THE GATE CITY

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C. F. SKIRVIN.....Manager

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Keokuk, Iowa .... December 13, 1909.

CREATION'S BLANK.

That man may last
But never lives,
Who much receives but
Nothing gives;
Whom none can love,
Whom none can thank,
Creation's blot,
Creation's blank.
—Thomas Gibbons.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY.

Of all the delights of this earth, none can equal the raptures which a good man feels in conferring happiness on those worthy of it. This is the sweetest ingredient in power.—Fielding.

The Iowa City Republican tells of a man who went into a book store and asked for the latest joke book. He was handed a Rock Island time card.

Faker or no faker, Dr. Cook was the source for a time of some mighty interesting news. Republics may be ungrateful but telegraph editors are not.

Milwaukee is agitated over a murder case in which, according to a local paper, Karl Wojciechowski and Adam Pietrzk figures as heavy villains. Linotype machines play some queer pranks sometimes.

The Washington correspondents agree that the present congress will not do much. However, the Washington correspondents can be depended upon to make good any deficiency in the matter of congressional news.

Knox county, Illinois, is pluming itself on the size of some of its families. One family at Walnut Grove has fifteen children and in Sparta township eight families constitute over one-twelfth of the population of 1,300. No race suicide there.

The Gate City is indebted to Mr. James B. Diver for successive issues of the Washington Post. Mr. Diver is now at the national capital and takes this method of keeping in touch with home friends. The courtesy is characteristic of him and is valued accordingly.

The Waterloo Times-Tribune complains of a dearth of boys in that town who are willing to shovel snow off sidewalks for fifteen cents per lot. It appears from this that quotations are lower in Waterloo than in Keokuk. Here a boy will not make a pretence of making a path in front of a lot for less than a quarter.

Some learned men have decided that the frying pan must go because it is the source of dyspepsia and divorce. It will take something more than the dictum of learned men, however, to oust it from its time-honored place. Without the frying pan we would have been a nation of mollycoddles.

As to Dunkle and Loose, who say they fabricated Dr. Cook's polar records for him, the situation is just this: If they tell the truth they are cheap and contemptible frauds. If they don't tell the truth they are despicable liars. In either event there should be "put in every honest hand a whip to lash the rascals naked through the world."

A large number of people are willing to confess with the Jacksonville Courier that they are unable to understand why a sweet, pure American girl with practically unlimited wealth will form a matrimonal alliance with a foreigner with a ghastly past and a name like a linotype pi line. As the Courier says, this is one of the unsolvable riddles connected with American wealth.

The Spirit Lake Beacon, which is edited by a gentleman and which is usually conservative in its comments, refers to the speaker of the house in Washington as "Our blatherskite speaker." For this it is properly taken to task by the Cedar Rapids Republican, which queries if that is a proper attitude, and goes on to say:

"Mr. Funk may not be able to agree with Mr. Cannon, but that is hardly a good reason for the use of such language. As a matter of fact, Mr. Cannon is not a blatherskite. He is one of the most popular men in congress, so far as the attitude of his own district toward him is concerned. It may be presumed that the people of Illinois who have been sending him to congress term after term have some acquaintance with the man."

According to a calendar in the possession of The Gate City Christmas and New Years do not come on the same day of the week this year. If anyone thinks the calendar is in error in this matter this paper will wager a reasonable sum—say a year's subscription,—that the local firm which is distributing the calendar is not misleading its customers.

The Keokuk County News, published at Sigourney, distinguished itself last week by issuing a thirty-two page improvement edition which would have done credit to a paper published in any of the larger cities in the state. Both in point of mechanical excellence and character of contents the issue was above criticism. The illustrations, of which there were many, were of a high order of merit, in consonance with the interesting news matter they adorned. The News is entitled to the congratulations of all its contemporaries upon its notable achievement.

