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It has been said that politics make strange bed fellows. It was rather amusing and attracted considerable attention to see that eminent divine and theologian, Right Reverend Henry McCraven almost embracing Gen. Drake, candidate for governor, at the latter's headquarters on the eve of the convention. Oh, for a kodak.

The colored folk of Glen Allen, Va., were convinced by a wonderful dispensation of Providence, that occurred last Sunday, that it pays to attend church. The church is close to the railroad track, and just as the congregation was coming from service a train load of watermelons came along, struck a loose rail, jumped the track, and spilled two or three carloads of juicy mellons right in the path of the worshippers. More than enough of the fruit was broken to afford a fine feast without hurting the conscience of the feasters, if conscience is really concerned in a case involving watermelons.

There are a few people who labor under the mistaken notion that all they have to do to crush the truths uttered by a paper is stop the subscription. This paper has expressed its opinions in a fearless manner and will continue to do so. A newspaper is not published to cover up and hide the wrong doings of men and women, and when such matters become public property and matters of news, rest assured an opinion will be boldly expressed. This paper is not run in the interest of the young and strong who maltreat the old and weak, but honorable men and women. Nothing of this kind need be expected from this paper. For every subscriber who stops the paper for speaking the truth there are ten new subscribers coming to support. If the Negro press of the country would devote more attention social and moral honesty it would be doing a great work. A wrong-doer dislikes exposure. Negroes have been known to take a white man's paper for the same reason that they stop a Negro journal.

Fashions in Mourning.

Of late years English mourning, which is by the best dressmakers conceded to be in the best taste, is heavier than before, but is worn a shorter time. A widow will wear her crape, Henrietta cloth, bombazine, and widow's cap for a year. After that time she will assume all black without crape, and discard even this at the end of another year, putting on whatever colors she may fancy. A daughter wears what is known as "crape mourning" for six months, all black for six more, and then if she wishes puts on colors. The same rule applies to a sister, while "complimentary mourning," which is simply all black assumed for a distant relative or a dear friend, is in order for three months.—Ladies' Home Journal.

Heedless Drivers.

A middle-aged lady, nicely dressed, who refused to give her name, was knocked down on the corner of Fifth avenue and Fourteenth street, yesterday, just before noon, by the wheels of a passing wagon, says New York Recorder. This fact illustrates the danger to pedestrians from heedless drivers. The police of New York, it might appear to a casual observer, are omnipresent, but yet it is impossible for one officer to [illegible] on both sides of a street at once, and the majority of drivers in the city will slacken for nothing but brass buttons.

CONVENTION GEMS.

A Beautiful Poem by the Afro-American Poet Laureate, Miss Virgie Whitsett, of Newton, Iowa.

An Eloquent Appeal, a Concise and Useful Statement of Facts and Valuable Suggestions by Jno. Thompson.

Friends, fellow citizens and members of the Afro-American Protective Association.

We are met here to exchange thought and congratulations on this our nation's anniversary. A day singular in the history of civilization. A day of reason. A day of the clear light which makes us a little better than a flock of birds or beast. A day which gives the immense fortification of a fact, a fact which was not put into operation until after Jan 1, 1863.

This day, eighty years ago, sealed the fate of Napoleon's military career and the fifth coalition was formed under the command of Wellington won immortal glory. On the 4th of July, 1863, the glad news heralded all over this Union that Gen. Pemberton had surrendered his entire army to Gen. Grant at Vicksburg, and Gen. Lee was defeated at Gettysburg. Again on our nation's birthday, 1826, the sad news came that John Adams and Thomas Jefferson had died. Both had been presidents of the United States, both vice-presidents; both members of the continental congress; both signers of the Declaration of Independence.

A few years later on our birthday was solemnized the death of James Monroe, also president of the United States. Therefore we can appropriatly call this our natal day; a day for memory, for tears, for joy.

