

There is a time in the affairs of men, which, taken at its ebb, leads on to fame and fortune," and the modern bard might truthfully add that now is the time to start the foundation of the fortune scheme by examining the rare bargains at the

# OLD PIONEER STORE

This advertisement is not for fun, but to impress vividly upon your memory the fact that for the next thirty days we will sell

## OVERCOATS AT LOW COST MARK!

We are not going to put in a tailoring department, but we have the largest stock of Clothing in the city which we are bound to sell at cost, with freight added. We mean just what we relate, and if you will call we will explain our exact cost mark to you.

## DRY GOODS, CLOTHING, NOTIONS, PROVISIONS,

Groceries, Glass and Queensware, Boots and Shoes, Hats and Caps, Etc.

Everything in our large stock goes for the balance of the year. This is our annual clearing sale and those who have the ready cash can save money by laying in a year's supply of groceries, or rigging out the family in clothing, or we can supply you with substantial articles for holiday gifts. Call at the old reliable Pioneer Store for anything and everything in the general merchandise line.

M. DONELAN, Proprietor.

### THE THOMAS COUNTY CAT.

Official County And City Paper.

W. G. PORTER, Editor.

Hiram Davis, county treasurer of Sheridan county, died on Friday, Dec. 17th.

The Union Pacific railway commissioners are urging congress to act in behalf of that road and release it of handicaps.

There are a good many weddings at Castle Garden. A policeman is generally best man. There is a wedding ring there that has been worn 354 times.

There is talk of forming a new judicial district in northwestern Kansas, composed of Decatur, Rawlins, Cheyenne, Sherman, Thomas and Sheridan counties. It is a good plan. We grow so fast we surely need it or shall be before the legislature meets again.

A mandamus was granted by the supreme court compelling Gov. Martin to organize and declare the county seat of Wichita county, or show cause for not doing so by January 7, 1887. Mr. Geron, who was appointed recently by Gov. Martin to find out the wishes of the people of Wichita county as respects county seat, reports 100 majority for Leoti over Coronado, its competitor.

Forney, of the Commonwealth says "The city of Oberlin has four good stores only—the balance are only peanut stands. It is emphatically a Nebraska town, and there is some talk of its being annexed to Nebraska at the next session of that legislature. Columbus Borin, editor of the Oberlin Eye, is about to sell out his paper, and has closed an engagement with Barnum for the next year, and will stand as the greatest living homely man now on earth."

We are afraid we killed a man the other day. As it was his first offense we snapped a pistol at him merely to scare him; but the thing was loaded, and went off. The fact that the ball went through his head gives him his only hope of recovery. He had sent us an insulting letter—that is, in writing about Christmas he adopted the idiotic style of spelling it "Xmas." There is no sense or meaning in that way of spelling it. As well write Washington or Xlay. Christmas is so called from the fact that it was the birth of Christ. That event had nothing whatever to do with the Cross. He was Christ for years before the Cross began to figure in connection with Him, which was not, in fact, until His death. The birth of Christ and His crucifixion are two widely separated events, and are celebrated in different ways. Any correspondent is privileged to write Xeastar if he wants to or Xoid Xriday, but we shall not countenance Xmas.—[Troy Chief.

### STATE PRINTER.

There are many candidates for this important position. They are all worthy, yet from canvassing the field Cliff C. Baker seems to us the one to whom it should be awarded this time. The northwest of Kansas is full of new blood and push, and it thinks Cliff C. Baker should have it. He has always favored us through the Commonwealth and fought for us though young. Others have had the office for a long while, and why not pass it around and reward faithful service to the republican party? Mr. Baker is more than competent, and a better selection could not be made. We heartily endorse him, and hope the north half of Kansas will stand by him. We feel confident the northwest will.

State Treasurer-elect Hamilton will ask the legislature for an appropriation for an additional clerk in his office.

John A. Logan is no more. He breathed his last Saturday, December 25th, at three o'clock p. m., at Washington, D. C. The bravest volunteer soldier will be missed not only by the old soldiers but every American citizen. His career as a great statesman, and gallant general is fresh in the minds of all. The Republicans have lost an able leader and adviser and the soldiers one of their most ardent advocates and supporters. His illness was short being rheumatism and brain exhaustion. Four years ago he had a similar attack but recovered. But the destroyer of all was too powerful this time.

### Otterbourne Items.

Charley Marks and wife, and Mr. Frank Waters visited with J. W. Gilmore Sunday. A prairie fire got loose near Mr. McPherson's last Sunday, and started for the creek to devour hay stacks and cattle range; but sturdy arms bravely checked the monster ere he had done any damage. Supposed to have caught from a spark from the chimney.

