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NIOBRARA'S EARLY HISTORY.

Most Romantic Record.

HOW THE LOG FORT WAS HELD.

An Interview With the Founder-Indian Troubles in Early Days-The Hard Winter-After Thirty-Three Years.

Reads Like a Romance.

NIOBRARA, Neb., June 6 .- [Special to THE BEE. |-The history of Nebraska can not be very well written if Niobrara is left out Not so much because of its present commercial importance, but because of its importance in the state's pioneer history. Long before Omaha had emerged from her swad dling clothes, or Lincoln's saline shores had been visited by a white man, or any habitation had ventured far from the state's me tropolis, Niobrara was settled by some of the most intelligent men of our country. General G. W. Jones, one of Iowa's first senstors, whose residence is in Dubuque, was interested in its early history and was one of the original town company. The late Judge A. W. Hubbard and Judge Moore, of Sioux City, were also interested, while we had D. S. Nye, of Council Bluffs, a nephew of General Cass and cousin to Indian Commissioner Manypenny, without whose influence at Washington the whites could not have held Niobrara or a foot of territory west of Daketa county.

THE FOUNDER OF NIOBRARA was Dr. B. Y. Sheiley, who staked the town and declared the town's name on June 7, 1856. It being just thirty-three years ago today, THE BEE correspondent sought Dr. Shelley, who makes his old town summer quarters, and derived from him some of the otent features of our state's history, which have never before been published.

"I have never before been published.
"I have always contended," said the doctor, "that the 'Niobrara country,' properly speaking, comprised simply the Running Water valley and its tributaries—of which, of course, Niobrara was to be the destined metropolis. The region formerly known as the Niobrara country' is situated between Asoway (Iowa on the mans) ereck and the Anoway (Iowa on the maps) creek and the Niobrara (L'Eau qui Court, or Running Water) river, extending from the Missouri westward, including what is known as the Bow valleys, Bagile creek, a portion of the Elkhorn, and the valley of the Niobrara with its various tributaries. Its extent on the Missouri is about utaries. Its extent on the Missouri is one hundred miles, and it embraced in its limits some of the choicest lands in Ne-

Previous to 1853." continued the doctor, "this portion of Nebraska, and indeed all the country between the Plate and Niobrara

CLAIMED BY THE OMAHA INDIANS. By a treaty made and entered into that ar between these Indians and the United ate government, the former relinquished all claim to the entire country between the rivers before mentioned, save what might be sufficient for a suitable reservation. The reaty to have intended that portion of the reaty to have intended that portion of their id domain lying between Aloaway creek at the Niobrara, or the Niobrara country, for their reservation and future home, since by un article of the treaty this section was pressly designated as such, with the rewd proviso, however, that they might ts some other, under certain conditions.

In 1885 the United States Indian

t, together with the chief men

the Omahas, without examining

Niobrara country, in compliance with

instructions of the department, de-

BUBSTITUTE THE "SLACKBIRD COUNTRY" for their reservation—a country in almost every respect inferior to the Niebrara coun-try. Whether they made this poor exchange of their own accord; whether they feared the Poneas, who had already manifested pretensions to the soil; or whether, as

is most probable, they were prompted by those who at that time alone knew the value of the Niobrara country, I would not pre-

sume to say."

At any rate, the consequence of this by the government, was, of course, that the country lying between Aloaway creek and the Niobrara river reverted to the United States, subject to pre-emption laws like other public lands. No sooner had matters been settled with the Omahas than the Poncas, evidently influenced by their white connections, began very strenuously to urge

their claims to THE PAMOUS NIOBRARA COUNTRY. They warned the whites to keep off by or-ders written by a white man. This, with the impression industriously circulated by influential people, that that country was not open for settlement, had the desired effect of keeping it for a while in its old condition.

