincoln, Logan, McPherson, Keith, Arthur, Grant, Sheridan, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes and Sioux, with the eastern terminus fixed at the city of Omaha. The capital stock authorized is $10,000,000, and the following gentlemen are the incorporators and principal stockholders of the company: James F. Dillon, W. H. B. Stout, J. H. Harley, J. R. Webster and C. L. Hall. Some of the leading citizens of Lincoln are stockholders.

CITY NEWS AND NOTES.

Governor Thayer expects to be able to visit the state house to-morrow.

Frank Childs, leading lumber dealer of Douglas, Otoe county, was in Lincoln to-day.

Frank Beard, artist and humorist, delighted an audience at the Plymouth Congregational church last night with one of his popular lectures.

Mike Quinlan and wife, Katie, passed last night behind the bars. They were re-arrested yesterday evening on a complaint of A. G. and T. H. Benton, and locked up in default of $500 bail.

Attorney General and Mrs. Leese returned from their sad visit to Parkersburg, Va., this morning. They attended the remains of Mr. Leese's sister to the grave on last Tuesday.

The remains of H. C. Melone now lie at rest in the churchyard. The funeral services took place to-day from his late residence and the cortege was one of the largest ever known in the city.

The Stolen Bonds Case.

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—In the matter of the stolen bonds case, with which Lawyer Cutting has been so prominently identified in court during the past week, four men are now under arrest—William F. Shaw, Henry Plessner, C. D. Taylor and Otis Corbett. The latter is father-in-law of Shaw, and was, until a short time ago, a dry goods merchant at Rock Island. Inspector Bonfield to-day secured $2,100 in bonds stolen from Kellogg, Johnson & Bliss, April 28, and expects to get $5,000 worth of Cohn Wamfold & Co.'s stolen bonds to-morrow. He thinks he is on the trail of the robbers and he expects to expose what he believes is one of the boldest and most efficiently organized bands of burglars and crooks ever operating in Chicago. The exact connection of the arrested men with the matter is not yet made clear, and no positive charges are known against them, aside from attempting to dispose of the stolen securities. Inspector Bonfield, it is said, is satisfied that Lawyer Cutting is not implicated criminally in the matter, and that he was innocently dragged into the scrape through his legal connection with Shaw, who passed the stolen bonds. When informed of the correct nature of the case he went before the grand jury and told all he knew. His story led to the arrests as above. Taylor denies that he had anything to do with the bond business, and says if Plessner and Shaw make such charges against him he will make some that "will close them up."

The "Haytien Republic."

HAVANNA, Dec. 23.—Advices have been received from Hayti to the effect that the dispute over the seizure of the American steamer, Haytien Republic, has been settled and the steamer has been delivered to the American men of war, and the latter have honored the Haytien flag with a salute of twenty-one guns. Among the people the action of the United States government is considered as an abuse of power against a helpless nation and this opinion is said to be shared by some of the foreign diplomatic representatives.

General Lifetime has been unanimously elected president of the republic and is taking energetic steps to suppress the revolution.

Harrison's Courtesy Crazed Him.

ANN ARBOR, Mich., Dec. 23.—Gustav Herman, a tailor, named his boy baby Benjamin Harrison. He wrote the president-elect of the fact and received a cordial reply. This piece of condescension, that he did not dream of getting from a president-elect, has turned his head. He began to imagine that Harrison must think Gustav Herman one of the biggest men in the world, and he commenced immediately to fix up his home to receive, as he said, a visit from Harrison, expending $1,200 of his savings. His friends have caused Herman to be locked up in an insane asylum.

No Passengers Hurt.

ATLANTA, Ga., Dec. 23.—A passenger train on the Western Atlantic railroad was derailed at Mclves station this morning. The mail agent was killed and the engineer, fireman and conductor injured. No passengers hurt.

Stabbed in a Saloon.

A Swede named Chris Jensen, who is an employe at the smelting works, got into a saloon row on Seventh street near Leavenworth and some one in the crowd struck him with a knife in the neck, inflicting a severe and dangerous wound. No one has been arrested.

Burglars Put to Flight.

About 2 o'clock this morning, a clerk sleeping in a grocery store at 314 South Twentieth street found three men in his room and opened fire on them with his revolver when they beat a hasty retreat.

