

JOHN BROWN'S LETTER

Mrs. Isabelle Hinton Enriches Historical Society.

MANY PATRIOTS MENTIONED

Nothing Written by John Brown Appears However.

The State Historical society has recently received, from Mrs. Isabelle Hinton, a collection of manuscripts and letters used by her husband, the late Colonel Richard J. Hinton, in the preparation of his volume, "John Brown and His Men." As would naturally be supposed, those of most interest are the earliest, written by the boys before they reached Harper's Ferry, or by their mourning friends, who were anxious that the world should look upon those "nineteen men" sympathetically with an appreciative sympathy. The biographical and reminiscence letters were intended for use in the preparation of Redpath's "John Brown," written immediately after the raid, but were kept by Col. Hinton, who was associated with him, and to many of them are addressed. A majority of the over a hundred letters are of recent date, and all are interesting. There are no letters by Captain Brown. Several of his men, the best of the lot, were residents of Kansas and learned to battle for freedom in her free state wars. Jeremiah G. Anderson, a young man of 27, when he met death at Harper's Ferry, settled in Bourbon county in 1857, and took part under Bain and Moxley in the Fort Scott troubles. His letters to his brothers show the life of a young settler who finds relief from the privations of battling on his prairie claim by going to dances in Missouri, and returning with a new and a tinier claim, but is soon involved in the troubles of southeastern Kansas, which introduced him to John Brown.

G. P. Anderson was perhaps the only northern negro who engaged in the raid and survived. His letter of Oct. 13, 1860, relates to the publication of his pamphlet history of that event. An autograph letter of Clara Hoyt Burleigh, the sister of Geo. H. Hoyt, calls to mind a very pleasing character whose knowledge and practice of vocal music left its impress upon the Leavesworth girls who were so fortunate as to be her pupils during the dark days of the war. A letter from Col. Hoyt tells of his intention to publish his own reminiscences as junior counsel for Capt. Brown.

The letters of John E. Cook, written in the fall of 1863 at Chambersburg, show him to have been in an excellent state of mind, which collapsed in the hour of danger. Several letters from his friends caution Col. Hinton to deal kindly by him. A. J. Gilbe of Springfield, Vermont, came into Kansas through Iowa with four other young men, making a forced march of 50 miles, and reached Topeka early in the morning of July 4, 1856, in time to see the Free-State Legislature dispersed by Col. Sumner. "On the march one morning, we surprised Kagi while driving on the open prairie. He had been sleeping on the ground and was returning by the route we were taking. He was destitute of food and as unduly as one could be."

The letters of Geo. B. Hill are the most voluminous of all, and are excellent reading. He is largely quoted by Colonel Hinton. There are many letters relating to the attempt to rescue Aaron D. Stevens and Albert Hazlett, by Thomas Wentworth Higginson, Charles W. Eldredge, William W. Thayer, J. W. LeBarnes and Silas S. Soule. The last young man contrived to be arrested at Charleston in an apparently innocuous condition, and was placed in jail. After adopting of his spouse he was rescued, by his pleasant Irish wit, the good will and confidence of the jailer's family, and in some way, without raising their suspicion, contrived to get an interview with Stevens and Hazlett, who refused to accept the aid of their friends.

August 23, 1859, the bodies of nine of John Brown's men were returned to the central letter of Williams is an autograph of his brother, Samuel, dated Jefferson, Ohio, No. 26, 1861. "I believe it would be right to abolish slavery wherever it exists, if it costs the life of every other man, woman and child in the country where it holds its sway. Yours for the right, Samuel D. Howland."

Here is a letter from the young Pennsylvanian, William R. Lichten, who wrote "Sons of Strength," a story founded on the Kansas struggle. Rev. Ephraim Nisus writes from Boston in 1861. It is not known whether his two books, then in manuscript, of his Kansas reminiscences, and of his service as chaplain of the First Kansas, have since been published. There are two letters from Luke P. Parsons in 1858, giving the whereabouts of the John Brown men after the Chatham convention, and in 1860 to Redpath and Hinton, full of reminiscences. Higginson has this to say of him, as the conductor of an emigrant party to Kansas in the summer of 1856: "Our three parties from Worcester were commanded by Cutler, Stowell and Parsons, the latter an anti-slavery, orthodox minister, capable and energetic, but sorely tried with the free and easy ways of his Maine lumbermen, the finest set of men for physique I ever encountered, and not half as heart. Poor Parsons wrote me 'if you have any doubt about total depravity conduct a party of Maine lumbermen to Kansas.'"

