

THE ST. CLOUD VISITER.

JANE G. SWISSELM, EDITOR.

Thursday, June 17, 1858.

Cards and Coquetry.

It was our good fortune once, in the course of our life, to be in genteel society for two whole weeks; and as nothing of the kind ever happened to us before or since, or is ever again likely to happen, it may well be supposed the event made a very indelible impression upon our mind.

Here for the first and last time, we were in daily intercourse with women who were hawking themselves and their female relatives in the matrimonial market, asking for bids. Here, for the first and last time, we were behind the scenes with women who practiced the art of husband catching as a trade; and certainly we never shall forget the scenes we witnessed; time has in no sense weakened the impression of loathing and disgust which we there acquired for the sublime arts of cards and coquetry.

The parlors were spacious and elegantly furnished. Pictures and Statuettes gave them an air of taste and refinement, while the Upholster had made them, not only comfortable, but luxurious. The kitchen reaked with nastiness. The chambers of the guests were finely furnished and miserably kept; and the whole family, the mother, two young lady daughters, three boys, ranging from fourteen years of age to eight, and a lady relative with an infant, all occupied one not large chamber, in which the bedding consisted of a few bags of fine shavings and some soiled spreads.

The wardrobes groaned with costly dresses and the jewelry boxes with expensive gewgaws.

The women were all pretty and bright; but especially the little woman with the baby. Her husband was absent, pursuing some honorable calling to give a living for her and their child, and the means thus acquired were spent in finery while she and her child spent their sleeping hours in absolute squalor.

We had been brought up in that old Scotch Irish sense of female honor, which still appears to us to be the true sense; and which adjudges that the unmarried woman who receives attentions from any man, which may make him feel at liberty to propose marriage when she does not intend to accept his proposal, has been guilty of a great infidelity; and that the married woman who willingly receives a love-like attention from any other man than her husband has committed a crime which should exclude her from respectable society.

We had never, up to this time, seen a pack of cards; and when we saw the little wife and older widow take a seat at the card table with two of the gentlemen boarders, while all four held a dainty little cigar in their teeth, and puffed away with that easy nonchalance peculiar to old practitioners at the wood, we thought the world never had contained anything so disgusting as cards in a woman's hand.

It did not seem so much out of place for men to handle them. We had seen men smoke, and had heard of their playing cards; but these little jeweled fingers taking the cigar out of the lips which should have been lying on a baby's cheek, tipping off the ashes and restoring it to the custody of the teeth! Oh dear!

Night after night the amusement was kept up, sometimes with the widow at the table, and sometimes one of the young ladies; but always the mother of the babe, who might wail, or wake or sleep as suited him best, while his mother's midnight hours were spent at the card table practicing little coquettish airs for the especial benefit of her private partner, a young gentleman, who paid the forfeits in confectionary and ice cream. They made no attempt to conceal from us the asides of little bickerings and jealousies between the ladies, about their partners.

They had whole battalions of pretty little arts in the way of dress and charms, the object of which was to attract the attention and win the favor of the gentlemen. They appeared to have no idea of there being anything mean or dishonorable about it, or that such social customs had any connection with that state of licentiousness in their city, which made it highly imprudent, if not dangerous, for a lady to go out of the door after night-fall without protection; and which lined the streets with gambling hells and drinking houses.

As night after night the play went on, with its feverish excitement and loud words, the little dalliances and rapid compliments and languishing looks, it appeared to us that the deformity of soul which always

prints itself upon the body, grew so rapidly that those faces which had been so bright and pretty became coarse and disgusting in a week.

They were kind, and would have taught us the use of these bits of bristleboard with their vulgar pictures of black and red; but it appeared to us that their touch would have blistered our fingers.

Our next introduction to cards, was on a steamboat, when two coarse, sensual-faced women bedizened with vulgar finery, sat in the cabin, sometimes with their vulgar husbands, sometimes with other male passengers, playing cards, and always with a bottle or two of wine on the table before them. They were northern people who had been south and made a fortune; and were now going back north, on the occasion of the death of the father of one of the women, to play condolence, and display their colored servants, gold watches and southern airs. One of them had an infant wandering about the boat in the arms of his nurse; and the other appeared as if she might live in hourly expectation of a similar charge. To see them sit in the cabin, in a circle of men, slapping down cards and calling out "trumps," "deal," "euchred" and so on and so forth!