The Author of "Robert Elsmere."

Pall Mall Gazette: Novelists have been so much talked about and discussed. With "Robert Elsmere," or perhaps, to be more exact, with Mr. Gladstone's review of it in the Nineteenth Century, Mrs. Ward sprang into notoriety. To those who had no knowledge of her personally, her book made it clear that she was one who not only knew her Oxford well, but was intimate with Oxford life and Oxford people and Oxford traditions. It was, therefore, no surprise to learn that before she became Mrs. Ward she was a Miss Arnold, and that she was a granddaughter of Dr. Arnold, of Rugby, the niece of Matthew Arnold, and the daughter of Thomas Arnold, the editor of many old books, the writer of the "Encyclopaedia Britannica" article on English literature, and the author of a well known "Manual of English Literature." Mr. Thomas Arnold, it will be remembered, became a Roman Catholic, and for a while was a professor in the University of Dublin, and also at the Oratory school in Birmingham. But he finally settled down to literary life in Oxford. In 1872 Miss Arnold married Mr. Thomas Humphry Ward, an Oxford man, and at that time a tutor of Brasenose college. Since then Mr. Ward has given up his tutorship, and is now the art critic of the Times. His anthology of English verse, popularly known as Ward's "English Poets," is perhaps the best in existence.

Although many remedies are pushed into the market by spicy advertisements, Dr Bull's Cough Syrup takes the lead, and drug gists sell more than ever before. Price onl 25 cents.

Mrs. Crow. "Chile, buy a bottle de Salvation Oil, it cure your rheumatis sar'tin." 25 cents.

An Angel in a Car.

New York World: A newsboy took the Sixth avenue elevated at Park Place yesterday, and, sliding into one of the cross seats, fell asleep. At Grant street two young ladies got on and took the seats opposite the lad. Presently the younger girl leaned over and placed her muff under the little fellow's dirty cheek. An old gentleman in the next seat smiled at the act, and without saying anything held out a quarter with a nod toward the boy. The girl hesitated a moment and then reached for it. The next man just as silently offered a dime, the woman across the aisle held out some pennies, and before she knew it the girl, with flaming cheeks, had taken money from every passenger at that end of the car. She quietly slid the amount into the sleeping lad's pocket, removed her muff gently from under his head without rousing him, and got off at Twenty-third street, including all the passengers in a pretty little inclination of the head that seemed full of thanks and a common secret.

A Great French Art School.

Baltimore American: Julien's art schools at Paris are, as they deserve to be, increasingly popular. In the four schools there are about 600 students, many of them really fine professional artists, who feel the need and refreshment of study in such a course, and under the four great painters of the world. Of the four, Laurens and Lefebre are the most sought for, as they are the strong men of the Beaux Arts. The work done under them is truthful and earnest.

The models pose at 8 o'clock in the morning, and study lasts from then—with an hour, from 12 to 1 o'clock, as intermission—till 5 o'clock in the afternoon. There are no holidays the year round, except Sunday and the 14th of July.

In the men's schools the course is very much the same as at the Beaux Arts. The curriculum of the women's school is not quite so severe, but much the same, and the present year is coming much nearer it than hitherto.

The American women of this year are reckoned among the stronger workers. It is a temptation for those who love art, for its own sake, to linger here studying and working in this atmospher, full of the beautiful, gaining that strength, the lack of which is so often felt in America.

Valorous, But Discreet.

Chicago Tribune: Angry woman (stopping in front of building)—John, this is where the Yelper is printed. That editor'll never call a reception at my house a shindig again—the villain! Have you the cowhide all right? Come on. We'll go in!

Husband (bursting with rage, but retaining his presence of mind)—Maria, I'll stay out here to see that no one enters to interrupt you. Here's the cowhide. Lay it on well—the cowardly scoundrel!

Be Sure

If you have made up your mind to buy Hood's Sarsaparilla do not be induced to take any other. A Boston lady, whose example is worthy imitation, tells her experience below:

"In one store where I went to buy Hood's Sarsaparilla the clerk tried to induce me buy their own instead of Hood's; he told me their's would last longer; that I might take it on ten

To Get

days' trial; that if I did not like it I need not pay anything, etc. But he could not prevail on me to change. I told him I had taken Hood's Sarsaparilla, knew what it was, was satisfied with it, and did not want any other. When I began taking Hood's Sarsaparilla I was feeling real miserable with dyspepsia, and so weak that at times I could hardly

Hood's

stand. I looked like a person in consumption. Hood's Sarsaparilla did me so much good that I wonder at myself sometimes, and my friends frequently speak of it." MRS. ELLA A. GOFF, 61 Terrace Street, Boston.

