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EDITOR'S OBSERVATION IN BUXTON.

For one to visit this great mining town of Buxton, located on the extreme north line of Monroe county and the extreme south line of Mahaska, nine miles north of Albia, you will quickly come to realize what can be and is being accomplished by the younger generation of the progressive, intelligent, industrious and honest colored men. This camp is but one example of thrift and general progress now awakening and going on throughout many localities (see editorial). On entering the town proper the first colored man of note is Ruben Gaines, who owns about forty acres just over the Mahaska county line, where he owns a beautiful ten-room house, with a large new barn and many other improvements. Then along the county road he has built a shoe store building, a drug store building, a restaurant building, the only livery and feed barn, two saloon buildings, a millinery store building, a barber shop and tailor

colored clerks. W. H. London, the oldest and holding perhaps the most responsible position, Prof. A. R. Jackson, who is the leader of the Buxton Famous Band of 36 pieces. He is also one of the promoters and managers of the Buxton Gazette, the only other colored journal published in Iowa, except the Iowa State Bystander. Mr. E. A. Landon is a good clerk. He also works fire insurance. Mr. W. F. Washington and brother are both making good clerks. They are accommodating. Mr. Ollie Curtis is the newest man in the store but is proving himself to be valuable and popular, well liked by all. He is a Des Moines man, and last, but not least, is Miss Warren, the only colored girl clerk. She is well liked and doing nicely.

The main meat market is owned by Hobe A. Armstrong, the wealthiest colored man in town. His son, Charles, conducts the shop. The two Jeffries brothers have recently opened a first-class restaurant, and these courteous and obliging brothers are making money and friends.

Y. M. C. A. BUDDING,

"The new Y. M. C. A. of Buxton, Iowa is a pillar of strength in the little city in which it is located. It is generating a spirit of unity among the different interests which concern our people in Buxton, and is silently solving a problem—which is of great concern to our people the country over—viz: What to do with the bulk of our young men. When we save our men, we save the race and Buxton has set an example worthy of emulation in larger cities. The building is continually crowded with young men and this but shows that our boys will do when the opportunity is theirs."

The building is situated in the very heart of the city and as in Rome, all roads lead to the Forum. A lot 350x100 feet surrounds a three story building 116x50. An athletic ground, where base ball, basket ball, lawn tennis, running, jumping and other out of door athletics can be enjoyed, lies on the east side of the building.

In starting a trip through the building, you first pass under a huge electric arc light, which lights the town for squares around. The hard wood maple floors and brussel rugs make one ashamed to enter with unclean shoes. We first pass the Secretary's office, that is, you pass it if you hold a membership card, otherwise you are obliged to get special permission, because hers stands a sentinel that knows not faces—only membership cards.

You first enter the reading room, with its heavy oak tables laden with all magazines of the day; you see the numerous racks holding all the important newspapers of the country—all the race publications—and weekly periodicals, such as the Saturday Evening Post, Success, Ladies Home Journal, Bystander, Scientific American, Judge, Puck, etc. etc. Adjoining this room is the parlor. Here we find a \$800 Pianola, solid mahogany, the sweet strains of which abide continually in the atmosphere of the place. We also find an oak spanish leather Davenport in this room, rugs and easy chairs, and all the comforts found in a rich man's mansion become those of the coal miner at a cost of \$12,000 per year. In the last two rooms we find a dozen large heavy leather rooking chairs, and it is a common occurrence to see men fall to sleep while reading or listening to the music while seated in these chairs.

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The entire cost of the building was \$20,000.00, which was furnished by Mr. B. C. Buxton, Mr. W. A. Wells, Mrs. Henderson and the Chicago & North-Western R'y. Co. Such noble men and women as these are the ones who receive God's favor and reward, and our prayer is that others will come forward and follow their worthy example.

ALBIA NEWS.

Mrs. Harris and children from Hooking were in town Monday.

Monday the Albia young people gave a dance at Armor hall in honor of the visitors in town, Miss Richardson and Misses Jackson of Des Moines. The Hooking band and orchestra furnished music for the evening. Visitors were present from Hooking, Hilton and Buxton.