A letter from Frank B. Sanborn to J. W. LeBarnes in November, 1859, refers to the frustrated plans to rescue J. H. Brown. Miss Mary E. Stearns and Mrs. Rebecca B. Spring are represented by several characteristic letters. The first success John Brown in the anti-slavery enterprises, the second, himself and son in prison. Here, in their own letters, are found the last stories of Aaron D. Stevens and John Henri Kagi, both good and good men, with records any good woman would at least respect. They were not, however, successful in their workings. They both served Kansas and were the flower of the little company

who perished at the Ferry. Stevens was a soldier of the Mexican war, and later a bugler in Colonel Sumner's dragoons in 1851-52. This latter year he resented the inhuman treatment of a private by beating the offending major of his regiment within an inch of his life with his bugle. For this he was court-martialed and only saved from being shot by a pardon from the President. He escaped from confinement at Fort Leavenworth and took refuge among the Delaware Indians in the adjoining reservation, and in the spring of 1856, identified himself with the freestate cause under his mother's name, Whipple. General Land commissioned him brigadier general, commanding the Second Freestate regiment, territorial militia.

Kagi was an Ohio boy, a teacher in Virginia at the age of 19, shorthand reporter of the proceedings of the constitutional convention of Kentucky, and a student of languages. His anti-slavery sentiments had exiled him from Virginia and the dispersal of the Topeka legionnaires by United States troops increased the abundance of slavery. He enlisted at once in Colonel Whipple's freestate regiment. While a prisoner at Leavenworth and Tecumseh in 1856, he wrote stirring letters to the National Era, at Washington, and while in Kansas corresponded also with the New York Evening Post, New York Tribune and other papers. He was shot and severely wounded by a fellow-freestater in his sister's full of his Bohemian life, the allusions to his southwestern etc., might be woven into an historic novel.

The late James E. Taylor of New York gives a list of his collection of John Brown portraits and pictures, and mentions his trip through southern Kansas in 1857, doing Kansas for Frank Leslie. "I accompanied Colonel Sumner's survey party, who ran the line through the Osage strip west from the mouth of the Little Arkansas, and you can imagine the appearance Wichita then presented to us with its stray wigwags; under the pocket-marked chief, Buffalo Goad. We stopped two weeks in Topeka at Dr. Ashbaugh's while sitting out."

The Forum

Opinions of the Readers of the Eagle on Current Topics.

RUSSIA'S ADVOCATE. To the Eagle: Now watch Uncle Sam help Japan against Russia, who is our friend, and has never been anything else. Yet he wouldn't help the Boers against John Bull, who is our enemy and has never been anything else. Which goes to prove that Uncle Sam has his blind side as well as the rest of us. It's a hundred to one that Uncle Sam will help Japan, which she ought to have, and at least let us see what she'll then do for our good and for Uncle Sam, which will only prove that her friendship was always sincere, as John Bull's has always been false. One would think Uncle Sam could learn easier. THOMAS R. BUTLER.

FIRELIGHT RATES. To the Eagle: It costs too much to get born and again too much to get buried. By the time a man gets his doctor's bill paid, it's time to think about taking out burial insurance. I move that Uncle Sam attend to these little matters for us. He is the most interested of anyone in getting us here, and in taking us all he can, and it looks as if he ought to be willing to stand the freight rates both ways. Respectfully submitted to President Roosevelt as bearing upon the race suicide theory. THOS. R. BUTLER.

A DEMOCRAT'S VIEW. To the Eagle: I have been reading the Eagle a short time lately, I read it occasionally as early as '76 in the Arkansas valley in time to vote for S. J. Tilden for president and have been here (in the west) ever since, and that was the only Democratic ticket I ever cast, and I never voted a Republican ticket in my life. So you see I know that it was done by the promoters of slavery, graft and corrupt jobbery in government, and that class of men are in control of the party. Then we will feel it our duty to vote for just anything to beat them, because a new chief is not as bad as an old one. If our territory was a state and Roosevelt should be nominated for president he would carry it like a wildcat without firing a (political) shot. I am not writing for publication, but just to express to you what I believe to be a widespread sentiment among the one-time kickers of the west. Hoping that this may be some encouragement to the defenders of honest government, I remain yours for Roosevelt. Ingersoll, O. T. OOOO.

THE RAILROAD WRECK PROBLEM To the Eagle: Last Sunday you kindly inserted my article, "A Cry from the Traveling Public to the Railroad," while in that article I took a somewhat conservative view of the railroad side, dependent upon "dividends" on stock interested. I said "if the roads are yielding adequate dividends, the public should demand more competent employees and a larger number of them, so large that no man's capacity is imperiled by overwork or want of sleep." In place of this, comes the statement this week that "the roads are declaring increased dividends for 1904." Added, is the statement of a former railroad man that "he has seen men fall asleep at their posts because of overwork." This means reduction of capability, hence increase of danger. Added here comes this week the dreadful argument of twenty lives lost on the Rock Island and the cause, as by verdict of the jury, "overfatigued."