Sarsaparilla

Sold by all druggists. $1; six for $5. Prepared only by C. I. HOOD & CO., Apothecaries, Lowell, Mass.

100 Doses One Dollar

SOUTH OMAHA NEWS.

Rental Agents' Association.

At the meeting of real estate and rental agents held in John F. Ritchhart's office Saturday night, a permanent organization was made by electing John F. Ritchhart president, William S. Cook vice president, W. B. Berry secretary and David B. Waugh treasurer. The Rental Agents' Protective association of South Omaha was the name adopted. Meetings will be held in President Ritchhart's office the first Friday evening of each month.

Uletide Preparations.

The Presbyterian and Methodist Episcopal churches will be gaily decorated for the Christmas Sunday school entertainments this evening. At the Methodist Episcopal church, Mr. and Mrs. Santa Clause will be present to all the children, and an excellent literary and musical programme has been prepared. In the Presbyterian church a surprise awaits all who may attend.

A New Suburban Railroad.

Mr. Perkins of St. Joe, is in the city arranging to build a street car railroad or motor line from Omaha to Pennington Heights. Mr. Perkins is receiving every encouragement, one man having given a bonus of $500, and now has no doubt but that his undertaking will be a success.

Fell Through a Chute.

Thomas Mahoney, night agent of the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley railroad company, Saturday stepped off the plank near the feed-master's office and fell into a cattle chute, receiving severe and painful injuries about the ankles, back and head.

Notes About the City.

A little dance was held in A. O. H. hall Saturday night.

George Palmer has gone to Palmyra to spend Christmas.

The city council will meet in the Rowly block this evening.

Mrs. Joseph O. Eastman left to-day to visit friends in Topeka, Kan.

Contractor John Murphy went to Auburn Saturday to spend Christmas.

Daniel Murphy is bedfast with malaria and a complication of ailments.

The body of Miss Mary Fielder was shipped to Angola, N. Y., yesterday.

George F. Russell, of Swift & Co.'s clerical force, is quite ill and confined to his home.

Good Will Lodge, Knights of Honor, held an interesting meeting Saturday night and installed the officers.

Samuel Martin, of Martindale, has gone to Albion to eat his Christmas dinner, as he has done during the last seven years.

During the absence of Joseph Randall in Manitewoc, Wis., John Smith is in the prescription department of Arthur W. Saxe's drug store.

Daniel Sullivan, of the firm of Brewer & Sullivan, left yesterday for Chicago, and, rumor says, will return within two weeks with a bride.

Simon S. Reemer has been dressing some holiday sheep at Swift & Co.'s and not, as has been stated, been dressing the company's Christmas cattle.

D. Bruner, of Springview, has purchased the furniture in the Reed hotel, and about the middle of January will take possession of the establishment.

Court No. 168, Independent Order of Foresters, Wednesday evening will hold its regular semi-annual meeting for the election of officers. All members are requested to be present.

Andrew Garlick, an employe at the Armour-Cudahy packing houses, Saturday afternoon sheed the end off the index finger of his left hand. A surgeon was called and dressed the member.

Saturday 503 cattle were slaughtered at Swift & Co.'s packing house, the largest number of cattle ever slaughtered in one day. There were 585 hogs and 137 sheep killed, making a total of 1,225 head.

At 1 o'clock to-morrow afternoon the marriage ceremoney, making Mr. Manley W. Rayby and Miss Grace Glassou man and wife, will be performed at Miss Glassou's parents' home, N and Seventy-fourth streets.

Frank Kuhln and Lena Trippner, Charles A. Hogeland and Emma Pinz, Isaac S. Van Sant and Sarah M. Bomgarten, and Nathan L. Demick and Lois S. Hamilton, all of South Omaha, have taken out holiday marriage licenses.

John A. Pierce, employed on the grading west of the stock yards, Saturday afternoon had the large toe of his left foot so badly mashed by a grader that amputation was necessary. While he was at work beside the machine the horses backed, running it on his foot.