The emancipation celebration at Ottumwa was attended by Mr. and Mrs. U. S. Jones, the Misses Jackson, Miss Zoe Richardson, Mrs. Henrietta Underwood, Mr. Burt Jones.

Mrs. Johnson and children from Hooking were in town Tuesday.

future home, Mrs. Beckley formerly lived here and her many friends will be glad to have her among them again.

Miss Ida M. Godfrey who has been teaching for some time in the schools at Kansas City is in the city for a few weeks visit with her aunt, Mrs. R. H. Haackley.

Rev. A. S. Clark went to Keokuk last week to see Rev. J. W. Malone whose condition, we are glad to hear, is much improved.

Mr. R. C. Henderson spent Sunday in Ottumwa.

Mrs. Nellie Carter is quite sick with malaria fever.

Mrs. Judy Fairfax and son of Keokuk are visiting in the city.

The social given by the ladies of the Baptist church on Tuesday night was well patronized and was quite a success.

Rev. Bowling was in Keosauqua.

English Own American Land.

It is stated that over 20,000,000 acres of land in the United States are owned by members of the English aristocracy and British land companies and syndicates. Most of these estates are situated in the Southern and Western States. A Dutch corporation is said to own 5,000,000 acres of land in the West and a German company 2,000,000 acres in several States. Alien landlords own property in most of the larger cities of the Union.

Women Prefer Blondes.

That women generally are admirers of the blonde type as opposed to the brunette is sufficiently proved by the frequency with which they bleach their hair by the aid of peroxide of hydrogen and other chemical preparations. The fact that most people have fair hair in early youth would seem, by the way, to indicate that our ancestors were a fair-haired race.

Queer Custom of Koreans.

The destruction of the Korean imperial palace at Seoul is said to have been largely due to the fact that natives who saw the blaze early did not raise an alarm. This was because of the customs of the country, observed at court, has been to charge with incendiarism and behead anybody who gave an alarm of fire.

Unsympathetic in Perfumes.

The perfume which delights one person may arouse the deepest dislike in another. It is related by Plutarch that a Spartan lady paid a visit to Berenice, the wife of Diodorus, but one of them smelled so much of sweet ointment and the other of bitter that neither of them could endure the other.

Education of Indian Girls.

In India only about 3 per cent of the girls attend public school, but the government of India in its educational resolution states that in trying to promote the education of girls a far greater proportional impulse is imparted to the educational and moral tone of the people than by the education of the men.

Origin of Signing the Cross.

The cross was used in signing in the beginning of Christianity by all followers of Christ to distinguish them from the pagans, and it was also used as a pledge of the truth of the matter signed. This cross remains to this day in the signature of ecclesiastics, as well as being testimony of the illiterate.

Palings Replace Laths.

The lath and wire patent fencing is finding a competitor in an English make, in which chestnut palings replace the customary laths. The pales, it is asserted, are cleft with the grain from hard, slow-grown chestnut poles, and are supported on annealed galvanized steel wires.

As to Proper Marrying Age.

"My dear sir," replied Max O'Rell to a correspondent who wrote asking him at what age he considered he should marry, "some people should not marry until they are 470 years old. I should say in your case between 230 and 280 would do excellently."

First Real Use of Torpedoes.

Though the Russians employed stationary mines in harbors during 1854-5, torpedo historians date the real start of the weapon from the outbreak of the American civil war. It was used with considerable effect during that struggle.

Must Wear Short Dresses.

The municipality of Tropau, in Austria, Silesia, has followed the example of the Bohemian and Moravian capitals in making the trailing of ladies' dresses in the public parks punishable with a fine.

Royalty Fad for Birds' Eggs.

The king of Denmark has a very valuable collection of birds' eggs, which includes specimens of nearly every kind in existence. The collection is considered to be worth about \$75,000.

Uncover Ancient Warship.

During the work of dredging at the new harbor at Havre a wooden warship has been discovered buried in the mud, and six cannon, still loaded, have been recovered.