These are the only women we ever saw play; and, in our mind, cards, coquetry and coarseness are a trinity, odious and inseparable.

We do not at all suppose that all women who play cards are like these; but we do think it is a business in which women should never engage. It is no amusement. It gives no exercise to the body, no relaxation to the mind.

All games of chance are a prostitution of the divine ordinance of the lot. Let any professing christian read the solemn account of the mariners in Jonah praying to God and casting lots, or of the Apostles choosing a successor to Judas, and think if they are willing to make that appeal twenty times in an evening, to decide who shall pay for a plate of ice cream, or some other such weighty matter? Let them think of perishing sailors, who, in the extremity of life, may at that moment be making that solemn appeal to the Most High, to decide who shall die for his fellows; and say if they are willing to prostitute the lot to so frivolous a purpose as the decision of a fire-side game.

The people of St. Cloud have made a dangerous beginning in laying the foundation of the social amusements of our young city. The plan of the streets is not more surely decided by the early inhabitants of a town than the plan of its moral and social customs. Make it fashionable now, for mothers to leave their infants to the care of servants and spend their midnight hours at cards, and what moral atmosphere shall surround your sons and daughters? Establish now, the principle that coquetry is the chief end of woman, and what kind of a community will you have twenty years hence? Teach the girls of this generation that they ought to learn the art of catching husbands as a trade; and the daughters they will raise, when failing to get the husbands, will resort a step farther in the same road, to the lowest degradation, as the next best way to make a living.

The woman who has learned and practiced the arts of coquetry to get a husband, is not going to quit the business when she has him. She who can marry a man for a living, or sets herself about catching a husband as a means of getting one, has got that far away from the paths of purity, that she will find it quite as easy to go forward as to turn back.

In all earnestness and with the best wishes for their welfare, we warn the women of St. Cloud, those of them who like a "social game," to beware that this game be not like the letting out of bates; and that it become not a desolating flood, in which all their earthly happiness shall be swept away.

Cards, to those who use them at all, are apt to become a madness. If a woman feeds the early growth of this passion she just cause of complaint if it acquire a giant's force? If she sets her husband and sons the example of a social game, how can she complain if they take a social game at the tavern?

The natural excitement of the game appears to demand alcoholic stimulant; and when this is added, the gambling madness follows, who is to blame more than she? Those who sow the wind should expect to reap the whirlwind. "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump," and that innocent looking "social game," which has insinuated itself into the homes of so many good and estimable citizens, looks very like a bit of the "emptiness" from Parisian society which have already leavened our metropolis with that licentiousness and crime which, like a canker worm, are eating out the vitals of our national virtue.

The men and women who spend their midnights in the feverish excitement of cards, are not the people to govern states or rear families of freemen.

We appeal principally to the women in this matter, because they have a right to be as much better than the men as they possibly can be. They have a right to guard every avenue by which the enemy might enter their homes, or the community, to lead the unwary into sin.

Women have a right to be very nearly as pure as the angels are; and every one should strive, above all things, to obtain that right, because it is worth more than all others. Their influence should flow from bad men away from the appearance of evil; and wherever the card table comes, there is an appearance of gambling, and drunkenness and despair and suicide and a fearful looking for of judgment to come.

CORRESPONDENCE.

EDITOR OF THE VISITER.—Through your paper we would like to make a few enquiries in reference to Railroad lands, outside of six miles.

It appears by the act of Congress that after the roads are located and there is a deficiency of land inside of six miles that we can select from odd No. sec. enough to make up the deficiency by going fifteen miles back. Now we wish to know if they have done this or have they merely filed in on it with the chance of having a year or two to select whatever they like and let the rest fall back to Government. It certainly would not be fair that they should have that privilege over the honest settlers that are coming in daily and wish to get land for farms. And further we would say to the company that they should be gracious to a few sparsely settled neighborhoods and leave them land enough adjoining to form decent sized neighborhoods that they may have schools and social privileges as well as the rest of mankind.

