

IMPROVEMENT IN LEE COURT HOUSE

Electric Lights and New Paint and Paper Helps the Looks of the Old Building.

NEED HAS BEEN GREAT

New Lights Have Been in Demand for Some Time—Offices Are Looking Better.

The Lee county court house has been considerably improved during the past six weeks and even if a new building is not possible for the present, at least, the old one has been made more modern and a little more presentable in appearance.

The first improvement was the installation of electric drop lights in the vault in the office of the clerk of the district court. This vault was a breeder for fires, because attorneys were forced to rummage through boxes of documents and old papers with one hand while they held flaring matches in the other.

Following this innovation in one of the supervisors decided to change the lights in the building from gas to electric. On wiring was installed in the first and second corridors, and in the offices on either side, a light was installed in the recorder's vault, and lights were placed in the court room and in the judges' chamber, and the jury rooms.

Conduit work was installed in the county jail and that part of the building is now all electrically lighted.

Following this improvement, Clerk Curtis M. Hart made some changes in the arrangement of his office, had some shelves put in, and the facilities for keeping blanks for various uses enlarged. It was then decided by the board to paint and decorate such offices as needed it and wanted it.

The clerk's office was painted, the desks varnished and the walls given a new coat of wall paper. The recorder's office was likewise treated. The metal ceiling was painted a lighter color, and the walls have been papered in a light paper. Yesterday the decorators finished decorating the corridor and work was started in the treasurer's office and in the office of the coroner and the deputy auditor.

CUPID GETTING BUSY AS MONTH IS ENDING

Five Licenses Were Issued From County Clerk's Office Yesterday and Friday.

Cupid's business showed distinct signs of picking up as the month comes to a close, judging from the number of marriage licenses which were issued in the last two days. Five licenses were issued yesterday and Friday evening.

Licenses were issued to: Orville O. Stive, 25, and Dollie Deere, 25, Keokuk; J. C. Frightmaster, 25, and Susie Foster, 20, Keokuk; Theodore A. Workman, 20, and Anna W. Vance, 18, Keosauqua; Fred B. Schlotter and Wilhelmina S. Immegart, Keokuk; John Turner and Mrs. Emma Egan, Hamilton.

Tonight, if you feel dull and stupid, or bilious and constipated, take a dose of Chamberlain's Tablets and you will feel all right tomorrow. For sale by all dealers.—Advertisement.

PERSONALS.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Furlong spent Thanksgiving day with friends at Canton, Mo.

Miss Grace Hall left last evening for Rockford, Ill., where she is attending college, after a visit with her sister Mrs. Fred Weismann.

William Lowitz has returned from a business trip to Des Moines.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. William Halseh, Wednesday, Nov. 26. Dr. and Mrs. G. J. Hall have returned from Rockford and Quincy, Ill.

Kretzinger, the School Teacher

Delightful Reminiscences of Professor Jamieson's Assistant in the Keokuk Classical School.

To the Editor of The Gate City:

No doubt it has been recalled by the local press that George W. Kretzinger, the great lawyer, who died at Chicago, November 17, began his career at Keokuk; and, possibly, that his first work there was teaching school, as a means of paying his way while he fitted himself to be called to the bar. However, the lawyer, mainly, is remembered throughout the country by men who knew him, and the school teacher forgotten. It is my belief that in Keokuk his most intimate and devoted friends, and the men who loved him best, and who will revere his memory more, are the survivors of the school in which he taught. For coming to him for recitation, hourly, many of them sitting in his presence throughout the day, were seventy-five boys, more or less, many of them still living in Keokuk, who by his gentle patience, sympathy and helpfulness, added to his rare ability to impart knowledge, came to love him as youth only can love its ideals, and they will cherish his memory until they, too, cross the Great Divide, as many of their schoolmates have already done. School is a glorious period for any wholesome boy or girl, and its memories fasten more tenaciously than any other of a lifetime. So, when George Kretzinger died there were revived among his former pupils memories which came unbidden. If I may have the space in your columns, I will recall George W. Kretzinger, the young school teacher.

He came to Keokuk to be the assistant of Prof. W. W. Jamieson in conducting the Keokuk Classical School. This was a school for boys. At the time of George Kretzinger's advent, it was conducted in a two-storied frame house, built especially for it on the north end of the lot, where now the Westminster Presbyterian church stands. The ground was leased, and years afterward, when the congregation wanted to build its new edifice, the school house was moved by Professor Jamieson to ground opposite the old Central School, since torn down to make room for the present splendid High School, and occupied by him as a residence. This was after my time, however.