Rides Auto on Stairs.

A Leeds (England) motorist drove his car up the twenty steps in front of the town hall, and then drove it down again without accident.

Door Knockers for Bedrooms.

Door knockers are now fastened to up-to-date bedroom doors in England. They are considered both useful and ornamental.

No Right Way for This.

There is a right way to do everything—except bluffing and getting caught at it.

No Co-Education in India.

Every fifth boy in India is in school and only every fiftieth girl.



The above picture is a true likeness of Mrs. W. H. London of Buxton and Mrs. Dr. Brown of Minneapolis, Minn. The former is the wife of W. H. London, whose cut appears elsewhere, and was the principal of the Buxton School last winter. She is a charming and experienced teacher. Mrs. Dr. Brown formerly lived in Muchakinoek, but at present is living in Minneapolis.

shop. Mr. Gaines is a very pleasant unassuming man to meet. He has an industrious and lovable wife and three children, two girls and one boy. The oldest girl is married; the other two will attend college this fall. His wife is quite a society woman (see cut).

Dr. John H. Williams, formerly of Indiana, recently from Des Moines, and his brother, who recently took his state pharmacy examination, have just opened the drug store above mentioned, and we bespeak for them success.

The next place is J. L. Lobbins, who runs the livery and feed stable. He has an overcrowded business. Until this week he owned the Hamilton hack line, but sold it.

Mr. Gaines' one son, Ruben H., runs the shoe store, in partnership with Mr. Shelton.

We next go to B. F. Cooper's drug store. Mr. Cooper is one of the pioneer business men in this camp. Frank, as he is commonly known, is a young man, single (ladies of D. M. look out). Mr. Cooper has a large two-story drug store. He has built a grocery store adjoining it, and Mr. Bingman has been conducting a store, but within a short distance another man, Mr. D. T. Thomas, runs the only restaurant in that part of town. His is the oldest of all. He is doing nicely.

M. L. Sheldon operates the oldest saloon, and it goes without saying that he is doing well. He is manager of their famous base ball nine, "Buxton Wonders."

Upstairs over Mr. Cooper's drug store, is a hall where many of the secret societies meet. Cooper is a nice man to meet and is well liked by all. He is making and saving his money.

John Jenkins operates a saloon; also does. The latter has a billiard hall upstairs.

Now we go over to Buxton proper, as we have only been in what is sometimes called Cooper Town.

Here we behold the largest general department store ever built for a mining camp (see cut and write-up elsewhere). He has from six to eight

Sim Jeffries, our old friend, is in charge (see their ad).

Mr. W. W. Briggs, the only colored justice, is still postmaster. He is a very intelligent man, and with two assistants are doing nicely.

The Perkins City Hotel, the only one there, is crowded, as usual, and Mr. Perkins and sons are wide awake and energetic men.

Mrs. W. H. Landon, the wife of Mr. W. H., is the principal of the school. Last year they had four teachers. This fall, when their new 10-room school building is completed, they will then add ten more teachers, making fourteen teachers, perhaps all colored.

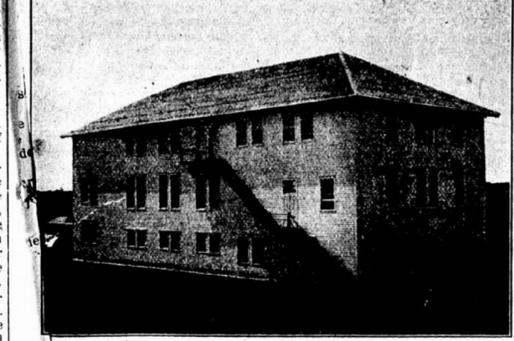
Mr. Cooper conducts a barber shop in the billiard hall. Mr. Gaines also runs a shop, and each of them are doing well.