It was remarked at the funeral of the late David J. Ayres yesterday by a friend who had known him intimately for many years that in all the years of his intercourse with him he had never heard Mr. Ayres speak an unkind word of any one. The fact was cited as showing the innate and habitual kindness of the man. Among the tributes to his memory this testimony of an intimate friend deserves a high place. Only a man of the finest fiber of character could be so charitable in his judgment of the shortcomings of others.

The Waterloo Reporter has inaugurated a new era in newspaper-making in that city by installing a three-deck Goss perfecting press similar to the one on which The Gate City is printed. Twenty-four pages can be printed, folded and delivered in bundles ready for the carriers at one operation at the rate of 12,500 copies an hour. This is at the rate of seven complete eight-page papers every time the second-hand jumps. The Reporter is to be congratulated upon this valuable addition to its facilities for producing a first-class daily newspaper. Its pride in its new acquisition is wholly pardonable.

It is learned from a scientific publication that artificial hair is now being manufactured from spun glass. After much experimenting, it is said, a successful substitute has been produced. Wigs made from spun glass are alleged to be wonderfully light and fine, the texture soft and beautiful, and the imitation so realistic and true to life it is impossible to detect the difference between it and real hair. It is said to be easy to produce any shade desired, and that white curls and waves can now be manufactured with sufficient rapidity to keep pace with the popular demand. It would appear from this that there really is something new under the sun, after all.

A Men's League for Woman Suffrage has been organized in New York in connection with the movement to secure equal suffrage. Well known public men are members of the league, George Foster Peabody being its president, and the vice presidents are Representative Herbert Parsons, Representative William S. Bennett, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, William M. Ivins, William Jay Schieffelin, Professor Nathaniel Schmidt of Cornell University, John Mitchell, labor leader, William Dean Howells, author; the Rev. John P. Peters, Langdon S. Stewardson, president of Hobart College, and George F. Kunz. The league will urge the legislature to submit a suffrage amendment to the constitution to a vote of the people of New York.

GOVERNOR'S CLUBS.

Mr. C. W. Post's latest suggestion is the formation of "Governor's Clubs," the purpose of which is to cultivate moderation and temperance based upon strength of character, integrity and personal honor. The idea is to equip the members of the club to dominate and rule instead of being ruled. The club suggests a maximum use of stimulating beverages and tobacco consistent with the requirements of the member, earnestly recommending a maximum not to exceed two portions of each per day and this maximum is defined as the accepted standard of the club. Recognizing a variety in individual temperament and taste, it is left to each member to establish his own rule of practice with thoughtful realization of the physical and mental advantages of well-defined moderation. The agreement reads as follows:

The undersigned therefore agrees to restrict his use of alcoholic or malt beverages to .....ordinary portions of either (not of both) or .....of each and .....portions of tobacco in any form each day of twenty-four hours or payment of $1.00 for each portion and used in excess as an alternative.

Don't waste time setting a wide open limit that would require no development of the restraining power of the "Governor."

Fix it less than the club standard or two portions if you can live to that.

A total discontinuance is worthy of careful consideration and if that position be desired let the member write "No" in each of the blanks.

Report and remittance to be made within three days of each excess. The income shall be used to cover expenses; the surplus for charity.

There shall be no entry fee or dues, other than the dues herein defined for use of the alternative.

Officers will serve without salary.

Membership may be discontinued the eighth day after notice has been mailed to the secretary.

I, the undersigned, agree to the rules and regulations herein defined, and upon signing my name do solemnly affirm that I will strictly, honestly, and completely obey them.

This agreement [illegible]

Self and with the members of the Governor's Club, and rests solely but sufficiently upon my Sacred Personal Honor.

Signature.....
City .....
State.....

Fill in the blanks, sign both copies, keep one and mail the other to the secretary, C. Syer, Battle Creek, Mich.

It will be noted that the agreement carefully avoids a fixed cast-iron pledge as to the limit of use. Instead, it fixes a rule of practice with an alternative. It is regarded as important that some humiliation follow the act of weakness shown by neglecting the rule and descending to the alternative. The earnest Governor, it is anticipated, will not permit this to occur often, hence the contributions to charity are not expected to be large. A report of the managers of the organization and a statement of the disposition of the funds will be sent to each member annually. There is unquestionably room and need in Keokuk for such a club as is here contemplated. The exercise of wise self-control is highly important and commendable, and systematic efforts to this end deserve every encouragement.

