

### Hastings in 1855 and in 1873.

We spent an hour or two in the city of Hastings last week looking up its present status, talking with its business men, and investigating its past history and present prospects; and while looking over this beautiful and busy town, where but a few days previous one firm alone had purchased 31,000 bushels of wheat in one day, we could not help thinking of

#### HASTINGS IN 1855.

when we first saw it. It then consisted of a store, a hotel, a very few little houses, and a great many burr oak trees, and was generally called Hastings's Landing. Our friend, John F. Norrish, considers himself one of the "oldest inhabitants" in these parts, but he didn't run the aforesaid store, neither did we see any thing of Dan Eyre on the top of a burr oak tree looking up a location. Neither E. B. Allen or Henry Pringle at that time had heard the nightly music of the howling wolves that infested the surrounding country, and the Gardners then had as much idea of going to Heaven as they had of going to Hastings. Neither John Kennedy or Michael Comer had yet held office in Dakota county, or even expected to, unless their scent was stronger and keener than is generally supposed. The old Hastings Independent—peace to its memory—and to the memory of its editor also, for his day of glory went down with the Independent—had not yet raised the political war-whoop before election days, or heralded the victory after. Its rooster was the product of a later hatching, and its readers and advertisers were yet in the far East, or beyond the Atlantic. But the

#### STAR OF EMPIRE

was rolling on, and guiding to the mighty West thousands and tens of thousands of brave, bold, and energetic men and women; and thus, before the fall of 1855, Bailey, Barker, Truax, Fulton, Dr. Foster and LeDuc were followed by North Barnes & Co., afterwards North & Carl, Charles Smith, Hertzell, Barney White, Michael Marsh, all in the dry goods line. Then there were the Whalley Bros., Davis & Gordon, afterwards T. H. Davis, Smith & Calif, Loveland & Yager, all on the Levee. W. K. & S. Rogers, and Hunter & McClaren fed the early settlers with groceries, and wet them down with liquors. Then came Campbell, Vanduzee, Belden, Eyres and—well we must stop somewhere, they have been coming ever since. We must right here correct our correspondent who says Hertzell was here in 1854. He did not come until the fall of 1855. Henry Bailey was the first storekeeper in the town. He was killed at the battle of Chickamagua, then holding the office of Lieutenant. Pliny Stowell and H. Stowell came in the summer of 1855; the latter built the first saw mill at Hastings, being on the site now occupied by Libby, and formerly by Cowles. We must not forget to mention the old missionary of the Cross,

#### THE REV. T. WILCOXSON,

who used to preach all the way from La Crosse to St. Paul, wherever he could find human beings to preach to, going from mission to mission, afoot, in summer and in winter, in fair weather and in foul. Mr. Wilcoxson, with Dr. Breck and Dr. Merrick, built the first Episcopal Mission Church at St. Paul. He is still at Hastings doing mission work for the Master, and generally goes afoot, notwithstanding his advanced age. If there were a place in Heaven that man could merit, there would be found the Rev. T. Wilcoxson, when his count of years are full, and his earthly pilgrimage ended.

#### THE PIONEER PAINTER,

of Dakota county, we believe, is Charles King, who came in 1855, but as he at first went on to a farm at Chubb Creek, the first actual working painter in Hastings was John C. Meloy, now of the firm of Gardner & Meloy, who has also made a most efficient auditor of Dakota county.

#### THE TOWN PROPRIETORS OF HASTINGS

were Henry Bailey, Gen. Sibley, William G. LeDuc, the Allison's, and Paul Bruno; the latter of whom pre-empted one quarter section of the town site, and is now in the County Poor House at Nininger. So goes the world. The town was named after Gen. Sibley, whose full name is Henry Hastings Sibley. We understand that one of Mr. Allison's daughters has since married a millionaire in Chicago by the name of Morgan. She ought to be happy. Mr. LeDuc still resides at Hastings.

#### But let us now turn to the

#### HASTINGS OF 1873.

which contains about 5,000 inhabitants, seven Protestant churches, two Catholic churches, eleven public schools, the best Court House in the State, and is the eastern terminus of the Hastings & Dakota railway, which here forms a junction with the Milwaukee & St. Paul road.