The opening of the new Methodist Episcopal church Sunday morning called out a very large congregation, completely filling the basement room. The Rev. T. C. Clendening, presiding elder of the Omaha district, preached the sermon. An elaborately prepared programme was carried out.

Do as you please when you please to do right; and you will always do the proper thing in taking Bigelow's Positive cure for coughs, colds, and all throat and lung troubles. Pleasant to take and cures speedy. 50 cents and $1. Goodman Drug Co.

A Standing Offer.

"You say Mr. Hankinson proposed to you last night, Irene? Why, I've had a standing offer from him for the last two years."

"Likely enough, Laura. He didn't make me no standing offer, though. It was all he could do to get up off his knees when I refused him. He was in earnest this time, Laura."

YOUR CHRISTMAS TURKEY.

Is it Ordered Yet? If Not, Wait a Moment.

If the housekeepers of Omaha could all see what THE BEE man saw last evening greatly would they marvel, and if their Christmas orders were not already placed, they shortly would be.

Such fowl! Such beef!! Such mutton!!! But for your benefit a fuller description will be given. In the first place, the beautiful festoons of evergreen, the sprigs of holly, with their bright red berries, attractively speak of Christmas cheer from every part of the large show room. The west wall is closely hung with the fattest, most appetizing-looking quarters of young beef you ever saw. Raised and fed by the Bay State Cattle company, these three-year-old Hereford beauties dress to weigh over 1,000 pounds each. They were killed with especial care by Hammond & Co., and it is worth anybody's time to make a special trip to see the quarters before they are cut. The Southdown mutton and lamb are fat and luscious enough to make one hungry after a full meal, just to look at them. The carcasses have been decorated in a masterly way by some adept with artistic knife, for even a butcher's knife may be made to do artistic work on the leafy white and pink covering of a well-fed animal. Then there are young Chester white porkers, for roasting whole, to delight an epicure. In game there are venison, black-tail deer, elk and antelope, with rabbits and hare as fat and plump as you could desire.

Then the poultry! Such a display of Turkeys, Geese, Chickens, Ducks, Prairie Chickens and Quail as would bewilder a hotel steward to select from. There is nothing wanting that the season affords from pork to sausage or plain beef to the most delicate flesh a table ever saw. Do not fail to see Adam Snyder's Christmas stock at 1,011 Farnam-st. And do not wait until the handsome display is broken into, but go early to see an unequaled sight.

Hawley's Millinery and Art Store.

Have you visited this fine store just opposite Hospe's? They have the prettiest specimens of art needle work, drawn thread work, fine millinery goods, paintings, embroidery work, just the thing for a Christmas present. If you have not seen their selection of presents, do so at once, for it is the most worthy in the city to-day. 1516 Douglas.

THEIR PECULIAR CHRISTMAS.

The Silent Celebration of an Eccentric Sect.

NOT A TIME FOR REJOICING.

Their Life of Celibacy—Preparation for the Solemn Day—The Shaker Dance—Their Only Dinner in Common.

Christmas Among the Shakers.

For the Omaha Bee.

CHRISTMAS comes but once a year, and in every part of the civilized globe the happy day which commemorates the beginning of the reign of peace and good will on earth is observed in some way. There is probably no class of people in the whole domain of the western world who celebrate the glad Christmas holiday in a more peculiar manner than do the Shakers—those strange yet industrious celibates who were brought over from England, considerably more than a century ago, by the good old "Mother Ann Lee." There are several colonies of these strange people in the United States, and all enjoy the same pleasures—if there can be any such thing in their lives—and all believe in the same doctrines. Their principal occupation seems to be the radiation of purity. Years ago these honest but misguided people discovered that the scriptures directed all men and women to live apart. They believe that because the Messiah did not marry, it is a sin for them to do so, and consequently there is but one love in their lives—their love of religion.

The Shakers have a manner and style peculiarly their own, and worship God in every breath. Believing as they do in the Messiah, they think it a duty to celebrate the birth of the Savior, and their service on Christmas is a most strange and peculiar one, and very beautiful in many respects, and impressive from its devoutness.