We have met here in this beautiful city of Des Moines, the pride of the Hawkeye where all business has been suspended for at least one day and the people meet to pay homage to the immortal heroes of the revolution, and recount their valorous deeds, heroic bravery and the unspeakable hardships they endured. We, too, should recount the valorous deeds and wonderful exploits done by the American Negro though in servitude. The battle of Bunker Hill where human gore drenched our land, Peter Salem's heroic bravery stands as a shining monument for our race. The first blood spilt by an American citizen upon the altar as a sacrifice to appeas the British wrath and cement our Union, was from the veins of a runaway slave, Chrispus Attux. Fifty thousand of the American bondman [illegible] and life of the continental army and won undying glory for their loyalty to principle. Time will not permit me to pay a loving tribute to our revolutionary heroes.

We, the members of the Afro-American Protective association of peerless Iowa, the brightest star in the galaxy of the Union, with 42,000,000 acres of the best land the sun ever shown on, with 20,000 square miles of rich fields from which comes diamonds. No richer fields than this even in the pampos of Africa or the mountains of India; with her 10,000 miles of railway reaching in every town and township with her 14,000 colored population; with her lowest per cent of illiteracy, probably in the known world. Only one per cent of her people unable to write. While we have come from different cities, towns and localities; each perhaps having a different class of people to deal with and by combining their ideas and plans together we may derive at a general solution of plan which will enable us to succeed much better and faster, for we all want to succeed at whatever may be our calling. Success is the great aim of all civilized beings. The key to success is industry, energy, honesty and economy. It is true that in our commonwealth as in all others that odds and laws are against our equal and free enjoyment as other races, but here where the laws are the most favorable to our equal chance, let us improve them, prove ourselves equal to any opportunities that others are. Get education, get wealthy and prove ourselves worthy while in small things and positions and the higher ones will eventually be forced to open to us. Act well our part and merit those higher ones without a doubt. No race, nation, or individual have ever ascended from the lowest to the highest round of the ladder without coming up degree by degree; round by round. So let us ascend round by round of the great ladder until we reach the topmost round. "As ye have been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things," as a biblical axiom.

We must not expect too much offered us by the other race, for they have too many of their own young men and women who are too anxious to get those positions. Let us prove our superior qualifications. We do not ask social equality, but simply business and public equality. Open your stores, factories, shops, offices and business enterprises free for he or she who have the necessary qualifications or merit it and let not the person or color get those positions. It is true, my Caucasian brother, that you own nearly all of the wealth and factories in the country, but how did some of you get it? You stole the labor of our forefathers for more than 243 years, paying them nothing but a little piece of bacon and lots of hell. They filled your coffers, enriched your land, beautified your home, made the south land bloom and blossom like the summer rose. They built your temples, cities, railroads, opened your mines, leveled your forests, tilled your land. In fact they have been the true laborers of the south, and yet you won't give them an equal chance and justice in the dispensation of your laws. Shame! O, piteous spectacle! I can only say in the language of the poet, "Hope still, and thou shall see thy Savior who is thy God."

Young men and women, you on whom the future depends, let me advise, or rather not advise, for I am not old enough to advise, for I rather receive advice, but suggest to you to get wealth, real estate, property, farms, stores, shops, factories, and become a fixed financial Gibaraltar wherever we may be. We as a race are too much absorbed by politics. Why people from the most fecund blood of Europe are passing by our doors in platoons of 10,000 deep going to the fertile lands of the west to build them homes. They are creating the New Jerusalem, but the New Jerusalem never comes for the Negro. We loiter around in the large cities, living on the offals of the wealthy and wait until some large city springs up in the midst and the trains are loaded with the commerce of the new land, then we go out there with the broom and white jacket, when we should have gone with the hoe and plow. This is the age of material progress. The engineer has surplanted the scholar; the mathematician no longer puzzles his brain over the problems of Euclid, but is wrestling to get a corner or option on change. The Greek grammarian has been displaced by machinist. Steam engines, big forms, railroads, steam cars, electric cars, cable cars and telegraphs are the text books of to-day, and if we do not study and understand, get hold and control, we are bound to be left in the vigor of life, "bound in shallows and miseries." Let us put our money together as we do our votes and see if the results don't bring us more houses, lands and offices for the enjoyment of our race. Financial unity is the strongest bonds that will bring social and business harmony. Our oath bound organizations may be a strong tie, but an organization bound together by dollars, weighed together by business, girded together by houses is the strongest tie for Americans.