#### It is said to be one of the largest and best

#### WHEAT MARKETS

in the State. On Saturday, the 30th of December, Gardner & Meloy purchased 31,000 bushels of wheat at an average price of 89 cents per bushel. They elevate by means of a seven horse power wind mill, called the Double Challenge mill, manufactured at Batavia, Illinois. This mill is of very peculiar construction, having four wheels, two large drive, or power wheels, and two auxiliary wheels, which keep the drive

wheels faced to the wind. No one should pass through Hastings without taking special notice of this mill. It is an ornament to the town. The diameter of the large wheels is twenty feet, but it is not found sufficient for the work they have to do, and they have ordered another, with wheels thirty feet in diameter, and of thirty horse power. Mr. Meloy informs us that these mills are, in almost every respect, better for this purpose than steam engines, provided the warehouse has sufficient base, or pit room, to store the grain when there is not enough wind to run the mill. It saves them from \$200 to \$300 per annum on insurance, and with an engine it would be necessary to keep a fire over night in the winter time to keep the pipes heated. They employ two conveyors on the screw principle to place the wheat at the foot of the elevator.

#### VERMILION FALLS.

The first settler at Vermilion Falls was Mr. Thomas Howes, but Abe Truax pre-empted the falls. He, however, was afterwards induced by some sort of chicanery, it is said, to relinquish his claim to one Graham, and he then settled upon a claim on the farther side of the Vermilion river, for which he has since been offered some \$20,000, which he refused, and afterwards lost it upon mortgage. How many men in this state could aptly define the word mortgage by the word ruin! Graham sold the falls to LeDuc, he to the Harrison Bros., and they to

#### STEPHEN GARDNER,

the great and well known miller of the State, for the snug little sum of \$28,000. He has given the Vermilion Mills almost a world wide reputation. His brand is an absolute guaranty of the quality of the flour. The capacity of the mill is from 200 to 225 barrels per day. At present, they are only making one hundred barrels. He also runs a feed mill of two run of stones.

#### GARDNER & CADWELL,

are the proprietors of another flouring mill on the Vermilion, a short distance below the falls, which has a capacity of 125 barrels per day. There is yet sufficient unutilized power between these mills for one or two more mills or manufacturing establishments. A little above the falls is the custom mill of Ennis Bros., with three run of stone. It would be interesting to know how much is annually saved to the State by manufacturing our wheat into flour, and how much more we might save by grinding all the wheat raised in the state.

#### QUILLIAM & HODGSON,

run a general assortment store at the falls, and claim that on account of cheap rents, small expenses, close buying and fair dealing they are able to put goods at the very lowest figures. Mr. John Batemen does a large business in the manufacture of plows.

We would like to give an account of some of the old settlers of Dakota County in a future number and have gathered some facts with that view. Won't our friends please furnish us with interesting items connected with the early settlements of that county.

#### THE LUMBER TRADE

of Hastings is simply immense. During the past year it has amounted to 7,000,000 feet, and we are informed by the best lumbermen in the town that they could have sold 10,000,000 if they had had the lumber. John Dudley alone has sold 3,500,000 feet since the first of January last, and 2,000,000 shingles, being about 1,000,000 of lumber above his former sales. Mr. Dudley's mills are at Point Douglas and Prescott. The mills of Hersey, Bean & Brown, are at Stillwater.

#### R. C. LIBBEY

is the only one of the Hastings lumber dealers who manufactures his lumber at home, and he is the principal shipper. He closed his mill for the winter about the 18th of October. He gets his logs principally from the St. Croix, but has purchased a few at Minneapolis. The St. Croix logs, however, are much cheaper, and this enables him to put his lumber below Minneapolis prices. The average number of men employed by him is 44. He also employs six horses. This is a matter of importance to the town. They should manufacture more of their lumber at home.

#### THE GILLET SHINGLES,

manufactured by Capt. Wm. Gillett, are considered the best in the State. He made 3,000,000 this last year. He employs about 12 men.

#### THE MERCHANTS

are doing a very fair business, and claim to be working on the closest possible margin. Most of them are old residents and well known to the county.

We regret that we were unable to see Mr. Wassop, who is running the foundry, and who is also putting up a wind mill at Farmington, with three run of stone, so that we are unable to speak of the details of his business, but understand that he is doing well.

#### ROADS.

We hear considerable complaint in reference to the condition of the roads approaching the town, and it is a subject that merits the immediate attention of the city fathers.

#### THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

are under the charge of Superintendent Campbell, and we learn that they are in a

highly satisfactory condition. There are eight schools in the main building, with an attendance of about 350 scholars. There are three schools outside, having an attendance of about fifty each.

Like the boy who apologized to his father for writing a long letter, by saying, if he had had more time he would have made it shorter, so we may say if our time had not been so very limited, we should have given more facts in a shorter space. The prospects for Hastings are to-day brighter than they have been for years. It has rare opportunities for manufactures of almost any kind. There is plenty of the best of timber handy, and a large amount of unutilized water power. It is a pity that there should be a pound of it unemployed.

We are told that all the wheat bought at Hastings is purchased with home capital. They have capacity to store about 750,000 bushels, and as there is but little, if any, wheat shipped from this point in the winter they expect to be full before spring.

### ITEMS FOR PATRONS.

—Remember the meeting of the State Grange P. of H. on the 16th, and 17th, and 18th inst. Let this be a grand rallying time for the Patrons. There has never transpired a more important event in the history of the Granges of this State than will be this meeting of the State Grange. Every Master in the State should be in attendance. Let not a Grange be unrepresented.

—This order continues to enlist the attention of Farmers in all parts of the State. There is a constant stream of applications for charters of New Granges. The following have been constituted within a few days:

Sharon Grange—J. H. Thomas, Master, Sharon P. O., Le Sueur County, Thomas Meyer, Secretary, Dresselville P. O., Le Sueur County.

Dunbar Grange—S. Young, Master, Jas. Nixon, Secretary, Wells, Faribault County.

Leavenworth Grange—George Brickel-haupt, Master, Francis McMahon, Secretary, Leavenworth, Brown County.

Grove Grange—John Weiber, Master, John Kulzer, Secretary, Melrose, Stearns County.

Fair Haven—Martin Coats, Master, Alvin Coats, Secretary, Fair Haven, Stearns County.

Pleasant Lake—Joshua Mayhew, Master, A. B. Leighton, Secretary, Fair Haven, Stearns County.

Clear Lake—Elijah Hund, Master, Henry T. Hall, Secretary, Clear Lake, Sherburne County.

—Mechanics who follow their trades for a livelihood should be asked to join the Farmers' movement. They would still further strengthen the cause. All the real laborers of the country should unite together to make war against the impositions practiced upon them by conscienceless combinations.

—There are some back-sliders in the order. It is generally found that such are disappointed office-seekers, and it will be discovered that the real Patrons will be better off without them. It would be better, indeed, to give them a little shove if they show any disposition to get out. How jealous politicians are of each other's attentions while courting this strong-limbed, sun-browned maiden that has invaded Uncle Sam's dominions of late. Let 'em jell.

—Patrons ask nothing more than justice at the hands of all, therefore those who are continually howling about a war of classes brought on by the farmers, are simply standing by and upholding the birds of prey that make their livings and their fortunes without work or an equivalent. By some it is considered smart to accumulate riches by tricks. Smart it may be but still no better than stealing.

—Those who oppose the farmer's movement are continually fearful that some terrible machine will be made of it, and warn the Patrons of the danger of being duped by politicians. Such can rest their souls in patience—the patrons are not ninnyhammers to be led, like sheep to the slaughter, into an enemy's camp.

—Over \$2,000,000 have been paid to Congressmen, since the end of last session, and they have done nothing for that vast sum. They will commence work next month.—Indiana Granger.

PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY.—Another Grange was organized in the town of Featherstone Dec. 2nd, by I. G. Stearns. This Grange is made up of substantial farmers residing in Hay Creek Valley, and named Valley Grange. No. of charter members, twenty-seven, and plenty more coming.

OFFICERS ELECTED.  
Master—Frederick Shoemaker.  
Overseer—George W. Cook.  
Secretary—Wm. B. Hancock.  
Treasurer—Fred Koch.  
Lecturer—Gottlieb Seibröss.  
Chaplain—Fred Tubsing.  
Steward—H. Haman.  
Ass. Steward—A. Gross.  
Lady Assistant Steward—Miss. Louise Cook.

Gate Keeper—John Bloom.  
Ceres—Mrs. Catharine Rottger.  
Pomona—Miss Mary Koch.  
Flora—Mrs. Catharine Shoemaker.