CLEWS ON CONDITIONS.

Henry Clews writes encouragingly concerning political, business and financial conditions and prospects. He reports that neither the President's message nor the opening of congress created any disturbance in the security markets. The radicals were disappointed at the conservative tenor of the message, but in all other quarters this quality is approved as evidence of the President's intention to carry out necessary reform movements with as little disturbance to business as possible. In business circles a strong optimistic spirit prevails and conditions are favorable to commercial activity. The railroad situation, however, is not without serious perplexities. Traffic is heavy and earnings show corresponding improvement, but expenses have grown seriously, and net results are often unequal to those of two years ago. That the companies should have to face a demand for higher wages at this time is declared to be unfortunate, for they have scarcely more than recovered from the effects of the panic. Wages were not reduced at that period and labor suffered little from that disaster. But on the whole, the outlook for the coming year is said by Mr. Clews to be a distinctly cheerful one.

NOTES AND COMMENT.

According to Elbert Bede, the wise man saves up his money, and the fool comes along and borrows it.

The Davenport Democrat says that to a Democrat the insurgent looks like a child who is beginning to see the light.

"At this glorious holiday season it is better to be a cheerful giver than a cheerful liar," says the Cedar Falls Record.

If this thing of sewing up sponges in surgical wounds keeps up the Jacksonville Courier foresees that there will soon be a shortage in the sponge supply.

In the view of the Sioux City Tribune the man who learns how to turn down a book agent without offending him has laid the foundation for success.

Representative Murdock says that "Cannon has seen the handwriting on the wall." If so, the Burlington Hawk-Eye concludes there is little doubt that Uncle Joe considers it a very bum sample of chirography.

It was a long time before the average girl was willing to ride astride, and now comes the problem of wearing riding breeches instead of skirts. Miss Eleanor Sears, of Boston, who is reported engaged to Mr. Howard Vanderbilt, was the first one to appear in them, and the fashion, was quickly taken up by Miss Jennie Clocker and Miss Helen Cheseborough and other New York society girls. Miss Sears wears a long coat over the breeches, so long that it looks like a skirt, but Miss Cheseborough wears the breeches, out very wide, and a shirt waist when she rides.

He Sent it Tomorrow Today.

Sioux City News: "I have a draft here that I want to send tomorrow today," said County Superintendent T. B. Morris, stepping into the office of County Treasurer O. B. Talley this morning. "Will it be all right to send it today tomorrow?" "If you send it today you can't send it tomorrow," answered Tally. "Oh, I'll send it tomorrow, all right, whether I send it today or not," said Morris. "Even if I sent it today I would send it tomorrow. I was going to send it tomorrow yesterday, but I was told I might as well today. I surely will send it tomorrow whether I send it today or tomorrow. I would have sent it tomorrow even if I had sent it yesterday." "Well," said Talley, "if you send it today I don't see how you can send it tomorrow. I wish you would explain." Morris' explanation was simple. He wished to send the draft to W. W. Morrow, state treasurer, at Des Moines. It was the monthly draft for the state's share of the fees that come into the superintendent's office.

Wealth for Old Age.

Cherokee Republican: If an old age pension is wanted a few acres of Iowa land will secure it. Not a quarter section, not eighty acres, not even forty acres are indispensible. The man who owns twenty, or fifteen, or ten acres, or even less, of good Iowa land need not in his old age lack either bread or comfort.

The day is coming—and it is coming more swiftly than most people today realize—when the man who owns only a few acres of Iowa land will be deemed, and will verily be, fortunate.

The Passing of a Soul.

[Tribute to the late Rev. John H. Wilson, D. D., former pastor of the old Bethlehem Congregational church of Davenport.]