I will speak a few minutes of our race progress notwithstanding those disadvantages against us, then I shall mention the so-called race problem. No race has made such rapid advancement in so short a time amid much discouragement and under such great disadvantages as has the colored race of America within 30 years.

It took fendal Europe 500 years to change to a semi-civilization. The Chinese have plodded along their narrow way for over 2,000 years. Within 400 years Rome was hardly known out side of our own provinces.

Our race within only 30 years, by their thrift industry and energy has commanded the respect of the civilized world. We have 379 colleges, universities, academies and higher schools of learning, with 1,775 teachers, of which 646 are colored; 52,443 students enrolled; 23,866 colored teachers in our common public schools with 1,460,447 children attending. We raised $150,000,000 worth of cereals every year. Nearly 3,000,000 pounds of cotton. We have 206 journals, 4 magazines and a few daily newspapers, printed by colored people; 250 black lawyers have a practice ranging from $8,000 to $20,000 per year—so says a prominent southern white newspaper. The wealth of the colored people in Iowa is estimated at over $2,000,000; Alabama $9,000,000; New York, $17,000,000; Texas $18,000,000; Louisana, $18,500,000. The grand aggregate total [illegible] by colored people is estimated at [illegible].

Go with me into the black belt of Alabama where once the slave pen and whipping post made music. There we see the famous Tuskegee Normal college, located with he 514 students with that bright, polished and eloquent Brooker T. Washington, as principal. Then view Fisk and Central Universities, right in the heart of Tennessee's capitol. Those institutions stand as collossal intellectual monuments for Negro advancement. Then view with an astonished eye the private residences of our race. Great hero on Ancosta heights, the lot comprises twenty acres with a three-story brick of twenty-one rooms. I speak of Hon. Fredreck Douglas' home, recently deceased, that great and distinguished American that pre-eminent apostle of liberty that stood in the arena of debate for over forty years vanquishing his enemies and encouraging his friends by his eloquence. Considering all things he towered above all other Americans and registered his name under the vaulted skies of approving heaven as one of the very few great men. Self emancipated, self educated and marched from a poor unlettered slave boy, to an editor, orator, statesman and diplomat. What a wonderful striking object lesson of marvelous human possibilities for the young to-day.

Fellow citizens, there is no race problem, nor has there been. There is simply race prejudice, caused by our once inferiority, condition and color. In vain I have searched ancient and modern, sacred and profane history for similar existence of prejudice as is here, but no place on the civilized globe has this galling of race prejudice existed. Here he is subject to many social inequalities, snubbed and spat upon, mobbed and mocked, put like a servant outside the gates of American society; and yet never for a moment has he deserted this Union; and yet you have failed to give him equal justice in the dispensation of the laws.

QUESTIONS NOW PENDING.

Fellow citizens, I ask for justice for my race. I am not pleading for his social equality. I do ask that he be freed from his present oppression, which, in many places, virtually enslaves him. I do not argue for his political rights as an American citizen, nor for the protection of his ballot or cabin. I do not ask that the recent laws discriminating against him on account of color be repealed, which you all know are wrong, grievously wrong. I only ask justice for him as a man; that when accused he be given a fair trial by his fellows, and that if innocent he be protected by the strong arm of the law. I plead for justice to him as a human being; that he be not shot or hung, butchered or burned without trial.

Lynching is a crime. It is a crime against the accused, against society, against the government, against God. It is a greater crime than one criminal can commit; it substitutes mob violence for legal process; it brings race prejudice instead of evidence; it demands an execution without defense; it demoralizes in the name of honor; it murders in the name of justice; it annihilates the freedom of the individual and endangers the perpetuity of the republic. It is an act lowering civilization, acknowledging the inefficiency of the government, inaugurating the rule of anarchy and abrogating the majesty of the law. It tramples under foot the dignity of the law, which forms the corner stone of our liberties, which protects the innocent and the friendless, which cares for the widow and orphan, which establishes nations and directs them in their courses, which dominates continents and pervades the islands of the sea, which exalts civilization and is the glory of our manhood from which no monarch is exempt.

THE PROGRESS OF LIBERTY.