Dr. Taylor is putting down a well. Tom Carson's team got here last week. Jno. Jordan was down from Eustis last Sunday week. He took Emil Fell and Geo. Lindauer with him to help build a house on his homestead in St. John county. Jno. is in luck, for they are starting a town near his homestead there.

Messrs. Dungan and Fort are circulating the petitions to bring in their school land. The parties who contested Messrs. Koonin's and Diamond's timber claims have had the trials extended to look up more evidence. Geo. King left for Nebraska last week. Geo. was a good boy, and will be sadly missed by the young ladies of this neighborhood, with whom he was a general favorite.

One of the most pleasant social events of the season took place one evening last week at the residence of Mr. Jas. Fessell, in the shape of a pop-corn party. A goodly number of girls and boys were present, and Jim and Sam showed that they were no amateurs at the art of entertaining. Corn was popped and eaten and thrown all over the house, poked down each other's backs, etc. At 11 o'clock supper was served in regular bachelor style, consisting of becheri-made biscuits, butter, coffee, and roast beef, to which all did ample justice. The girls then cleared the table, washed the dishes and swept the floor. Jim and Sam say they never realized how useful a woman was around the house before, and now they won't be without one much longer.

Mr. McWhinney has his buildings about completed, and has a well down and a wind mill almost ready to do service. Mr. Rickett has traded his oxen for a claim on the Sappa near the old Turney ranch, and is building his house now. J. F. Stephens left for Mills county, Iowa, to be gone the rest of the winter.

Geo. Lynde has a brand new windmill. Geo. is one of our most enterprising young farmers, and will soon have a model farm.

Messrs. Smith and Marshall have compromised their contest, Mr. Smith retaining the claim.

The subject, "Resolved, that the South was justified in seceding," was discussed by the Otterbourne literary society last week and decided in favor of affirmative.

There was a spelling school at Mr. McCue's last week.

Pat Chambers has his broom shop done.

Hay is getting scarce along the Sappa.

Mr. G. W. and Seth Rockwell each have purchased new windmills and pumps and will erect them immediately. Dr. Taylor will also erect one as soon as he gets his well finished.

Thus on every hand we see solid improvements going onto the claims of those who have come to stay.

Miss Ope Rich is attending school at Kirwin Kans.

Mrs. Fieul has been very sick the past two weeks, but is rapidly improving now.

Mr. Wheeler, of the Howell lumber company, spent Christmas in our neighborhood.

Mr. Smith, brother of Henry Smith, arrived here last week with his family, and will hereafter be one of Thomas county's grangers.

OTTERBOURNE, Dec. 25, 1886.

The following well prepared program was rendered last night at the entertainment given by the Otterbourne Union Sabbath school. After which the Christmas presents were distributed from the tree.

Instrumental music—Mrs. J. W. Gilmore. Song by school—Rejoice and be glad. Prayer—Assistant Superintendent, Lieke W. C. Cramer.

Welcome address—Mr. L. H. Hitchcock. Song—Bethlehem: Choir. Devotional—Mrs. Gilmore. Reading—Charles Moore. Declaration—Nobody: Artie Archer. Song—Little Ones Like Me: Ida Moore. Declaration—The Fat Boy: Robbie Ketchum.

Declaration—Kind Words: Frank Dungan. Song—Star of the East: Choir. Declaration—A Happy Child: Lizzie Archer.

Declaration—Sleigh Ride: Marion Moore. Recitation—Christmas Hymn: Lillie Irwin. Song and Recitation—The Birth of our Saviour: by choir and five little boys.

Declaration—The Little Housemaid: Abbie Irwin. Anthem—Oh, Come, Let Us Sing Unto the Lord: Choir.

Now came the distribution of the presents. The tree was an ash procured from Decatur county by Mr. Archer. 'Twas planted in the ground near two feet, and looked just as if it had grown there. The limbs, reaching the ceiling, and were loaded from top to bottom with presents, candy, pop-corn, apples, etc. Mr. Archer, Mrs. Gilmore, Lizzie Archer, and the choir, were the distributors of the presents, and consisted of articles that were useful, ornamental and amusing.