In the light of these and kindred facts, we desire to submit two propositions, looking to legislation: 1. That a law be enacted by the next legislature of Kansas, fixing the maximum number of hours that any employee in position affecting the life of passengers, shall be allowed to work in any one day of 24 hours; also affixing heavy penalties against any road violating this law. 2. Pass a law providing that the employee shall be held to trial for manslaughter in case of loss of life, consequent upon inattention, carelessness, or disobedience of orders.

If railroad managers cannot be moved by public calamity, they must be reached and moved by the strong arm of the law. A few dollars cannot be weighed in the scale against the lives of our citizens, and our loved ones.

For the sake of brevity no arguments are presented in behalf of the above named legislation, as to the right of the state to make it, or the restraining effort upon the railroads or the increased protection to the traveling public.

GEORGE W. HOSE, Wichita, Kansas.

Eagle Table and Kitchen

Suggestions What to Eat And How to Prepare Food.

These articles on the necessarily absorbing topic of food are carefully prepared and based on knowledge of chemistry and cooking, and practical information derived from actual experience. Fourth volume: Conducted by Lida Ames Willis, Marquette Building, Chicago. To whom all inquiries should be addressed. All rights reserved by the Manning Co., Chicago.

BUCKWHEAT CAKES.

This plant is not a grass and, properly speaking, does not belong to the cereals at all, but to the natural order of Polygonaceae, which includes dock, sorrel, and smartweed. It is probably a native of Asia or Africa or Russia. In the latter country the seeds are used "in form of groats, particularly by the soldiers, and are cooked with butter and oil."

In temperate climates it is largely grown for its starchy seeds, which resemble the grain of grasses in composition, being about equal in nutritive value to millet. For this reason and because it is used in breads it is, for convenience, ranked with the cereals. In the millet and sorghum seeds of India it has its strong food allies of similar origin, but among these it stands alone in its use as a human food by the European civilized races.

The Name of the Plant. The name is derived from the German buckweizen, beech wheat or nut, from the three-lobed nut-like shape of the seeds. In France it is known as sarrasin or blit. It was brought to America over three hundred years ago, and to North America by the early Dutch settlers, and from them we have learned to bake it into cakes. The grain was common in Germany in the nineteenth century and is catalogued in many old books in the sixteenth.

Different Species. There are three varieties of the plant cultivated, the common, the tartarian, and the notched. The second of these, the tartarian, came from Siberia about fifty years ago. It was there discovered by botanists in the early part of the century. It is said of it that in its native country it sows itself for five years.

In Britain the buckwheat is an easily cultivated annual being grown there chiefly for feeding poultry and game, especially pheasants. Hence, it is said, the origin of the peculiar cry of the guinea fowl—"buckwheat."

A variety called Sarracenois, a showy herbaceous plant, was introduced into France as an ornamental garden plant about the same time the Siberian came to Europe—the latter was called sarracenois, millet. It grew to the height of about six feet. This variety was also called halcus, and was cultivated in Italy. It was found in Babylon on Herodotus and its cultivation and its curious qualities are mentioned by naturalists from time to time ever since.

Its Food Qualities. The seed of the buckwheat is enclosed in a husk containing much indigestible cellulose. When this husk, amounting to about twenty per cent., is removed the richness of the seeds is by no means low in nutritive value, but stands midway in this respect between wheat on one hand and rice on the other. The great preponderance of carbohydrates in all cereals indicates that they should not be eaten alone, but with other foods richer in fat and protein. Instinctively we have learned this fact and remedy the deficiency by spreading a generous supply of butter over our buckwheat cakes and eating them with maple syrup, honey or molasses. Buckwheat cakes are rendered more wholesome by the addition of from one-third to one-half their volume of scalded corn meal. They are sweeter, more tender and bake a nicer, more even brown.

The character of its albuminoids, mostly soluble, and its richness in heat and force-producing elements, make it available for bread and cake-making.

Buckwheat Flour. The flour of buckwheat compares unfavorably with that of wheat, owing to its indigestible husk, but a fairly nutritious bread is made and largely consumed in Brittany. The bread, like our cakes, is greatly relished by those who are accustomed to its peculiar taste.

Buckwheat cakes are very popular in Holland, and in this country buckwheat always means griddle cakes—and in some sections "sassage gravy." To the peculiar and characteristic flavor of this so-called cereal is due the traditional value of the buckwheat cake, which is the popular favorite of the griddle-cake season. A simple pure buckwheat cake may be regarded in the light of a luxury in this country—a fact apparently not verified by the hotel and restaurant menus. The difficulties and objections to raising it, with its peculiar and difficult milling qualities, have generally given the flour a relatively high price in the market, especially for the pure article.

The annual production in the United States is said to be in the neighborhood of 2,000,000 bushels, the states of New York and Pennsylvania contributing largely.