Our liberties have been too costly won to allow them to be endangered by trifling public sentiment. It has been a long march up the centuries. Away back yonder we see the white race held as surfs: bound to the soil little by little. They won their liberties. The great struggle for the "Magna Charter" won for the Saxon his freedom. The war of the reformation gave him free thought and a free conscience, and a free spirit was born out of the hardships of the Plymouth rock. A free country was bequeathed to us by our heroes of '76. A free commerce was won in the war of 1812. In the 60's dark clouds of war piled their threatening fold around the southern horizon, and for four long years they gleamed with deadly fire, pouring their gory torrents upon a dissevered Union, but while the tempest roared and the bonds of Union seemed to be giving away, one man alone towered sublime above the sea of blood like the last mountain in the deluge, not less in his elevation, than his solitude, inimatable amid change, magnificent amid ruin.

Abraham Lincoln was the last remnant of earth's beauty, the last resting place of heaven's delight. Like Elijah of old, from his chariots of fire, dropping the holy mantle of liberty upon the sable shoulders of the African. He pierced the awful clouds that veiled Jehovah's throne and placed at his feet the shackels of 4,000,000 slaves, washed free from their bondage by the blood of 600,000 patriots. Surely our liberties have been too costly for them to risk by injustice or oppression. Surely the American people will awake to the responsibilities of their trust, shake off the lathorgy of influence and put on their mantle, rising in the full might of their invincable patriotism, will banish oppression from every community. Vindicate the supremacy of manhood; exalt the dignity of the law and enrich the inheritage of our liberties by administering equal justice to every race bequeathing prosperity, liberty and justice to the Saxton and the Negro.

THE PROCLAMATION.

That old bell rung by the sexton,
Hanging there in Faneuil hall,
When it pealed forth in its richness,
Spoke not liberty to all.
While the vales rang with gladness,
The Negro's heart it did not cheer,
Sounding loud in Liberty's cradle,
Fell like mockery on his ear.

For that solemn Declaration
Signed by hands that now are cold,
Brought not freedom for his body;
He could still be bought and sold.
Though it read, "all men are equal,
By one God created free,"
Seemed to disregard the Negro,
Still a chattle must he be.

Mingling with the hum of commerce
Could be heard the clanking chain,
Often seen great tears of anguish
Coursing down like drops of rain,
For that unjust institution,
Binding men to pain and toil,
Planted by the band of tyrants,
Was deep rooted in the soil.

This, like every growing evil,
Once confined to southern grounds,
With a greed for more possessions,
Threatened to o'erreach its bounds.
Long had scenes of mart and slave pen
Been portrayed before God's throne,
And the sothern winds had wafted
Upward every sigh and groan.

Slowly heavenly wrath was kindled,
Till the nation's doom was sealed,
And the price of human slavery
Must be paid on battlefield.
Soon the heat of raging battle
Parched the ground and left it bare,
Flowed the brimson blood of so'diers,
Groans of dying wrent the air.

Thunders loud of gun and cannon,
Lurid flash, and clouds of smoke,
On the southern plains, in valley,
Of disasters plainly spoke.
God had placed the noble Lincoln,
With his hand stretched forth to save,
At the head of this vast army,
Liberty's flag o'er which to wave.

How he pleaded with those people,
Asking them to free the slave,
Even offering compensation
That he might the Enion save.
But the clouds grew dark and darker,
Faded fast seemed every ray,
Hope 'most died within his bosom,
Only one card left to play.

When the south declined his offer,
Faithful he unto his vow,
Plainly saw through all this darkness
He must still to God's will bow;
That from out the smoke of battle
Freed must soon arise the slave,
Cast aside his rags of serfdom,
Lift the flag and help it wave.

For necessity demanded
Every slave he must make free,
Since the safety of the Union
In this act did seem to be.
And believing God intended
Men should free and equal be,
Issued forth his proclamation,
Declared the bondmen to be free.

All the states, and even portions
Rebellions which were known to be,
On the first day of the new year
Must behold their slaves set free.
When the bells within the belfries
Tolled the dying of the year,
Slowly died that institution,
Never more to take root here.