Marysville June 6 1858.

J. M. K.

We know of no better way to answer the above enquiry than by copying a part of a private letter from the Commissioner of the General Land Office to one of our citizens, in direct reply to a similar question.

Since the R. R. Co. filed their plats in the Land Office here, there has been a great deal of anxiety upon this subject, on the part of those who have made claims since July 6th, 1857; (the time at which the lands were withdrawn from pre-emption for four months,) and the people have not as yet had the means of relieving their suspense, for the Official Instructions from the Department to this Office were slow in coming, and when they did come, were so ambiguous that their meaning could scarcely be defined. MR. HAYES, the Receiver, (the Register is absent) says that this letter is more clear and satisfactory than any thing that he has received, and that he shall act in accordance with its purport.

But we give place to the letter, which will speak for itself:

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, WASHINGTON April 9th, 1858. J. N. MASON, Esq.

SIR.—In reply to your letter of the 15th ult., I have to inform you that Sec. 27, T. 123 R. 28 west, in the Sauk Rapids District, appears to be outside of the six mile limits of the Branch Line of the Minnesota and Pacific Rail Road, and if so your claim on said Section will be good, provided you have complied with the pre-emption laws.

The right of the road attached to the odd numbered sections within the six mile limits of the route from the dates of surveying, making and staking off the same, from point to point, on the face of the ground. But the odd sections outside of the six and within the fifteen mile limits of said road and branch line continued subject to pre-emption until the 16th of January last, at which time they were selected for the road by the authorized agent, and ceased to be pre-emptible, except to persons who had made bona fide settlements prior to that date.

Very Respectfully, &c., THOS. A. HENDRICKS, Commissioner.

Emigration is going on with renewed vigor. Yesterday Mrs. Swisshelm, with a party of pioneers, old and young, started west in wagons well loaded with necessaries for frontier life such as provisions, children, fishing tackle, young ladies &c., &c. Destination Grand Lake, twelve miles from St. Cloud.

We hope our readers will excuse the lack of the usual editorial items this week, and be assured that another week will find emigration subsiding, and the pioneers back enjoying the noise and confusion of city life.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MARYSVILLE June 6th, 1858.

Best way to manage prairie squirrels is to go to work and make a number of board traps and set them around your pieces of corn or whatever they trouble, fifteen or twenty rods apart.

They can be made and set with half the time that it takes to shoot them; making them after the fashion of the figure 4 or a better way is to use a hoop at the open end to hold the board up with the spindle attached by the back end with a string. Set them on hard ground so the board will shut down snug; split the spindle and put some corn in, scatter a few kernels each way of the trap and put plenty of weight on the board and you will find it ten times better than shooting poisoning or any other way for you are sure to get all the shy ones and they will watch the piece while you are gone.

K.

Hurricane in Illinois.

A portion of Central Illinois was visited on the 13 inst. by one of the most violent and destructive tornadoes ever experienced in the northern States. We clip the following condensed account from the Chicago Prairie Farmer.