The societies are all well represented, in fact more than any other place in Iowa. There are now twenty or more different secret and special societies. There are two colored churches, the Baptist and the A. M. E. church, both are very well attended; the former is the largest church and perhaps the strongest in numbers. Rev. C. H. Mendenhall is the pastor and is doing a great work for the uplift of man. Rev. A. Williamson, an able and true Christian, has charge of the latter and is well liked. The Buxton Gazette, the only newspaper, is nearly one year old and is doing well. They own their own plant, presses, type, etc., and all the operators are colored people. We wish for the Gazette success, for it deserves to succeed. Messrs. Jackson and Rev. Mendenhall has charge of the paper. The band is a great organization. We have written so much about this famous band time will not now allow us to go into details about it. The base ball aggregation is one of the best amateur clubs in Iowa. See cut. Y. M. C. A. is a great blessing. See cut. Time will not now allow us to say more. "I can only say, hope still and thou shall see."

Export Millions of Rabbits.

Twenty million rabbits were exported from Victoria, Australia, last year.

Dr. John H. Williams of Buxton who has recently opened a drug store there. Mr. Williams was formerly from Indiana, while he has only been in Buxton about 6 months, yet he is meeting with phenomenal success.



The game room is equipped with all the modern innocent games, including checkers, dominoes, crokinole, etc. In this department is located the game of shove board, this game is very popular and was purchased at a cost of \$100.00. Buxton always boasted of her checker players and now that a place has been provided, some match games in surrounding towns can be had by asking.

The gymnasium is complete with 100 dumb bells, one dozen savage bar bells, one vaulting horse, one pair parallel bar with dress attached, one horizontal vaulting bar, one jump board, one mass hopper batteau board, one pair standards, two punching bags, one swinging rings, wrestling mats, medicine balls, basket ball and all the appliances that accompany a first class "gym." Regular classes are conducted, giving exercise on the apparatus mentioned above.

Adjoining the gymnasium are two bathing apartments; one is fitted out with three shower baths, made of shining nickel, slate framed urinals, four porcelain baths, and three self flushing seats. In the other apartment are seven more shower baths and two tub baths. In the locker room are located 200 lockers 12x12x42 feet in size. On the west and east side of the building are education rooms where classes will be conducted along practical lines this winter. The second floor is an auditorium, seating 700 people, in the latest opera style. The stage is 30x20 feet and holds \$600.00 worth of hand painted scenery. Dressing rooms lead out onto the stage from either side. Here will be produced lectures and entertainments for the enlightenment and amusement of the people of Buxton.

The third floor is used for the rooms and is located in the Record-Herald building.

The entire building is lighted throughout by electricity. The reading room alone contains 25 electric lights, while the auditorium has 75 lights, including four clusters of 12 lights each; the stage has 25 electric foot lights and 60 border lights. The building is heated by steam.

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CLINTON BRIEFS.

Miss Missouri Dowler was the hostess at a party given at her home on Harrison street Tuesday evening, Aug 16th in honor of her cousins, Miss Gilla and James Robinson, the former having just arrived home from an extended visit with relatives in Atlanta and other southern cities, the latter having arrived recently from Chicago for a visit with parents and friends.

Mrs. John Sayles, Miss Minnie Sayles, Mrs. Emma Heron visited with friends in the tri-cities last week, while away they were in attendance at the celebration in Muscatine. They report a pleasant time in all the cities.

Mr. James Robinson returned to his home Friday in Chicago after a pleasant visit of two weeks with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Robinson in Lyons.

Miss Dorsey of Denmark, S. C. spoke in the interests of the industrial school for colored youths to a fair sized audience at Bethel A. M. E. church Sunday night.

Mrs. Duke Gordon of Paola is the guest of Wm. Brown and daughter on Elm street she thinks of making Clinton her future home.

A recent communication to the Supt. of the A. M. E. S. S. from the district Supt. announces that she will visit Clinton about August 23.

A few days and the pastors will have left for annual conference. Pastors and

Mr. Elzie Martin and William Benning spent this week in Stayville.

Mr. C. G. Tolson returned off the road Wednesday of this week.

Mr. C. Thomas is building an addition to his residence on East Clinton street.