Emancipation Proclamation,
'Twas the key unlocked the door,
Broke the shackles from the bondmen,
Made them free forever more;
Bade four million helpless beings
From a servile posture rise,
And the governmental powers
Them maintain and recognize.

'Twas a Godlike act, the string
Of the shackles from the slave,
'Twas a happy day in heaven
When he thus, that freedom gave.
'Tis a monument eternal,
To the memory of his name,
Echoing down the future ages,
Men will hear of Lincoln's fame.

For that proclamation issued,
Was a rainbow in the sky,
'Twas a promise bright of freedom,
God had heard the bondmen's cry.
Through this radiant bow of beauty
Freedom to the slave did come;
How a halo crowns his forehead,
Golden rays of Liberty's sun.

Reared upon the field of ashes,
Liberty's Temple, stately, grand,
Dwells therein, the slave unfettered
By emancipation's hand;
Clad his body now in purple,
Liberty's royal robe so fare,
And instead of iron bracelets,
Jewels bright of Liberty wear.

And to-day eight million people,
Members of that once cursed race,
Ever loyal to this country,
That long held them in disgrace,
Sing that national song with fevor,
Sing "My Country 'Tis of Thee!"
Slaves no longer but as freemen,
Sweet land, yes, of Liberty.

And our hearts swell with gladness,
As we try to sing the praise,
Of the great Emancipator,
Liberator of the slaves.
We can tell no sweeter story
Than of how he freed the slave—
How he used his noblest efforts,
Till he did this Union save.

Let each member of our race,
E'er strive the noblest feats to gain,
Upon the highest shafts of fame,
Write in gold the Negroes name.
Let Liberty's mouth in glory wrap
The monuments that we erect,
And all the marble, wood and stone,
Our nobleness our lives reflect.

Roll on! oh Liberty's ball, roll on!
Ever at morn and evening's hush,
Low in the dust is laid the hand
That strove thy temple fair to crush.
Let freedom's flag in triumph wave
The eagle wide her pinious spread,
Let Liberty's banner float on high,
For slavery—yes, fore'er is dead.

—*Virgie Whitsett, Newton, Iowa.*

MORE CONVENTION NOTES.

Messrs. H. F. Sawfoot, of Pekay, and J. F. Blagburn, of Des Moines, distinguished themselves as presiding officers. They silenced unnecessary discussion and let nothing interfere with the business of the convention. An acquaintance with the rules of order is necessary to govern any assembly.

Mr. T. E. Barton made some good remarks in the convention and the introduction and the adoption of the resolution to call the attention of congress to its duty was timely. Every Afro-American organization, both great and small, should do likewise. It cannot do any harm. In the state of Ohio a Negro member of the legislature introduced a very important measure in regard to making every county in the state responsible for the work of mobs, and allowing the heirs of the victim to recover damages. The act failed to become a law because the Negroes of that state failed to give any expression of opinion. If they had shown proper interest and had sent in a petition to that legislature there would have been such a law on the statute books of that state to-day. The right of petition is admitted and the larger it is the more the mere politician will observe it and the true statesman will be made to see his duty plainer.

There were more young men and young women in the last convention that in any previous one. They made a good impression. At the banquet they particularly distinguished themselves. It was a "feast of reason and a flow of soul." Geo. E. Taylor, the master of ceremonies, was happy in his remarks and introductions. The work should be materially assisted by the young people under the instructions of the older ones who have had experience along many of the thorny paths of life. The judgment that mature years bring should be combined with the vigor and fire of youth.

If you see anything the convention has failed in, come to the next convention prepared to improve it, not to destroy.

In slavery days the Negro attempted to accomplish everything by prayer. But there was not one of them ever escaped from slavery and followed the north star to Canada who did not put his heels and his head together. In like manner, the work before the Negroes of Iowa and the United States will be accomplished only by putting their brains, their hearts and their hands together. Prayer and religion only resulted in a continuation of slavery. "Make the world better by living in it."

For the first time since the organization of the A. P. A. Sioux City failed to be represented. She has always sent good workers and counsellors and was greatly missed.

Missouri held one state convention and will soon hold another. The first meeting was called by a lot of adventurers. They are well known—but not favorably—in Iowa. Nebraska held a large meeting at Beatrice a short time ago.