The remark, "Still as a Quaker meeting," is an old one, and those who have attended the divine services of these devout people know that not a word is spoken until the "spirit moves," and so it goes from Sunday to Sunday throughout the year, until Christmas comes, which with them means a greater day of devotion. The day to them does not bring the joys, pleasures and dissipations of the world. There is no giving and receiving of gifts among each ether; there is no belief in good Saint Nicholas; no Christmas trees and no pleasures; in fact, nothing but praying and singing. No preparations are made for the glad festival. The morning before Christmas the celibates go to the little church in couples. The men go themselves and dress in the conventional black, with broad-brimmed hats. They gaze straight before them and never smile, for to smile is a sin in their belief. The women follow the men in couples and wear Shaker bonnets of yellow straw, gray gowns, and a large handkerchief covers their chest in primitive simplicity. Quietness reigns throughout the day, in fact, never a word being spoken, as the spirit does not move. The people stand there like statues for hours, never moving. At sundown they leave the church and go to the dormitories and retire.

Christmas morning they go to the church again and pass the holiday in prayer, song and religious glorification. They stand perfectly quiet and mute until the "spirit moves," when each one gives his or her experience, for on this day they delight in testifying to their great and complete happiness. A Shaker church is entirely different from the "world's people's" church. There are no seats and pews for the Shakers, so they arrange themselves on the opposite side of the room, leaving a big open space in the center. One of the elders makes a short address, then all lapse into quietness. After about a half-hour's time about a dozen of the younger people, either male or female, or both, enter the center of the open space and begin a solemn march.

The Shakers sing beautifully, and their tunes are remarkably pretty, sprightly and quick in character, and have a wonderfully fascinating air. The rich, deep bass voices harmonize perfectly with the clear, sweet and high tenors and sopranos. Almost irresistably the feet and hands of all commence keeping time with the rythmical beats. Soon the entire body of Shakers are moving around the singers. As the music increases the men and women circling around become so imbued with the beating of the notes that their bodies swing and rock, their feet dance and shuffle, their hands and arms swing and beat the air, all in perfect keeping with the music. This grows more intense until the worshippers drop from sheer fatigue. Quietness again reigns for nearly an hour, when the same performance is gone over with, and then over again and again until sundown, when all repair to the dormitories to enjoy the only meal during the year in each others company, for on every other day, the men and women eat by themselves.

The Christmas dinner of the Shakers is not like the Christmas dinner of the world's people. There are no wines, fruits or delicacies, no laughing and talking. Their dinner is sumptuous and palatable, and consists of roast turkey, duck and chicken, bread and butter, cream, and vegetables of every kind, well cooked and in the greatest abundance. The women occupy one side of the table, the men the other. The elder sits at the head and invokes divine blessing, then each man and woman rises alternately, and lifting their right hand, says: "God is love!" They then begin eating, and during the meal not a word is spoken, each one helping himself or herself to what they desire. They drink an enormous quantity of milk during the meal. At the conclusion of the Christmas dinner all rise and sing. The clear voices of the celibates make the banquet room ring with a soft and charming melody. The hands and feet of all keep time. After the song the elder raises his eyes heavenward and chants a prayer in which all join, after which they march from the room in couples, the men together and the women by themselves, and go to their domiciles. The remainder of the night, while the world outside is enjoying itself in every conceivable dissipation, is given up to song and prayer, and all night long the voices of the Shaker sisters and brothers are heard through the halls.

The Shakers are kind-hearted and generous. They are very hospitable, and it is one of their principles to entertain and honor all who come into their little world. For days before Christmas they find great pleasure in sending good things to the poor in the neighborhood, and no matter how poor a man may be he is sure of a good Christmas dinner if he lives in the neighborhood of a colony of Shakers.

Pears' Soap

Fair white hands.

Bright clear complexion

Soft healthful skin.

"PEARS'—The Great English Complexion SOAP,—Sold Everywhere."

A MERRY JOKER AT EIGHTY.

How Poor Richard's Philosophy Cheered His Declining Years.