The sun has set and the night winds weep,
And the clouds, with storms, are riven,
But up in the heights there is joy asweep
When the roll is called in Heaven.
Step softly now, as we kneel to pray,
A soul, in its grandeur, passed today.

He fought for truth with his flag unfurled,
A tower of strength in a sinful world.
A stalwart faith and a hope was given,
As we, thro' his life, are nearer Heaven.
We see him now as in grace he stands,
We feel the touch of his out-stretched hands,
As he bids his loved ones ne'er to weep,
For death, to him, is naught but sleep.
The faltering souls he has taught to pray,
The tears of the grieved he has wiped away,
All rise for him, as gems in his crown,
Where the acts of each are written down.
Tho' his step be stayed and his eye be dim,
His works and his deeds do follow him.

The sun has set and the night winds weep,
And the clouds, with storms, are riven,
But up the heights there is joy asweep
When the roll is called in Heaven
Step softly now, as we kneel to pray
A soul, in its grandeur, passed today
—Lilly M. Bradford.

To Dog Lovers.

Buy a pup and your money will buy
Love unflinching that cannot lie—
Perfect passion and worship fed
By a kick in the ribs or a pat on the head.
Nevertheless, it is hardly fair
To risk your heart for a dog to tear.

When the fourteen years which nature permits
Are closing in asthma, or tumor, or fits,
And the "vet's" unspoken prescription runs
To Lethal chambers or loaded guns,
Then you will find—it's your own affair,
But—you've given your heart for a dog to tear.
—Rudyard Kipling.

Forcing Prohibition.

Iowa City Republican: A radical sermon by a Methodist minister in Des Moines, led the congregation to adopt a resolution declaring they would vote for no man for the legislature who would not pledge himself to vote to submit a prohibitory amendment. Such action will scare nobody, but it will have the effect to arouse those who are not in sympathy with prohibition, especially in the constitution. The trouble with such people is they consider some great moral question involved in a method of dealing with an evil. This is a false proposition. The morality, the right and wrong, is in the supposed evil, not in the form of so far suppressing it as possible. A large proportion of the people of Iowa do not agree that the evil per se is in the use of liquor, but in its abuse. They are not ready to have what they consider a fundamental right taken from them. Others who think there is evil in the liquor traffic, as well as in drinking habits, do not care much about the question of personal rights, but they recognize a division of sentiment and are in favor of such laws and regulations as can be enforced. But both are opposed to statewide prohibition, and especially constitutional action. Others who would favor a statutory prohibition for the entire state, do not think it wise to force an issue that will sever party organizations, bring in acrimony and when all is over have nothing to show for it. Iowa tried that once and the people got very tired of it.

These radicals do not seem to understand that any game can be played by others. If they attempt to defeat candidates who will not pledge themselves to vote as his particular congregation wants, then others will vote against every candidate friendly to them. This would result in a defeat for prohibition, without any doubt, for the prohibition sentiment is largely confined to the strong Republican sections while the close counties would result in Democrats being elected so as to probably hold the key to the situation.

The Republican hopes this issue will be fought out at the polls next fall. There will be no United States senator to elect and we might as well face the issue now when no important question is to be considered.

The Republican is against constitutional prohibition, although it is in favor of retaining laws which will give counties and cities the right to have prohibition if they want it. And it is in favor of the enforcement of such laws. The Republican has no doubt than an anti-prohibition legislature would be chosen and then we would get rid of a lot of foolish laws which now disgrace the statute books of the state. The mulct law would [illegible] ties the majority would rule, and it would be amended so that the voters could vote upon the question without being boycotted by both sides, as they invariably are when they sign or refuse to sign mulct petitions.

It happens that Governor Carroll is a member of the congregation which adopted the foolish resolution, although he was not present when the action was taken. It is well known that the radicals were much put out last winter because the governor would not help them, but he took the position that it was an issue for the legislature to settle. There is room for a suspicion that this action was taken to embarrass the governor. If they want him defeated by a Democrat next fall, they are taking the right course to insure that end.