Let the good work go on.

The Afro-American association selected this paper as its "official organ." Such selection brings to us a responsibility which we fully recognize and will do our best to fulfill. While we are given this responsibility we hope that the responsibility of members of the association will not be overlooked or slighted. It should be remembered that we do not receive a dollar for the publication of the calls for the meetings, the proceedings of its annual meetings and such other news and information as shall occur during the year. We think we have a right to expect each and every member of the association to take the paper and pay for it. The members expect us to fulfill our duty by publishing its news and we expect the members to appreciate the same by taking the paper and asking their friends to take it. Let the lamp of reason burn.

The report in last week's IOWA STATE BYSTANDER was the work of Miss Zella Davis. It was her first experience and has been pronounced good by impartial judges. It is well known that Iowa has many such young ladies. They have attended school, graduated with honor and find themselves prepared to do work requiring a trained mind, but with no opportunity. They receive many compliments, but when there is a position that could be obtained for one of these young ladies so trained, the men have been known to rush in and take a menial position without giving the hundreds of good and worthy young ladies single thought. Two years ago a young lady of color was sought for and could have obtained a committee clerkship, in the legislature but the men were too busy looking after cuspidores, brooms, mops and like menial places to look for such a young lady. The day is drawing to a close when the Negroes of Iowa will be satisfied with such places, and the further fact will have to be recognized sooner or later, that there are more than one or two Negroes in the state who are entitled to places. Such methods are causing dissensions in the heretofore solid phalaux of the Negro Republicans of the state. There are a dozen places where a man can get employment to one for a woman. These matters require unselfish devotion—without it the race will remain in the same old rut. Put the best and most capable men or women forward to represent the improvement along the lines. Whenever THE BYSTANDER can employ any of the young ladies or gentlemen it will cheerfully do so and pay them for their services.

The Afro-American Protective association convention which recently closed its session in this city was in many respects a good one. Inasmuch as everything was not accomplished one thing was indeed commendable, it being the fact that year after year its members and well-wishers show a disposition to meet and discuss the great problems which confront us. Time, study and application are necessary to solve all questions and to this end the association is putting forth its greatest effort. The delegates were men and women of culture and met on a common basis of reason that the wants and grievances of the race with whom they are identified might be made known; also that their deliberate acts might be known throughout the land.

OTTUMWA NEWS.

Special Correspondence to Iowa State Bystander.

Miss Maud and Oskar Wattss are visiting in Bloomfield.

Miss Susan Henderson is reported on the sick list.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. C. Goock on last Wednesday evening, a fine baby girl. Columbus is all smiles. Mother and child are doing well.

The sad intelligence reached this city Sunday, announcing the death of Samuel Conn of Des Moines, formerly of this city. Mr. J. B. Bradshaw went to Des Moines Monday and the remains were taken to Kirkville, Mo, for interment Monday night.

Mr. Harry Kimbsough of Oskaloosa spent the 4th of July here, the guest of Mrs. C. Fields. Mrs. J. B. Bradshaw, Miss Alie Paton, Messrs. J. B. Bradshaw, S. J. Sheldon and Wm. Bates went to Kirkville, Mo., Monday evening, to attend the funeral of Mr. S. Conn.

The pleasant home of Mr. and Mrs. Horn was the scene of an elegant reception Thursday evening given in honor of their son, Essex, of Kirksville, Mo. There were about twenty-two persons in attendance, who enjoyed themselves in the most pleasant manner. An excellent repast was served and everybody faired sumptuously.

Mrs. C. L. Young met with a serious accident last week. While walking across the room she stepped on a needle which went into her foot a great depth and then broke off. A physician was called, and before it could be removed the patient had to be put under the influence of chloriform. At this writing she is getting along nicely.

Miss Anna B. Reynolds left for an extended visit in Jacksonville, Mo., last week.

The residence of Mr. and Mrs. James Hamilton was graced by a very pretty affair last Thursday afternoon, from 3 to 6 p. m., in honor of their daughter, Mrs. Clay, of Des Moines. There was music, singing, conversation, and excellent refreshments. A club, with Mrs. J. Shields as leader, presented Mrs. Clay with a very pretty parlor lamp and a great many other gifts were given as tokens of friendship. Mrs. H. S. Clay and children returned to Des Moines last Friday morning.