In 1850, while the entire territory of Nebraska was in possession of the Indians, ex-

empt from the grasp of the white man, and

inknown to him, save so much as THE ZEALOUS INDIAN TRADER knew, or the mere explorer of the Missouri river had laid down on the old and uncertain maps of the extreme west, or what might be gleaned from a general description of the territories of the United States, Dr. Shelley, then engaged in some private ex-plorations in the valley of the Missouri, and at the time sojourning in Council Bluffs, had his attention called to the Niobrara country by some vivid accounts by mountain traders and pioneer Mormons, who had seen "plenty of pine and other good timber up there." Some Mormons had, previous to taking up their winter quarters with the Omahas, a tempted a settlement at or near the month of he Niobrara river, but were frustrated by the determined opposition of the Ponca In dians. Traces of this short-lived

SETTLEMENT OF "SAINTS" existed in 1858, not only of demolished buildings of the living, but other monuments better attesting their troubles and persecutions at the hands of the "Lamanite."
"In May, 1856," said the doctor, "accompanied by R. R. Cowan, we set out with the dotermination to explore the territory, and se-lect its most favorable spot for a town site. Crossing Aloaway creek we began our jour-

THROUGH THE CONTESTED DOMAIN. Following along the sinuous course of the Missouri we passed by many beautiful spots, upon which towns have since been laid out. Every high point of bluits which we were compelled to traverse in our course served as something of an observa-tory, from which we could view the surrounding country and search out the unknown location of the point desired. The "muddy Missoury" still continued day after "muddy Missouri" still continued day after day along our line of travel, to rush madly by the chalk bluffs, which we knew must be cleared before we need look for the pure waters of the Niobrara. Though the trail was tiresome and our means of conveyance by no means encouraging, yet we persevered like genuine frontleesmen until we were rewarded by the sight of the very reality we were seeking for. Having gained the eminence of a high bluff, the beautiful plateau at the mouth of the Running Water was suddenly thrust before us. The spot once reached, there was no need to look farther, for the lirst glance would be decisive in the mind of any observer, and now nothing remained nothing remained

BUT TO MARK THE CLAIM in accordance with law and custom. The town claim of Niobrara was accordingly made on the 7th day of June, 1856, in the presence of the whole tribe of Ponca Indians, whose chief village had been situated for several scores of years, as we were assured by both Indians and French traders."

In September following, the first building was creeted in Niobrara. It was constructed of lows three feet in diameter, and was deof logs three feet in diameter, and was de-signed to answer the double purpose of a fort and a protection to its immates from the elements. The "old cabin" stood for several years after, when it was burned. In the following month, Dr. Shelley made a personal examination of the Rusning Water valley for a distance of ninety miles, where he saw THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE PINE REGION

and satisfied himself as to the character and value of the country and the pine timber. He made the expedition and was guided and accompanied by a single Indian, "Little Rabbit," who had lost caste and became an outlaw from his tribe. He secured the services of the outlaw after other attempts had The winter of 1856-7, remarkable all over

cold, was in other respects PREGNANT WITH DIFFICULTIES

to the four gentlemen—Harry Huddleston, Clinton Beam, James Small and "Dutch Fred," who passed the winter in Niobrara in the employ of the original L'Eau qui Court company. Several new cabins were built on the town claim, which were torn down and burned by the Indians, still constantly tampered with by their masters, who were stimulated by jeal-ous speculators who were anxious to gain possession themselves by first ejecting those who had made bold to gain the first foot-

Recourse was also had to misrepresenta tions, and urgent appeals to the commandant at Fort Randall; and it is worthy of note that Colonel Lee, commanding the post, represented in his orders that they were sanctioned by the then governor of Nebraska and other functionaries of the territory which orders were peremptory to the white occupants of Niobrara, to

LEAVE THE PLACE PORTHWITH. or he should be obliged to coerce them as intruders upon Indian lands.
"This combined attack of Indians, specu-

lators and men of different ranks, grades and stations," continued Dr. Sheiley, "how-ever formidable it may appear, was successfully resisted and overcome, though it manifested itself also with considerable strength in its efforts to defeat the passage of an act incorporating the L'Eau qui Court com-

The commandant of the post having been furnished with the opinion of the secretary of the interior declaring the disputed country open for white settlers, and naving received corresponding instructions from the secretary of war, he immediately suspended all interference with the white settlers. Upon this the prospects of peace to the settlers seemed to brighten, but the Indian annoyances still continued, and during the spring months numerous acts of hostility were committed, live stock and other prop erty destroyed by the Poncas, who

MADE DRUNK WITH WHISKY. and thus exasperated to intimidate the setthers, and, if possible, frighten them from their possessions. Such opposition did the claim-holders at Niobrara experience during the winter and spring following of 1856-7.