The hurricane seems to have crossed the Mississippi near Oquawka, and to have extended eastward as far as Mc Lean County, where we hear of some of its most disastrous effects. In the west there was much hail accompanying the wind, and everywhere a great fall of rain. The greatest force of wind seems to have been on the ridge on the line of the Peoria and Oquawka Railroad, and the towns and stations on it all suffered damage. At Lexington, on the line of the St. Louis, and Alton & Chicago Railroad, the storm was terrific, and nearly every house in the village was unroofed or blown down. The air was loaded with the wreck which was made; the heavens were black with clouds which were pouring out destruction, and many people were frightened almost to death. Great damage was done at the junction of the Peoria & Oquawka with the St. Louis, Alton & Chicago Railroad. Both station houses were unroofed, five or six empty cars were blown from the track, dwelling houses were unroofed, moved bodily twenty or thirty feet, or entirely demolished.—At Galva, a large two story dwelling house was rendered a complete ruin; a portion of Mr. Babcock's dwelling was also blown down. Nearly all the out-houses in the village were upset. The wind carried large boxes, lumber, barrels, &c., into the air, as if they were paper. A large church was moved from its foundation about a foot. The storm raged hardest between 6 and 7 o'clock. At Mendota the storm was also furious, and, while in progress, the railroad engine house caught fire and was consumed, together with the locomotive Rocket. The hurricane reached Peoria at about five o'clock in the evening. In the twinkling of an eye fifteen or twenty houses were unroofed, every church spire in the city blown down, three canal boats loaded with lumber sunk, and the steamer Ohio, with twenty-one passengers on board, made a complete wreck, her cabin being entirely blown away. And what seems really miraculous, is the fact that but one life was lost in all this furious disorganization of matter and utter demolition of structures. The lumber in the yards was blown all over the city, gas lamps were blown down, and signs were sent flying in every direction; windows and gables were smashed in, whole trains of cars were thrown off the track, and the beautiful college building upon the bluff utterly demolished. A correspondent, writing from Galesburg, says that at that place, the storm was accompanied by an unheard of volume of rain, pouring in such torrents as to perfectly fill the atmosphere, concealing the nearest objects, and making the air so dense with water that respiration could with difficulty be sustained out of doors. The greatest loss was the entire destruction of the new and unfinished Church of the First Congregational Society, upon which \$19,000 had already been expended. The spire, (the highest in Central Illinois,) was twisted from the tower and hurled upon the central sections of the roof, crushing it in to the basement floor, and so racking the walls that they soon fell, leaving only the end walls standing, which were supported by projections. The church was a beautiful structure, being near completion, and its loss will be felt by the whole city. The tin roofs, cornices and chimneys of the best business houses were torn away by the storm, leaving the stores and shops unprotected from the rain, which did great damage. In some instances the tin was carried in large sections several rods high in the air, and thrown upon other roofs, while the signs, to a great extent, whirled about at the mercy of the winds; and sidewalks, in whole blocks were carried bodily for several rods. Carriages, wagons and horses were whirled about promiscuously, and people thrown from them at a distance, being able to save themselves only by holding to fences, and even then lifted from the ground in spite of their utmost exertions. But we have not space for particulars, enough of which we might collect from our exchanges to fill three or four pages.—Million's of dollars worth of property was destroyed in Illinois, the heaviest loss falling upon the farmers whose buildings and farms were most exposed. At least half a score of lives were lost, and, in hundreds of instances, the earnings of years were swept away in a few minutes. Some beautiful groves were destroyed, the wheat crop was badly injured by the hail, and hundreds of domestic animals were killed or maimed.—The Mantoville Express.

Editorial Convention.

MORNING SESSION.

The preliminary meeting of the Editorial Fraternity of Minnesota, occurred yesterday at 10 o'clock A. M., at the appointed place. Editors from all portions of the State were present.

C. Stebbins, of the Hastings Independent, was chosen Chairman, and D. Blakely, of the Bancroft Pioneer, Secretary.

On motion of A. J. Van Vorhes, Esq., of the Stillwater Messenger, it was Resolved, That a Committee of seven be appointed by the Chair, to present business for the consideration of the Convention, and report names of permanent officers.

The Chair appointed Van Vorhes, of the Stillwater Messenger, Foster, of the St. Paul Messenger, Croft, of the St. Anthony News, Lodge of the Minnesota Free Press, Hensley of the Mankato Independent, Robinson, of the Glencoe Register, and Brown, of the Brownsville Herald.

On motion of Dr. Foster, of the Minnesota, the Convention adjourned until 2 P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 2 P. M. the Convention assembled, according to adjournment. The Committee to whom the selection of the permanent officers was referred, made the following report:

President—C. Stebbins. Vice Presidents—Frederick Somers, A. J. Van Vorhes. Secretaries—D. Blakely, D. S. B. Johnson.