The I. B. W. R. C. met with the president, Mrs. Z. Taylor. The attendance was small but quite jubilant. After the regular routine of business, and a social chat, they adjourned to meet with Mrs. Henderson next Friday.

Mrs. Anderson Scott is indisposed this week.

Messrs. J. E. Mosley and John Davis went to Oskaloosa Tuesday on business.

Died—In this city, July 7, Mr. Joseph Wilson, of a few days' illness. He was formerly of Kirksville, Mo. He was taken there for interment. He leaves a wife and two children to mourn his loss.

On July 1 Rev. W. F. Watts tendered his resignation as pastor of the second Baptist church of this city. The cause given for dissatisfaction is their failure to pay off a $2,000 church debt and nonsupport. Rev. Watts has pastored this church about two years and two months and since his stay has had marked success. We are told since he took charge of this church 619 members have added and in every way has the church prospered. Rev. Watts is a faithful and a hard worker and very zealous in the Christian work, and has worked incessantly for the building up of the church in this city. It is to be regretted that such misunderstandings will come up between church and pastor and we hope that the matter will be properly adjusted and that the good work will still go on.

The reception given a week ago in honor of the musical class was a rare treat and all present had a royal good time.

Rev. W. F. Watts is visiting in Centerville this week and will remain over Sunday and attend to the ordinance of baptism.

CO-OPERATIVE STORE.

The co-operative store that is in course of perfection is one of the things that should succeed. The suggestions that were made in this paper some time ago were made from a purely and strictly business standpoint and are adapted to some extent to all successful business enterprises throughout the entire city. In order to expedite the matter we desire the names of all who will agree to patronize such a store. It is the easiest way to get at the facts in the case and will give assurance to the man or men who are desirous of making the venture. No one should be afraid to give their names for publication. If there are fifty, seventy-five or more who will patronize such a store its success is assured under proper management. Cities the size of Des Moines are working this plan successfully in neighboring states, and we do not see any good reason why Des Moines and Iowa should be behind any of them.

A CRUEL SON.

From the Daily Iowa Capital.

Deputy Sheriff Holt returned this morning from Cedar Rapids, having in charge of a young man named W. D. Morton, against whom the grand jury recently returned an indictment on the charge of embezzlement. The crime of which Morton stands accused is alleged to have occurred ten years ago, and is said to be based upon evidence given the grand jury by Morton's father and mother, who are the supposed victims of their son's rascality. Morton gave bonds and was rele[ased]...

MASONIC GRAND LODGE

Fourteenth Annual Session Held in Keokuk.

One of the Largest Meetings Ever Held.

Summary of the Two Days' Session---Officers Elected.

KEOKUK, July 9, 10 o'clock a. m.—Grand Master Reeler called the grand lodge to order and after the report of the committee on credentials which shows the following grand officers present: Grand master, J. D. Reeler; deputy grand master, James Higgins; senior grand warden, Wm. Field; junior grand warden, John Williams; grand treasurer, A. A. Bland; grand secretary, G. H. Cleggett; past grand masters, J. E. Gilliam, J. H. Shepherd; past master masters, John Williams, of Burlington, E. C. Thomas, of Cedar Rapids; Geo. Baptist, of Sioux City; M. H. Jones, of Keokuk; Richard Choist, of Keokuk; D. Ware, of Keokuk; Jas. Washington, of Sioux City; E. T. Banks, of Des Moines; Samuel Beck, of Marshalltown. Amos Johnson, past deputy grand master [illegible] grand secr[etary] [illegible] associatio[n] [illegible] souri; vi[illegible] reporte[d] [illegible]

The [illegible] pointe[d] [illegible] Com[mittee] [illegible] liam, [illegible] Com[mittee] [illegible] Geo. [illegible] Conto[illegible] charters [illegible] A. W. [illegible] Comm[ittee] [illegible] John W[illegible] Comm[ittee] [illegible] liam, T[illegible] Comm[ittee] [illegible] —E. T[illegible] William[illegible] Comm[ittee] [illegible] lodge—[illegible] Wm. F[illegible] Com[mittee] [illegible] —A. [illegible] Washing[ton] [illegible] Commi[ttee] [illegible] Geo. Bapt[ist] [illegible] Committ[ee] [illegible] Bland, E. T[illegible]

At 2 o'c[lock] [illegible] delivered hi[illegible] a very able [illegible] true condition [illegible] jurisdiction.