It is not often that a contest so long and so warmly waged between such parties as frontiersmen and Indians can be placed upon

record WITHOUT ITS MARKS OF BLOOD, and it is deemed but a matter of justice to atwisdom and cool, prudent conduct of the worthy men who passed the first winter at Niobrara. "Colonel Lee repeatedly Niobrara. "Colonel Lee repeatedly expressed his surprise," the doctor said. "at the unaccountable obstinacy of those men who held the place. He advised them to leave 'the Ponca country.' 'as he expected daily to hear of their being scalped.'
He could furnish them no protection, but he sent orders to 'Old Whip,' the chief, commanding him to desist from further molesting the whites. During the session of the territorial legis-

ture of Nebraska this same winter, the L' Eau qui Court company was duly incorporated. In the act of incorporation the site of Niobrara was located, the company's claim defined and liberal ferry and bridge privileges guaranteed; and it the same ses-sion an act was passed creating

THE COUNTY OF L' BAU COURT by which Niobrara secured the seat of justice in the corporate limits.

I have been thus particular in detailing the earliar history of Niobrara, its troubles, trials and obstacles, that I might show more plainly with what eagerness it was sought, and with how much important the point was everywhere the point was everywhere regarded even at that early day. The vigorous opposi-tion which had thus far attended settlement rendered it injudicious and unsafe to make such improvements as were desirable, since they were sure to meet the fate to which Indians usually consign every mark of civili zation. The spring of 1857 opened with more encouraging auspices and the opposition having sufficiently abated to remove all doubts of the ultimate success of the enter-prise, a few of the more active and liberal members took care that no time should be lost in pushing forward with Niobrara wit vi go ED A. Fay.

The flower bonnets are the chief charm of the present dainty display of French milli-

ON THE ALTAR OF FASHION.

Silly women Sacrince Their Time and Talent.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF DRESS.

Yellow Gaiters Have Talismanic Powers if Properly Worn-How to Grow Stout-Females in Towsers -Roses for Perfume.

A Buffalo Girl's Diary. Buffalo Express.

January, very gay, Go to something every day. February, not less busy, Dance until I'm fairly dizzy. March, stay in and say my prayers, Sew old tidies for church fairs. April, comes with bonnets sweet, Several weddings down our street. To New York in May I go; Everybody does, you know Bridesmaid seven times in June, Glad the season's over-soon. Tired completely out am I, At Lake George Pill spend July. That lawn tennis in September. Is the last thing I remember. Left off keeping record here, I'm engaged myself, my dear.

Her Servant Girl. At one time I noticed that every friend who called upon me mct me with what I can only describe as suppressed grins, says a writer in the London Queen. I could not imagine the cause of this general but covert merriment. We discussed it in the family, but without arriving at any solution of the mystery. One day it was all revealed.

I had forgotten my latch-key, and upon returning home was obliged to ring. Our front door is half of ground In the very center of the panel is a wide transparent rose. I chanced to glance at this just after my ring, and was startled quite out breath at what I saw-a great green cyclopean eye filling the space of the rose. It was thus that our general help took observations of our guests before she unclosed our portals to them.

A Libel on the Ladies.

Have you ever taken particular notice of the fact that a nicely dressed lady, especially as to headgear and neckwear, always seeks a seat in a street car up in one of the forward cor-ners? says the Chicago Herald. Well, she almost invariably does. Maybe you will wonder why, and it is only right and proper that you should be informed on the subject. It is a self-evident truth that a lady loves to look at herself in a mirror, especially if she is well dressed. It is an even chance that the front platform of a street car is occupied by two or more smokers who always lean back against the front windows. This obstructs a view of the street, but the dark background of the smoker's coat renders the window mirror-like, so that a person in the corner seat can see his or her reflection in the glass. This is really why ladies with new hats or wraps like to get up there. They can incidentally look at their apparel all the way down town and thus be afforded a great deal of feminine At this particular season, writes

when the question of clothes is agitat-ing more than any the feminine mind, the following thoughts are naturally The Bible in its opening chapters and