Christmas Cheer.

Kansas City Journal: Undoubtedly the happiest thing about the Christmas season is the joy of preparation for the time of revealing gifts. This is the true time of Christmas "cheer," and those who are unable to enter enthusiastically into the spirit of this occasion have lived in vain. It is an accepted truism that those who do not live largely for others do not really live at all. The joy that a person is able to spread throughout his family and acquaintances by surrendering himself to the merry Christmas contagion is one of the rich rewards of living. The narrow, crabbed soul of the misanthrope which refuses to respond to the call of this happy season is unworthy human companionship and love.

There are many persons who sourly contend that Christmas is a "nuisance;" that it brings only sorrow and disappointment and that Santa Claus should be eliminated as an undesirable citizen. Such persons are unhappy by temperament and selfish by disposition. If they would try to be happy by making others happy they would soon learn the deeper meaning of Christmas. Thousands of homes in this city are all a-flutter with mysterious secrets, clandestine councils, hushed whisperings, and eager, knowing faces. What wonderful things do these various domestic conspiracies mean? How bright eyes shine in anticipation of the "surprises" that are to come later. How the shouts and laughter illumine the homes of the rich and the poor where the Christmas "cheer" is rightly interpreted.

And there are homes where selfishness rules and where the Christmas spirit is chilled. Here are the sad faces of children who never know the delights of the occasion. Here fathers and mothers sit in silence and Santa Claus is only a myth. How easy it is to invite the Christmas "Cheer." A little laughter, a little encouragement to the confidences of children, a little decoration, a little human sympathy will open the doors of childhood to the glories of life. No man or woman need feel a loss of dignity by yielding to the infection of the days and nights before Christmas. What right has anyone to stand aloof and say there is no Santa Claus? We all know that there is a Santa Claus and that he appears mysteriously from the Never Never Land and in the deep watches of the night weaves beautiful dreams that come true. He abides in the hearts of children just as truth, love and hope abide in the hearts of good men and women and make life worth living.

What Fraternity Means.

Cedar Rapids Gazette: Away across the old ocean, in a quiet village in bonnie Scotland, helpless as a mere babe as the result of paralysis and tenderly cared for by a brother and sister who are both older in years, a man once well known in Cedar Rapids will one day next week open an envelope that contains a draft for $50 in Uncle Sam's yellowest gold. The once bra' Scot to whose order the draft is made payable was for many years a member of one of the leading lodges of this city. A few years ago he went back to Scotland to make his home with his brother and sister, both of whom are unmarried. Within a few months he was striken down. The brother and sister, like many in the old countries, had no property and scant income. They lived in an extremely modest cottage and the affliction that struck down the brother so recently returned from far away America was the heaviest blow that could have befallen them. But mere mention of the misfortune in a letter to a friend of the brother in Cedar Rapids brought a substantial draft, appropriated out of the treasury of the lodge to which both belonged. At regular intervals since that time drafts for liberal amounts have found their way to that little cottage; and only a few days ago one of the brothers moved that the lodge appropriate another $25 as a sort of Christmas present. There wasn't a dissenting vote, and the members seemed so well pleased at the thought of sending their unfortunate brother assistance that the mover of the motion suggested a collection. Twenty-five dollars more was thrown into a hat within the next two or three minutes. That $50 will mean more to those three old Scotch people than $500 would mean to the average American family. It was only a mite out of the lodge treasury and none of the brethren ever missed a penny out of his purse.

Nor is this the last gift, if necessity requires. Surely this is true fraternalism exemplified; and the question is: Would any church have done as much?

Not Finding Fault.

Monticello Express: The farmer is not just now one of those who finds [illegible]

California

Has the romance of old Spanish days. The missions add to its charm. There every month is June. On the way are quaint Indian pueblos and the rainbow-hued

Grand Canyon
of Arizona

with a Fred Harvey hotel, El Tovar, on the rim.