### Burnside Grange.

BURNSIDE, MINN., Dec. 6th, 1873.

#### Editors of The Grange Advance:

We would report our Grange as in a good, healthy, working condition, with a force of fifty-five members, and constantly on the increase. At our last regular meeting, held on the 2nd inst., the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

Master—J. E. Simmons.  
Overseer—T. J. Leeson.  
Lecturer—M. S. Tyler.  
Steward—Olof R. Charleson.  
Ass. Steward—Chas. E. Simmons.  
Chaplain—Alex. Coons.  
Treasurer—A. P. Wilson.  
Secretary—L. Jones.  
Gate Keeper—John Norrell.  
Ceres—Mrs. A. Howe, jun.  
Pomona—Miss Elizabeth Thompson.  
Flora—Miss Frances Sexton.  
Lady Ass. Steward—Mrs. T. J. Leeson.  
Q. Bunch, E. A. Sargeant and T. J. Leeson were appointed delegates to attend the next County Council.

#### Visit to Cereal Grange.

On Saturday afternoon last, we had the pleasure of visiting Cereal Grange No. 25, at Hastings. It was the occasion of their first monthly feast. We did not get there in time to see and help them eat the good things provided for the occasion, but we had satisfactory assurances that they proved themselves worthy Grangers in this respect. We regret that we were too late to represent the Red Wing Grange at the table. We know that if a delegate had been elected for that purpose, we should have been chosen by unanimous vote, and by acclamation at that, and we would have been willing to guarantee a highly successful representation. This Grange numbers about eighty-three members, and additions are being made to the number at every meeting. The 4th degree was conferred on several just before the feast. Immediately after there was an election of officers, which resulted as follows:

R. A. Simmons—W. M.  
L. C. Simmons—Overseer.  
C. C. Johnson—Lecturer.  
L. L. Parsons—Treasurer.  
C. A. Baker—Chaplain.  
G. E. Dennis—Secretary.

The Worthy Master was empowered by motion and vote to appoint the other officers before the next meeting.

A salary of twenty-five dollars per annum was voted to the Secretary, and the Grange adjourned.

P. S. We should have said the Grange kindly permitted us to say a few words for THE GRANGE ADVANCE. Now if there is one thing that we like to do above all others, it is to talk on that subject, and we ought to be able to do it, but judge of our chagrin upon being told after we got through that Brother Byers could beat us two to one on that subject. Go ahead, Brother Byers, we shall lay up just as little grudge against you as possible.

#### A Challenge.

We hereby challenge the Editorial fraternity of the entire globe. Hold, gentlemen, don't pull off your coats or slap your editorial fists and recklessly threaten to annihilate us on the first round. You mistake us, that is not what we meant. What we were going to say is, that we challenge the entire fraternity to produce an instance of an editor receiving a basket containing twenty different varieties of delicious cake. Such a basket did we receive on Monday last, from the ladies of the Vasa Grange. Ah! now, gentlemen, you smack your lips instead of your fists, and wish you were on THE GRANGE ADVANCE. You also perceive now that we are not in a fighting mood—who would be after disposing of such a basket full without leaving a crumb?

The following little note, which came with the basket, tells the whole story:

VASA, Dec. 1st, 1873.

Compliments of the ladies of the Vasa Grange, to THE GRANGE ADVANCE and its editors.

Ladies of Vasa Grange, accept our lowest bow, our best wishes and our sincerest thanks for your delicious gift, but still more for your kind remembrance of us.

RED WING, MINN., Dec. 6th 1873.

To the Secretaries of the Subordinate Granges, P. of H. of Goodhue County:

DEAR BROTHERS:—It was made my duty at the last meeting of the County Council of this County to notify you and through you your Granges of the meeting of the Goodhue County Council P. of H. appointed to be held in this city. The time of meeting is the 26th day of December, at 10 o'clock A. M. Under our Constitution, each Grange is entitled to three delegates, besides the Master, who is a member of the Council by virtue of his office. The admission fee charged to new Granges joining the Council is two dollars.

The Committee appointed on programme decided upon the general question; "In what way can the farmers most thoroughly and effectually unite, to accomplish the results they are aiming at, in correcting abuses, and making farming as successful as other occupations." Every delegate should come prepared to say something to the point on this question.