Professor Jamieson taught classes on the second floor, and Kretzinger on the floor below. It was a pay school, the tuition a dollar per week, and to make a fair income above expenses for Professor Jamieson, many boys necessarily had to be on the roster. I recall that some of the boys were Will Collier, James Hagerman, John French, Frank Allyn, Chris Williams, Jesse Howell, Phil Brownell, Johnny Floyd, Lloyd Lomax, Ed Carter, Charley Hines, Carl Lowe, "Buff" Smythe, Ed Ford, Joe Hughes, Harry Reid, Henry Kilbourne, Grover Hillis, Frank Sanford, Will Carter, Joe Creel, Dick Gordon, Will Marshall, Wells Irwin, Albert Zwart, Louis Ford, Lane Howell, Frank Hagerman, Louis Hosmer, Pete Lowe, Walter Hubbell, Andy McMicken, Dan Miller, Moyné Lowe, Johnny Godman, "Ticky" TenEyck, George Rix, Henry Chittenden, C. K. Pittman, Tom Ayres, Sam Westcott, Will Jamieson, Will Rankin, Nick Curtiss, Ralph Lowe, Charley Fitch, Sam Ayres, Jim Turner and "Vandy" Vandegrift.

It was a famous school for boys in southern Iowa; its only strong rival Howe's School at Mount Pleasant. The public schools were not systematized and perfect as now, and parents, who could afford it and designed their sons for college, sent them to pay schools. Professor Jamieson was the most capable, conscientious and painstaking teacher I ever have known. He had a few impossibles who never got anywhere, but to all others, by patience and rigid discipline, he gave a clear bill, and if afterwards they went to college, their course was easy. Professor Jamieson taught Latin and Greek, and shared with his assistant in hearing the other classes. And it was a rare team; it had to be; for that was the sort of a school it was, and young Kretzinger was equal to it.

Our young instructor was a man beyond his years. Before he was nineteen he had served in the Civil War, an experience which made so many great men on both sides of the conflict; men who afterwards guided the destiny of the nation. Added to this, he was scholarly, finishing in a university after the war. So when Kretzinger was Professor Jamieson's assistant the Keokuk Classical School was the best in all its history. The boys learned all contained in the text books; not a word in Webster's old blue book, not a theorem of geometry, not a rule of English, Latin or Greek grammar escaped. My, how proud "Jamieson's boys" were of their teachers! How they loved them! And this love has traveled around the world,

cherished in all countries; for the "boys" in life's work have wandered everywhere.

As "Jamieson's boys" mourned when the devoted and kindly headmaster died, so they mourn the passing of his brilliant and lovable assistant of the period I have in mind. Many years younger than the headmaster, Kretzinger was a boy with the boys; occasionally taking part in their sports, sympathetic and helpful in their youthful ambitions, patient with the backward and timid. He was an absolute disciplinarian, but always charitable, and ever courteous. So recently a boy himself, he knew boys, and if they lagged, or if their "think" was slow, he found the way out. For example, one sultry afternoon in June, immediately after the bell had summoned the boys to their classes, the algebra lesson came hard; not a boy could come through. Kretzinger knew the difficulty. "Boys, let's go out and pitch a few rounds of horseshoes," he said. No sooner said than done! The teacher leading the way through the low open windows, into the church lot they sprang, and, after a brief play with the horseshoes, their minds cleared, and returning to the class bench the lesson was finished in triumph.

He read law, if I recollect, in the office of H. Scott Howell, and to advance this study, he came to teach school in Keokuk. For he needed the wherewith of a livelihood, while he was fitting himself for his great career at the bar in after life. Although devoted to his school duties, Kretzinger turned his mind to the law whenever he found a moment's time from his day's work. His law books were for nights and holidays, but there were times in the school days when his mind might revert to the subject. On occasions he used to "talk it over" with James Hagerman, who also was a law student; the other boys jury, litigants, witnesses, bailiffs, and spectators. "Court" was held in the alley between Odd Fellow's hall and Humble's foundry; or across Seventh street on the steps of the "pork house." The "pork house" was the auditorium of the Presbyterian church, now the church annex, and the epithet had been bestowed upon it by a local wit because so many pork packers were members of the congregation. Humble's foundry afterward was torn down to make room for the federal postoffice and court house. Sessions of "court" were held before school "took up," mornings and afternoons, and it was great fun to witness the two young sprigs set up imaginary cases and fight them out; especially to hear Kretzinger's "remarks" which were unceasing. One day, they gave the boys a touch of "criminal jurisprudence;" trying a popular and humorous auctioneer, whom they arrested passing by, for being a "self-made man." This was so irresistibly funny that the laughing lasted after "court" adjourned. Even quills might not have saved the algebra lesson that afternoon.