A Pullman to the Canyon on

The California Limited

Only Southern California train, via any line, exclusively for first-class travel. All others carry tourist sleepers and second-class passengers.

Runs daily between Chicago-Kansas City and Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco.

Fred Harvey dining cars.

Let me give you our de luxe booklets about the train and trip.

AGENT
SANTA FE
FORT MADISON, IA.

Santa Fe
ALL THE WAY

Your Earnings Go

into a bank whether you put them there or not. If you spend all your earnings someone else deposits them. It's better to do your own depositing in an interest account in

The Keokuk Savings Bank

A Savings Pass Book Presented on Christmas Day

to your son or daughter will serve two purposes:
It is very acceptable as a gift.
It will instill in their minds habits of thrift and saving.
You are invited to call that we may explain the details more fully.

The State Central Savings Bank

CAPITAL $100,000.00. SURPLUS $200,000.00
William Logan, President. C. J. Bode, Cashier.
Geo. E. Rix, Vice President. H. T. Graham, Ass't Cashier.
J. F. Kiedaisch, Sr., Vice Pres. H. Boyden Blood, Ass't Cashier.

Absolute Security of Deposits is Guaranteed

Keokuk National Bank

AFFORDS EVERY FACILITY FOR DOING YOUR BANKING BUSINESS THAT ANY BANK CAN.

Des Moines River Navigable.

Boone News-Republican: The engineers have made their survey of the Des Moines river and have reported it navigable up as far as Des Moines. It is a lucky thing that they made their survey in 1909, for a part of the time this year it would have been navigable for small ocean steamers.

Citizens of Iowa will be somewhat skeptical regarding the navigability of the Des Moines river. Pioneers have seen many summers when the water was so shallow that to run a flat bottom stern wheel boat would have required a lock every half mile. Not infrequently the river has been too shallow for a row boat containing two grown men. The state of Iowa once gave away $1,000,000 to make the Des Moines river navigable. It will take about $200,000,000 more to complete the job. The report is a good one, however, for Capt. J. A. T. Hull, who has been assiduous in making the Des Moines river navigable for many years. He has now succeeded in getting a favorable report through the government. It may be that this plan is feasible, but let us wait and we shall see what we shall see. If the whole deep waterway proposition goes through, Iowa ought to come in for a share of it. The fabulous expense connected with the improvement would stagger any government outside of the United States, but everything is possible with the Almighty and it may be that some morning we shall wake up and hear the salute of a battleship or the siren whistle of an ocean steamer calling the bridge-tender to open the draw of the new incline bridge.

Sadness of the Too Soon.

Vain are the politician's arts
To rescue from a cruel fate
The presidential boom that starts
Some years too far ahead of date.

"Ret" Clarkson.

Coon Rapids Enterprise: Ambition in the Ret Clarkson case surely was a "glorious cheat." He was lured by politics from a good newspaper business in Des Moines to the east, where it seems he has ever since but little more than made a living. And now, at sixty-eight when most men feel the need of retiring, he is looking for a job. But even a smart man, as in Ret's case, is not always able to measure accurately his capabilities nor judge reliably what the future may have in store for him. Some fortunately get into the swim and win success in high degree to the end, while others lose out just at a time when the future promised much. Politics is not merely "a great game," but it is a very uncertain game. Very ambitious men will, however, take a chance at it. A good farm or a good business for certain results, beats a public life two to one, and some to spare.

Remedy for High Cost of Food.

Burlington Saturday Evening Post: There is no doubt however of the fact that the public is paying more than it can afford to pay for its food supplies. It is also clear to the minds of thinking men that there is only one remedy that is worth anything and that is a return of the struggling poor now in the cities back to the cultivation of the land. Every city in the United States has three or four times the population it ought to have. This great horde of workers lives a life of frantic struggle in the vain effort to appear decently and to have adequate clothes, food and shelter—and never quite achieving the objective. As tillers of the soil they could live independently and have some leisure for culture.

Sometimes.

Sioux City Journal: Sometimes the material interests of a community can best be promoted without the leadership of a brass band.