There are some persons who find that buckwheat does not agree with them, its use causing an eruption of the skin called erythema, an ailment causing much discomfort because of the constant itching and irritation. In all probability the occupation of the individual so afflicted is such that this class of foods must be partaken of sparingly or not at all; or, on the other hand, their physical condition may be such that they should not be eaten.

It is possible, too, that the buckwheat flour may contain rye and gritty matter, and with the addition of corn meal, which without previous scalding is not sufficiently well cooked, in cake making makes the cakes very hard to digest for some people. When the yeast batter for buckwheat cakes is left to stand overnight be careful that it is perfectly sweet when ready to bake.

If one feels any doubt as to the wholesomeness of pure buckwheat flour a visit to the "land of buckwheat cakes and honey" among the Pennsylvania Dutch will dispel the uncertainty in their minds, at least as regards these people.

Among the household recipes there are many for buckwheat cakes cherished with the family traditions.

Cakes made of pure buckwheat are best, but as some do not like the distinct flavor of buckwheat we will give several varieties of recipes.

Colonial Buckwheat Cakes.

Take one pint of warm sweet milk, one pint of warm water, one cup of yeast, two teaspoons of salt and five cups of buckwheat flour. Put half of the liquid in a more charcoal granularly sift and beat in the flour and continue to beat until smooth; then add remainder of milk and water, the salt, and lastly the yeast. Two tablespoons of sugar may be used. Set where the batter will not chill until morning, but must not be too warm or it will sour. Soda is used to correct the acidity when the batter is sour.

Plain Buckwheat Cakes.

Take one quart of buckwheat flour, one

teaspoon of salt, one scant cup of corn meal, scalded with a little boiling water, two teaspoons of brown sugar or a little buttermilk to make them brown nicely, half a cake of yeast dissolved in half a cup of lukewarm water and one quart of warm water. Mix all together, adding yeast to lukewarm batter and beating hard for five minutes. Then cover and set in a warm place to raise overnight. A deep stoneware crock with a wide top is best for the sponge. Cover it with a saucer. The corn meal may be left out, but it contains the additional fat required and makes the cakes brown more quickly. Do not use molasses for this purpose; it will make the cakes tough and less digestible. If there is a suspicion only of sourness in the batter in the morning use a pinch of soda. Soda also removes the peculiar taste of the buckwheat and makes them flat and insipid and is therefore to be avoided by those who like the buckwheat flour.

Delicious Buckwheat Cakes.

Take one quart of buckwheat flour, one pint of corn meal, one cup of Graham flour, half a cup of yeast, one teaspoon salt, a pinch of soda and lukewarm water enough to make a pretty stiff batter. Stir the salt into the flour and meal and make into a stiff batter, adding the yeast while mixture is lukewarm. Cover and set to rise in a warm place overnight. If too thick in the morning add lukewarm water enough to make it right consistency and let it stand a few minutes before baking. Add a pinch of soda if the batter sours slightly sour. Bake on a well-greased hot griddle and serve very hot.

No authority tells us not to eat buckwheat cakes singly, but to serve in layers of four at least, each one generously buttered and maple syrup or honey poured over the top.

Old-Time Buckwheat Cakes.

Wet half a cup of yellow corn meal with a little cold water about noon and then stir in a quart of freshly boiled water and stir and cook until it forms a thin gruel. Let it cool and add a teaspoon of salt, half a cup of good liquid yeast or half a cake of compressed yeast dissolved in lukewarm water, half a cup of wheat flour and three cups of buckwheat flour. Beat vigorously and thoroughly; cover and set to rise in a place until morning, if for breakfast. Thin the batter before baking if too thick, using a little warm water. Add half a teaspoon of baking soda just before baking.

Buckwheat Cakes With Baking Powder.

Take a pint of pure buckwheat flour, half a pint of whole wheat or Graham flour, half a teaspoonful of salt, two teaspoons of baking powder. Sift all together until well mixed. Then add enough sweet milk to make a smooth, thin batter and bake.

But Why Be Sad?

Sorrow, sickness and death come to many homes on the New Year as well as on other days but aside from the unavoidable bereavement, sorrow and gloom or gloomy thoughts, but with hearts still mellow and filled with the warmth and cheer of the Christmas time let all enter into the mood of joyousness pervading the very atmosphere and step gayly with the throng across the threshold of the "door between" putting the past years' sorrows, thoughts, but with hearts still mellow and filled with the warmth and cheer of the Christmas time let all enter into the mood of joyousness pervading the very atmosphere and step gayly with the throng across the threshold of the "door between" putting the past years' sorrows, thoughts, but with hearts still mellow and filled with the warmth and cheer of the Christmas time let all enter into the mood of joyousness pervading the very atmosphere and step gayly with the throng across the threshold of the "door between" putting the past years' sorrows, thoughts, 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