The entertainment was presented with a handsome collection as a small token of the respect and appreciation of his labors the past season by the school. Fully 25 persons were present, and standing room was at a premium. The best order imaginable, and papers will be on hand, which will save the trouble of organizing order and get things to running right. Every body is cordially invited to attend. Mr. J. L. Stephens has been our superintendent, and the entire season and has only missed three Sundays. To him can be attributed the entire success of the school. Although young in years, he is young in this Sunday school work. May this branch of the Lord's work be encouraged in every way possible in Thomas county. The average attendance of the school for the season is 32. The average collection is 33 cents per Sabbath. To our eastern friends who may read this, I will say don't run down Kansas, or any other school country, because they don't have Sabbath school and church. But compare this with some of your own schools at home, and see if you can beat it in anything. And don't be afraid to come to Kansas for any such reasons any more.

Respectfully,  
L. W. CRONLEY.

### Wendell Items.

Christmas came and is gone again. It was a beautiful day, and was enjoyed by all as far as we know.

There was a dinner at I. Middleton's, near Cumberland, which was attended by about seventy five persons, young and old, who enjoyed themselves hugely. The buchees all took in cake, and oh my, at the cakes, pies, turkeys, chickens, and most everything that is good. The tables were loaded down, and the young folk enjoyed themselves until midnight playing old Sister Pebe and old brass wagon, and so on.

The B. & M. surveyors have been camped at w. H. Sumner's for one week, and have moved on to Colby. The road is located to Colby. The line runs one mile north of Summersville, and will be a fine location for a town. The line runs through John Samuelson's yard, it will take his house and stable.

Thomas county is getting a big boom. Now is the time to come before land gets so high that you can't touch it.

Married, Mr. Lewis to Miss Sarah Buelow from Guilford, Mo. She came to Oberlin and Lewis met her there, and had the knot tied and came to his claim in Thomas county. Good luck to Lewis and his better half.

Mr. L. W. Moore has finished a fine large sod stable. Mr. Moore is one of our most enterprising farmers.

FLY BY DAY.

Yorktown.

Weather beautiful for the time of year. No more cases of scarlet fever reported.

Mr. and Mrs. Spelman were the guests of Mrs. Claypool Monday.

We think that the Quickley correspondent judged the boys that put down Mr. Eaton's well by himself, that they would have to board away from home if they got anything to eat. Not so, Mr. Quickley. Plenty to eat in Yorktown.

We are sorry that "Doesticks" has bid farewell to the Cox. Hope some other good Sheridan correspondent will give us the news from those parts.

Mr. Dodd goes to Colby Wednesday to prove up. Mr. Howell goes to help him.

M. J. Grayson arrived home from the railroad Monday.

Henry Harmon is husking corn for Smith Lawrence.

H. Harmon froze one of his toes during the cold weather some weeks past, and is still suffering considerably. More anon. O. O. D.

Red Top Silvers.

Again we enter our sanctum, with the quill projecting from behind our ear, to note a few items.

E. S. Albright purchased a Star mill from J. E. Medinger, of Colby, and it is being erected by Leard Bros.

J. W. Murphy and brothers contemplate going into the bakery business in Red Top.

S. L. Lower has the finest lot of corn in Sherman county. Mr. S. is a first-class farmer.

A. B. Russell has gone back to western Iowa on a visit.

"Compos Mentis" predictions, alas! have come true. J. Campbell has taken unto himself a rib, for the J. met his lady love at Benkelman, Neb., where they were united in the holy bonds of wedlock. May their future path be strewn with roses, is the wish of their many friends.

Mr. C. Konkin has also committed himself to the cares of Mr. Esq's daughter, and has abandoned the soil, and hereafter will be prepared by his farm. Our best wishes follow the happy couple under the stream of life.

Mr. B. B. Benson, senior citizen, showed up in his old neighborhood Wednesday. He came to look after the interest of his claim, call again. Mr. B. is a man of many ways, and to shake hands with you, and will look after your interests here.

A young mink who has been preparing a call for the bird, deposited the desired amount in cash in a small railway station in eastern Nebraska to pay his prospective wife's fare to Oberlin. The day was set, and early in the morning he was found weeding his way to the respective city. But alas! his hopes were not realized. The train came and the long looked for mink did not make her appearance. He sat up all night in the depot, waiting for the o'clock freight in the morning. The time arrived and the freight came thumping down the tracks. Again he was compelled to give up all hopes. He was seen returning in an obscure path to his home, where he will remain a bachelor. Young men take warning, and if your best girl is not worth going after, keep the money in your pocket and do not send it to Blue Hill.

BLAKE HAWK.

meet her in the glorious Sweet Bye and Bye. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Brown, at Pleasant Hill school house, from Job 14, 14, after which our loved one was laid to rest in the Pleasant Hill cemetery.

We laid her away with sorrow,  
With grief so hard to bear,  
Yet we know she is in glory,  
God help us to meet her there.

Mrs. G. M. Mcl.