Rev. and Mrs. Brewer of Osceola are in Albia for a few days of this week.

Rev. T. J. Peterson is holding his third quarterly meeting in the A. M. E. church Sunday assisted by Rev. Brewer.

Mr. A. Grayson was in town Sunday.

Misses Jackson returned to Des Moines Sunday morning.

Miss Zoe Richardson returned to Des Moines this week.

MT. PLEASANT NOTES.

Mrs. C. Beckley of Keokuk has moved to Mt. Pleasant and will make this her home.

Mr. Monroe Nunley has returned from Indianapolis where he has been attending the Pentecostal Camp Meeting.

Mr. J. J. Carter, Sam McCracken and Claud Burrough were in Burlington last Thursday.

Subscribe for the Bystander.

Silence for a Month.

A curious custom prevails in Bulgaria which must be a hard penalty for the woman who loves to hear the sound of her own voice. All newly married women are obliged to remain dumb for a month after marriage, except when addressed by their husbands. When it is desirable to remove this restriction permanently the husband presents her with a gift, and then she can chatter to her heart's content.

CEGAR RAPIDS NOTES.

The members of the choir are still congratulating themselves on the financial success of their entertainment held at the home of Mrs. L. Perkins last Thursday evening.

Miss Della Watkins is visiting friends in Davenport.

Mr. Wm. Ringo who has been a guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Boyd will return to his home in Oskaloosa this week.

The trolley party which was to have been given by the sewing circle this week has been postponed until a week later.

Mrs. Eva Perkins of Chicago is the guest of her father Mr. Brady.

Elder Clemens is steadily improving, and if he continues will attend the Iowa Annual Conference in Galerburg.

BURLINGTON NEWS.

Mr. Sam McCracken visited Burlington last Thursday.

Mr. Samuel E. Cook has returned from a visit in "Bim," Missouri.

Mr. Chas. Badgett, better known as "Jack," gave a tally-ho party in honor of Miss Hallie Porter of Paris, Mo., Friday night. Those who constituted the party were Mr. and Mrs. A. Mitchell, Mrs. A. Newton, Miss Jennie Brown, Miss Hallie Porter, Chas. Badgett and O. C. Folks.

Rev. Henderson of Washington visited with S. L. Tigg Monday.

Old Trent is in town again, "same as usual, thank you." But sporting a cowboy sombrero with a loud band around it.

Mrs. Mary Cooper of St. Paul is visiting her sister, Miss Gertrude Tyler, at her home on Gertrude street.

Mrs. A. Mitchell entertained with a whist party Thursday evening, in



Mrs. Elizabeth Gains, the amiable and dutiful wife of Mr. Ruben Gaines, is one of the leading church workers and society ladies of Buxton. She was president of the Willing Fourteen and many other clubs, also an active worker in the Household of Ruth. She has a loveable family of one boy and girl at her beautiful home.



LEWIS E. JOHNSON.

The above cut is a true likeness of Lewis E. Johnson, late of Cleveland, Ohio, who has been selected as Secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association Building. Mr. Johnson is a very interesting young man and no doubt will make his mark in this world. He was born in Vicksburg, Mich., in 1878, but moved when a young boy with his parents to Cleveland where he received the common and High School training; later he entered the Y. M. C. A. College of Cleveland, graduating in 1903 with honor. I might state that he was the first colored man to be taken in full membership of the Y. M. C. A. of Cleveland. His extraordinary ability appealed to the business men, which caused him to be selected by the N. Y. C. & St. L. R'y. Co as one of their trusted clerks, which position he held until he came to Buxton. He was quite a worker in church and literary lines and was superintendent of the St. John's A. M. E. Sunday School for years. He won a very great civil rights case against a large corporation in Ohio State Supreme Court for discrimination on account of color about two years ago, receiving \$500.00 damages. Just before he came to Buxton to take charge of the Y. M. C. A. work he was married to Miss Lucy Stewart, a very charming and respected lady of Cleveland June 1, 1904, and they are happily and nicely located in Cuxton.