Reviewing John Bigelow's edition of the complete works of Benjamin Franklin, just published by a New York firm, a writer in the Philadelphia Record says:

If it be true that in a man's handwriting we have often an index to his character, much more must it be that his writings themselves—not the fruits of study and research, but the letters which are suggested by business or by friendship—will show the man in his real light, disclose his weakness and his faults, unconsciously display the noble side of his nature, and furnish a better idea of the impress which he made upon his time than could the most elaborate biography. Franklin's thrift and shrewdness have often been commented upon. He had a nephew named Benjamin Macon whom he recommended to Strahan, the London publisher, as being honest and industrious. But the young man did not prove successful in business, and Franklin accordingly wrote the following letter to Strahan:

"Benjamin Macom writes me that he has remitted you £30, which I am pleased to hear; and am glad you have not sent him the great parcel of books which you mention he has wrote for. He is a young lad, quite unacquainted with the world, and, I fear, would be much embarrassed if he went suddenly into dealings too deep for his stock. The people of those islands might buy his books, but I know they are very dull pay and he would find it impracticable to collect the money when it ought to be sent you. Pray keep him within bounds; let him have good salable sortments, but small, and do not suffer him to be more than £50 pounds in your debt, if so much; it is best for him to proceed gradually, and to deal more as his stock and experience increase. I am thankful to you for prudently delaying to send what he indiscreetly wrote for until you had advised me of it."

One of the most delightful letters in the volume on account of its unconscious egotism, simplicity and quiet sarcasm is that which refers to an annoyance growing out of his narrow escape from drowning off Staten Island. He says:

"The letter of yours inclosed is from the widow of a Jew, who, happening to be one of a number of passengers that were about forty years ago in a stageboat going to New York, and which, by the unskillful management of the boatman, overset the canoe from whence I was endeavoring to get on board her near Staten Island, has ever since worried me with demands of gratin for having, as ne pretended, been instrumental in saving my life, though that was in no danger, as we were near the shore, and you know what an expert swimmer I am, and he was no more of any service to me in stopping the boat to take me in than every other passenger, to all whom I gave a liberal entertainment at the tavern when he arrived at New York, to their general satisfaction at the time; but this Hayes never saw me afterward, at New York, or Brunswick, or Philadelphia, that he did not dun me for money on the pretense of his being poor and having been so happy as to be instrumental in saving my life, which was really in no danger. In this way he got of me sometimes a double joannes, sometimes a Spanish doubloon, and never less; how much in the whole I do not know, having kept no account of it, but it must have been a very considerable sum, and as he neither incurred any risk nor was at any trouble in my behalf I have long since thought him well paid for any little expense of humanity he might have felt on the occasion. He seems, however, to have left me to the widow as part of her dowry."

Even in his old age his letters have the charm, the patience and the shrewd but cheerful philosophy which characterized all that he wrote in his younger days, when his mind was strongest and clearest. To George Washington he writes:

My malady renders my sitting up to write rather painful to me, but I cannot let my son-in-law, Mr. Bache, part for New York without congratulating you by him on the recovery of your health, so precious to us all, and on the growing strength of our new government under your administration. For my own personal ease I should have died two years ago, but though those years have been spent in excruciating pain, I am pleased that I have lived them, since they have brought me to see our present situation. I am now finishing my eighty-fourth year, and probably with it my career in life; but in whatever state of existence I am placed hereafter, if I retain any memory of what has passed here, I shall with it retain the esteem, respect and affection with which I have long been, my dear friend, yours most sincerely.

Mrs. Catharine Greene, one of his warmest friends, is written to after this fashion:

"My friends here are numerous, and I enjoy as much of their conversation as I can reasonably wish; and I have as much health and cheerfulness as can well be expected at my age, now eighty-three. Hitherto this life has been tolerably happy; so that, if I were allowed to live it over again I should make no objection, only wishing for leave to do what authors do in the second edition of their works, correct some of my errata. Among the felicities of life I reckon your friendship, which I shall remember with pleasure as long as that life lasts, being ever my dear friend, yours most affectionately."

And to his niece, Mrs. Patridge, he says on the same subject:

"You kindly inquire after my health. I have not of late much reason to boast of it. People that will live a long life and drink to the bottom of the cup must expect to meet with some of the dregs. However, when I consider how many more terrible maladies the human body is liable to, I think myself well off that I have only three incurable ones—the gout, the stone and old age—and these, notwithstanding I enjoy many comfortable intervals, in which I forget all my ills and amuse myself in reading or writing, or in conversation with friends, joking, laughing and telling merry stories, as when you first knew me, a young man about fifty.

IT WON'T HOLD.