### COLBY HAS

- I. O. O. F.
- Everything.
- Four banks.
- Most babies.
- County seat.
- Four hotels.
- Court house.
- One laundry.
- Four doctors.
- One railroad.
- Two bakeries.
- One feed mill.
- 900 population.
- Graded school.
- Seven lawyers.
- Four ministers.
- One book store.
- One brick yard.
- One brick store.
- Two feed stores.
- Most marriages.
- Two restaurants.
- Two feed stables.
- Two newspapers.
- One cornet band.
- Thirty carpenters.
- Two billiard halls.
- One harness shop.
- Six general stores.
- Three drug stores.
- One national bank.
- Two lumber yards.
- Two barber shops.
- Most energetic men.
- Large school house.
- One furniture store.
- Three meat markets.
- Two jewelry stores.
- Three livery stables.
- A Methodist church.
- Two millinery stores.
- Two hardware stores.
- Two implement firms.
- Two railroads coming.
- Two blacksmith shops.
- Numerous town wells.
- A Chautauquan society.
- One \$15,000 brick hotel.
- Four first-class painters.
- One photograph gallery.
- Biggest bar in the world.
- Two confectionery stores.
- Two boot and shoe stores.
- Dwellings without number.
- Real estate agents innumerable.
- Best paper in western Kansas, the CAR.
- A man from every State in the Union.
- Brightest prospects of any town in the State.
- A hundred other things that we could mention.
- Citizens who have unbounded confidence in Colby.

Purify Your Blood.

If your tongue is coated,  
If your skin is yellow or dry,  
If you have boils,  
If you have fever,  
If you are thin or nervous,  
If you are bilious,  
If you are constipated,  
If your bones ache,  
If your head aches,  
If you have no appetite,  
If you have no ambition,  
one bottle of blood purifier and blood maker will relieve any and all of the above complaints. Sold and warranted by Walker & Yousse, and at Palace drug store.

Beggs' Cherry Cough Syrup.

Will relieve that cough almost instantly, and make expectation easy. Acts simultaneously on the bowels, liver and kidneys, thereby relieving the lungs of that soreness and pain, and also stopping that tickling sensation in throat by removing the cause. One trial of it will convince anyone that it has no equal on earth for coughs and colds. Walker & Yousse have secured the sale of it, and will guarantee every bottle to give satisfaction.

Preaching at the North Solomon school house by Rev. Mitchell the first Lord's day in January at 2 p. m. The house will be prepared so all will be comfortable.

Wednesday at 2 p. m. a fire caught in Friend & Chelliew's paint shop north of Buller's hardware store. They had a fire in stove at noon and the clothes saturated with paint and oil must have caught from the stove. When first seen the bed clothes were ablaze. It reached into the roof before it was stopped. Had it been ten minutes longer no one could tell the amount of damage it would have done.

We can congratulate the people of Sheridan county on their prospects for a trunk line railroad next summer. Bob tails may do for small towns and cities, but Hoxie will have a trunk line. We are reliably informed by those who know that the Missouri Pacific will build their road from Stockton to Hoxie early in the spring, and that without any doubt there will be a division station here, with shops round-house, and everything that goes with a division station of a railroad.—[Hoxie Democrat.

Yes, and it will be extended to Colby we are told on good authority. Of course it will come to Colby Junction, there it can make connection with the B. & M. for Omaha without delay to passengers.

J. J. SEARS & SONS,

Real Estate Agents,

OAKLEY, ST. JOHN CO.

St. John county, U. P. R. R., where all trains stop. We are doing a general land business. Locating in Thomas and St. John counties made a specialty. All kinds of land business promptly attended.

Abstracts.

Land Deals.

Chattel Loans.

Real Estate Loans.

WELD BROS.

G. N. COFFRIN,

Jeweler & Watchmaker



Repairing promptly and neatly done. All work warranted. At Walker & Yousse's Drug Store, Colby, Kansas.

Notice No. 7159.

U. S. Land Office at Oberlin, Kansas, Dec. 18, 1886.

Complaint having been entered at this office by C. H. Yarger against M. V. Ervin for abandoning his homestead entry No. 622, dated Oct. 6th, 1885, upon the ne qr sec. 14, town 9 south, range 36, west, in Thomas Co., Kansas with a view to the cancellation of said entry; Contestant alleging abandonment and that defendant has failed to establish any residence on said tract as required by law.

The said parties are hereby summoned to appear at this office on the 31st day of February 1887, at 10 o'clock a. m., to respond and furnish testimony concerning said alleged abandonment. A. L. PATTERSON, Register, C. & W.