Let every Grange appoint their delegate at once.

The questions of the County Business Agent, of Insurance, and other matters left over from the last meeting, will have to be considered.

Let us turn out and make this Council a success.  
B. B. HERBERT, Sec.

### Co. F. 8th Minnesota Volunteers once more under the Stars and Stripes.

This company of veterans held a very pleasant reunion on Saturday last at Farmington. We did not receive their report in time to print it in full, and have only space for the resolutions adopted upon that occasion, which were as follows:

Resolved, That it is with deep regret that we notice the apparent want of interest in the reunion on the part of those members who reside within easy reaching of this place, as manifested by their absence upon this occasion.

Resolved, That such as are unavoidably absent should have sent us word by letter or otherwise.

Resolved, That we still look forward enthusiastically to the great reunion of 1875, and to that end we hereby deposit one dollar each with the treasurer of the executive committee, to defray the expenses of that occasion as contemplated in the resolution of last year, and that we earnestly exhort our comrades who have not done so to send on their dollar without delay.

Resolved, That the executive committee be authorized to invest all moneys received for this purpose at not less than 12 per cent. per annum.

Resolved, That the next reunion be held at Farmington on the 7th and 8th of December, 1874.

Resolved, That the thanks of the company are hereby tendered to the ladies whose interest in the reunion was of that good, practical, old fashioned kind, which being interpreted means a first-class dinner, also to the proprietor of the Bigelow Hotel whose careful attention contributed so largely to our enjoyment while under his roof.

Resolved, That these resolutions, and the proceedings of this reunion be published in THE GRANGE ADVANCE.

#### Farmer Donnelly.

While in Dakota County last week, we called, for the first time, upon the "sage of Nininger," Hon. Ignatius Donnelly. We had seen so much ridicule made of the idea that he is a practical farmer, that we had received the impression, he knew no more about farming than the Persian Shah. We were therefore very much surprised to find him engaged in killing and cleaning hogs. He had just dispatched one of the largest Chester Whites we ever saw. Surrounded as he is with all the necessities and comforts of life, having a magnificent farm, a good house, a well filled library, and every thing that can make home pleasant, we could not but wonder he had ever permitted himself to be tempted from the peaceful, rural shades, into the stormy and tempestuous sea of politics.

Mrs. Donnelly was not at home, but the Governor was expecting her shortly. She has been down to Philadelphia having a cataract removed from her oldest son's eye. Some two years ago the lad met with an injury in the eye, caused by a blow from a corn cob. He was taken to St. Paul at once, and was said to have sustained an incurable injury, the retina having been fatally damaged. He has been almost blind for two years, but we are happy to say that it is not so bad as was supposed, and the removal of the cataract has made his eyesight as good as it can be under those circumstances. His parents are, of course, almost overjoyed.

#### Notes from Dakota County.

—The Grange mill at Waterford will be ready for business before Christmas. Very great interest in relation to it prevails in the neighborhood, and not a little enthusiasm. It starts out with every prospect of success.

—The editor of the Farmington Press opposes local prohibition on the ground that it will drive all their business to Hastings, and leave them high and dry.

—Stebbins keeps pegging away at Donnelly. That's right, Stebbins, if you'll keep on bringing that hammer of yours down right lively you may possibly make an impression on somebody within the next 99 years.

—The church members at Castle Rock are somewhat extreme on the temperance question. They object to their minister buying goods at a store where whisky is sold. That's hard on the whisky store.

O. J. Everson of this city has opened a New Millinery and Fancy Goods Store. In order to build up a lively trade he proposes to sell goods as low as can possibly be afforded. Call and examine before purchasing elsewhere.

On looking through the various stocks of goods kept in Red Wing we find an endless variety, and safely say, that the stocks and stores of Red Wing, are not second to any in this or any other State. In visiting the various institutions we are greatly surprised to find such an endless variety in any one store as we find at A. J. CLARK'S new store corner of Bush and Third streets. It would seem almost impossible to call for anything in the Drug, Grocery, or Fancy Goods line and be disappointed in not getting it. We also found Dr. G. W. Bothwell in charge of the Medical department, with everything on hand to attend to the wants of such as are in need of medicines. We can safely say there is no more complete store in the State than this. It will pay you to go and examine; goods are sold very reasonable.