Through it all, no boy had the temerity, even the temptation, to trespass upon the young teacher's dignity; that he always maintained. He was earnest, able, even aggressive, in everything he did, but never offensive; and as he was in youth so he grew into manhood. An eminent Chicago lawyer, a judge of long experience on the bench, a life-long friend, said of that side of his character to a newspaper reporter the day he died:

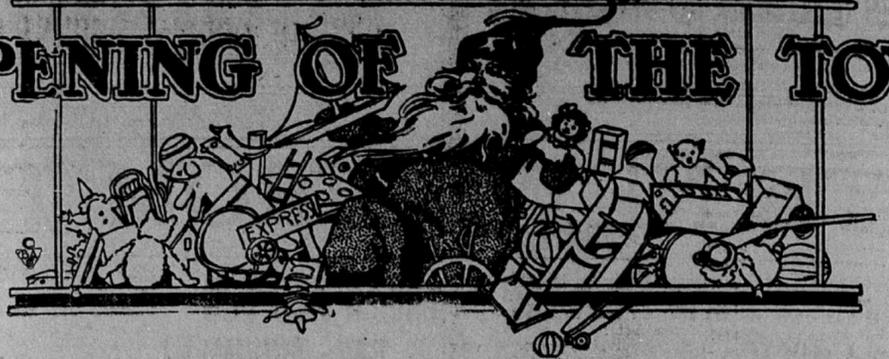
"He was a man of strong character, a good lawyer, and a loyal friend. In court he was resourceful, logical and persuasive. He had clear convictions upon all ethical questions, and lived up to them. He was honest with the court. His attitude toward it and his adversaries was kindly. I have never known him to lose his courteous bearing."

Surely he was a great lawyer, and tributes of his worth have been paid widely in the country. However, in Keokuk it is Kretzinger the school teacher, who is remembered by the greater number of contemporaries of the period I am recalling.

And it was a period of his life which he delighted to recall more than any other. One night toward the close of the great presidential campaign of 1896, he caught me in Kansas City, and for hours we walked the streets while he talked of Keokuk and "Jamieson's boys." In Chicago, I often used to meet him in the Dearborn station at noonday luncheon, and Keokuk and old friends there always were his theme. One night in February, 1911, I fell in with him on a storm-delayed train in Kansas. Again it was Keokuk, while friends (strangers to the subject) listened with interested attention. On this occasion he referred with pride to a reception given to him by H. Scott Howell, when he happened to return to the old town after a long absence to make an argument in the federal court. This was a company of old friends, and it was the school teacher, more than the lawyer, who was the honored guest.

Youth, youth! always youth! He turned back to it whenever he met a comrade of the past. He achieved many triumphs at the bar, becoming a leader of the profession, but in contemplating his career he found the greater pleasure in the school room

OPENING OF THE TOYS



THE announcement of our opening of toyland a few days ago was received with great joy by the youngsters and much favor by the parents. Much surprise was manifested when the magnificent showing of everything in toys were viewed by the thousands of visitors. The variety is so great and prices so low many are taking advantage of our early showing and are buying liberally. OLD SANTA has been the most liberal patron of all, and every little boy and girl in all the land can expect to be remembered by him.

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at Seventh and Blondeau. He kept alive his youth. Borrowing here an apostrophe uttered by a distinguished senator of the United States, now deceased: "O Youth! It is glorious to be young! The snows of fifty-seven winters have whitened my hair, but the fires of youth burn eternal on the altar of my soul!"
F. L. VANDEGRIFF.
Kansas City, Mo., November 24, 1913.

Cause of Insomnia.
The most common cause of insomnia is disorders of the stomach and constipation. Chamberlain's Tablets correct these disorders and enable you to sleep. For sale by all dealers.—Advertisement.

LIMITS OF CITY TO BE EXTENDED

(Continued from page 1.)

other which will carry traffic of all kinds. In the beautification of Paris, the Rue de Rennes is to be cut through to the river, making a heavier bridge necessary, the bridges above and below being already heavily charged with traffic. The Pont des Arts was the last of the Paris bridges to keep up the custom of paying, a sou being the charge for traversing the river at this point.

Prof. Maurice Letulle, member of the French Academy of Medicine, has

just made public an important study on the production and consumption of alcohol in France, declaring there to be no less than 5,838,000 chronic drinkers (alcooliques) in this country alone, or about one person in seven. He says there are 1,430,000,000 gallons of wine produced annually in France and her colonies; nearly 8,000,000 gallons of 100 percent alcohol made from beets; 9,790,000 gallons of pure alcohol from wines, olives, pears etc., and 38,000,000 gallons of "industrial alcohol" from molasses and grains. France, he says, exports only about \$9,000,000 worth of these products yearly, therefore, counting in the taxes, wines, liquors and so on, consumed in France, must amount to

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around \$280,000,000 worth a year. Concluding, Dr. Letulle stated that the production and consumption of alcohol both were on the increase in France and asked what could be done to stop it. He thinks it can be done to a vast extent industrially, thus substituting alcohol as a force for alcohol as a food.

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