The report was adopted. The Committee who were instructed to prepare business for the consideration of the Convention, made the following report:

The Committee appointed at a preliminary meeting of this body, respectfully submit the following resolutions and topics for its consideration: Resolved, That in the opinion of the Editorial Fraternity represented in this Convention; it is expedient to organize an Editorial Association for the State of Minnesota, for the cultivation of more intimate and friendly relations, and for the mutual advancement of the publishing interests throughout the State.

Resolved, That a Committee of three be appointed to draft a Constitution, and Rules for the government of this Association, and report the same at its next meeting. Messrs. Van Vorhes, Newson and Mills were appointed that Committee.

Resolved, That the next annual meeting of this Association be held at St. Paul, on the anniversary of the birth of Franklin; and that an Executive Committee of three be appointed who shall make all necessary arrangements for such meeting, and shall also select suitable persons to deliver an Oration and read a Poem on that occasion.

Messrs. Croft, Foster and Averill were appointed such Committee. Resolved, That the publication in the various papers of the State, of all general laws, and such other laws as have a local application in the country, where such papers are published, is imperatively demanded by the best interests of the people; for the spirit of government is, that ignorance of the law excuseth no man. It is therefore the duty of Government to leave no means untried to inform its subjects of the nature of the laws upon its Statute books; and it is the experience of many of the older States that the publication of the laws in the country newspapers is not only the most economical, but the surest way to accomplish this end. The expediency of the adoption of such a law is hereby urged upon the attention of the Legislature now in session.

Resolved, That prior to the next annual Convention, the Editorial Fraternity be requested to consider the subject of uniform rates for subscription and advertising; and for the advancement system of payments especially for subscriptions; with the view to the adoption of necessary measures at said Convention in reference thereto.

Resolved, That the great and constantly increasing demand for paper in the Upper Mississippi Valley, together with the unsurpassed advantages possessed for manufacturing this article, strongly demand the establishment of paper manufacturing in this State, and that we invite the attention of capitalists to this unoccupied field of enterprise.

Resolved, That the prices now fixed by law for the publication of legal advertisements is far below a fair compensation, and the Legislature is hereby memorialized to change the same to correspond with the usual rates of advertising, in the several newspapers of this city.

Resolved, That all editors and publishers throughout this State not present, are urgently invited to co-operate with us in furthering the objects of this Association.

The report of the Committee after slight amendment, was unanimously adopted.

On motion of Dr. Foster, Resolved, That the publishers of all newspapers throughout the State be requested to publish the proceeding of this Convention.

On motion, the Committee adjourned sine die. C. STEBBINS, President. D. BLAKELY, Secretary.

Lost Boy's.—The Stillwater Messenger of the 15th, says that two little boys, sons of Mr. George Wells near that place, aged 11 and 13 years respectively, left Stillwater for their home—since which, nothing has been seen or heard of them. When they started home, it was raining slightly, and was near night, and it is supposed they got off the road and wandered into the woods or prairies north-west of the city. The family supposed they had stopped with some friends in the city, and did not become alarmed about their absence until late yesterday afternoon, when inquiry was instituted. Last night a large party from the city scoured the country adjacent, but we understand without trace of the boys.

A call upon the citizens to turn out to search for the lost children, had been issued by the Mayor. The new ferry boat at lower town owned by H. J. Fowler, is doing a fine business, and in the absence of Brett's horn, Fred is always at hand to blow for the dimes, and do the agreeable generally.

A short letter to a distant friend is, in my opinion, an insult, like that of a slight bow or cursory salutation.—Johnson.

From Utah.

St. Louis, June 9.

The Republican Leavenworth correspondent learns from a man who left Camp Scott on the 9th of May, that the troops would be out of beef by the 16th; other rations would last until June first.

No dispatches had been received in the Camp from Gov. Cumming.

Nothing had been heard from Capt. Marcy. He was expected to reach Camp Scott about the first of June.

Col. Hoffman and command was snow bound beyond Laramie.