Mamie L. Hatchett to the Lincoln Call

times gay, sometimes sombre, according to the time, place and occasion. But while they teach beauty in all things. they also teach modesty, simplicity and harmony. They impress the fact, too, that we should keep within bounds of our own individual ability, not indulging our love of adornment at the expense of others. Does the lily borrow from the rose? or the tiniest shrub from the mightiest forest king? It is natural, it is proper, it is right; nay further, it is the duty of every

woman to make herself as comely and attractive as her means and opportuni ties permit her. She should cultivate physicial charms, and above all indivuality, as any other God given talent: but she should not spend more time or money than necessary on these accomplishments. There are many arguments against the two evils—overdressing and not dressing enough. Expensive attire 1. A waste of time and misapplication of powers which should be devoted to something higher. The woman who

makes fashion the study of her life finds very little time for anything else, and by depending too much on the attractions of her outward appearance, is apt to neglect the cultivation of those in born graces of heart and mind which constitute the only lasting beauty and the only type worth aspiring to. 2. It necessitates an expenditure of money that could be used for better purposes. Persons who have been fortu-

nate enough either to inherit or accum ulate wealth, have no moral right to withhold food and rayment from God's suffering poor in order that they may indulge a weak vanity. It causes a gossip, excites envy and jealousy, and not infrequently keeps persons of smaller means from church and places of amusement which they would otherwise attend and enjoy. I tempts them to commit frauds and thefts in order that they may keep pace

with their wealthier and more ostenta tious neighbors. It encourages selfish ness and cruelty. Think of the thousands of innocent, bright winged birds that are sacrificed every year on the altar of fashion, to say nothing of the human victims of the sewing machine and scissors. Slatternly apparel is more inexcus-

able and equally deplorable. A slovenly woman is a disgrace to the mother who reared her, and a perpetual mortification to the unfortunate man the dignity of whose name she so little appreciates. Sparse dressing is wrong every way criminally wrong, since it is degrading to the woman who practices it and de

moralizing to her associates. Talmage says: "Show me the fashion plates of any age between this and the time o ouis LVI of France, and Henry VIII of England, and I will tell you the type of morals or immorals of that age or that year. No exception to it. Modest apparel means a righteous people. Im modest apparel means a contaminated and depraved society." And Talmage is right, for women who are really pure minded and true shrink instinctively from bare shoulders and naked arms The woman who is willing to exhibit herself in a promiseuous crowd in a decollete waist, is not the woman whom an intelligent, virtuous man would care to acknowledge as a sister or a wife; and since her object is to excite admiration, she displays a judgment as weak as her morals, and defeats the very end which she is striv ng to accomplish.

Persons of taste, natural or culti-vated, have their fastidious ideas of suitability and the "eternal fitness of

party or a silk dress at a picnic is equally conspicuous and out of taste. True elegance in dress, as in all things else, consists in harmony, simplicity and suitability; and the graceful and artistic costume is that which is the most natural and easy. and comfortable to the one who

Girls, Get a Yellow Garter.

The very latest and funniest whim is the wearing of the yellow garter, says the New York Sun. Just one garter, not two, you understand, and it must be worn just above the left knee. The other stocking may be wrinkled disconsolately over the shoe-top, or be fastened in place by any one or all of the mysterious devices known only to the nitiated, but the left one is held firmly by a band of yellow silk elastic, with a ribbon rosette of the same shade, and he correct and proper thing is to wear it night and day for six months.

The yellow garter's origin is shroud ed in murky uncertainty, but its signification is known to every girl who possesses it, and this is its charm: Any girl who wears a yellow garter above the left knee is sure to be engaged in less than six months. The garter must be given to her by a friend; not make or buy it, and it has never been known to fail of its purpose but once, and then the owner was wearing it on the wrong extremity, or rather the right one instead of the left.