The members o[illegible] their wives and f[illegible] grand lodge [illegible] which is one of [illegible] state. [illegible] good style [illegible] afford. The [illegible] lighted up by [illegible] 6 o'clock a boun[illegible] a committee of l[illegible] A. J. Fields, Mrs. [illegible] J. W. Draine, Mrs. [illegible] Wm. Gross, Mrs. [illegible] Mitchell, Mrs. F[illegible] Alden, Mrs. [illegible] Edward Marti[n] [illegible]

KEOKUK, [illegible] morning sessi[on] [illegible] tation was rea[d] [illegible]

To the gra[nd] [illegible] visitors of t[illegible] lodge: Th[illegible] anniversar[y] [illegible] court, No. [illegible] pany is requ[ested] [illegible] tion Wednesd[ay] [illegible] 8 to 11 o'c[lock] [illegible] Brother A. A. [illegible]

MRS. C. [illegible]
MRS. A. [illegible]

The address [illegible] Master Am[illegible] listened to wit[h] [illegible] the speaker nar[illegible] Mason. Brother Jo[illegible] as well as a leading Mason. [illegible] ance of the forenoon was taken with reports of committees.

At the afternoon session Grand Secretary G. H. Cleggett, and Grand Treasurer A. A. Bland made their reports.

Tellers were appointed as follows and the grand lodge proceeded to ballot for grand officers: Samuel Beck, C. H. Williams, J. E. Gillam. The first informal ballot to bring out the candidates for most worshipful grand master resulted in Geo. Baptist receiving 45 votes, A. A. Bland 35 and J. D. Reeler 22. Baptist and Bland having received the highest number of votes were declared the nominees for the office. The result of the vote showed Bland received 60 votes and Baptist 42 votes, and Bland was declared elected. W. M. Fields was elected deputy grand master; James Washington, senior grand warden; W. H Jones, of Keokuk, junior grand warden; F. A. Coleman, of Muchakinock, grand treasurer; G. H. Cleggett, of Des Moines, grand secretary. An invitation to the grand lodge from Union lodge No. 1 to participate in a street parade in the evening at six o'clock was accepted, after which the grand lodge adjourned.

He Pays His Way.

Everybody has heard of the great St. Bernard dogs who in the Alps have saved so many travelers who have fallen exhausted in the snow, and of the great Newfoundland dogs who save people from drowning; of dogs who bark when they have discovered a fire until they alarm the people in the house; of dogs that have killed poisonous snakes to save some one they love; of dogs who will carry baskets in their mouths, and of dogs who will go on errands. But I do not believe you have ever heard of a dog who would carry his mistress' dress in his mouth over muddy places in the street. There is such a little dog in London. He goes shopping and calling with his mistress, and she pays no attention to her dress. The little dog trots behind her with the hem in his mouth. He never lets it touch the ground.

Bicycle "Stoop" and Scandal.

What an edifying spect[acle] [illegible] race would be in which [illegible] would sit up straight upon [illegible] They might [illegible] but they [illegible]

[illegible] to her ne[illegible], regulating, and strengthening the system and curing the derangements of the sex. Why is it so many women owe their beauty to Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription? Because beauty of form and face radiate from the common center—health. The best bodily condition results from good food, fresh air and exercise coupled with the judicious use of the "Prescription."

It reaches the origin of the trouble and corrects it.

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[illegible]o $25 MADE DAILY [illegible]all investments by our systematic plan of speculation in Grain, Stocks and Cotton. Send for our book, "How to Speculate Successfully," and our market letter telling what and to buy, both FREE. [illegible]AKEM & CO., Bankers and Brokers, Suite 1200 Owings Bldg., Chicago. [illegible]—Metropolitan National Bank, Hide and [illegible]tional Bank, Bank of Nova Scotia.

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