The most advanced trains of Russel Major and Waddles were met near South Platte. The trains were gathering along finely until they reached Big Blue, where heavy rains caused serious detention.

A Mormon named Williams, living near Leavenworth had received, a letter dated Salt Lake City, May 8th, which represents everything as being quiet in the Valley.—Gov. Cumming was in the City at that date. The people had given up all idea of fighting and had gone to work on their farms.

A Leavenworth dispatch of the 7th, says the 6th column of Utah forces under Col. Sumner marched Saturday 6th. The last column under Major Emery leaves Wednesday. The head quarters will move on Thursday.

Correspondence of the Times.

WINONA, June 10th, 1858.

WORK COMMENCED ON THE TRANSIT RAILROAD.—Yesterday the Transit Railroad broke ground on their Road. The contract has been awarded to Mr. A. De Groff, reliable contractor throughout the United States. The terms of the contract are, thirty miles to be graded by the first day of January, 1859, and seventy-five miles to be graded and fifty in running condition by the first day of January, 1860. I believe this is the first work done by the Railroad Companies in our State. About two thousand people were present, and speeches and cheers were abundant. Mr. De Groff has about fifty men to work now, and is adding to the number rapidly. It is intended to have a force of one thousand five hundred men at work by first of July.

This is what the people expected when they voted so enthusiastically for the Loan, and we are glad to record the Transit Railroad as the first to show themselves ready to fulfill their promises.

Truly Yours, MINNESOTA.

OUR RAILROADS.—Our Railroads in various parts of the State, have commenced operations, and will be pushed forward as speedily as possible. A correspondent writes us from Winona that the Transit road has set men to work, and will soon have fifteen hundred more men employed. The Cedar Valley Road is pushing ahead, and the Northern Pacific have squads of men engaged on the road between St. Paul and St. Anthony. We hope the necessary money will be forth-coming soon, and that no pains will be spared on the part of the Companies, to comply with the full requirements of the law. Beyond St. Anthony the work will be prosecuted with vigor, and at once.—St. Paul Times.

[Correspondence of the Times.]

The Accident on Lake Pepin.

LAKE CITY, Saturday, June 12, 1858.

Our village is shrouded in the deepest gloom. Four young ladies who left our levee this morning on a pleasure excursion to Maiden Rock, distant five miles, were drowned by the upsetting of the sail-boat. Two of the doomed were residents of Lake City, sisters daughters of Judge E. Stout; the other two were young ladies of Mazepa, visiting at Judge S's. They also were sisters, and sisters of Mr. Hyde, Post master of Mazepa. Mr. Hyde came to Lake City after his sisters to-day, arriving only an hour or so before the fatal event took place.

None of the bodies recovered.—The deepest gloom pervades our community.—In haste yours. D. C. S.

A Boy Letter.

We find the following in the "Editor's Table" of the May number of the Knickerbocker Magazine:

"I take liberty," recently writes a friend from the Illinois State Hospital for the Insane, "to send you a letter received by an insane lady in this hospital from her little boy at home, six years of age. It has seemed to us, from the circumstances of the parties, an extremely touching expression of child-like affection."

And so it is, dear sir; so every mother must consider it, and every other person who is capable of appreciating a parent's feelings. The letter is genuine coming to us with the post-mark, and in the child-like hand-writing of the dear little boy himself. We shall not attempt to punctuate it, or alter it so much as by a single word.

GALZENA March 20 1858.

DEAR MOTHER Do write to me mother, and come home by the time summer comes. Will you dear mother and I will gather you ever so many flowers, and every saturday will go out on the hills by the brewery where I know there are a great many flowers and I will pick them for you. I will bring home large bunches of them and you can pick out such as you like best and put them in your china vases, which have been on the mantle piece where you used to keep them ever since you left home. Then I have a little garden back of the house which has in it ribon grass, arons rods, violets, culmbine, and several other flowers, and you shall have them all if you will come home. And I have some strawberry plants and if they bear berries I will give them all to you. Beside I want you to walk with me, as you used to do. You will come wont you mother and will write me and tell me when father shall come and bring you home.