Just wherein lies its potency belongs to the ethics of the esoterics of girlhood but the girls all wear them. The slim slips of girls who want to be engaged just for fun, though they aren't half old enough to be married; the bright, clever girls, as sweet and spicy and wholesome as carnations, who have career before them, and say they won't marry the best man in the world; the hopeless girls, that have tried every thing else, you know, and are accus-tomed to failure; the sweet-hearted womanly girls, who are waiting like Marianna in the moated grange and sighing because "He cometh not," the naughty, witching girls who could marry every fellow in the market, if they were not so sort of bewildering that no one quite dares to ask them. and the shy girls who hide the yellow band from their very best friends, and think of it when they say their prayers all waiting for some brave knight of the garter to help them solve the problem concerning the success or failure of the time-honored of institution which is causing so much controversy at present-all wear the yellow garter.

Roses For Perfumery.

Gather the rose leaves in'dry weather, remove the petals, and to the propor tion of half a peck fresh leaves strew in good handful of salt. Let this remain five days, stirring up the leaves every day. When they appear moist add three ounces of bruised allspice and one ounce of cinnamon stick bruised. Let this remain on the leaves a week, stirring them daily from the bottom, says the Detroit Tribune. Then put into a permanent jar one ounce of allspice, and add the stock layer by layer. Sprinkle between the following: ounce each of cloves and cingamon, two nutmegs (all coarsely powdered), some ginger root sliced thin, half an ounce of inisced bruised, ten grains finest musk half a pound of freshly dried lavendar flowers, two ounces of powdered orris root and ad libitum cologne, rose or orange flower water, orange or lemon peel. Freshly dried violets, tuberoses, clove pinks, or any other scented flow-

everything in nature, from the gar-ments or fig leaves worn by our first parents to the leafy bowered trees and and \$10 bonnet, make up a costume that while fresh rose leaves, salt and allflower-clothed fields, teaches the pro- gives these sensative individuals a spice, made as at first, may be added priety and necessity of apparel—some- nervous vigor. A tea gown at a dinner when convenient. Stir the jar occasionally, leaving it closed except when the perfume is wished to odorize the room.

Delusions of an Empress.

The empress of Austria, who is at Wiesbaden, occupies outside the town a villa which is guarded by police agents, and no strangers are allowed to approach it, says the London Star. The empress' delusion was that King Louis came fo her in the night dripping wet in his shroud, from which there ran a perfect stream of water, which filled the room and threatened to drown her. She would wake in a fright and call for help, saying she was drowning. hysterics generally ended in a fainting fit, and, singular to add, for some days afterwards the empress appeared to be free from hallucination.

On her return to Vienna last year the empress absolutely refused to see her son, the Archduke Rudolf, declaring that he had not paid her proper respect. Shortly afterward the archauke committed suicide, and it became an imperative necessity that the empress should be confined to her own apartments, for she was continually reproaching herself for causing the death of her son. And now the acute crisis in the empress' illness has passed, for softening of the brain has set in.

Women in Trousers.

An unusually large number of cases of women passing for men have recently been discovered in England and France. The most remarkable for length of time during which the deception was maintained was that of a person who, during a voyage from France to the island of Jersey, acted in a strange manner and finally fell unconscious. A doctor found that although dressed as a man it was really a woman. After being sent to a hospital in Jersey she told her story, which was that, at the age of thirteen, she had been left an orphan and had then adopted male clothes, which she had ever since worn without discovery. She was fifty-five years old, and had there-fore worn trousers for forty-two years. She had for the greater part of her life pursued the calling of a courier, guiding parties of travelers over all parts of Europe, under the name of Louis Herman Tobush. She had done well at the business and had a balance at her bankers. When she was taken sick on the steamer she wore a fur waistcoat, a long overcoat, a stiff hat and a turned down collar, and smoked a long pipe or a strong cigar, as she chanced to please. No one had any suspicion she was not a man.

Among the witnesses in a recent suit at the Palace of Justice in Paris was a person, apparently a young man, dressed like a student, who was accompanied by what seemed to be an elderly gentleman of grave aspect. When the name of Mme. Libert was called the young man stepped forward. "I beg your pardon," said the clerk, "I am asking for a lady, and not for a young man." "But this young man." man." "But this young man is my daughter," explained the sedate gentleman, stepping forward. The clerk decided to let the judge see the witness and settle the matter. The judge told the young woman to go home and put on proper clothes before she appeared to testify. "But I have not a single dress to my name," she exclaimed. It turned out that the old Mme. Libert runs a printing office and had for a long time worn male clothing in order to manage her business better. bringing up her daughter to the same