Byron Reed's Opinion of the St. Louis Claim to Omaha Property.

A telegram in THE SUNDAY BEE announced that a representative of the St. Louis firm of Helfenstein, Gore & Co. had commenced suit to recover a large amount of real estate in the city of Omaha, and thereby hangs a tale. It is told by Byron S. Reed, and dates back to the time that Omaha was a frontier town, thirty-two years ago. It tells how $65 then invested in Omaha real estate is now worth millions.

Robert Shields first saw Omaha in 1856. Immediately after coming here he engaged in a general mercantile business. He pre-empted a few acres of land north of the city, covering the ground now known as the Denise, Paulsen, E. V. Smith, Idlewild, Foster and Reed additions. At that time he lived at the spot where Storz & Iler now have their brewery, but moved down to Farnam street, where he built the first warehouse on that thoroughfare. Although altered and enlarged, it still stands, and at present is occupied by John Canfield, the stationer. Business, however, became dull, and in 1858 the St. Louis firm sued him for $65, which he was unable to pay, and the sheriff attached the lands in question. They were sold for the amount, and a sheriff's deed shows they were bought in by Helfenstein, Gore & Co., who were the plaintiffs, but who, after that, paid no further attention to their purchase until Saturday last, when Mr. Helfenstein sent Messrs. Guthrie & Young to look after his interests.

"The story as you have it, is very nearly true," said Mr. Reed to a BEE reporter, "and I can very well recollect the circumstances, but Mr. Helfenstein has no claim that can be enforced. Any title he may have had in the lands has gone by lapse of time, as can be shown by the suit against the Patrick estate in the United States district court, and the verdict was against the defendants, and although they talk about bringing it to the United States supreme court, I doubt if they will. Helfenstein has not even as good a claim as there was in that case. When the sale took place thirty years ago, there was no money paid, but $65 was endorsed on the claim of Helfenstein, Gore & Co. against Robert Shields. They received a sheriff's deed and put it on record, but there is nothing to show that Shields did not pay them the money since then. If they did not receive it, they should have gone on and taken possession of their property, but they did not do it, and the laws of Nebraska bars any action for the recovery of real estate within ten years. However, the title had passed from Shields to outside parties before the suit was brought, and they have since divided and subdivided it, until the present. To make their claim good, Helfenstein, Gore & Co. should have recovered it from them twenty years ago. Besides that, Shields never received his patent until after the suit had been decided against him."

"How much is the land in controversy worth?"

"It's worth millions—that is more than $1,000,000—a good deal more. It stretches out to where the colosseum now stands. You'll find cases like that coming up every day, and in every city, especially when they experience a rapid growth like Omaha. As I remember Shields, he was not a very good business man, and the St. Louis firm that sued him were then in the wholesale grocery business. I think Shields has a brother now living in Sarpy county, and I saw him a year or two ago. I don't know whether Robert is alive or dead now, but I know he left for California shortly after the sheriff's sale."

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Washington After the Inauguration

Magazine of American History: He stood six feet three inches in his slippers, was splendidly proportioned, evenly developed, and straight as an arrow. He had a long, muscular arm, and probably the largest hand of any man in New York. His uniform gravity and his marvellous will-power seem to have most attracted the attention of the world, which were, indeed, but the index to a manly self-poise founded upon the most perfect self-control. His enthusiastic welcome to the presidential chair, by the people of all classes without any division of interest, reads in this age like a poem; yet he was able to meet it with unruffled composure. He had come to the front when there was an ocean of problems to solve, of forms and ceremonies to be adjusted. But industry was one of his cardinal virtues, and he did not seek to be afflicted with waste moments. His personal influence tied as a knot of steel the conflicting forces together. He was dignified even to a lofty reserve, while at the same time his irresistible magnetism disproves the notion that he was cold and unsympathetic. His breeding was that of a gentleman, he was fond of society, conversed well, enjoyed humor in a quiet way and was sensitive to the beauty and open to the appeal of a good story.

Agreed Upon a Verdict.

GENEVA, Ill., Dec. 23.—The jury in the case of John A. Baucreisen, chief of the Aurora division of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, charged with dynamite conspiracy by the Burlington road, agreed upon a verdict this afternoon, but Judge Wilson would not receive it on Sunday, and it will not be made known till morning.

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